

MANAGEMENT UNIT 7: LAKE CREEK

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 7 covers state-owned and state-selected lands in the Lake Creek corridor, lowland forests west of the river, and uplands surrounding Shovel Lake. This is a remote, unpopulated area with valuable timber and moose winter range. Yenlo Creek, Lake Creek and the major unnamed tributaries to Lake Creek* are important anadromous fish streams. Yenlo Creek is the site of seasonal concentrations of black bear, while Lake Creek is a popular destination for fishing and float trips. Concentrations of mining claims also exist on the middle reaches of Lake Creek. Management Unit 7 generally will be retained in public ownership to facilitate management for forestry, fish and wildlife, public recreation, and water resources. There will be a small amount of land available for private recreational use.

All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. In addition, subunit 7a will remain open to mineral location except for lands along Yenlo Creek and be available for coal leasing.

There is no existing road access to this area and provision of access is not imminent. It is recommended that an extension of the Shulin Lake trail across the Kahiltna River be considered to provide access to the forest lands west of Lake Creek. See the transportation section of chapter 4 for additional information.

The three subunits in this management unit are the forest lands west of Lake Creek (7a), Lake Creek corridor (7b), and an area available for settlement east of Shovel Lake (7c). 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 7a is densely forested land west of Lake Creek and north of Link Lake. This subunit will be retained in public ownership and recommended for legislative designation in recognition of the high forest values throughout the subunit. The land will be managed for timber, habitat and public recreation.

Subunit 7b, the Lake Creek corridor will be retained in public ownership and managed for fish and wildlife habitat, public recreation and water resources. Because of its extremely high value for recreation and habitat, this subunit is recommended for legislative designation. The Department of Fish and Game rated

Lake Creek the second most important river in the study area for habitat values and public use. It is one of five rivers in the study area proposed for legislative designation by the ADNR and ADF&G in the South-central Recreation Action Plan. This is a high priority area for construction of public use cabins. Forestry is a secondary use in the Lake Creek corridor. Timber harvesting will be allowed when consistent with the public recreation and habitat objectives of the subunit.

Subunit 7c: Settlement is the primary designation on the lands around the string of lakes to the north of Shovel Lake.

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.

Subunit 7a (Forest Land)

Mining

Public lands within ¼-mile of Yenlo 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 Lake Creek.

* Those streams with headwaters rising in Sections 25 and 35, T25N R11W, and in T24N 10W S.M., section 23.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Susitna Lowlands

MANAGEMENT UNIT 7 - 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		
7a Forest Lands	State	Forestry Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	—	Open except along Yenlo Creek (see mgmt. guidelines)	Available for leasing	Land Disposals	Recommended for legislative designation
7b Lake Creek Corridor	State/ State Selected	Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Land Disposals	Recommended for legislative designation
7c Shovel Lake East	State Selected	Settlement	Forestry (personal use) Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Grazing	Estimated net disposal area = 1,070 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.

Subunit 7a and 7b (Forest Land and Lake Creek Corridor)

Remote Cabins and Management Planning

A management plan should be prepared for subunits 7a and 7b. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether or not remote cabins will be permitted within these subunits. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.

Transportation

Chapter 4 of this plan identifies a system of possible improvements to the regional and local transportation system. One route passes through subunit 7b. The precise location of this route has not been determined, although a general location is shown on the maps in Chapter 4. Land use authorization 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.

Road crossings in the 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 the Lake Creek corridor. Specific mitigation measures necessary to protect the values for which the river corridor was established 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.

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 and Outdoor Recreation and the Department of Fish and Game when reviewing permit or lease applications in this unit.