

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 – CHELATNA LAKE-LAKE CREEK

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 3 includes the land surrounding Chelatna Lake and a wide corridor along approximately 10 miles of Lake Creek. Aside from several private parcels on Chelatna Lake, this unit is entirely in state ownership. Chelatna Lake is a scenic lake nestled at the base of the Alaska Range. It is the starting point for recreationists floating Lake Creek. This lake is one of the few lakes larger than 640 acres in the study area not surrounded by private lands.

Lake Creek is an important anadromous fish stream and popular float trip. This creek, nationally known for fishing, is one of only five streams in the study area proposed for legislative designation as a state recreation river. The Department of Fish and Game rated this the second most important river in the entire study area for habitat values and public use.

Management Unit 3 will be retained in public ownership and managed to protect recreational opportunities and riparian habitat. Recreational activities should be encouraged and enhanced by development of a public use cabin system and by leasing state lands for commercial recreation facilities. It should be noted, however, that this area is a lower priority for public use cabins than other, more accessible portions of the study area. Recreational developments should be designed to protect the natural character of the region.

There is some coal, placer gold, and oil and gas potential in this unit. Due to the extremely high public recreation and habitat values described above, portions of this subunit will be unavailable for coal leasing or prospecting and closed to mineral entry. Public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing, but exploration and development for oil and gas near Lake Creek will be subject to restrictions designed to protect the public recreation and habitat values of the creek corridor (see management guidelines that follow). Public retention of this unit will allow maintenance of visual quality along the creek banks and protection of riparian habitat and recreation opportunities.

This management unit is not divided into subunits. See the map at the end of this section for management unit boundaries and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses.

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.

Forestry

Timber values are limited in this portion of the Lake Creek corridor. Timber harvest for personal use will be allowed only when the visual and wilderness qualities of this unit can be protected. Timber harvests shall be designed in consultation with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Transportation

Road crossings in Lake Creek corridor should be minimized. All crossings and roads within the corridor must be designed in consultation with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Department of Fish and Game.

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 Lake Creek corridor. Specific mitigation measures necessary to protect the values for which the river corridor was designated 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.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Sunflower Basin

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 – Chelatna Lake-Lake 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		
3 Chelatna Lake & Lake Creek	State Selected	Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting.	Cabins Land Disposals Trapper cabins	Recommended for legislative designation

*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.

Interagency Consultation

Because protection of habitat and recreational 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 and Outdoor Recreation and the Department of Fish and Game when reviewing permit or lease application in this unit.

Management Plans and Remote Cabins

It is recommended that a management plan be prepared for Management Unit 3. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether or not remote cabins will be permitted in this subunit. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.