

MANAGEMENT UNIT 10 – MONTANA CREEK

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This management unit extends from near Sheep Creek north to Answer Creek. It is mostly private land but includes isolated parcels of state and borough land. The majority of the land along the Parks Highway and Talkeetna Road is in private ownership. A portion of this unit near Montana Creek has been identified as an ecological reserve because of high forestry, fisheries and wildlife habitat values. It has been proposed as an experimental forest. 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 except for Sheep Creek and Montana Creek. This management unit will be available for coal leasing.

This management unit has been divided into two subunits: the vast majority of the area which is primarily private land (10a), and a block of public land near Sheep Creek (10b). 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 10a consists of mostly private, Native and University land, including past state and borough land sales. Present uses in this area are personal use forestry, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and settlement. It is specifically recommended that parking facilities and a trail to the popular fishing area on Sheep Creek be developed on public land at mile 88. The borough has sold approximately 840 acres of agricultural land in the northwest portion of the subunit just south of where the Parks Highway crosses the Susitna River. There are several isolated parcels of land remaining in borough ownership. Two of these are between the Susitna River and the Alaska Railroad in the northern portion of the management unit. A third is in the southern part of the unit adjacent to Sheep Creek and west of the Parks Highway. These will be designated land bank. If sales occur, the borough should retain some land along the road system and/or streams for various public uses.

Subunit 10b is primarily swampy land in mixed state and borough ownership. Sheep Creek runs through the southeast corner of the subunit. This subunit will be retained in public ownership and managed for recreation and fish and wildlife habitat.

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
- *Stream Corridors
- *Trail Management
- *Wetlands Management
- Resource Management

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

Subunit 10a and 10b (Montana and Sheep Creek Corridors)

Mining

Public lands within 300' of Montana, Goose, or Sheep creeks 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 the Susitna River.

Scenic Highways

The study Scenic Resources along the Parks Highway (ADNR, 1981) should be consulted for additional information on scenic resources whenever planning occurs for management activities which are likely to significantly affect visual quality along the Parks Highway.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION South Parks Highway

MANAGEMENT UNIT 10 -- Montana 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		
10a Montana	Private/ Native/ Univer- sity/ Borough	Primarily Private Ownership— Recommended Uses: Forestry (personal use), Public Recreation, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat		Any public land along Montana, Goose, and Sheep Creeks is closed (see mgmt. guidelines)	—	—	
10b Sheep Creek Corridor	State/ Borough	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry (personal use)	Open except along Sheep Creek (see mgmt. guide- lines)	Available for leasing	Grazing 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.