

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3: GATE CREEK-AMBER LAKE

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 3 lies between the Kroto Creek and Moose Creek corridors. It is an area that is highly desirable for settlement because of the lakes, recreation opportunities, and road access. It also supports valuable timber and moose habitat, and provides opportunities for hunting and recreation. Hunting and other recreational activities are centered around the lakes and major streams — the west fork of Moose Creek and the tributary to Kroto Creek that rises in section 1, T24N R9W. The latter is an important tributary of Kroto Creek and supports populations of silver, coho, and king salmon. Generalized soil data indicate that there is some potential for agricultural homesteads, although the opportunities for agricultural production are limited by climate and local occurrences of rocky and shallow soil. Because of its recreational amenities, existing access by air, and potential access from Oilwell Road, this area is expected to be an important center for settlement and private recreation. Most of the land in Management Unit 3 is designated for these purposes.

All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Management Unit 3 also will remain open to mineral location and available for coal leasing except for the lands that will be offered for sale (subunits 3b, 3c and 3f) which will be closed to location and coal leasing, and land within 200' of Gate Creek, which will be closed to location only.

Land and resource development in this management unit will necessitate expansion of the road system. This will include, but not be limited to, improvement of the Petersville Road, upgrading and extension of the Oilwell Road across Moose Creek to the Amber Lake area and beyond into Management Unit 1 (See Transportation section in Chapter 4). Providing road access is an integral part of the land sales recommended for this management unit. Most of the areas designated for settlement should not be offered for sale until roads are funded or built.

Management Unit 3 is divided into seven subunits: wetlands along Petersville Road and in the northern part of the unit (3a), the past Gate Creek and Amber Lake disposals (3b), Gate Creek South and Amber Lake settlement lands (3c), university selections (3d), borough lands along the west fork of Moose Creek and Petersville Road (3e), borough lands near Amber Lake (3f), and a small parcel of state land south of Amber Lakes (3g). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses for each subunit.

Subunit 3a will remain in state ownership to provide open space, protect wetlands, and provide some wildlife habitat areas, and protect visual quality along Petersville Road.

Subunit 3b contains the past Gate Creek and Amber Lakes remote parcel land disposals and the Amber Lake North subdivision. Settlement is the primary use of this subunit. Because of the high density of remote parcel stakings in Gate Creek, there are presently no plans for additional land sales within this disposal. The subunit may be reevaluated in the future to determine whether or not additional sales are appropriate. Additional sales of approximately 520 acres will be offered in the Amber Lakes area.

Subunit 3c contains state land along Gate Creek south of Petersville Road and a small parcel near Amber Lakes that will be available for disposal. These lands are presently near road or floatplane access and will become more accessible if Oilwell Road is extended across Moose Creek. The Amber Lakes area is a particularly attractive settlement area and likely to become one of the foci for seasonal and year-round settlement in the subregion.

Subunit 3d is land with development potential that has been selected by the university as part of its entitlement. If and when some of these selections are relinquished, decisions on appropriate management of these lands should be made through an interagency planning process. It is recommended that land within T24N R6W S.M. section 8 N $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$; section 17 NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; section 21 NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; section 28 W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$; and section 35 S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ be included in the Moose Creek and Kroto Creek corridors proposed for legislative designation. These lands are close to the creeks and would be a valuable addition to the corridors.

Subunit 3e (West Fork Moose Creek) contains borough lands along Petersville Road that will be included in the borough land bank. They may be available for long term settlement, but there are no plans for sale in the immediate future. In the interim, they will be managed for public recreation, wildlife habitat, and timber sales for personal and commercial use.

Subunit 3f consists of borough lands near Amber Lakes that are designated for settlement and will be available for sale when needed for community expansion. When lands in this area are offered for sale, the Borough will consider carrying capacity, public recreation opportunities, and other public values in design-

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Petersville Road

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 - Gate Creek-Amber Lake

| SUBUNIT | LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED) | LAND USE DESIGNATIONS | | | | PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)* | COMMENTS |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | SURFACE | | SUBSURFACE | | | |
| | | PRIMARY USE(S) | SECONDARY USE(S) | LOCATABLE MINERALS | LEASEABLE MINERALS | | |
| 3a Wetlands | State | Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat | Forestry | Open except along Gate Creek (see mgmt. guidelines) | Available for leasing | Remote Cabins | — |
| 3b Gate Creek and Amber Lakes | State/ Private | Settlement (past remote parcel offerings and existing subdivision) | Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab. | Closed | Not available for coal leasing or prospecting | Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins | Estimated net disposal area = 520 acres |
| 3c Gate Creek South | State | Settlement | Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab. | Closed along Gate Creek, rest of unit closed prior to disposal | Not available for coal leasing or prospecting | Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins Grazing (in portion of subunit near Amber Lake) | Estimated net disposal area = 2,600 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.

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SUBREGION Petersville RoadMANAGEMENT UNIT 3 - Gate Creek-Amber Lake

| SUBUNIT | LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED) | LAND USE DESIGNATIONS | | | | PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)* | COMMENTS |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | SURFACE | | SUBSURFACE | | | |
| | | PRIMARY USE(S) | SECONDARY USE(S) | LOCATABLE MINERALS | LEASEABLE MINERALS | | |
| 3d University Land | University | Primarily Private Land—Recommended Uses: Public Recreation, Wildlife Habitat | | Any public land along Gate Creek is closed (see management guidelines) | — | — | — |
| 3e West Fork Moose Creek | Borough | Borough Land Bank Values: Agriculture (small farms/homesteads), Public Recreation, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat | | Open | Available for leasing | — | — |
| 3f Amber Lakes - Borough | Borough | Settlement | Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab. | Closed prior to disposal | Not available for coal leasing or prospecting | — | Estimated net disposal area = 970 acres |
| 3g Amber Lakes South | State | Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat | Forestry | Open | Available for leasing | Land Disposals Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins | — |

*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.

ing the disposal. In keeping with the regional lakeshore policy, only a portion of the land adjacent to Amber Lakes will be available for private purchase.

Subunit 3g is a small parcel of state land south of Amber Lakes. This area is designated for public recreation and wildlife habitat and will provide open space for the settlement lands surrounding it.

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
- *Wetland Management
- Resource Management

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

Subunits 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d (Wetlands, Gate Creek and Amber Lakes, Gate Creek South and University Land)

Mining

Public lands within 200' of Gate Creek will be closed to mineral location. The closure is intended to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in one of the most important tributaries to Kroto Creek.

Subunits 3b, 3c, 3e and 3f (Gate Creek and Amber Lakes, Gate Creek South, University Land, and West Fork Moose Creek)

Stream Corridors

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit fishing, camp-

ing and other active uses, to protect water in public ownership. Corridor widths will be set on a case-by-case basis using policies in Chapter 2. The standard minimum buffer width (200' on each side of the river) should be used on Seventeen Mile Creek, the west fork of Moose Creek, Gate Creek and unnamed streams that appear on the 1:63,630 scale USGS topographic maps. The corridor on the unnamed tributary to Kroto Creek that originates in the lake in Section 1 of T24N R7W SM., should be up to ¼ mile wide on each side. The wider buffer on this stream is intended to provide open space in a densely settled area, allow for hunting, and protect riparian habitat along one of the most important tributaries to Kroto Creek.

Subunit 3c (Gate Creek South)

Grazing

Grazing is prohibited in the southern block of Subunit 3c near Amber Lakes and in the riparian zone of the stream identified on the USGS 1:63,360 topographic map crossing sections 35 and 36 of T25N R7W.