
2. MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES BY MANAGEMENT UNIT

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1: PETERS CREEK-KROTO CREEK

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 1 includes the lands along and between Peters, Kroto, Twentymile, and Bear creeks in the western portion of the subregion. This management unit has the largest extent of accessible forest lands suitable for long term timber management of any unit in the planning area. In addition, there is more moose hunting in this unit than any other. Kroto Creek is part of the Deshka River system, the most important waterway in the entire study area for riparian habitat and public recreation. Peters Creek and its major tributaries is rated the seventh most important waterway in the planning area by the Department of Fish and Game. King, pink, coho, and silver salmon populations supported by these streams contribute to the Cook Inlet commercial fishery as well as sport fishing. This unit is to be retained in public ownership and managed for protection and enhancement of its very high forestry, habitat, and public recreation values. Because of the importance of these resources, most of the area will be proposed for legislative or administrative designation. Two small locations in the southern portion of the unit are designated for settlement. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. The great majority of the land in this management unit will open to mineral location and available for coal leasing. However, the Kroto Creek corridor and the settlement areas will be closed to mineral entry and not available for coal leasing and land along Chijuk Creek will be closed to mineral location only.

Road access should be expanded in this management unit to facilitate resource development. This includes upgrading of the Shulin Lake road for year-round use, construction of spur roads for logging, and extension of Oilwell Road across Kroto Creek to the southern part of the unit. In addition, chapter 4 recommends consideration of upgrading the trail that runs from the Forks roadhouse at Peters Creek to the Lower Cache Creek mining area.

There are five subunits within Management Unit 1: the forest lands that constitute the main body of the unit (1a), Kroto Creek corridor (1b), the past Schneider Lake remote parcel area (1c), borough lands around the Forks roadhouse and existing development at Peters Creek (1d), and lands proposed for settlement west of Kroto Creek (1e). See the maps at the end of this

section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses in each subunit.

Subunit 1a (Peters Creek) is state land proposed for legislative designation to provide for long term multiple use management for timber, habitat, public recreation, and other uses that are compatible with these activities. Within this subunit, facilities and activities subject to land use permits will be restricted when they occur close to the major anadromous fish streams (Peters Creek, South Fork Peters Creek, and Martin, Middle, Sand and Black Creeks). See the management guidelines for additional information. In the riparian zones of these streams, forestry is a secondary use. Timber management activities are allowed when consistent with the habitat and public recreation objectives along the streams.

Subunit 1b, Kroto Creek and the adjacent riparian habitat, will be proposed for legislative designation. The designation on these state and borough lands is intended to protect riparian habitat, fishery values and opportunities for public recreation. It is proposed that public use cabins be built within subunit 1b to support recreational use of Kroto Creek.

Subunit 1c (Schneider Lake) is designated for settlement. This is a past remote parcel area with a small amount of developable land still available for disposal.

Subunit 1d (Forks): Commercial development to support recreational activities in the subregion and residential development for community expansion are encouraged in this subunit. The subunit is primarily borough land around the existing development at Petersville; the remaining area is in private ownership. The borough is considering developing a campground or other recreation facilities on the river in this subunit at some time in the future.

Subunit 1e is a new settlement area on state land on the periphery of the management unit. It is accessible by float plane. Settlement on state land within Management Unit 1 is limited to subunits 1c and 1e in order to minimize inholdings in the state forest and river corridor and to allow efficient long term resource management.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Petersville Road

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 — Peters Creek-Kroto Creek

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
1a Peters Creek	State	Forestry Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	---	Open except along Chijuk Creek (see mgmt. guidelines)	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Grazing (along Peters Creek & Kroto Creek - see mgmt. guidelines)	Recommended for legislative designation
1b Kroto Creek corridor	State/ Borough	Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Land Disposals Grazing	Recommended for legislative designation
1c Schneider Lake	State/ Private	Settlement (past remote parcel area)	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	---	Estimated net disposal area = 160 acres
1d Forks	Borough/ Private	Commercial Development, Public Recreation	Forestry Wildlife Hab.	Open	Available for leasing	---	---
1e Kroto Creek West	State	Settlement	Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not avail. for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	Estimated net disposal area = 430 acres

*Other uses such as material sales, land leases, remote cabin permits, etc., that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit, and with the relevant management guidelines in chapter 2.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this plan. All of the guidelines potentially apply to uses within this management unit; however, those that are most likely to be applicable are indicated with asterisks in the list below.

- Agriculture
- *Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- *Forestry
- Recreation
- *Settlement
- Subsurface
- *Transportation
- *Instream Flow
- *Lakeshore Management
- Public Access
- Remote Cabin Permits
- *Stream Corridors
- Trail Management
- Wetlands Management
- Resource Management

Management guidelines that apply to this management unit only are presented below by subunit.

Subunits 1a and 1b (Peters Creek-Kroto Creek corridor)

Land Use Permits and Forestry

In subunit 1b and within ½ mile of Peters Creek or ¼ mile of its major tributaries in subunit 1a (South Fork Peters Creek, Middle, Martin, Sand and Black creeks) development activities requiring land use permits (e.g., gravel extraction, airstrips) generally will be permitted only where there are no feasible and prudent alternatives.

Grazing

Grazing is prohibited within the riparian zone along Peters and Kroto Creek.

Mining

Public lands within 400' of Chijuk Creek will be closed to mineral location. The closure is intended to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in some of the most important tributaries to Kroto Creek.

Oil and Gas

Oil and gas exploration and development activities will be sited and/or timed to mitigate impacts on the fish and wildlife habitat and public use values of the Peters Creek and Kroto Creek corridors. Specific mitigation measures necessary to protect the public recreation,

habitat and water resource of values the river corridors will be developed as part of the lease sale process. Mitigation measures will be developed on a case by case basis considering timing, topography, vegetation and other factors affecting the impact of oil and gas exploration and development activities on fish and wildlife, habitat and public use values.

Management Planning and Remote Cabins

A management plan should be prepared for the area proposed for legislative designation in subunits 1a and 1b in conjunction with the other portions of the Kroto Creek-Moose Creek corridor in subunit 4a and Susitna Lowlands subunit 11b. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether remote cabins will be a permitted use in these subunits. Remote cabin permits will not be offered in these subunits until and unless remote cabin areas are designated by a management plan.

Interagency Consultation

Since protection of habitat and recreation values is of such importance in this unit and the area is being recommended for administrative or legislative designation, special consideration should be given to consulting with the Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation and the Department of Fish & Game when reviewing permit or lease applications in this unit.

Transportation

Kroto Creek and Peters Creek road crossings should be minimized. Road crossings must be designed in consultation with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Department of Fish and Game.

Subunits 1a and 1d (Peters Creek and Forks)

Protection of Transportation Routes

Chapter 4 of this plan identifies a system of possible improvements to the regional and local transportation system. One route passes through this subunit. The precise location of this route has not been determined, although a general location is shown on the maps in Chapter 4. Land use authorizations in this unit such as land sales, leases, or other actions should be located so as not to preclude the option to build this road along a feasible and efficient route.