

## 2. MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES BY MANAGEMENT UNIT

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 – GOLD CREEK

#### MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit is a narrow strip of land from one to four miles wide immediately to the east of the Alaska Railroad and at the northern end of the subregion. The presence of the Susitna River adjacent to the western boundary of this management unit makes it attractive and desirable for a variety of uses. The railroad provides access, and there is some low density year-round settlement in the area from a past land disposal. The unit is mostly in public ownership and will be managed to provide additional land sales separated by blocks of publicly owned land. The public lands will protect public recreation values, habitat, and firewood for local use. Three small settlement areas will be offered in FY 85. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Public lands in this unit also will remain open to mineral location and be available for coal leasing except in existing and proposed disposal areas (subunits 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1e).

The unit is divided into eight subunits: the proposed Indian River West homestead disposal (1a); the past Indian River remote parcel area (1b); state selected land owned in part by the Alaska Railroad (1c); two blocks of land to be retained in public ownership (1d); lands which will be offered for sale in FY 85 (Sherman, Curry North and McKenzie Creek) (1e); a block of borough selected land encompassing Lane Creek (1f); land along Indian River which encompasses Lake 1395 to be retained in public ownership (1g); and land owned by the Alaska Railroad in the southern portion of the management unit (1h). 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.

**Subunits 1a and 1e** (Indian River West, Sherman, Curry North, and McKenzie Creek) encompass land designated for settlement. Subunit 1e consists of three areas which will be offered under the homestead program in FY85. They are (from north to south) Sherman, Curry North, and McKenzie Creek. Up to 40 acres may be staked by each entrant in these areas; there are three entries allowed in Curry North, eleven in McKenzie Creek and five in the Sherman area.

**Subunit 1b** is the past Indian River remote parcel area. At some point in the future, it may be reoffered under the homestead program.

Although **subunit 1c** is primarily public land, it has

been designated reserved use and very little of it is available for public use. Part of this land is managed by the Alaska Railroad, part is the subject of a Native group claim, part encompasses a portion of the Healy-Willow Intertie route, and one of the proposed routes to the possible Devils Canyon dam site crosses the subunit. The portion of the Susitna River in this subunit will remain in public ownership and be managed to protect fish and wildlife and recreation values.

**Subunits 1d and 1g** (Mile 255 and 261 Retained Areas and Miami Lake) will be retained in state ownership and managed to provide opportunities for fish and wildlife and recreational use as well as access to the Talkeetna Mountains. Subunit 1d consists of 2 parcels of land on either side of the proposed Sherman settlement area. Subunit 1g is land in the northern part of the management unit along Indian River.

The land in **subunit 1f** will be designated borough land bank. These lands are not likely to be offered for settlement in the near term, but may be offered in the future if competing resources are deemed less valuable and demand merits such an offering. In the near term, the lands will be used to support fish and wildlife habitat, recreation and personal use forestry.

**Subunit 1h** in the southern portion of the management unit is owned and managed by the Alaska Railroad and not available for public use.

#### 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 the management unit; however, those that are most likely to be applicable in this unit 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

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION South Parks Highway

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 - Gold 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 Indian River West	State	Settlement	Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins Grazing	Estimated net disposal area=100 acres
1b Indian River Remote	State/ Private	Settlement (past Remote Parcel offering)	Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Portions closed to grazing (see mgmt. guidelines)	
1c Gold Creek	State/ State Selected/ Native Selected/ Railroad	Reserved Use	—	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	—	
1d Mile 255, 261 Retained Areas	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry (personal use)	Open	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins Land Disposals Grazing	

\*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.

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION South Parks HighwayMANAGEMENT UNIT 1 — Gold 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		
le Sherman Curry North McKenzie Creek	State	Settlement	Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Land Disposals Grazing	Estimated net disposal area=760 acres
lf Lane Creek	Borough	Borough Land Bank Values: Forestry, Public Recreation, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	---	
lg Miami Lake	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry (personal use)	Open	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins Land Disposals Trapper Cabins Grazing	
lh Alaska Railroad	Alaska Railroad	AK Railroad Land —Not available for public use		---	---	---	

\*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.

\*Stream Corridors  
 \*Trail Management  
 Wetlands Management  
 Resource Management

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

**Subunit 1a and 1e (Indian River West; Sherman, Curry North and McKenzie Creek disposal areas)**

**Forestry**

Sites within the planned sales areas that are able to provide personal use timber should be identified and retained.

**Access**

When land is conveyed, public access to the Susitna River, Alaska Railroad, and remote areas to the east should be preserved.

**Stream Corridors**

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit fishing, camping and other active uses and to protect water quality and riparian habitat. Consequently, this land should be retained 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 Deadhorse Creek, McKenzie Creek, Lane Creek and most other unnamed tributaries to the Susitna River shown on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic maps. The corridor on the Susitna River should be at least 300 feet on the north bank of the river in the Indian River South subdivision and 300 feet on the east bank within the disposal areas in subunit 1e. Indian River should be protected with a corridor 300 feet on either side within subunit 1a.

**Settlement (Sherman)**

Homesteads in this area should be a minimum of 20-acre parcels. Staking of parcels should occur during the summer months so that the terrain and vegetation are more visible. Existing trails should be identified and rights-of-way reserved.

**Subunit 1b (Indian River Remote Past Disposal)**

**Grazing**

Due to conflicts with fish and wildlife habitat, grazing will not be allowed in the western portion of this

subunit (T32N R11W S.M., sections 24, 33, 34 and T31N R11W S.M., sections 3, 4, 9 and 10).

**Subunit 1c (Gold Creek)**

**Stream Corridors**

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit fishing, camping and other active uses and to protect water quality and riparian habitat should land in this subunit be conveyed to private 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 the unnamed tributaries to the Susitna River. The corridor on Gold Creek should be at least 300' on both sides of the river to protect brown bear feeding concentration areas. The Susitna River should be protected with a 300' corridor on both sides.