Chapter 3
Land & Water Management Policies for each Management Unit

Chapter 3
Land & Water Management Policies for Each Unit

Introduction

This chapter includes background information, management intent, and management guidelines for management units, subunits, public use sites, and special management areas.

Management Intent

Management intent for state land and water in the planning area is based on a three-class system, where each class represents a point on a spectrum of possible levels of development and use of state lands. The management intent for a specific subunit, special management area, or public use site reflects the desired future condition of that area. The three classes of management intent for the 31 subunits are described in Table 3.1. More specific management intent for each subunit, public use site, and special management area is described under each unit. When making management decisions for activities taking place in these areas, the management intent for the specific subunit, public use site, or special management area, and the management intent described in Table 3.1 and below should be taken into consideration. When the general management intent described here varies from the specific intent described under each subunit, the more specific management intent takes precedence.

Special Management Areas. There are thirteen (13) special management areas (SMAs) on state land and water in the planning area. These are areas of existing or proposed isolated developments, or clusters of private land in Class I areas. Their designation as special areas acknowledges these circumstances; and the need to manage them for different levels of development and recreation experiences than on the surrounding public lands. Special management areas will be managed as Class II areas. Motorized access is allowed in these areas even when they are located along non-motorized river segments. See the subunit maps following each unit in this chapter for the location of special management areas. Also see *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 2.

Public Use Sites. Public use (PU) sites are site-specific designations for state land and water used to identify and provide management intent for areas that receive high public use or have unique resource values or require special management attention. There are sixty-nine (69) public use sites within the Recreation Rivers. These sites have been identified as possessing important access, fishing, camping, other recreation, or public use values. The designation is intended to protect the opportunity for the public to use these sites and to protect the public values of these sites. The guidelines for specific sites are outlined in Chapter 3. When

making management decisions about public use sites, consideration should be given to: the general management intent for public use sites described here; specific management intent for the site; and the management intent for the subunit. Public use sites in Class I areas are generally managed for a more primitive recreation experience than those located in Class II and III areas. The management intent for public use sites does not apply to borough or private lands adjacent to these sites. See the subunit maps following each unit in this chapter for the location of these sites. Also see *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2.

Delineation of Management Units & Subunits

There are six management units within the planning area (one for each river system) and 31 subunits. Each subunit includes a river segment and its associated uplands. Subunit boundaries are based on river-use patterns, resources, management concerns and constraints, river characteristics, and land ownership. Management intent and guidelines are provided for each subunit.

Borough Lands

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough owns land in the following subunits: Lower Little Susitna River (1a), Mouth of Deshka River (2a), Lower Deshka River (2b), Middle Deshka River (2c), Kroto Creek (2f), Oilwell Road (2h), Upper Moose Creek (2i), Lake Creek Mouth (4a), Judd Lake (5e), and Lower Alexander Creek (6a). To obtain classifications and management intent for borough lands, contact the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Table 3-1: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

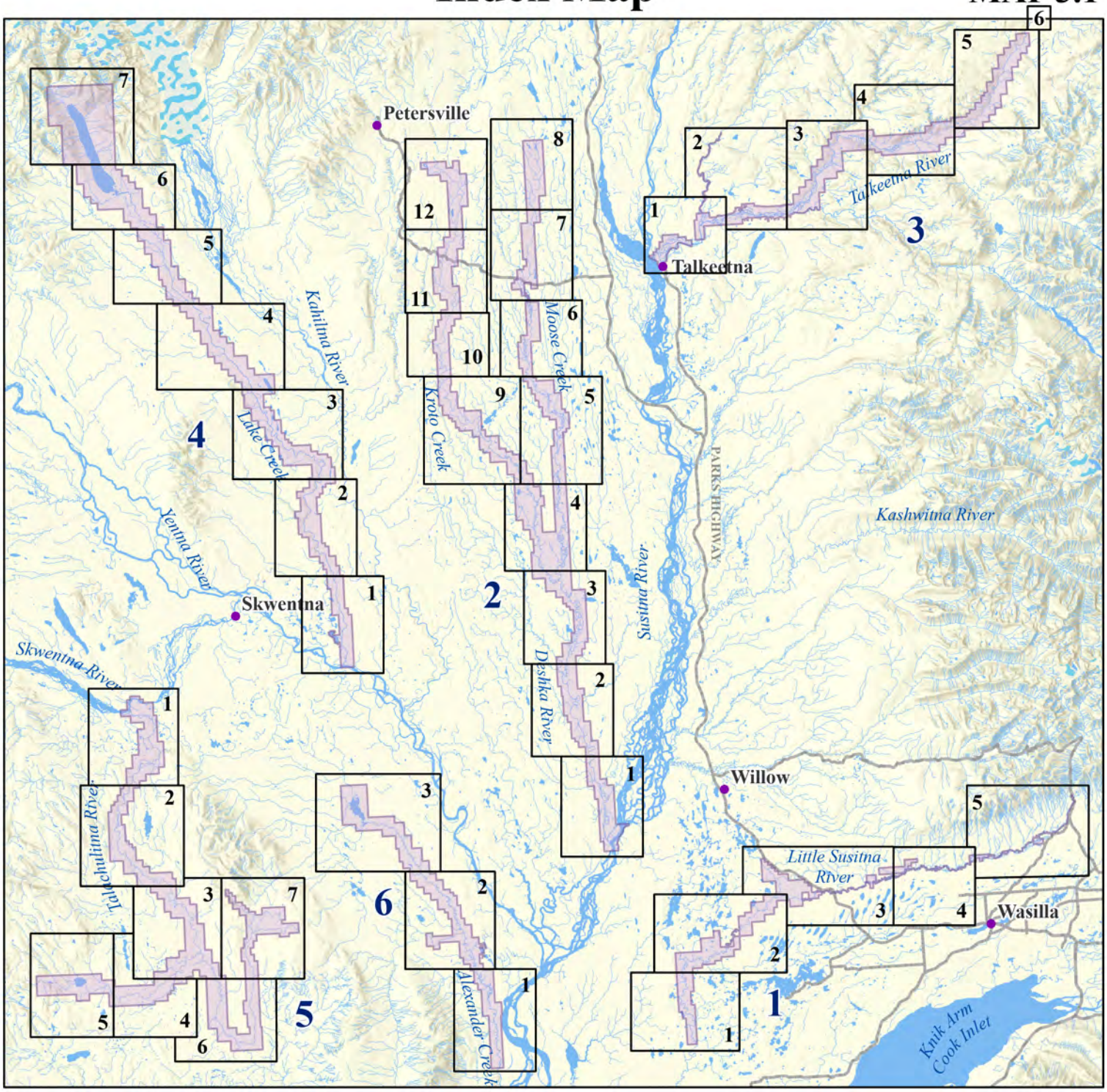
VARIABLE	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
Development	There are generally no facilities[1] for user convenience or comfort.	There are generally limited and isolated facilities for user convenience or comfort.	Facilities exist for user convenience or comfort, although these are generally rustic in design.
Environment	Area is characterized by little or no modifications to natural environment. In many, but not all places, the opportunity is provided for isolation from the sights and sound of man, to feel a part of the natural environment.	Area is characterized by limited and isolated modifications to the natural environment. Provides some opportunity for isolation from sights and sounds of man, but this is not as important as for Class I areas.	Area is characterized by moderate alterations to the natural environment. Little opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of man, although opportunity for a high degree of interaction with the environment still exists.
Signs of Use	Apparent signs of use such as litter or unburied human waste are few and isolated without management attention.	Apparent signs of use such as litter or unburied human waste are more frequent and noticeable, although they remain low with some management attention.	Apparent signs of use such as litter or unburied human waste are more frequent and noticeable, although they remain low with special management attention.
Social Interaction	Interaction levels between groups are low.	Interaction between groups is moderate.	Interaction between groups is high.
Risk	Provides the opportunity to have a high degree of physical (natural) challenge and risk, and to use outdoor skills.	Provides opportunity for moderate physical (natural) challenge and risk, and to use outdoor skills.	Opportunities for physical (natural) challenge and risk are less important.
Management Presence[2]	Management presence is low.	Management presence is higher.	A relatively high degree of management presence may be necessary for safety and resource protection reasons.
Access (Does not include winter travel)	Primitive or non-existent transportation improvements. Fewer opportunities for motorized access. There may be some seasonal restrictions on motorized access. However, many Class I areas have no restrictions on motorized access.	Moderate number and scale of transportation improvements. Few restrictions on seasonal motorized access except to protect public safety in congested areas.	More transportation improvements and higher standards for facilities such as public airstrips and trails. In general, no restrictions on seasonal motorized access except no-wake areas to protect public safety in congested areas.

[1] Facilities include camps authorized for more than 4 days in summer and public facilities (including improvements such as toilets, campgrounds in summer, and signs). Camps used for research or resource management are case-by-case.

[2] "Management Presence" refers to the levels of management required to manage public use including litter patrols, providing public information, and maintaining public facilities. Management presence does not refer to the degree of regulation required.

Index Map

MAP 3.1



Management Units

1. Little Susitna River
2. Deshka River (Kroto Creek / Moose Creek)
3. Talkeetna River
4. Lake Creek
5. Talachulitna River
6. Alexander Creek

1 Index to Adjoining Maps

Management Unit

1. Little Susitna River Management Unit

1
2
3

1. Little Susitna River Management Unit

Background

Miles of River

This unit includes approximately 67 river miles of the Little Susitna River and 5.5 miles of Nancy Lake Creek. The management unit extends from the northern Susitna Flats Game Refuge boundary (RM 33.2) to the south boundary of the Hatcher Pass Management Area (RM 100*).*

Land Ownership

State	14,598 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,581 acres
Mental Health Trust	838 acres
Native	284 acres
Private & Other	80 acres
Total	**17,381 acres**

River Characteristics

From the headwaters to the mouth, the Little Susitna River changes from a clear, rushing mountain stream to a slowly meandering muddy river draining marshy lowlands. Channel widths range from 75 to 200 feet. The ice-free season is generally from May through October. The average streamflow at the Fishhook Road crossing (RM 99.5) ranges from a winter low of 21 cubic feet per second (cfs), to a summer high flow averaging 669 cfs. The 100-year floodplain ranges in width from 1,200 feet to 4,000 feet and is of considerable width in the Houston area.

The terrain within the Little Susitna Recreation River ranges from steep hillsides on the upper river to flat and rolling lowlands on the lower river. Contiguous wetlands are the prevalent land feature in middle sections, particularly in the Nancy Lake Creek area.

Scenic values are highest on the upper river where the water is clear and there are views of the Talkeetna Mountains. The lower river is silty and slow-moving and visibility is reduced by rolling terrain and tall trees. In the middle reaches, near the Parks Highway, the visual quality is diminished by powerlines, bridges, and other structures.

Fisheries

Species Present

Arctic Lamprey	Dolly Varden
Burbot	Pink salmon
Chinook salmon	Rainbow trout
Chum salmon	Sockeye salmon
Coho salmon	Whitefish

Chinook, coho, and chum salmon spawn throughout the management unit. Pink salmon are common below the Parks Highway. Sockeye salmon spawn in many lakes draining into the river, including Nancy Lake. They are not found in large numbers above Nancy Lake Creek. Burbot and whitefish are found in the lower river. Resident Dolly Varden are present in the upper reaches of the management unit. Small numbers of rainbow trout can be found throughout the ice-free season. Arctic lamprey are present in the Little Susitna River near RM 42. Invasive northern pike have been identified within several lakes adjacent to the Little Susitna River.

Sport Fishing

The Little Susitna River receives the highest angling effort of the six rivers because it is easily accessible and is closest to population centers in Southcentral Alaska. The peak recreation and fishing activities on the Little Susitna River correspond with the Chinook and coho salmon runs. These are approximately May 21 to July 4, and July 10 to September 1. Sockeye salmon are also caught in small numbers, approximately July 15 to August 30. Rainbow trout are caught throughout the ice-free season.

The most popular fishing area on the river is adjacent to the Little Susitna Public Use Facility at approximately RM 28. Although most of this use occurs on the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, some extends into the lower part of Subunit 1a in the Recreation River. Fishing is also popular at the mouth of Nancy Lake Creek and adjacent to the Parks Highway Bridge.

Special Regulations

The Little Susitna River is closed to salmon fishing above the Parks Highway.

Wildlife

Moose

Because of their importance as game and for wildlife viewing, moose are the most economically important wildlife species in the planning area. They are particularly important in this management unit because the Little Susitna River is relatively accessible. The unit provides moose with food, forest cover, and water. Associated wetlands are critical for

moose calving in the spring. Riparian habitat is critical to winter survival of moose and also provides travel corridors. Upland coniferous forests provide thermal cover and shallower snow depths.

Bear

Because brown bear are less tolerant of human modifications to the environment, black bear are more common in this drainage than brown bear. Black bear begin to frequent the lowlands and river flats in early May. High spring densities can be found near the mouth of the river. During June and July, bear are attracted to the river due to increased presence of salmon. The river also provides travel corridors which are an important component of brown bear habitat.

Bald Eagles

Eagles are known to feed on spawning salmon and perch in trees within the unit. Several nesting sites are documented along the lower and upper subunits of the river corridor.

Trumpeter Swans

Lakes with suitable nesting habitat, occur within the corridor. Trumpeter swan nesting sites have been documented within the lower and middle Little Susitna River subunits.

Hunting

The most heavily hunted areas are road-accessible areas, followed by off-road vehicle, boat, and aircraft-accessible areas. The Parks Highway and the Little Susitna River Access are the primary access points to the Little Susitna River. Moose and black bear are the primary species harvested. A significant amount of the black bear harvest within Game Management Subunit 14A occurs along the Little Susitna River. Most of this harvest occurs in May, June, and September with June being the peak harvest period.

Trapping

Recreational trapping for beaver, coyote, fox, mink, and muskrat occurs in the corridor during spring and winter open seasons.

Camping

Recreational use of this unit is high, due to access for fishing. Day use is more common than overnight use. There are two commercial campgrounds and one public campground in Houston. There are numerous undeveloped campsites along the river. Most are located at trail and creek junctions.

Access

The Little Susitna River is accessible by several roads. Boats are widely used on the Little Susitna River. Power boats and jet boats are common below the Parks Highway. Use of rafts and canoes is common below Schrock Road. Power boats gain access from the Little Susitna Public Use Facility, the Parks Highway access, or across Cook Inlet from Anchorage. Floaters often begin at the Parks Highway and float to the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area portage or to the Little Susitna River Access Road. Kayaks are common in the spring on the upper river above the Edgerton-Parks Road. Airboat use is infrequent.

Management Guidelines for the Unit

Boating Restrictions

1.	*Voluntary no-wake area*	From the oxbow just below the railroad bridge to the Parks Highway Bridge (RM 67.5 - 0-69.6).
	Season:	May 15 - August 20
	Justification:	The boat launch in this area is heavily used. The area is also heavily used by bank anglers. The voluntary no-wake area reduces conflicts between powerboaters and bank anglers and reduce safety risks between power-boaters. The river segment is narrow and includes several blind bends. The upper and lower limits of the zone were designed to include the area where heavy powerboat and bank angling use overlap. Signs identifying the voluntary no-wake area may be established.
2.	*Non-motorized area*	From the Plan Boundary above the Little Susitna Access Road (RM 33.1) to the rock one river-mile below Nancy Lake Creek (RM 60.4).
	Weekends:	The first and third weekends of each month. (12:01 a.m. Saturday to midnight Sunday).
	Season:	May 15 to August 20
	Power-boats-only area	River segment is the same as above non-motorized area.
	Weekends:	The second and fourth weekends of each month (12:01 a.m. on Saturday to midnight Sunday).
	Justification	This area is popular with both powerboaters and floaters, particularly during the salmon runs. The “alternating weekends”

provide high quality float and powerboat opportunities regularly through the summer and reduces user conflicts. The fifth weekend of each month and weekdays from May 15 - August 20 have no restrictions.

The restrictions end in mid-August when there are fewer boaters and fewer conflicts on the river.

The upper limit of the non-motorized area is at a rock below Nancy Lake Creek which is a popular fishing hole. The non-motorized area does not constrain the area above the fishing hole that is traditionally used by powerboats from Houston and Miller's Reach.

1a. Lower Little Susitna River Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 33.2 to RM 65.5 and Nancy Lake Creek RM 0 to RM 5.5

The subunit extends from the Susitna Flats Game Refuge to the City of Houston western boundary. It also includes the lower 5.5 miles of Nancy Lake Creek.

The river meanders through this subunit and moves slower than in the subunits upstream. Contiguous wetlands cover 75 to 80 percent of the subunit above Nancy Lake Creek, and 15 to 20 percent of the area in the lower third of the subunit.

Land Ownership

State	12,728 acres
Mental Health Trust	838 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,581 acres
Total	**15,147 acres**

Wildlife

Eagles are known to feed on spawning salmon and perch in trees within the subunit. Several nesting sites are documented along the lower portions of the river corridor. Lakes with suitable nesting habitat, occur within the corridor. Trumpeter swan nesting sites have been documented within the lower subunits.

Access

There are three roads that provide access to this part of the Little Susitna River and its tributary, Nancy Lake Creek. The Little Susitna Access Road, to the south of the subunit, serves as the primary access and boat launch for the lower river. Floaters also take out there. Considerable pedestrian and off-road vehicle traffic extends up the river from this road. The George Parks Highway, just above this subunit, also provides access for boats and off-road vehicles that use this subunit. Finally, a road at RM 7 on Nancy Lake Creek provides boat access to the creek.

Two float plane landing areas are located adjacent to the subunit at Hock and Yohn Lakes. Primitive foot trails connect the river with these lakes. The river is too narrow and shallow to accommodate floatplanes.

The frozen Little Susitna River and Nancy Lake Creek are used for winter travel. There are interconnecting winter trails in the subunit between Nancy Lake, Houston, Willow, and Big Lake that are used primarily by snowmachines and dog teams. The trails follow seismic lines, powerlines, or open swamps west of the Parks Highway. The Iditarod National Historic Trail crosses the Little Susitna River near Yohn Lake. The Susitna 500 and Little Su 50k winter wilderness races parallel and cross portions of the Little Susitna River in Subunit 1a.

Heritage Resources

There are just a few known heritage sites in this subunit, but this section of the river is particularly rich in traditionally-harvested resources and the potential for more heritage sites is very high. The Iditarod National Historic Trail, which crosses this subunit, was the winter route used to transport mail and supplies from Seward to Nome during the early part of this century.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit is used by a variety of users year-round, because of its proximity to the railbelt and because it is rich in Recreation Resources.

The subunit features high quality fishing, hunting and camping opportunities for powerboaters, floaters, and bank fishermen in a relatively remote, undeveloped setting. In the winter, the subunit features numerous snowmachine, dog mushing, and cross-country skiing trails. It also includes winter moose habitat and salmon spawning habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat. Maintaining levels of low development and an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. While Class I intent is generally defined as having low levels of social interaction between users, higher levels of use are accessible in this popular subunit, including accommodating road access at the upper and lower ends of this subunit and on Upper Nancy Lake Creek. Management of

this subunit is expected to be higher than in other Class I areas because of the level of public use. Management includes some seasonal restrictions on powerboat and floatboat use in order to provide both motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. See management guidelines for the Little Susitna River Management Unit in this chapter.

Iditarod Trail. The Iditarod National Historic Trail crosses this subunit on borough lands near Yohn Lake. For guidelines on activities near these trails on state lands see Chapter 2: *Trails, Iditarod Race Trail* and *Heritage Resources, Iditarod National Historic Trail.*

Heritage Resources. Historic and prehistoric sites in this subunit should be evaluated for their interpretative values for tourism or general interest sites because of easy public access and the concentration of sites.

Public Information. At the Little Susitna River Access Road a kiosk may be established to provide information on the Recreation Rivers. A sign may also mark the lower limit of the Recreation River near RM 33.2.

Overlap between Management Unit & Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. There is an inadvertent overlap between the Little Susitna Recreation River Management Unit and the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. This error should be corrected in the statutes. Areas that remain in the Recreation Rivers, outside of the state recreation area, should be managed consistent with this subunit.

Regulations in the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. This river segment has dual designation as a Recreation River and a State Recreation Area. Boating regulations are consistent with those for the Little Susitna River non-motorized zone. ADNR also adopted camping regulations for the areas within one-half mile of the Little Susitna River in the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. Regulations are consistent with the four-day camping regulations for all the Recreation Rivers.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 1a.1 **Iditarod National Historic Trail Crossing** (RM 34). This is a popular campsite.

PU 1a.2 **Hock Lake Trail** (RM 39.5). This is a well-used access point to Hock Lake. ADF&G has a weir camp located at this site.

PU 1a.3 **Papoose Creek** (RM 47.5). This is a popular area for camping, hunting and fishing. Site is adjacent to pipeline corridor.

PU 1a.4 **Skeetna Lake Portage** (RM 55). This site includes the trail portage to Skeetna Lake in the Nancy Lake Recreation Area. This is also a popular camping spot.

PU 1a.5 **Campsite by the Big Rock Fishing Hole** (RM 60). This is a popular fishing hole and camping area.

PU 1a.6 **Nancy Lake Creek Junction** (RM 61.5). This is a popular area for fishing and camping. Red salmon linger at this confluence before ascending Lake Creek to Nancy Lake where they spawn. Utility corridor goes through this site.

PU 1a.7 **Miller's Reach Boat Launch** (RM 65.5). This site includes a side road in this subdivision that is used as a powerboat launch.

Recommendations for this Subunit

Cooperative Management Agreement. The DMLW, DPOR, ADF&G, and the borough may work cooperatively on recreation management along the Little Susitna River between Hock Lake and the Little Susitna River Access Road. High public use and the close proximity of the boat launch, campground, refuge, weir, harvest survey station, and borough lands warrant cooperative recreation management in the area. Cooperative management agreements should address issues such as facility maintenance, regulations, use of facilities and equipment, funding, and field staff responsibilities. Also see Chapter 4, *Agency Responsibilities.*

1b. Middle Little Susitna River Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 65.5 to RM 74

This subunit includes that portion of the Little Susitna River within the city of Houston boundaries. The subunit is shorelands with no associated uplands, this segment of the river is about 50 feet wide. The upland tract in this subunit has little dry land; it is 60 to 75 percent contiguous wetland, and three- to five-percent non-contiguous wetland.

Land Ownership

This subunit is state-owned shorelands with no associated uplands. The land ownership surrounding the corridor is primarily private with an approximately mile wide stretch of borough land neighboring the corridor and a small amount of state-owned land as well.

Wildlife

No known nesting sites for bald eagles or trumpeter swans have been recently surveyed within this subunit.

Camping

There are three developed campgrounds adjacent to this subunit. One is run by the city of Houston and two by businesses.

Development

There are numerous homes and businesses adjacent to this subunit. The George Parks Highway and Alaska Railroad bridges cross the river, two major boat launches are located in the vicinity of the Parks Highway bridge.

Access

The George Parks Highway crosses the river at RM 69.5 and parallels the river for about a mile.

Management Intent

Class II. Because of its proximity to the George Parks Highway, the City of Houston, and recreation areas, this subunit receives high public use year-round. In the summer there are high quality fishing and camping opportunities for powerboaters, floaters, and bank users in an accessible, moderately developed natural area. In the winter, the subunit is used by snowmachiners, dog mushers, and skiers. Salmon spawning habitat is located in this subunit. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands adjacent to the subunit. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. Because of high public use, maintaining existing public use sites and facilities will be the management focus. There are many residences and businesses in the Houston area adjacent to the subunit. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit. A voluntary no-wake area is located near Houston to protect public safety.

Management Guidelines

Voluntary No-wake Area. See management guidelines for the Little Susitna River Management Unit in this chapter.

Trails. To discourage trespass on private lands, public pedestrian access should be clearly marked adjacent to the George Parks Highway. Heavily used trails that are causing erosion or bank failure may need to be relocated or reconstructed.

Public Information. In coordination with the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, a kiosk may be established which displays information on the Recreation Rivers at the public parking area adjacent to the George Parks Highway. Signs may also be placed on the north and south side of the George Parks Highway Bridge identifying it as a Recreation River.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 1b.1 **George Parks Highway Bridge** (RM 69.8). Public use is heavy on both sides of the road between the highway and railroad bridges. There are two developed parking facilities on the north side of the highway bridge. Day use is popular. Floatboats are also launched from the parking areas.

PU 1b.2 **Houston Campground** (RM 70.5). The river banks in this area are used for fishing and day use.

lc. Upper Little Susitna River Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 74 to RM 100

The subunit extends from the City of Houston's east boundary to the Hatcher Pass Management Unit, just above the Hatcher Pass Bridge. The majority of this subunit is state-owned shorelands with little associated uplands. The river is generally shallow and relatively swift in this subunit. Below RM 81.4 the river becomes silty. The uplands within this subunit contain no significant wetlands.

Land Ownership

State	1,870 acres
Native	284 acres
Private & Other	80 acres
Total	**2,234 acres**

Wildlife

In recent USFWS surveys, occupied bald eagle nests have been observed within this subunit as well as several unoccupied nests.

Camping

Due to access provided by Schrock, Schrock-Pittman, Fishhook, and Wasilla-Fishhook Roads, there are several popular day-use sites along the river.

Development

There are many homes and associated structures adjacent to the subunit located on private parcels. Several bridges cross the river in this subunit. The Sushana bridge is the only location where there are state-owned uplands. There may be other bridges that span the Little Susitna shorelands and water column but the adjacent uplands are not state-owned.

Access

This subunit is accessible from three paved, well-traveled roads. Schrock Road and Fishhook Road are important routes between Wasilla and Palmer and are key residential areas in the Matanuska Valley. A series of unpaved roads parallel the river outside the subunit to the north and south, with many spur roads to access private residences. Boat traffic is minimal. Float boats can launch at Schrock Road or Fishhook Road. The upper portion of the river is too rocky for powerboats. It is used by white-water kayakers when the water is high enough. The lower portion of the subunit is seldom used by powerboaters because of log jams and the closure to salmon fishing.

Winter use of the area is primarily by snowmachine on or adjacent to the river. Several off-road vehicle trails and seismic lines cross the subunit.

Heritage Resources

While only one known site exists in this subunit, the potential for more is high. Considerable historic mining activity has occurred in the area.

Other Activities

There is an ADOT/PF gravel pit located within the subunit at RM 84.5. Car dumps are located near the subunit on both sides of the river.

Management Intent

Class II. This subunit includes mostly shorelands and the water column bounded by private land. It features fishing (trout and Dolly Varden only) and camping opportunities for powerboaters, floaters, and bank users in an accessible, moderately developed area. It also features salmon spawning habitat and winter moose habitat. Numerous developed and undeveloped private parcels are adjacent to the subunit. The subunit will be managed to maintain and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat, while accommodating uses associated with private lands in the subunit. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Personal-Use Forestry. The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection may designate personal-use cutting areas on the upland parcel just south of Bench Lake in sections 15, 16, and 17 on the upper Little Susitna River. See *Forestry, Personal Use in Road-Accessible Areas.*

Public Information. Signs should be placed on either side of the Hatcher Pass bridge, identifying the Little Susitna Recreation River.

ADOT/PF Materials Site. There is an existing ADOT/PF material site in this subunit near RM 14. ADOT/PF manages this site under an interagency land management transfer (ILMT) from ADNR (ADL 59287). The site will be managed consistent with the ILMT which allows ADOT/PF to construct, maintain or improve, and remove buildings, roads, airports, and works of any description, and to use or remove sand, gravel, timber, or other materials necessary to make use of the lands for public purposes. Plan guidelines and management intent do not apply to this site. However, management of the site must be consistent with the Recreation Rivers Act. After materials extraction is completed, the site will be rehabilitated consistent with the ADOT/PF standards. If surface jurisdiction and management of the site returns to ADNR, it will be managed consistent with the plan guidelines and management intent for the subunit.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 1c.1 **Day Use Site** (RM 81). This site is accessed by road on the south side of the river and is used for fishing and camping.

PU 1c.2 **Schrock Road** (RM 84.5). This road crossing is used for accessing the river, launching floatboats, fishing, and day use. There is a cleared area adjacent to the bridge used by vehicles for overnight camping.

PU 1c.3 **Sushana Road Bridge** (RM 87.7). This is a popular camping spot.

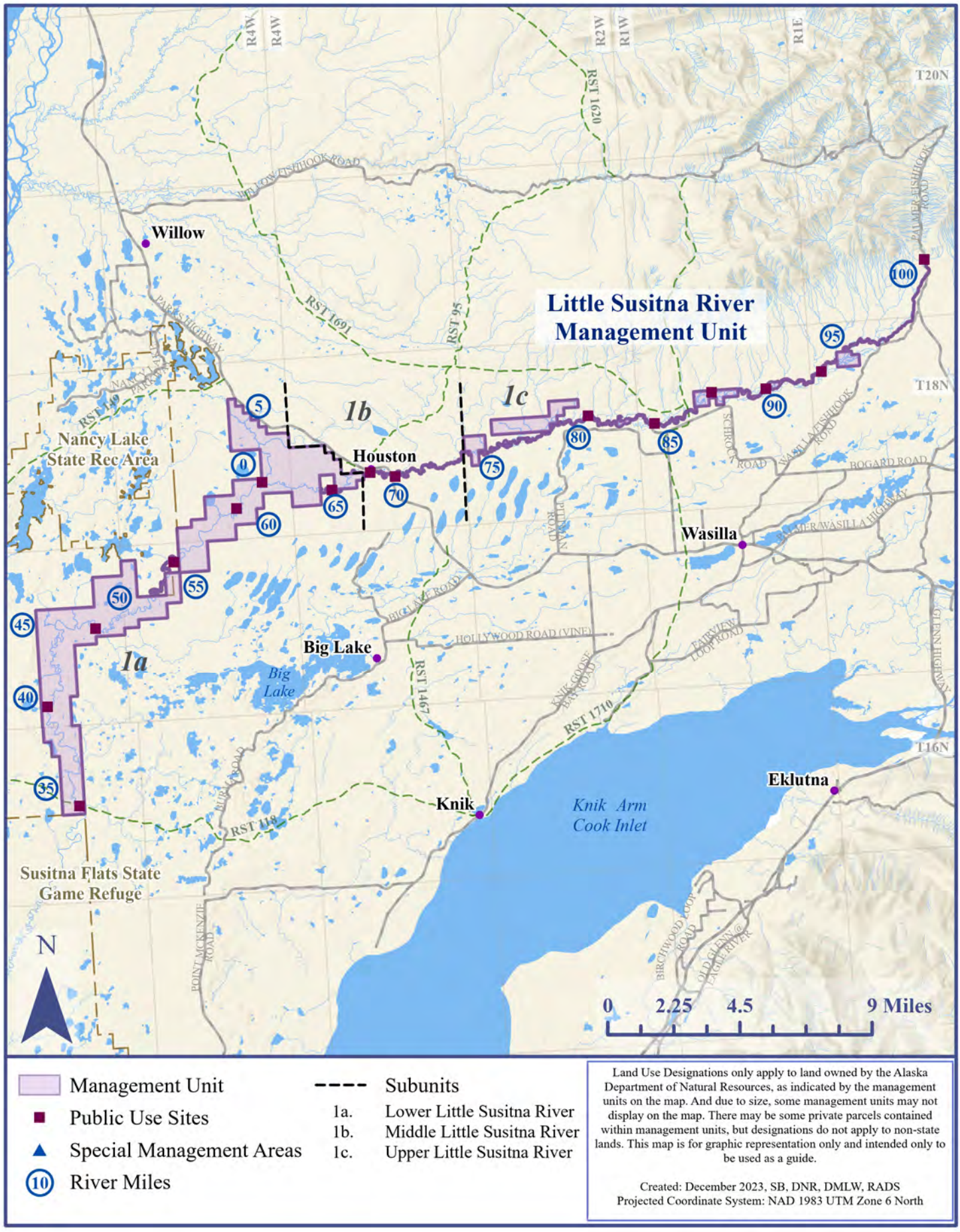
PU 1c.4 **Carney Road Bridge** (RM 90.5). This is a popular fishing spot.

PU 1c.5 **Welch Road Bridge** (RM 92.8). This site is popular for fishing.

PU 1c.6 **Hatcher Pass Bridge** (RM 99.5). This is the entrance to the scenic Little Susitna River canyon, running through the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area. Sightseeing from the bridge is popular, and ADOT/PF has recently provided a parking area for sightseers. The banks adjacent to the bridge are also used for taking out kayaks.

1
2

LITTLE SUSITNA RIVER



Management Unit
Public Use Sites
Special Management Areas
(10) River Miles

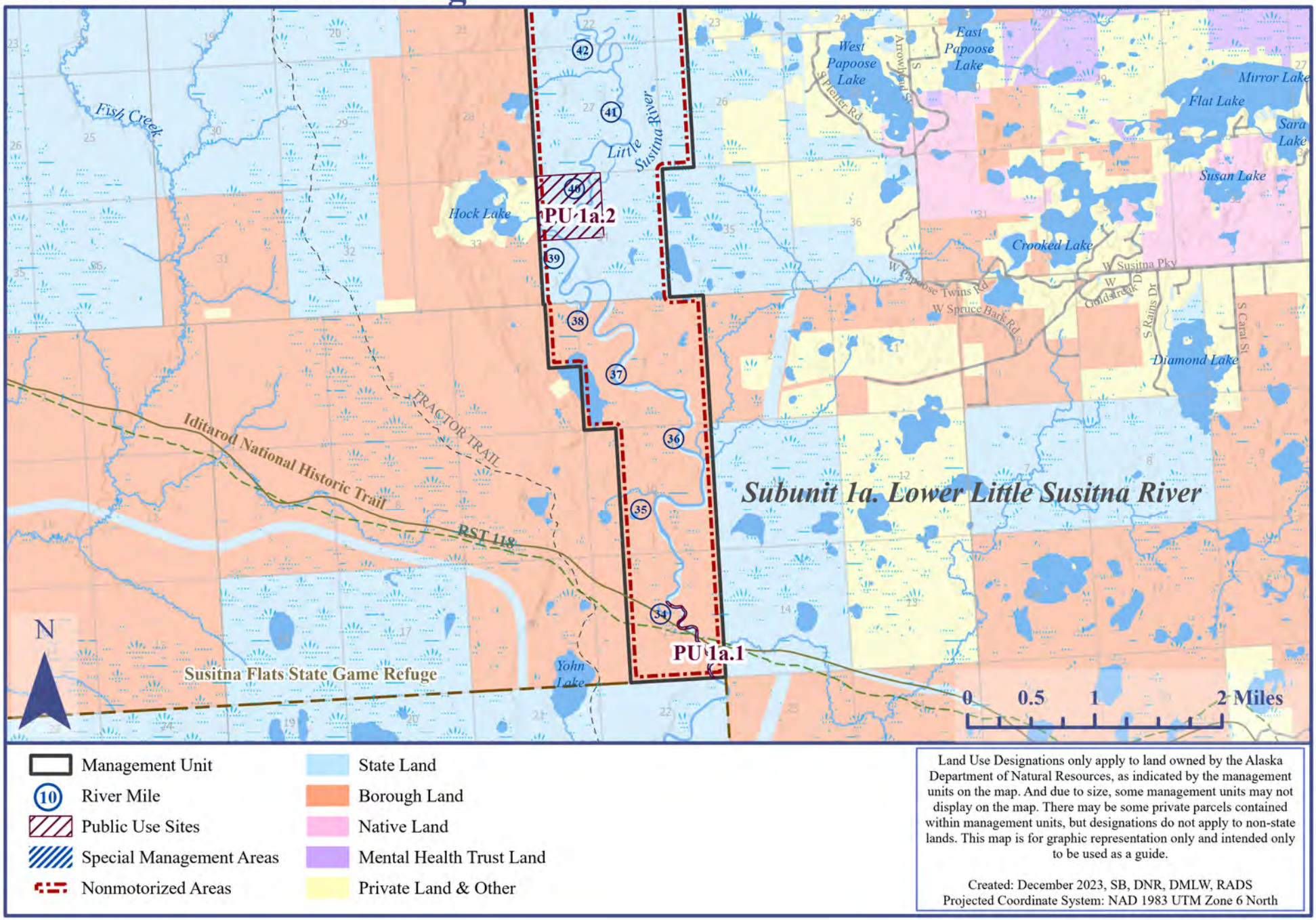
Subunits
1a. Lower Little Susitna River
1b. Middle Little Susitna River
1c. Upper Little Susitna River

Land Use Designations only apply to land owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on the map. And due to size, some management units may not display on the map. There may be some private parcels contained within management units, but designations do not apply to non-state lands. This map is for graphic representation only and intended only to be used as a guide.

Created: December 2023, SB, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

Little Susitna River Management Unit

MAP 1



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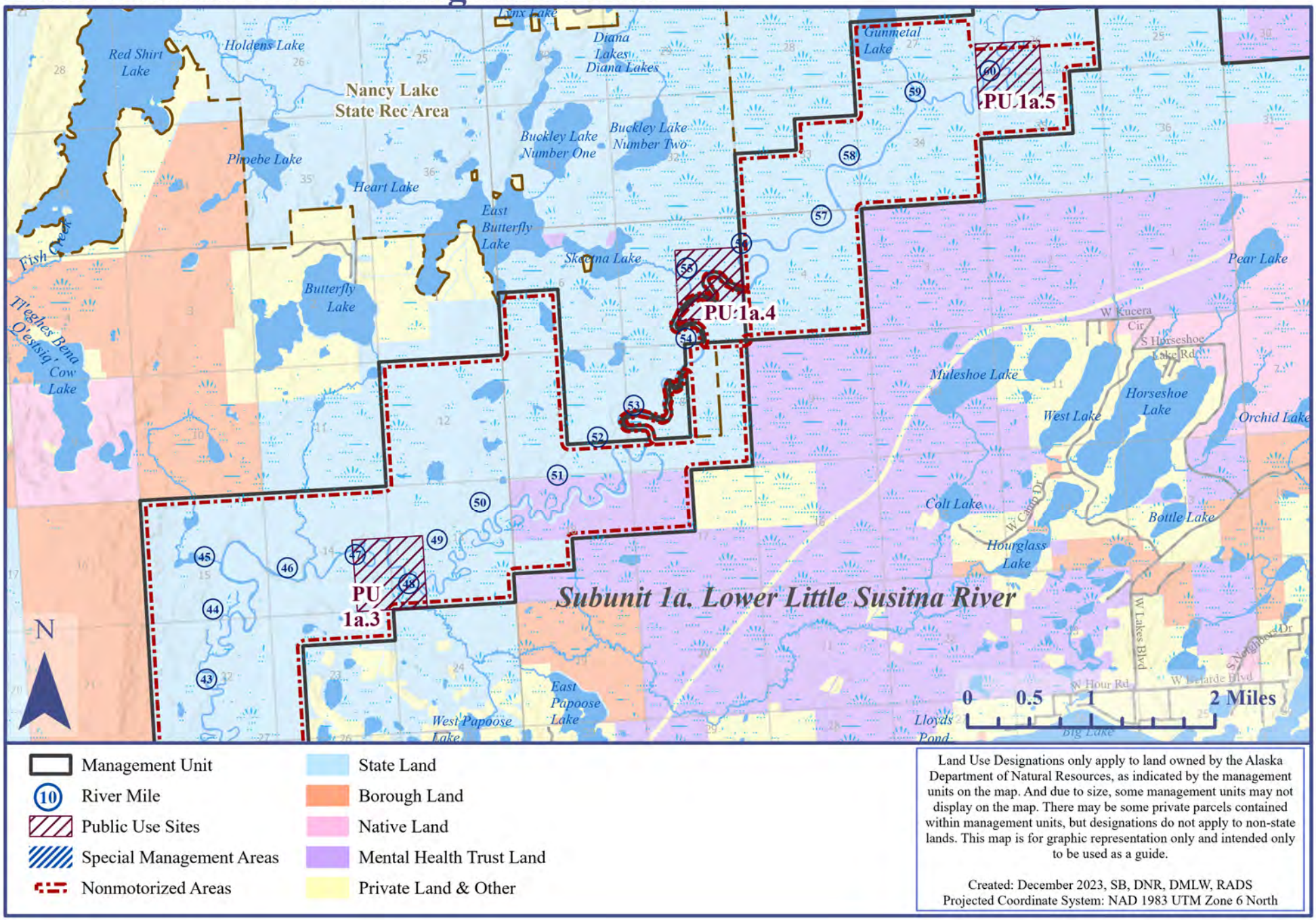
Little Susitna River Management Unit

MAP 2



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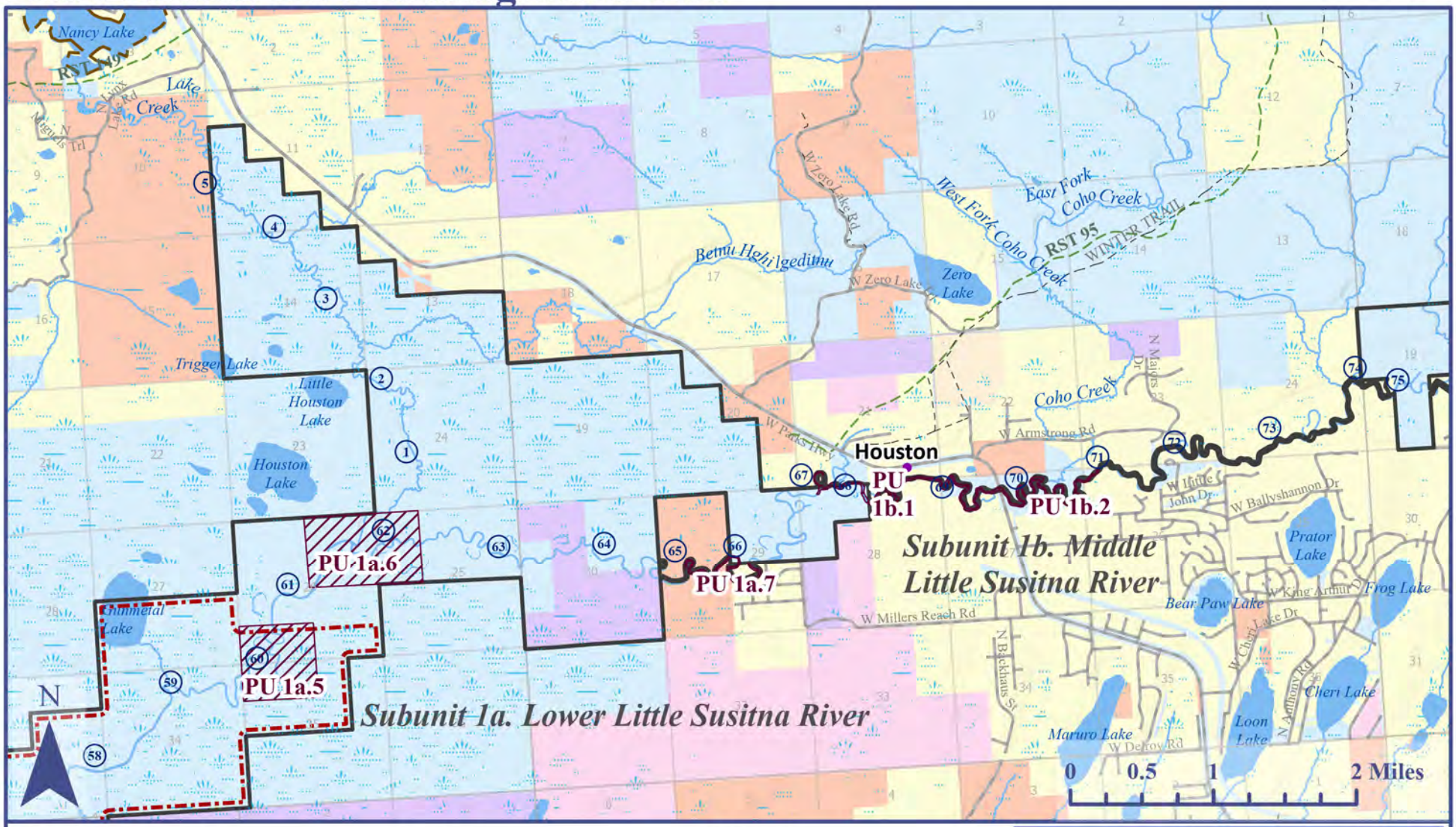
Created: December 2023, SB, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

Little Susitna River Management Unit

MAP 3



Management Unit
River Mile
Public Use Sites
Special Management Areas
Nonmotorized Areas
State Land
Borough Land
Native Land
Mental Health Trust Land
Private Land & Other
BLM Land
NPS/USFS/USFWS Land

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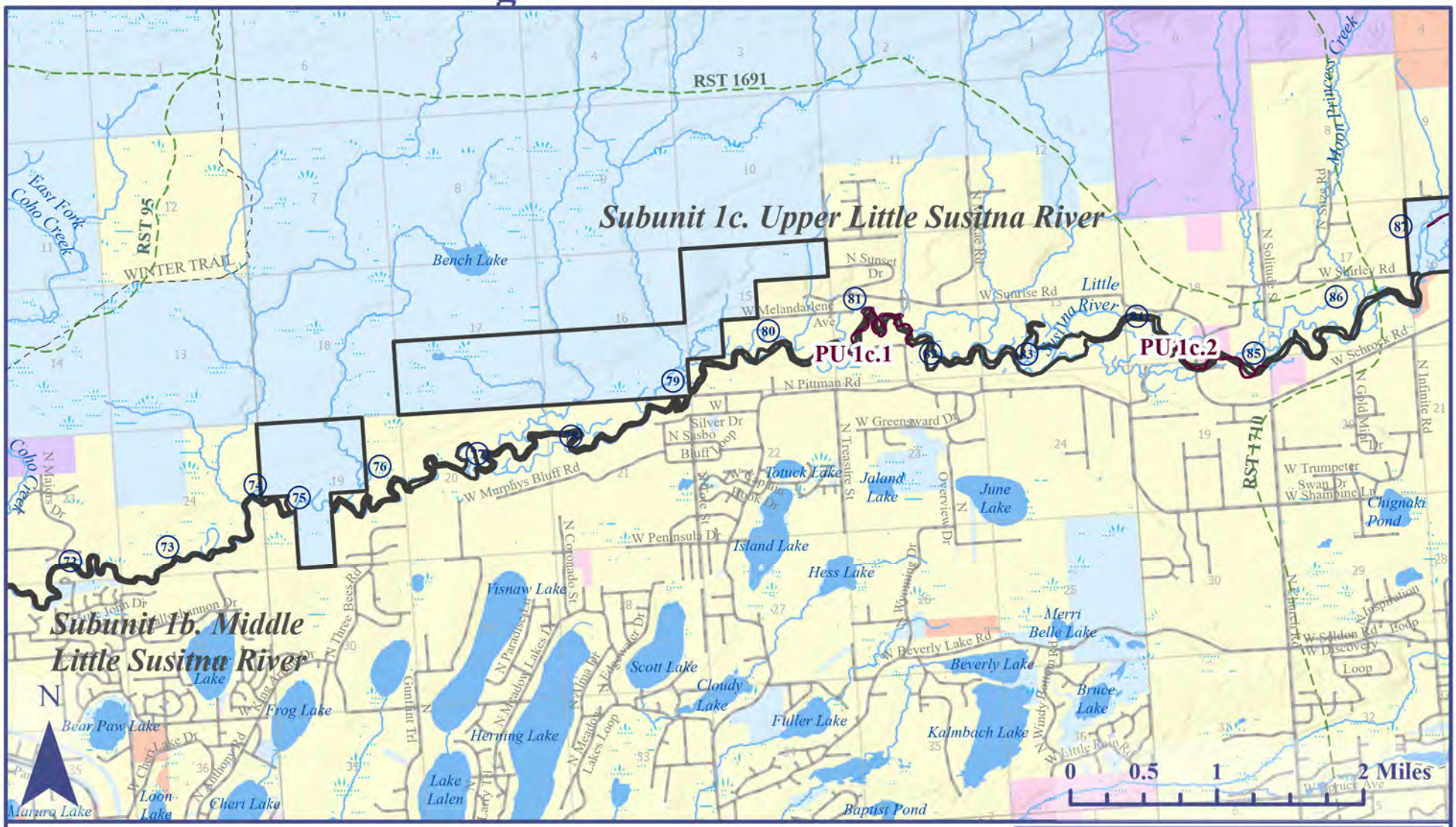
Created: December 2023, SB, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

Little Susitna River Management Unit

MAP 4



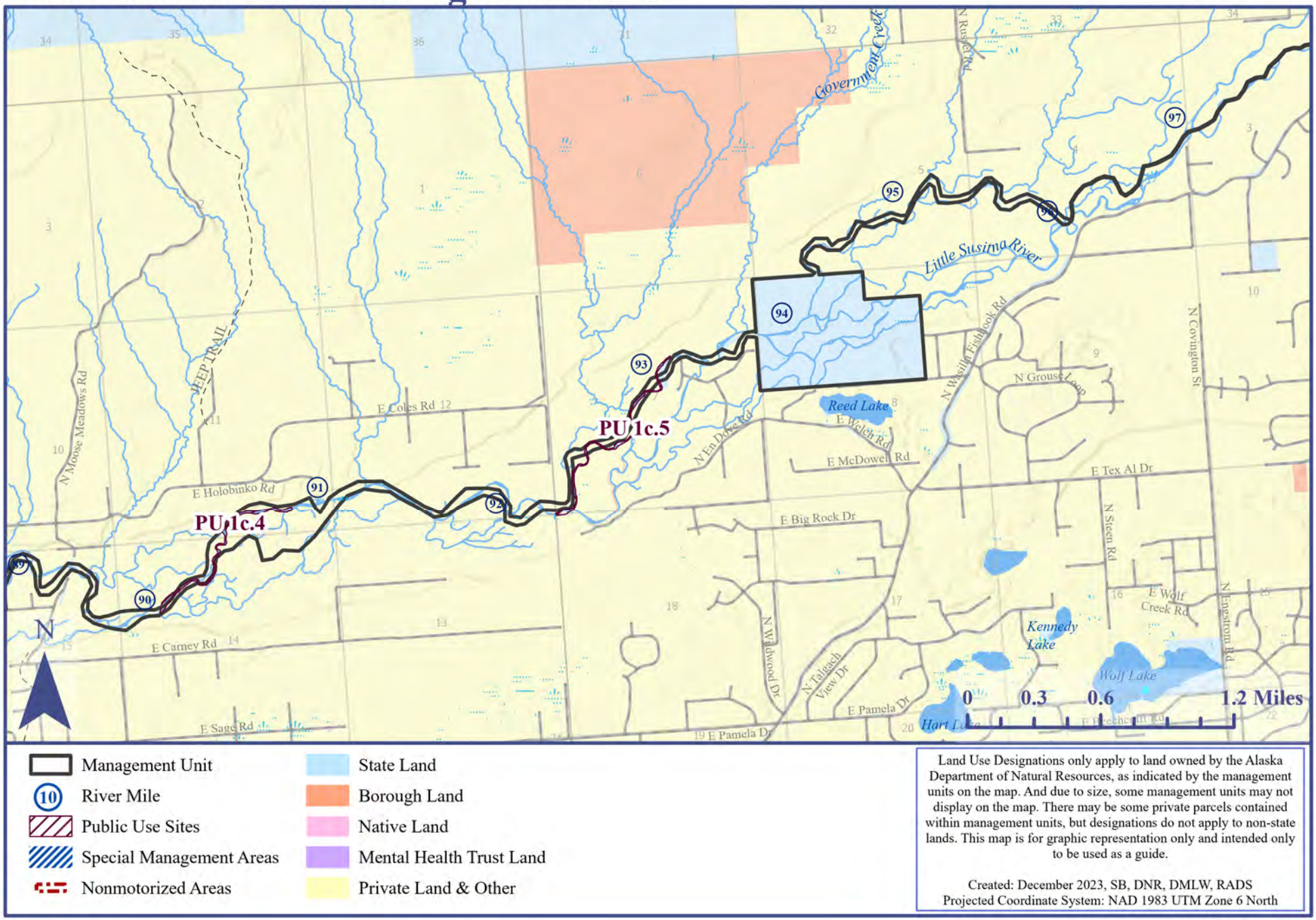
- Management Unit
- River Mile (10)
- Public Use Sites
- Special Management Areas
- Nonmotorized Areas
- State Land
- Borough Land
- Native Land
- Mental Health Trust Land
- Private Land & Other
- BLM Land
- NPS/USFS/USFWS Land

Land Use Designations only apply to land owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on the map. And due to size, some management units may not display on the map. There may be some private parcels contained within management units, but designations do not apply to non-state lands. This map is for graphic representation only and intended only to be used as a guide.

Created: December 2023, SB, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

Little Susitna River Management Unit

MAP 5



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Created: December 2023, SB, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

2. Deshka River Management Unit

1
2

2. Deshka River Management Unit

Background

Miles of River

This unit includes over 140 river miles including the Deshka River[3] from its confluence with Susitna River (RM 0.0) to (RM 82.4) and 59 miles of Kroto Creek above the Forks.

Land Ownership

State	61,233 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	11,536 acres
Private & Other	1,858 acres
Total	**74,627 acres**

River Characteristics

The Deshka River meanders with mid-channel bars and riffles throughout. Channel width varies along the river. Near the mouth the normal channel width is about 300 feet, in Subunits 2b and 2c it is 100 feet, in Subunits 2d and 2e it is 50 feet, and upstream of the forks it is 30 feet. The average stream flow near the mouth is 873 cubic feet per second. Winter low flows are 200 to 300 cfs. Peak summer flows are 800 to 2800 cfs. The average depth is 2 to 8 feet. The width of the 100-year floodplain at the mouth of the Deshka River is approximately 1.5 miles, primarily to the east side of the river, meeting the floodplain of the Susitna River. The banks at the mouth of the Deshka River have experienced an increase in levels of erosion in recent years. Over half of this corridor is wetlands. Wetlands are particularly extensive near the Moose-Kroto creek confluence. The terrain in the remainder of the corridor is rolling to flat with moderately dense tree cover.

The Deshka River has experienced a trend of warming summer temperatures in recent years. These temperature increases have been shown to stress and may lead to population declines in cold-water fishes, including salmonids. Airborne thermal image surveys of the Deshka River have located patches of cold water (cold-water refuges) that provide localized relief from warming water and contribute to an overall cooling gradient of the river's main channel. The reliable presence of these cold-water refugia will be important to the persistence of salmonids and other fish species as the trend of warming summer temperature increases into the future.

[3] The term *Deshka River* as used in this plan to refer to Unit 2 includes both Moose Creek and Kroto Creek from the Susitna River to their headwaters. *Deshka River* is also used more specifically to include the river below the confluence of Kroto and Moose Creeks. Above the confluence of Moose and Kroto creeks, these creeks are called by their respective names.

Because the view from the river is generally confined to the riverbanks, the visual quality along the Deshka River is moderate. However, in open areas, there are panoramic views of the Alaska Range, Denali, and the Talkeetna Mountains. The river is a dark color from tannins in the water. There are numerous camps, buildings, and docks along the river particularly near the mouth.

Fisheries

Species Present

Arctic grayling	Pink salmon
Arctic lamprey	Rainbow trout
Chinook salmon	Slimy sculpin
Coho salmon	Sockeye salmon
Humpback whitefish	Threespine stickleback
Longnose sucker	

Chinook salmon are found from the mouth of the Deshka to the upper reaches of Moose and Kroto creeks. They spawn in the river beginning at approximately RM 5. A small number of sockeye salmon are found at the headwaters of Kroto Creek and near the upper limit of Moose Creek. Coho and pink salmon spawn nearly to the upper boundary of the Moose and Kroto creek subunits. Arctic grayling and rainbow trout are present throughout the management unit.

Sport Fishing

The level of sport fishing on the Deshka River is second only to the Little Susitna River in the planning area. Peaks in recreation and fishing activities on the Deshka River correspond with the Chinook and coho salmon runs; approximately May 29 to July 4 and July 15 to September 5. Many people fish for rainbow trout and Arctic grayling in late May as the pink salmon smolt out the lower river and throughout the summer to early fall. The most popular fishing areas are the mouth of the Deshka and lower 10 miles of river, the Forks, and the mouths of Trapper and No Name creeks.

Special Regulations

Moose and Kroto creeks have been designated by ADF&G as catch and release special management waters for rainbow trout.

Wildlife

Moose

Moose and Kroto creeks have high moose densities in the winter. Riparian habitat is critical for the winter survival of moose. Riparian willow stands provide a large portion of the winter

forage. The river provides established travel corridors which are enhanced by upland coniferous forests that provide thermal cover and shallower snow depths. Radio telemetry studies conducted by ADF&G indicate high concentrations of moose occur in and along the corridor during late fall and winter seasons.

Bear

On the Deshka River, brown bear and black bear are equally common and are important for hunting and wildlife viewing. This river is one of the more important spring black bear harvest areas in Game Management Unit 16A. Black bear frequent the lowlands and river flats in early May. During summer, forested, riparian habitats provide food and cover. During June and July, salmon provide a significant portion of the bears' diet. Travel corridors along the river are important components of brown bear habitat. Both species of bear target moose calves as prey in May and early June.

Bald Eagles

Bald eagle nests have been identified within or immediately adjacent to several of the subunits within the management unit. Nest trees are primarily black cottonwood, always over 50 feet tall, and usually within 20 feet of the river.

Trumpeter Swans

Trumpeter swans were documented throughout the river corridor in recent USFWS surveys.

Hunting

Moose and bear are important for hunting and viewing. Hunting of moose and bear is concentrated in the road-accessible areas along the Petersville and Oilwell roads. Hunters access the mouth of the Deshka River and Moose Creek downstream of the Oilwell Road by boat. Airplanes and off-road vehicles are also used for hunting. This management unit receives some of the highest hunting use of all the Recreation Rivers because of its proximity to population centers, relative ease of access, and large moose population.

Trapping

Recreational trapping for otter, muskrat, mink, beaver, fox, coyote, marten, and wolf occurs in the corridor during spring and winter seasons.

Access

Moose and Kroto creeks are accessible by automobile from the Petersville and Oilwell roads. Foot and off-road vehicle trails along the river and seismic lines also are common. Powerboats generally access the lower river from the Deshka or Susitna landings. With adequate flows, they can travel up to the confluence of Moose and Kroto creeks. Travel by

powerboat is low above the confluence. Float trips originate from several locations on the upper river. Floatplanes land on the Susitna River, the lower Deshka River, and several other places along the corridor. Airplanes use several strips located along the lower river. The Deshka River is used extensively for winter travel by private property owners and other recreationists. Snowmachines are the primary method of transportation, but dog mushing is also common.

Management Guidelines for the Unit

Boating Restrictions

1.	*Voluntary no-wake area*	Confluence with Susitna River (RM 0.0) to the island.
	Season:	May 15 - August 20.
	Justification:	This is a highly congested area with high boat traffic, boats anchored in midstream, and high floatplane traffic. A no-wake area reduces safety hazards.
2.	*Non-motorized area*	From just above the forks (RM 29.7) to: just below Oilwell Road on Moose Creek (RM 54.2), and to just below Amber Lake Creek on Kroto Creek (RM 19.1).
	Season:	May 15 - August 20.
	Justification:	The non-motorized areas on Moose and Kroto creeks provide high quality float trips. Because of numerous riffles and shallows on both creeks, powerboat use is low. There is no private property in the corridor in these two river segments.

2a. Mouth of Deshka River Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, Susitna River Confluence (RM 0.0) to RM 1.9

This subunit extends from above the confluence of the Deshka and Susitna rivers to 0.5 miles above the ADF&G camp.

Contiguous wetlands comprise ninety percent of the area along the river between RM 0 and RM 1. Most of the dry terrain is in private ownership. From RM 1 to RM 1.9, wetlands occur in the areas between river channels.

Land Ownership

State	1,370 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	877 acres
Private & Other	65 acres
Total	**2,312 acres**

Several parcels of private land are located along the west bank of the river near the mouth. There is also private land on the east bank, including the land on which a private lodge is located. An ADF&G cabin is authorized by an Interim Land Management Agreement with ADNR. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers also have a cabin within the corridor that is authorized by permit. Both cabins are surrounded by state land.

Fisheries

During peak season, the mouth of the Deshka River can receive as much as 80 percent of the daily fishing use for the entire Deshka River.

Wildlife

Several unoccupied bald eagle nests have been located within the subunit, although occupied nests have not been sighted in recent surveys. Active trumpeter swan nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

Camping

The borough maintains a campground at the mouth and issues permits to camp on its land.

Development

Upland Structures and Improvements

There is extensive development in this subunit. Most private parcels have some level of development including commercial lodges and private cabins. The ADF&G and Alaska Wildlife Troopers each have cabins.

Temporary camps are established in May as soon as ice leaves the river. These camps remain through the summer and many improvements are left through the winter. There are also a number of camps established for just one to three nights peaks during Chinook salmon season. These camps are often located away from the river in less desirable places because of the lack of space on the shoreline. The same areas used for camps are used for boat and equipment storage. Many river users are flown to the mouth of the Deshka, or charter larger boats to access the area and use smaller boats stored in the subunit to travel along the river. Some of the abandoned and stored debris is washed away by spring flooding, however, much still remains and abandoned boats and camps have accumulated over the years. The borough

established a campground in 1990 and requires a permit for camping in the remainder of the area. This has altered the use patterns and largely eliminated the practice of abandoning camps and equipment on public lands.

Water-Dependent Structures

Several docks are associated with cabins and lodges in this subunit. Many of the cabins and lodges have small shelters or storage areas adjacent to the river for equipment and gasoline. There are also some access stairways, particularly along the steep west banks of the river.

Access

Foot and off-road vehicle trails have been established in the subunit. Most are associated with structures on private land or the campsites along the east bank of the Deshka River. Access to the area is by airplane or boat. The mouth of the river is used as a pick-up point for float trips and by fishermen. Most powerboats that use the river are launched from the Deshka Landing. The most congested section of the Deshka River for boats is below RM 0.4 which offers the best fishing opportunities.

Floatplanes and wheelplanes land near the mouth of the river. There is a public airstrip on state land near the confluence with the Susitna River. Floatplanes also frequently land on the Susitna and Deshka rivers. There are also primitive landing areas on gravel bars.

Heritage Resources

There is a high probability of locating additional heritage resources sites in the subunit. Known sites are on private land.

Other Activities

Small-scale timber cutting occurs for firewood and houselogs. There is also extensive wood gathering by campers.

Management Intent

Class III. This subunit is notable for its high concentration of anglers in a relatively small area during the Chinook and coho salmon runs. The subunit features high quality fishing and camping opportunities for powerboaters, floaters, and bank users in an accessible moderately developed area. Lodges and residences are located on either side of the river. With good wheel and floatplane access, this subunit receives more air traffic than any other area in the Recreation Rivers. Winter use is by snowmachiners, skiers, and dog mushers. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat, while accommodating uses associated with private lands. Management presence is expected to be high. Managing for concentrated public and commercial use will be the focus

of management activities. Proposed actions include providing public facilities such as a campground and privies to minimize unsanitary conditions, reducing damage to natural resources from over-use, and preventing unauthorized use of public lands. Because of the concentration of use, public education through signs and a visitor contact station is recommended. There is a voluntary no-wake area at the mouth to protect public safety during the fishing season. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit. Because of the proximity of state and borough lands and intense public use, cooperative management or conveyance of part of this area to the borough should be considered.

Management Guidelines

No-Wake Area. See management guidelines for the Deshka River Management Units in this chapter.

Commercial Camps. Commercial camps are prohibited on state land in this subunit. Borough use of this land for a visitor contact station, public campground, or other public facility may be authorized by permit or lease.

Camping Limits. If borough camping policies result in trespass, sanitation problems, overcrowding, threats to public safety, or resource damage on state lands ADNR should work with the borough to address these problems. Limits in addition to the four-day camping limit on state land may be considered. If needed, these limits may be established by regulation, designating the area a *Special Use Area* under 11 AAC 96.010; or under the closures and use-management provisions described under *Recreation* in Chapter 2.

Floatplane Landing Area. The lower Deshka is an extremely popular fishing, boating, and recreation area. Public access is by float plane and powerboat. Because of the high density of floatplanes and boats on the river, ADNR should consider establishing a floatplane landing area during the peak season, when boat and plane traffic is heaviest. DMLW, DGGS, the borough, FAA and the public should be involved in the process of evaluating boat and plane use patterns, airspace, hydrology, and other variables. If the initial evaluation demonstrates that a designated landing area is feasible and prudent, a landing area should be designed. ADNR should then implement needed regulations, establish signs or buoys, and notify FAA and the public of the designated landing area.

Wheelplane Landing Strips. A public airstrip owned by ADNR exists on the west side of the river and provides access to the area. Another airstrip exists on lands owned by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and is used to access a lodge in this subunit.

Consistent Management of the Mouth Area. One of the goals of the plan is to provide consistent management of lands within the planning area. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is the major landowner at the mouth of the Deshka River and developed the Deshka River Recreation River Management Plan for their lands. The borough also had a land-use permit in 1990 and 1991 to use state lands at the mouth. If the borough agrees to manage state land

in Section 35 consistent with the general management intent for the mouth of the Deshka Subunit and it is consistent with AS 41.23.400 - 510, ADNR may consider conveyance or leasing the parcel under AS 38.05.810, or entering into a management agreement. Lands that may be addressed by conveyance or lease are in Section 35, T19N, R6W, and include the two vegetated point bars east of the mouth of the Deshka River and northwest of the main channel of the Susitna River. A plan amendment is not required to convey, lease or reclassify this parcel as long as it is consistent with this intent.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Site. ADF&G manages a site near RM 2 under an Interagency Land Management Agreement (ILMA) with ADNR. The site will be managed consistent with the ILMA. ADF&G and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers currently have cabins on the site. With concurrence from ADF&G, additional cabins for ADNR field staff and equipment may be constructed near the ADF&G camp. Since well-drained uplands adjacent to the river in state ownership are limited within this subunit, these lands should be retained in state ownership. See guidelines for *Resource Management Camps* in Chapter 2.

Heritage Resources. Historic and prehistoric sites near the mouth should be evaluated for their interpretive values for tourism and general public interest. Since most of these sites are located on private land, this will require the cooperation of property owners.

Public Information. An informational sign exists on land owned by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough at the mouth of the Deshka River identifying the boundary of the Recreation River.

Weapons. Between June 15 and August 31, discharge of weapons is prohibited within one-quarter mile of the river on state land and water between the mouth of the Deshka River and the ADF&G camp. See *Recreation, Use of Weapons* in Chapter 2.

Public Use Sites. Unlike other subunits where public use sites were identified, this entire subunit receives high public use and will be managed as important for access, fishing, camping, or other recreation and public use.

2b. Lower Deshka River Subunit

Background

River Miles/River Characteristics, RM 1.9 to RM 6.8

This subunit extends from the ADF&G cabin to the Laub Homestead. The immediate upland terrain is flat to rolling with occasional 30 to 50 foot cutbanks. The river contains numerous channels and islands. The channel is 100 to 200 feet wide. The water is usually brown and relatively slow moving. Less than 25 percent of the subunit is contiguous wetlands. All wetlands are located on the east side of the river.

Land Ownership

State	504 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	2,219 acres
Private & Other	231 acres
Total	**2,954 acres**

Fisheries

This segment contains at least two popular fishing areas, although visitor use here is lower than at the mouth of the river. The ADF&G data suggests 9 to 20 percent of the total Deshka River use occurs within this subunit.

Wildlife

Active bald eagle nests and trumpeter swans have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

Camping

Camping is concentrated between RM 2 and RM 5, particularly near the Silver Hole public use site.

Development

There are several private cabins located in the subunit. A large homestead has been used in the past for commercial recreation.

Access

One seismic line near the homestead is used for year-round access by off-road-vehicles. There are two private airstrips. Considerable powerboat traffic travels through this reach enroute to various fishing areas. Navigability is marginal at about RM 5.5 at low water levels.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential in this subunit is high, primarily due to the high number of house pits in the area. Most of the known sites are on private land.

Management Intent

Class II. This subunit receives high public use because of its proximity to the mouth of the Deshka River, and the opportunities it provides for a variety of recreation uses. This subunit

features fishing, camping, powerboating, and floating opportunities in a moderately accessible natural setting. In winter the subunit is used by snowmachiners, dog mushers and skiers. The area contains salmon spawning and moose wintering habitat. Private lands are located along the river in the northern half of the subunit. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands. A limited number of commercial camps may be authorized. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. There are no nonmotorized areas in this subunit. Warning signs may be placed at the Silver Hole (PU 2b.1) to warn boaters to reduce speed when anglers are present.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None

Commercial Camps. A maximum of two commercial camps may be authorized in this subunit. Commercial camps will not be authorized in public use sites.

Camping Limits. If borough camping policies result in trespass, sanitation problems, overcrowding, threats to public safety, or resource damage on state lands, ADNR will work with the borough to address these problems. Limits in addition to the four-day camping limit on state land may be considered. If needed, these limits may be established through regulation, designating the area a *Special Use Area* under 11 AAC 96.010, or under the closures and use management provisions described under *Recreation* in Chapter 2.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 2b.1 **Silver Hole(s)** (RM 3.9). This site is used for camping and fishing. Users camp both on the shore and in their boats.

PU 2b.2 **Mile 6 Fishing Hole** (RM 6). This is a popular fishing and camping site.

2c. Middle Deshka River Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 6.8 to RM 14.4

This subunit extends from the Laub Homestead to Trapper Creek. Wetlands are located adjacent to the river and cover less than 25 percent of the upland area.

Land Ownership

State	2,739 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,520 acres
Private & Other	159 acres
Total	**4,418 acres**

Wildlife

Neither active bald eagle nor trumpeter swan nests have been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

Camping

Good campsites are scarce in this subunit.

Development

Several private cabins are located in this subunit. All the cabins are located in the northern half of this subunit along the river. There are also commercial lodges located within the subunit.

Access

Powerboat activity is heavy in this subunit during highwater periods. River navigability becomes marginal during low water levels in late summer. A tractor trail and seismic line are used by vehicles at RM 10 on the west side of the river.

Heritage Resources

There are several known heritage sites in this subunit and the potential to locate more is high.

Management Intent

Class II. This subunit features high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities for powerboaters and floaters in a relatively remote, undeveloped setting. In winter the subunit is used by snowmachiners, dog mushers, and skiers. There are also a number of private parcels in the subunit. The subunit contains salmon spawning and moose wintering habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat, while accommodating uses associated with private lands. A limited number of temporary camps will be allowed. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. A voluntary no-wake area is located at the Silver Hole public use site to protect public safety. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Voluntary No-wake Area. See management guidelines for the Deshka River Management Unit in this chapter.

Commercial Camps. A maximum of two temporary camps may be authorized in this subunit. Commercial camps will not be authorized in public use sites.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 2c.1 **Unnamed** (RM 10.1). This is a popular fishing and camping site.

PU 2c.2 **Unnamed** (RM 13.8). This is a popular fishing and camping site.

PU 2c.3 **Trapper Creek** (RM 14.5). This is a popular fishing and camping site.

2d. Neil Lake Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 14.4 to RM 23.3

This subunit extends from Trapper Creek to Neil Lake. The terrain is flat; the river slow-moving. Just over 50 percent of the area is contiguous wetland. Neil Lake and the land around it are not in the Recreation Rivers.

Land Ownership

State	5,048 acres
Private & Other	87 acres
Total	**5,135 acres**

Wildlife

Trumpeter swan have been sighted in recent USFWS surveys of this subunit.

Camping

This subunit is very popular for camping particularly on gravel bars.

Development

There are many private cabins around Neil Lake which is adjacent to the subunit. There are several docks located on the lake.

Management Intent

Class II. This subunit features high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities for powerboaters and floaters in a relatively remote, undeveloped setting. There are some private lands in the southern half of the subunit, and around Neil Lake, northwest of the subunit. In winter the subunit is used by snowmachiners, dog mushers, and skiers. The subunit contains salmon spawning and moose wintering habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands. Some commercial camps may be authorized. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. There are no nonmotorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Boat Storage. A public boat storage area may be designated near Neil Lake. See *Shoreline Development, Boat Storage* in Chapter 2.

Access to Neil Lake. Much of the land surrounding Neil Lake is privately owned. Although Neil Lake and the surrounding land are not within the corridor, some access the lake from the corridor. The primary access points currently used by the public are three trails on the southeast end of the lake. Two trails connect with the Deshka River, the other with a slough of the Deshka River. There is an existing 30-foot easement through tract D, widening to 60 feet on state lands outside tract D. In addition, the 10-foot easement on the shore of Neil Lake is not wide enough to accommodate the floatplanes that beach at the trailhead. Signs could be placed to mark the legal access through the private parcel (tract D). A private parcel, tract E, on the southeast corner of the lake was donated to ADF&G (ADL 228368) and now is managed by ADF&G (OSL 1121). This parcel now provides public access to/from the lake into the corridor.

Public Information. A kiosk that provides information on the Deshka Recreation River may be established on or adjacent to Neil Lake.

Commercial Camps. Up to two commercial camps may be allowed in this subunit. Commercial camps will not be authorized in public use sites or on Neil Lake.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 2d.1 **ChijukCreek** (RM 17.7). This is a popular fishing and camping site.

PU 2d.2 **Eagle's Nest Camp** (RM 17.8). Fishing and camping spots are popular at this site.

PU 2d.3 **Middle King Fishing Hole** (RM 20.7). This site provides good fishing and camping. ADF&G holds a 10-foot pedestrian easement for public access along both banks of the creek.

PU 2d.4 **Upper King Hole** (RM 21.8). This is a popular fishing and camping site. ADF&G holds a 10-foot pedestrian easement for public access along both banks of the creek.

PU 2d.5 **Neil Lake** (RM 23). There are several camp sites and trails associated with this public use site. The public use site includes several trails connecting the lake with a slough and the river, and areas used for dropping-off parties, camping, and for tying up floatplanes or boats. Neil Lake itself is not within the corridor.

2e. The Forks Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 23.3 to RM 29.8

The subunit extends from Neil Lake to the confluence of Moose and Kroto creeks. The terrain is flat to rolling. The water column is 60 to 75 feet wide and meandering. Water velocity is slow. Floaters often exit the river at Neil Lake for this reason. Water levels drop during the fishing season making navigation marginal through the course of the summer. Wetlands are contiguous and cover about 50 percent of the area, mostly along the river banks.

Land Ownership

State	3,658 acres
Private & Other	10 acres
Total	**3,668 acres**

Wildlife

Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit however, USFWS has documented trumpeter swan in the subunit.

Camping

The Forks are the first place where floaters, coming downstream, can catch and keep Chinook salmon, so fishing pressure is high in this subunit. Several camps have been established here in past years although camping use has declined.

Development

There may be a few remote private cabins located within this subunit.

Access

There is one short off-road vehicle trail at the east end of the small lake at RM 26. A seismic line crossing the river at RM 27.8 is a popular access trail and is used in winter. Another seismic line which parallels the subunit to the west is used in winter. Neil Lake is used for floatplane landings.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit features high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities for powerboaters and floaters in a relatively remote, undeveloped setting. There are no private lands in the subunit. Neil Lake is a primary access point for river users. Use is also concentrated at the Forks (the forks of Moose and Kroto creeks), a popular fishing and camping area. In winter the subunit is used by snowmachiners, dog mushers, and skiers. The subunit contains salmon spawning and winter moose habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance the recreation opportunities named above. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. Although the Deshka Recreation River does not include Neil Lake or the lands around the lake, public access to the river from the lake should be maintained. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating restrictions. None. See management guidelines for the Deshka River Management Unit in this chapter for a safety warning sign to be placed on a slough of the river.

Public Use Site

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 2e.1 **The Forks** (RM 30). The confluence of Moose and Kroto Creek is a popular fishing area and camping spot. This site includes the north, east, and west banks.

2f. Kroto Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 0 (Kroto-Moose Creek Confluence), to RM 58 (Kroto Lake)

This subunit includes all of Kroto Creek, from the junction with Moose Creek to Kroto Lake. Kroto Creek is similar to, but smaller than Moose Creek. It is narrow, shallow and marginally navigable, even by floatboats. The lower segment, below Amber Lake, has fewer navigability problems. Float trips occasionally begin at Amber Lake. Powerboats sometimes are able to use Kroto Creek, just above the forks, during high water. Approximately 90 percent of the subunit below Amber Lake is contiguous wetland. Wetlands make up 10 to 25 percent of this subunit above Amber Lake.

Land Ownership

State	29,882 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,042 acres
Private & Other	319 acres
Total	**31,243 acres**

Wildlife

Recent USFWS surveys have documented many adult trumpeter swans and their young within the subunit. Bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys.

Camping

Use of Kroto Creek is relatively light. It is heavier on the portion below Amber Lake because navigability improves below Amber Lake. Kroto Creek has not been surveyed for commonly used campsites.

Development

One lodge is located on Kroto Lake. It is primarily used in the winter for cross-country skiing and other winter activities. There are several private cabins in the subunit.

A bridge crosses Kroto Creek on Petersville Road. There are several docks on a lake at RM 51 in this subunit and several on Amber Lake, adjacent to but outside the subunit.

Access

Summer

Kroto Creek users can access Amber Lake by floatplane and float Amber Lake Creek for one mile before entering Kroto Creek. Oilwell Road crosses Moose Creek via a bridge, passes by Amber Lake, and crosses Kroto Creek, before it terminates 2.5 miles east of the Kahiltna River. An unimproved seismic line continues to the Yentna River. There are extensive offroad vehicle trails between RM 43 (just downriver from the Petersville Road) to Kroto Lake. Because of the combination of heavy use and extensive wetlands, this area has the most evidence of off-road vehicle use in the Recreation Rivers. In several places there are dozens of parallel tracks. Much of this impact may be a result of a few property owners near Safari Lake who use off-road vehicles to access Petersville Road by passing through the Kroto Creek subunit. The nine seismic lines that cross the river do not appear to be receiving summer use. Within the corridor there is floatplane access to a lake west of the river at RM 51 and Lake 295’ at RM 14. Amber Lake and Parker Lake (outside but adjacent to the subunit) are also used by floatplanes.

Winter

Upper Kroto Creek includes extensive open bogs used for winter travel. There are a number of intertwining trails along the creek above the Petersville Road. This area is extremely popular for snowmachining, dog mushing, and cross-country skiing and has seen an increase in use in recent years. Several Iditarod mushers train in the area. The lodge on Kroto Lake caters to winter ski tourers and other winter recreationists.

There is also a winter trail from the Moose Creek bridge to Schneider Lake that crosses Kroto Creek at RM 21.5. There is extensive use of the trails in the Amber Lake area connecting the Oilwell Road and Skwentna. Below Amber Lake, seismic lines are used for winter travel. Seismic lines and the Oilwell Road are used in winter for transporting heavy equipment.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit features fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities for powerboaters, floaters, and bank fishermen. Fishing for Chinook salmon is prohibited and rainbow trout

fishing is catch-and-release only. However, the creek provides important fish habitat. Powerboat navigation becomes marginal later in the summer due to low water levels. In the winter, the subunit features numerous snowmachine, dog mushing, and cross-country ski trails, particularly between the Petersville Road and Kroto Lake. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. The lower part of this subunit will be managed to provide non-motorized opportunities during the fishing season.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. See management guidelines for the Deshka River Management Unit in this chapter.

ADOT/PF Materials Site. There is an existing ADOT/PF material site in this subunit on 1.3 acres near RM 67.5 on Oilwell Road where it meets Petersville Road. This site is very important to ADOT/PF for maintenance of Petersville Road. ADOT/PF applied for an interagency land management agreement (ILMA) from ADNR in 2018. See Chapter 2, *Materials*.

Public Information. A kiosk should be constructed on Amber Lake where the public begin float trips down Amber Lake and Kroto creeks. An additional kiosk can be placed off Oilwell Road where the public congregates near the creek. Signs identifying Kroto Creek as a Recreation River should be placed on either side of the Petersville Road bridge.

Boat Launch. A boat launch that accommodates trailers should not be built where Kroto Creek meets Oilwell Road. The river is too shallow and rocky to safely accommodate large power boats. A primitive launch may be constructed to accommodate boats carried on rooftops.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 2f.1 **Amber Lake Creek Confluence** (RM 21.5). The confluence is used for fishing and camping by Kroto Creek floaters whose trips originate at Amber Lake. Site accessible via Oilwell Road.

PU 2f.2 **Amber Lake** (RM 24). Several private cabins exist on the banks of Amber Lake. The lake may be accessed via Oilwell Road.

Special Management Areas

See *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on the map at the end of this unit.

SMA 2f.1 **Oilwell Road Crossing of Kroto Creek** (RM 21.5) This special management area includes a road crossing and the private land along the river adjacent to the crossing. The SMA will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate public facility improvements associated with the road crossing while providing for and enhancing public recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Seasonal restrictions on ground or air transport intended to provide a non-motorized experience in the adjacent subunit do not apply within the SMA.

SMA 2f.2 **Petersville Road Crossing** (RM 47.1). This SMA includes the land and water in and adjacent to Petersville Road crossing. A private parcel and structural improvements are located in the SMA. The area will be managed as a Class II area. Class II guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate necessary maintenance and improvements to the Petersville Road Bridge, and access to private lands in the SMA while providing for and enhancing public recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. In summer it is primarily a day-use area. In winter the bridge is heavily used by automobiles, snowmachines, dog sleds, and skiers.

SMA 2f.3 **Unnamed Lake** (RM 51.0). Private parcels with cabins and docks are located in the SMA. There is also a floatplane landing area. It will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. It will be managed to accommodate access to private lands in the SMA while providing for and enhancing public recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat.

SMA 2f.4 **Kroto Lake** (RM 58.5) There is one cabin and one lodge on this lake. An ORV trail connects the lake with the Petersville Road. Floatplanes rarely use the lake because of its small size. The SMA will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate access to private lands in the SMA while providing for and enhancing public recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat.

2g. Lower Moose Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 29.8 to RM 54.2

This subunit extends from the junction of Moose and Kroto creeks to the southern-most private parcel on Moose Creek. The water column is 40 to 125 feet wide. The terrain is rolling, contiguous wetlands cover about half of the subunit.

Land Ownership

State	11,882 acres
Private & Other	15 acres
Total	**11,897 acres**

Wildlife

Both occupied and unoccupied bald eagle nests have been sighted within the subunit. Recent surveys have documented adult trumpeter swans in the subunit.

Development

There is no private land within this subunit.

Access

Several off-road vehicle trails access the upper subunit from Oilwell Road. Other off-road vehicle trails near RM 25 link up with seismic lines crossing Kroto Creek. Several seismic lines on Moose Creek are used in the winter. Most of the boat traffic is from canoes or rafts, although small powerboats are occasionally used.

Management Intent

Class I. Because of extensive wetlands and the relatively remote location of this subunit, it is visited primarily by floaters in summer and snow travelers in winter. This subunit also features fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities. Although the subunit contains salmon spawning habitat, fishing for Chinook salmon is prohibited. Rainbow trout fishing is catch-and-release only. Powerboat navigation becomes marginal due to low water levels later in the summer. In winter, the subunit features snowmachine and dog mushing trails. There is no private land in the subunit. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, the primitive quality of the area, and fish and wildlife habitat. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. The lower part of the subunit will be managed to provide non-motorized opportunities during the fishing season. Opportunities for harvesting Chinook salmon should be provided by the Board of Fisheries in the lower part of this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. See management guidelines for the Deshka River Management Unit in this chapter.

Fishing Regulations. See *Other Recommendations, Fishing Regulations* in Chapter 4.

2h. Oilwell Road Subunit

Background

River Miles/River Characteristics, RM 54.2 to RM 69.5

This subunit extends from the private land beginning about 3 miles below the end of Oilwell Road, to a point approximately one mile above the Petersville Road. The terrain is rolling. Contiguous wetlands cover approximately 80 percent of the subunit.

Land Ownership

State	3,425 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,097 acres
Private & Other	897 acres
Total	**5,419 acres**

Wildlife

Few trumpeter swans have been sighted in recent surveys in this subunit. Bald eagle nests have not been observed in recent surveys.

Development

The area along Moose Creek near the Oilwell and Petersville roads is heavily developed. There are many private cabins in this subunit and commercial businesses on Petersville Road.

Three bridges cross Moose Creek. The Petersville Road bridge is heavily used in both summer and winter. The Oilwell Road bridge crosses Moose Creek near RM 57.5. A foot-bridge is located at RM 61.5.

Access

Road access is by the Petersville (RM 69) and Oilwell roads (RM 57.5). There are several foot and off-road vehicle trails along Oilwell Road to access private land. Most trails are concentrated along the creek between Nine-mile Creek (RM 51.5) and one mile north of the

Petersville Road. Oilwell Road is used as a float put-in on the Deshka River. Above Oilwell Road the river is seldom floated. There are no aircraft landing areas.

Moose Creek is extensively used in winter by snowmachiners and dog mushers. Most of the use is between RM 57 and RM 69. Several seismic lines that cross Moose Creek are used in winter. Snowmachine trail rides and dog mushing races pass through this subunit. Above the Petersville Road the subunit is heavily wooded and receives light winter use.

Management Intent

Class II. Because of its proximity to the Petersville Road and numerous parcels of private land, the subunit is used for a variety of purposes. It features fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities, and uses associated with the road. The river is navigable below the Oilwell Road terminus, except in late summer when water levels usually drop. Although the subunit contains fish spawning habitat, fishing for Chinook salmon is prohibited. Rainbow trout fishing is catch-and-release only. In winter, the subunit features snowmachining, skiing, and dog mushing trails. There are numerous private parcels of land, particularly on the east side of the river along the Oilwell Road. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands on the road. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. The river will be managed to provide both motorized and non-motorized opportunities. There are no non-motorized areas in the subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating restrictions. None.

Public Information. A kiosk may be placed along Oilwell Road providing information on the Recreation Rivers. Signs should also be placed on either side of the Moose Creek bridge on Petersville Road and either side of the bridge on Oilwell Road, identifying Moose Creek as a Recreation River.

Public Facilities. Moose Creek is too shallow through most of the season for prop or jetboats. A boat launch able to accommodate trailers should not be built off the Petersville or Oilwell roads.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 2h.1 **Oilwell Road Crossing** (RM 57.5). This site is used for camping, fishing, and launching boats.

PU 2h.2 **Petersville Road Crossing** (RM 68.5). This site is a popular day use area. In the past, there have been local businesses on the private lands adjacent to the site and it was a community meeting area. Access to the river is restricted by private land.

2i. Upper Moose Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 69.5 to RM 82.5

Upper Moose Creek is generally narrow and shallow. Contiguous wetlands cover about 10 percent of the mostly flat terrain. Non-contiguous wetlands cover another 10 percent of the area.

Land Status

State	2,725 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	4,781 acres
Private & Other	75 acres
Total	**7,581 acres**

Wildlife

Trumpeter swans have been sighted in recent surveys in this subunit. Bald eagle nests have not been observed.

Camping

There is no boat use on upper Moose Creek. Private landowners on the upper limit of the subunit access the area by floatplane. Campsites along the river have not been inventoried.

Development

Several cabins and associated docks are located on Loon and “S” lakes.

Access

There are three floatplane landing areas but no airstrips in this subunit. The floatplane landing areas are located on the two lakes at the headwaters and on a lake at RM 43.5. The lakes at the headwaters receive frequent winter use.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit features limited fishing and camping opportunities during the summer months. The river is not navigable. Although the subunit contains salmon spawning habitat, Chinook salmon fishing is prohibited. Rainbow trout fishing is catch-and-release only. The subunit is primarily used in the fall for hunting and by private property owners. Winter uses include snowmachining, dog mushing, and skiing. Private lands are located near "S" Lake, Loon Lake, and K'da Lake. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, a primitive setting, and fishing and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

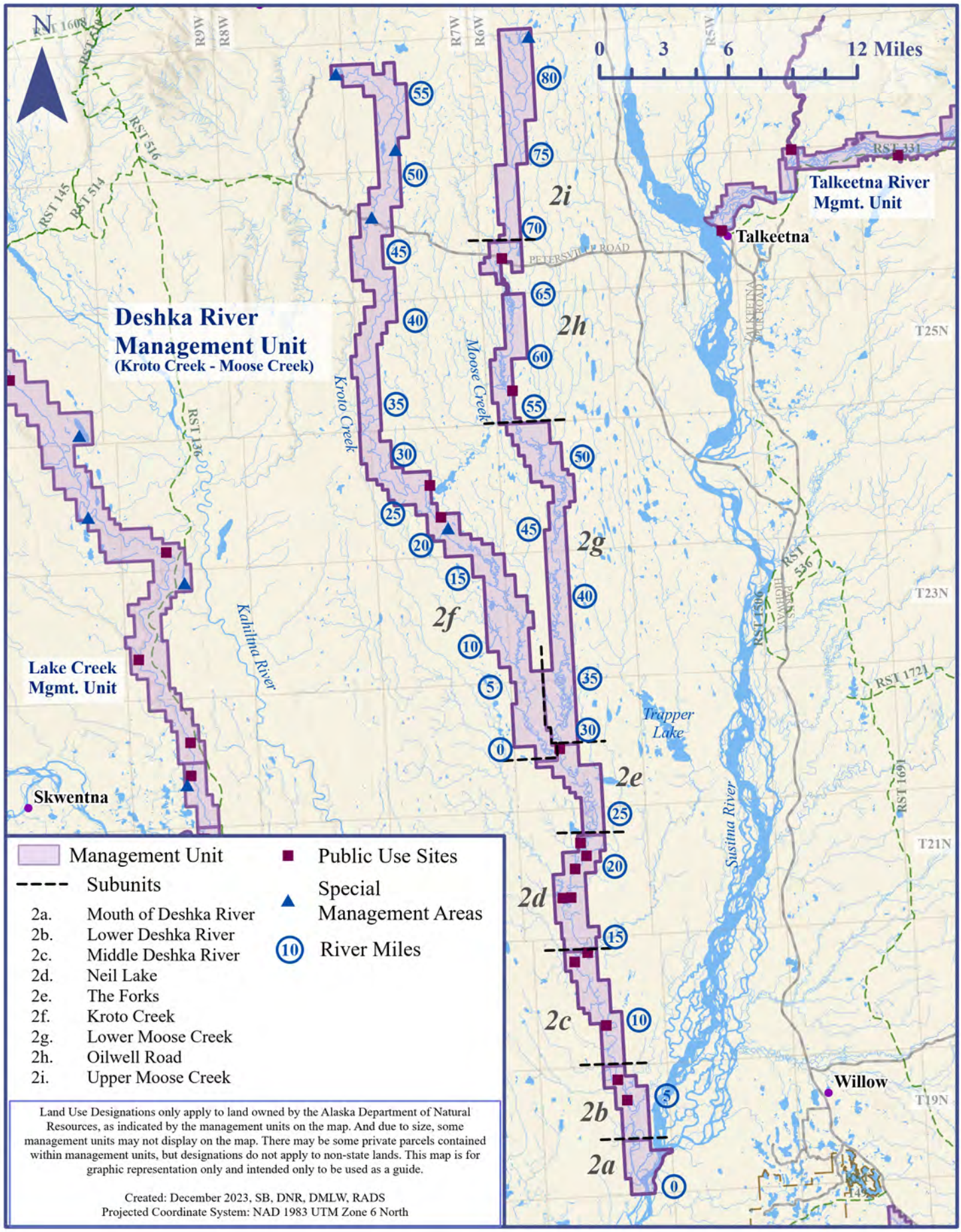
Boating Restrictions. None.

Special Management Area

See *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on the map at the end of this unit.

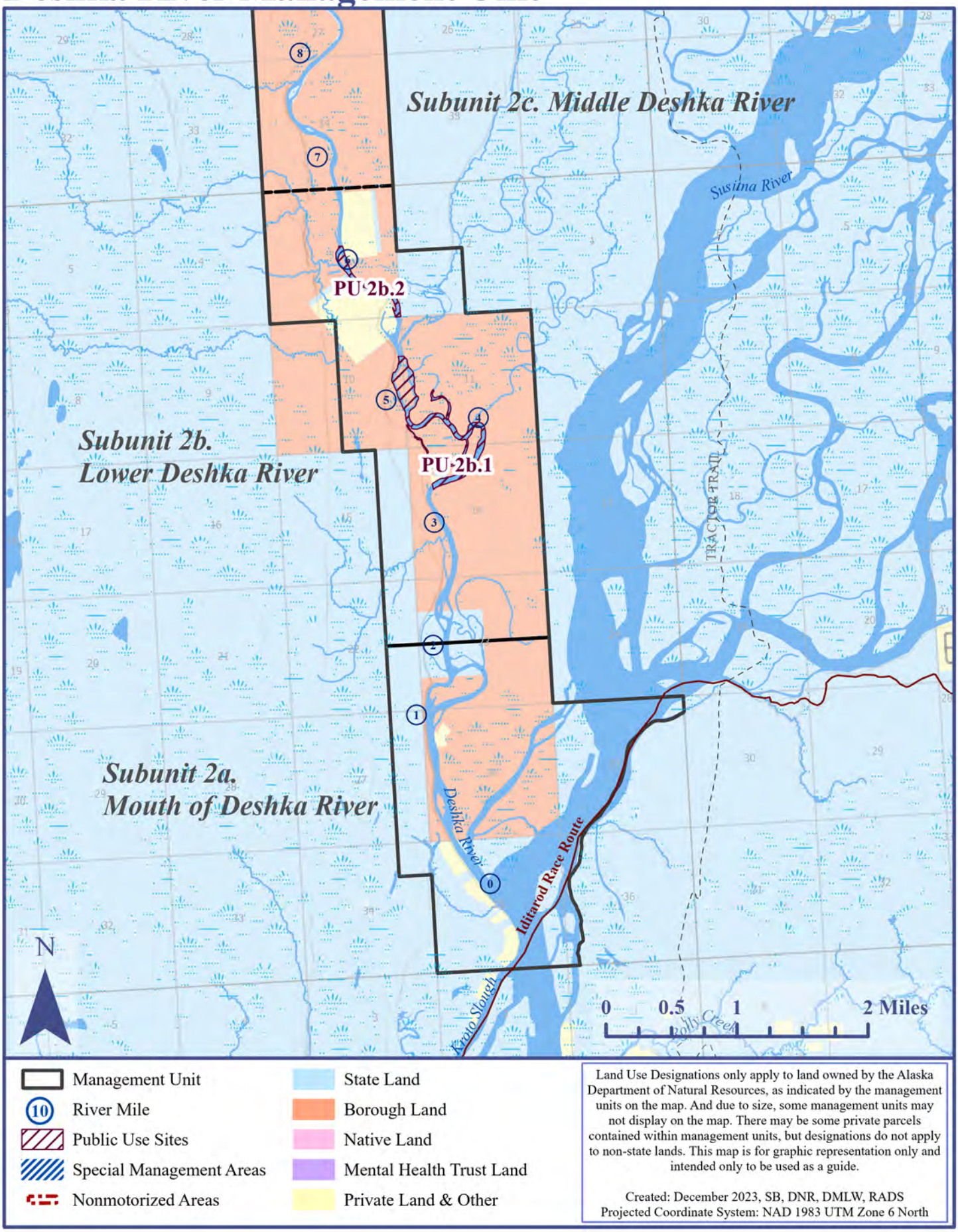
SMA 2i.1 **"S" Lake and Loon Lake** (RM 82.5). These lakes are used by floatplanes to access private land with cabins and docks located on the lakes. The SMA will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate access to private lands in the SMA while providing for and enhancing public recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat.

DESHKA RIVER



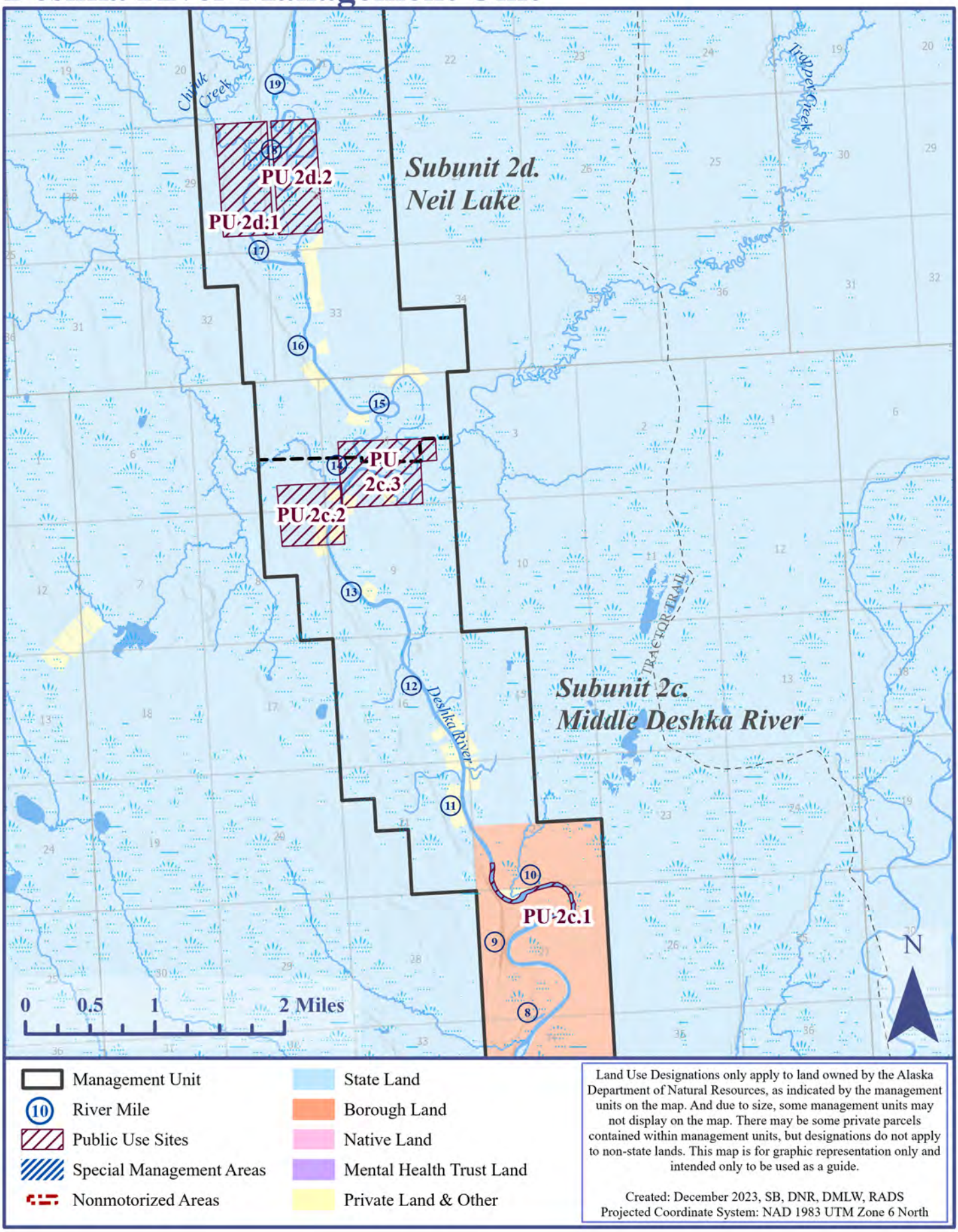
Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 1



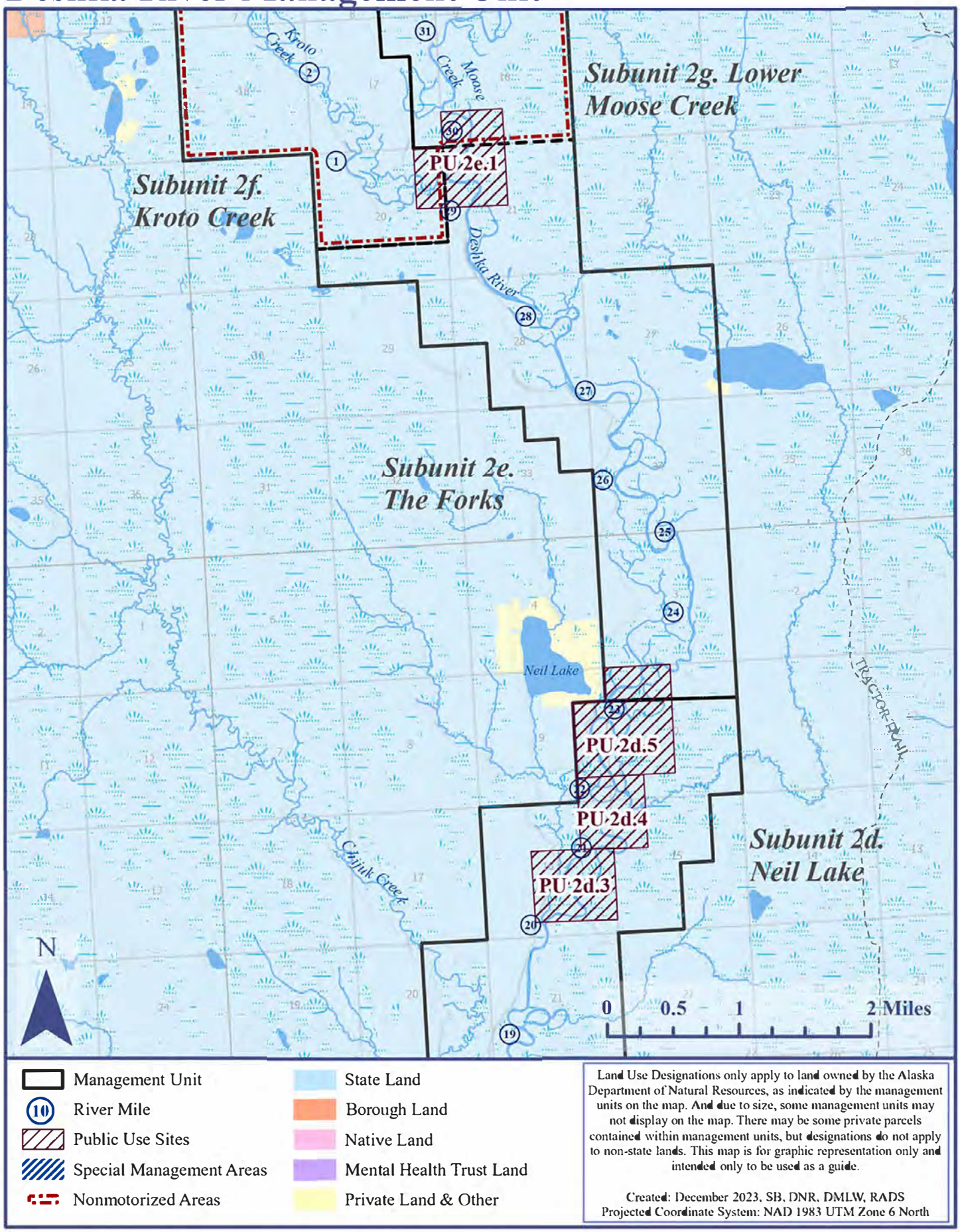
Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 2



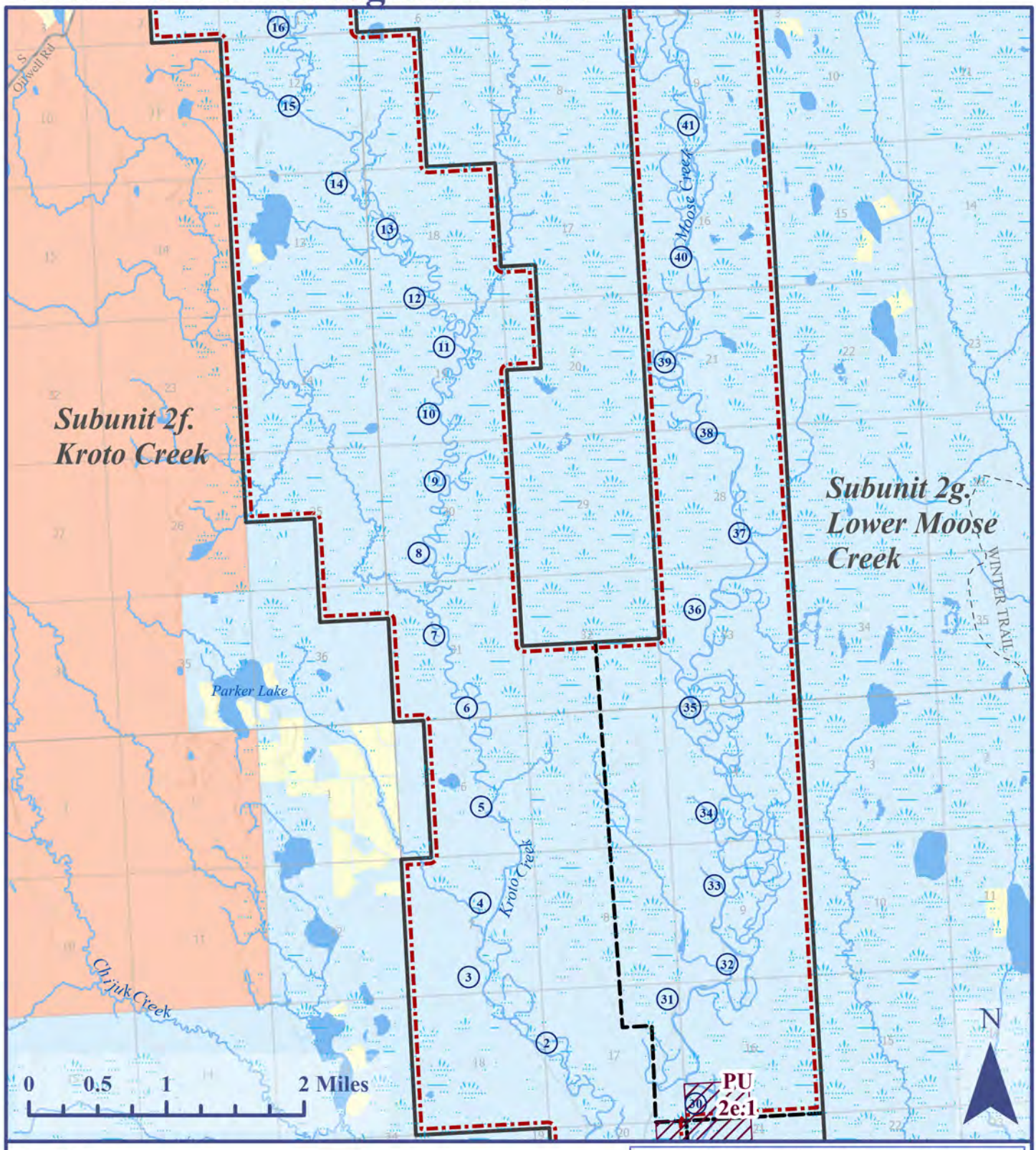
Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 3



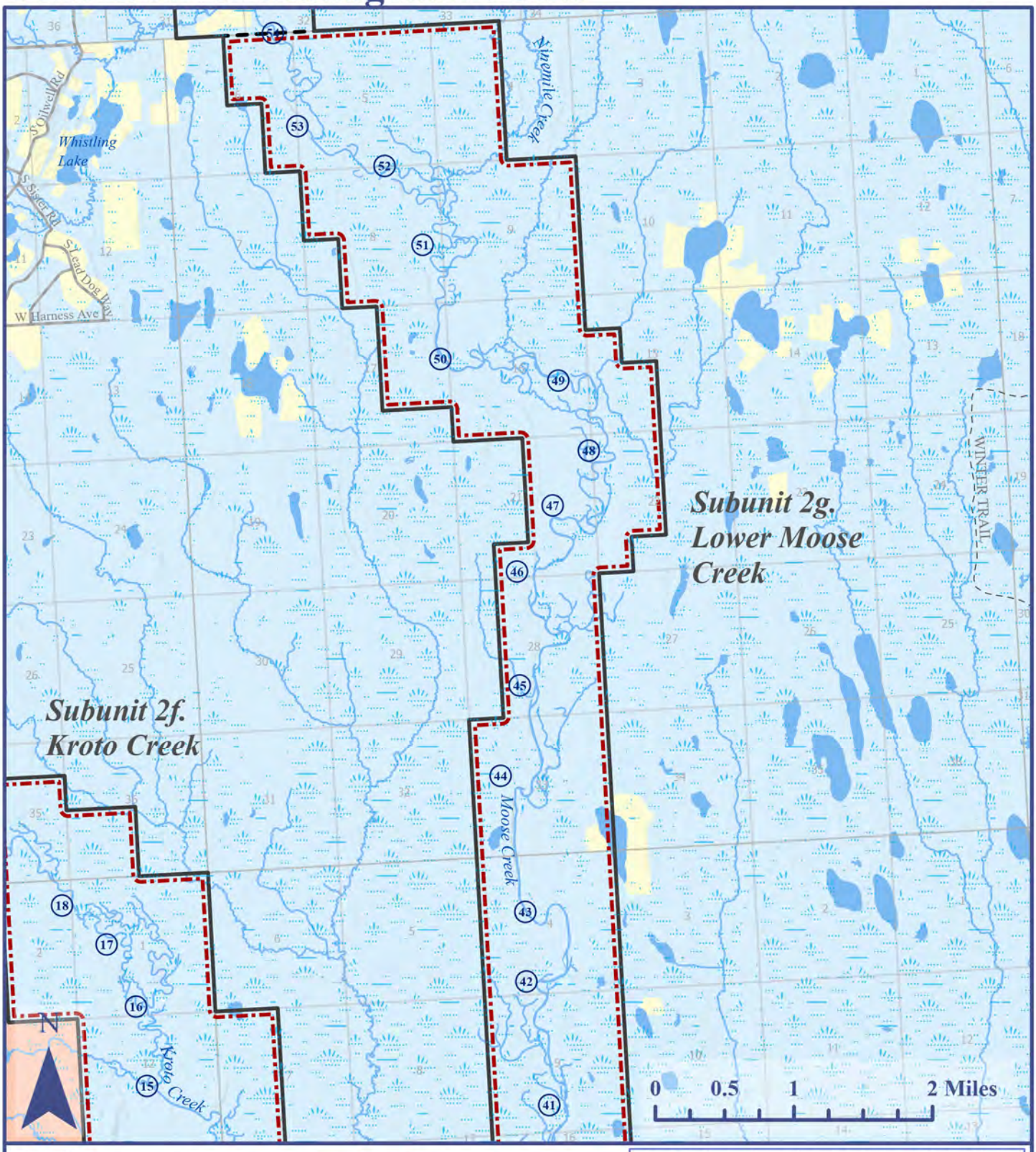
Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 4



Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 5



Land Use Designations only apply to land owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on the map. And due to size, some management units may not display on the map. There may be some private parcels contained within management units, but designations do not apply to non-state lands. This map is for graphic representation only and intended only to be used as a guide.

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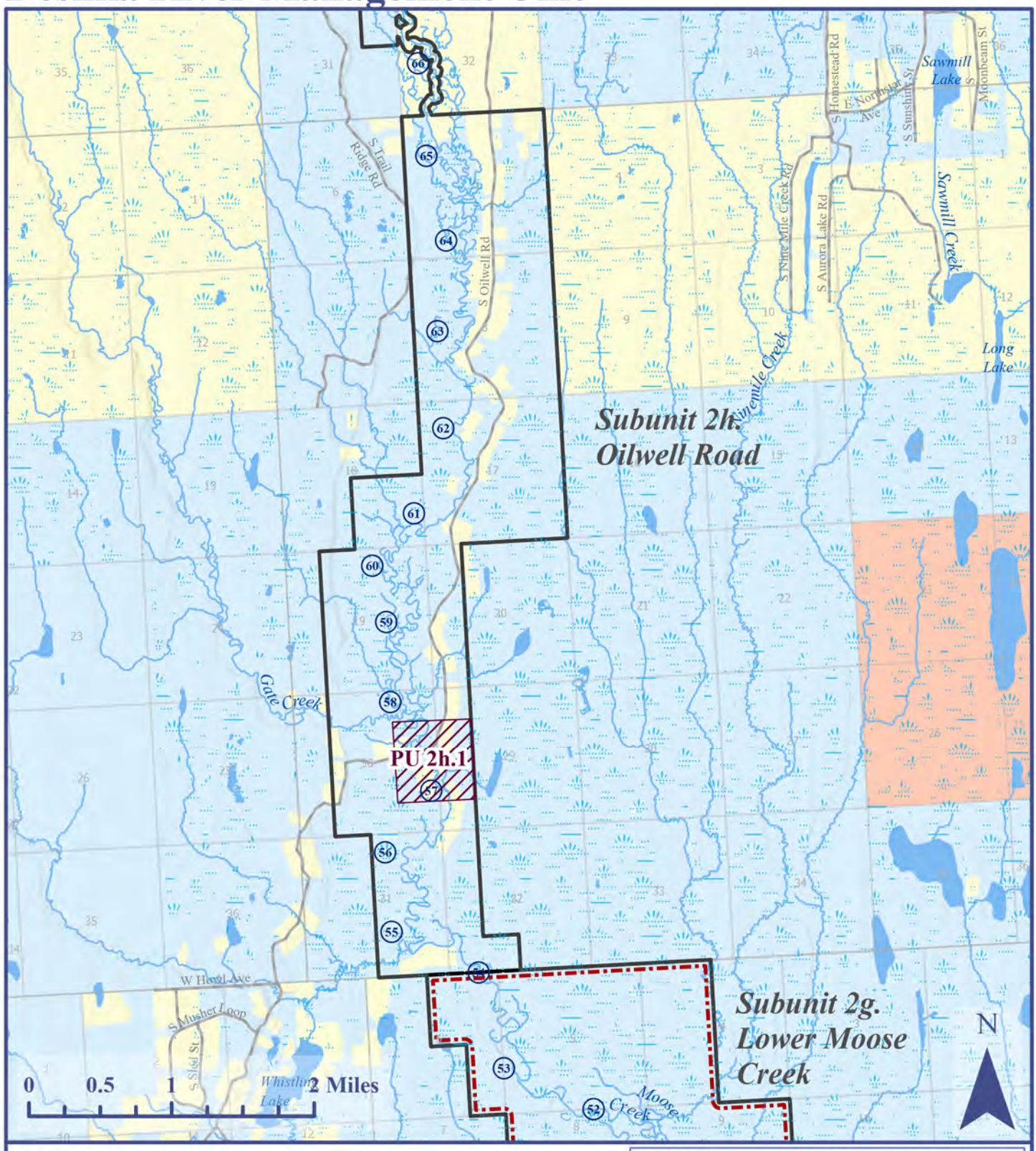
Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 6



Management Unit
River Mile
Public Use Sites
Special Management Areas
Nonmotorized Areas
State Land
Borough Land
Native Land
Mental Health Trust Land
Private Land & Other

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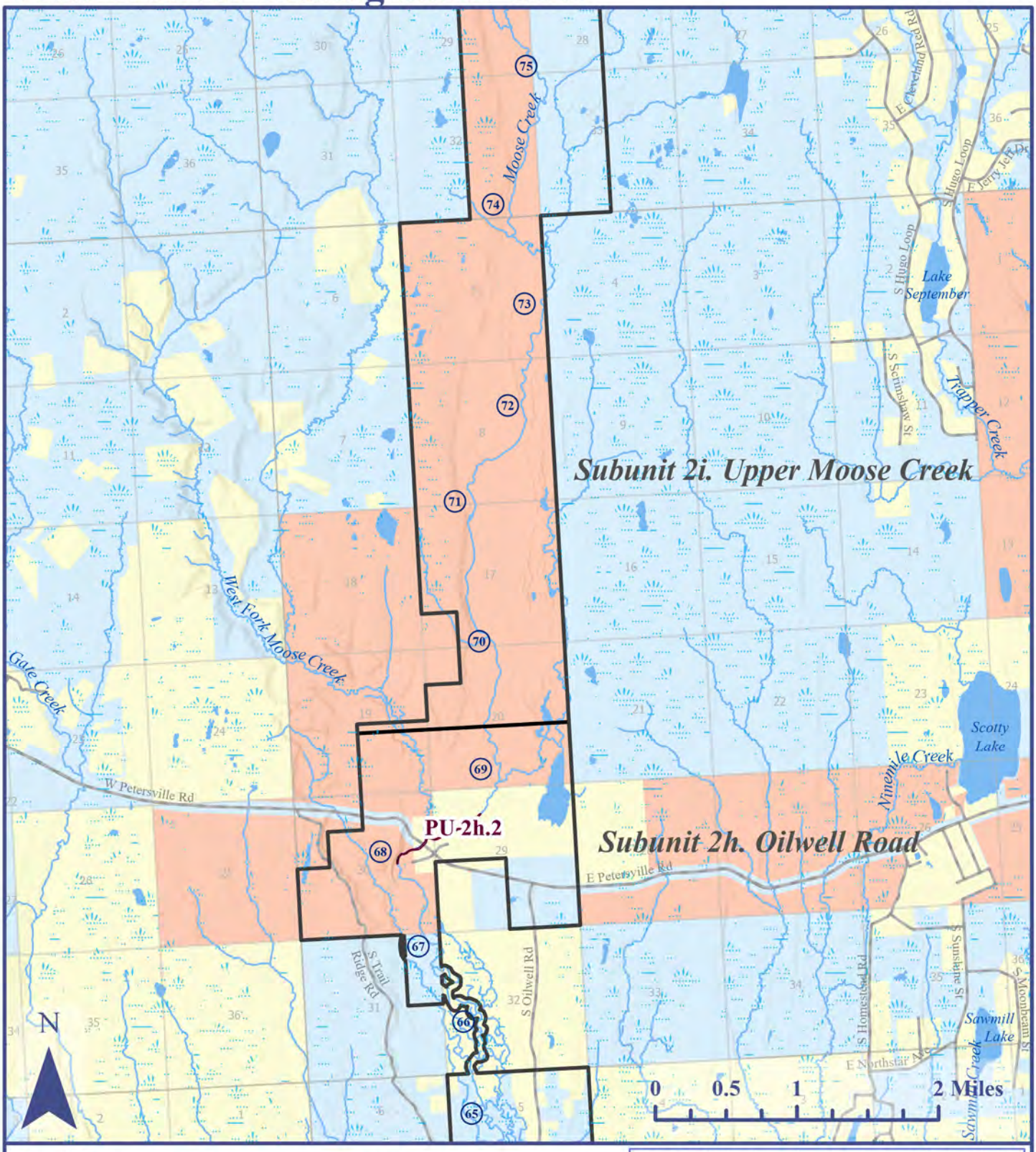
Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 7



- Management Unit
- River Mile
- Public Use Sites
- Special Management Areas
- Nonmotorized Areas
- State Land
- Borough Land
- Native Land
- Mental Health Trust Land
- Private Land & Other

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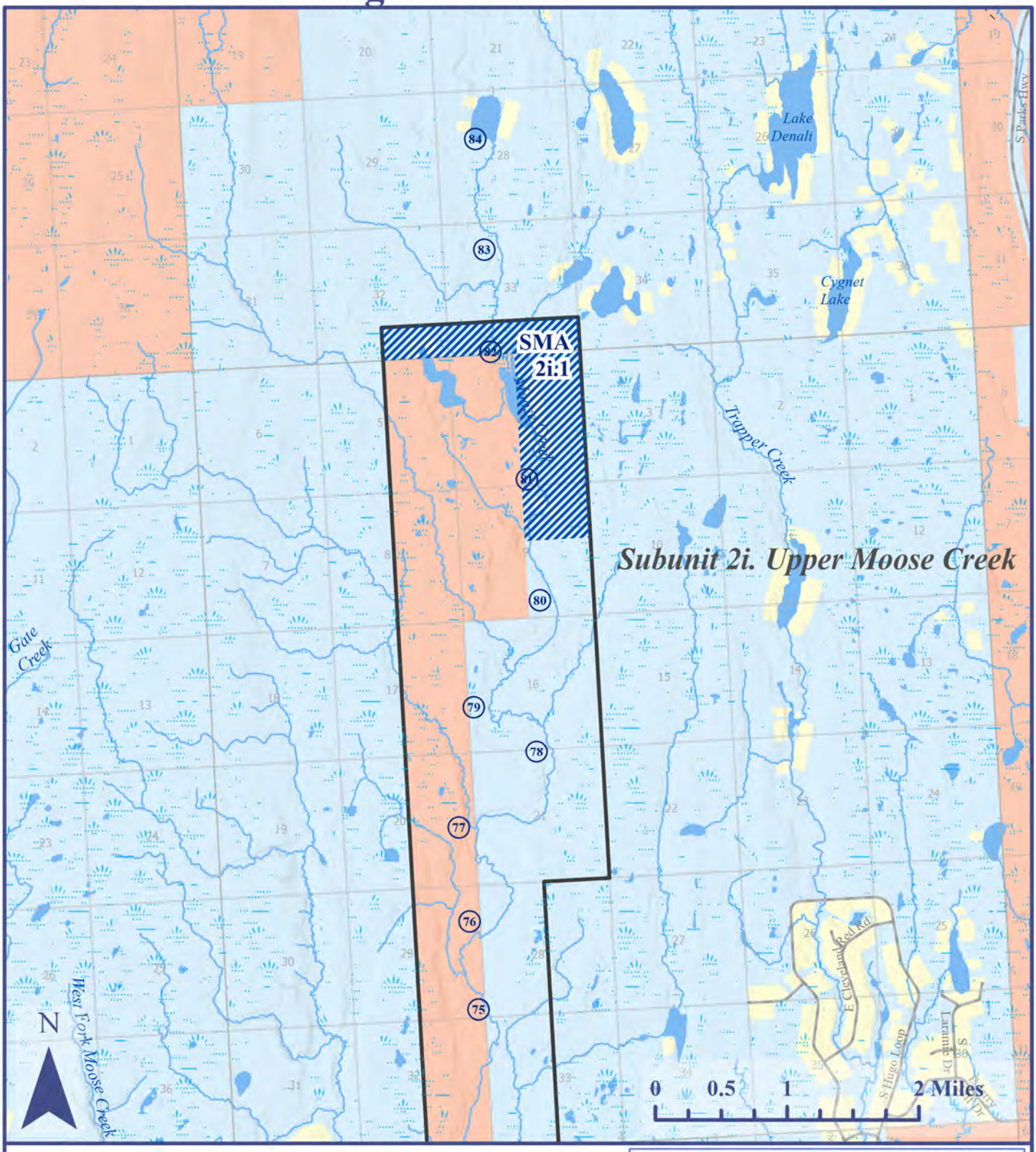
Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 8



Management Unit
River Mile
Public Use Sites
Special Management Areas
Nonmotorized Areas
State Land
Borough Land
Native Land
Mental Health Trust Land
Private Land & Other

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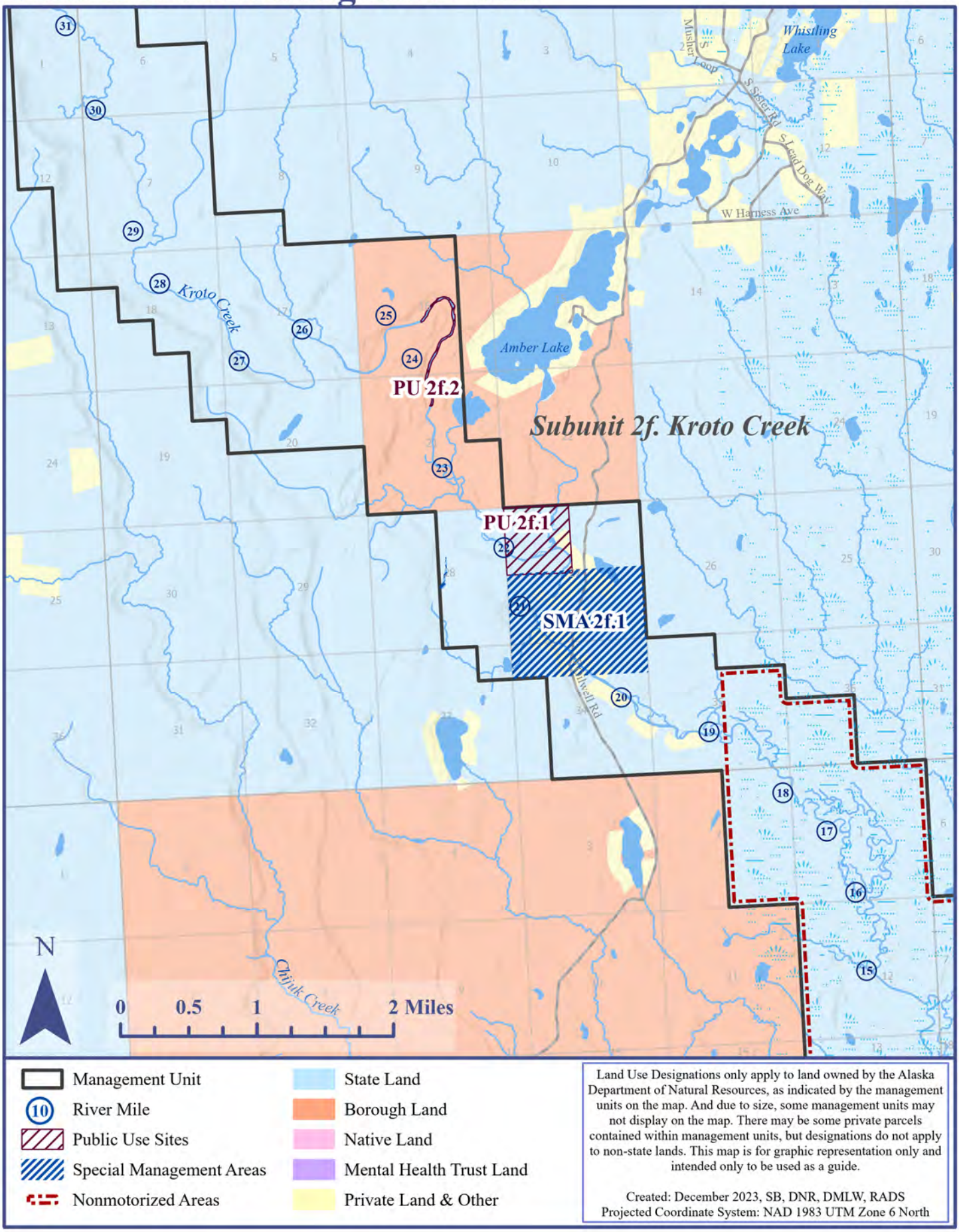
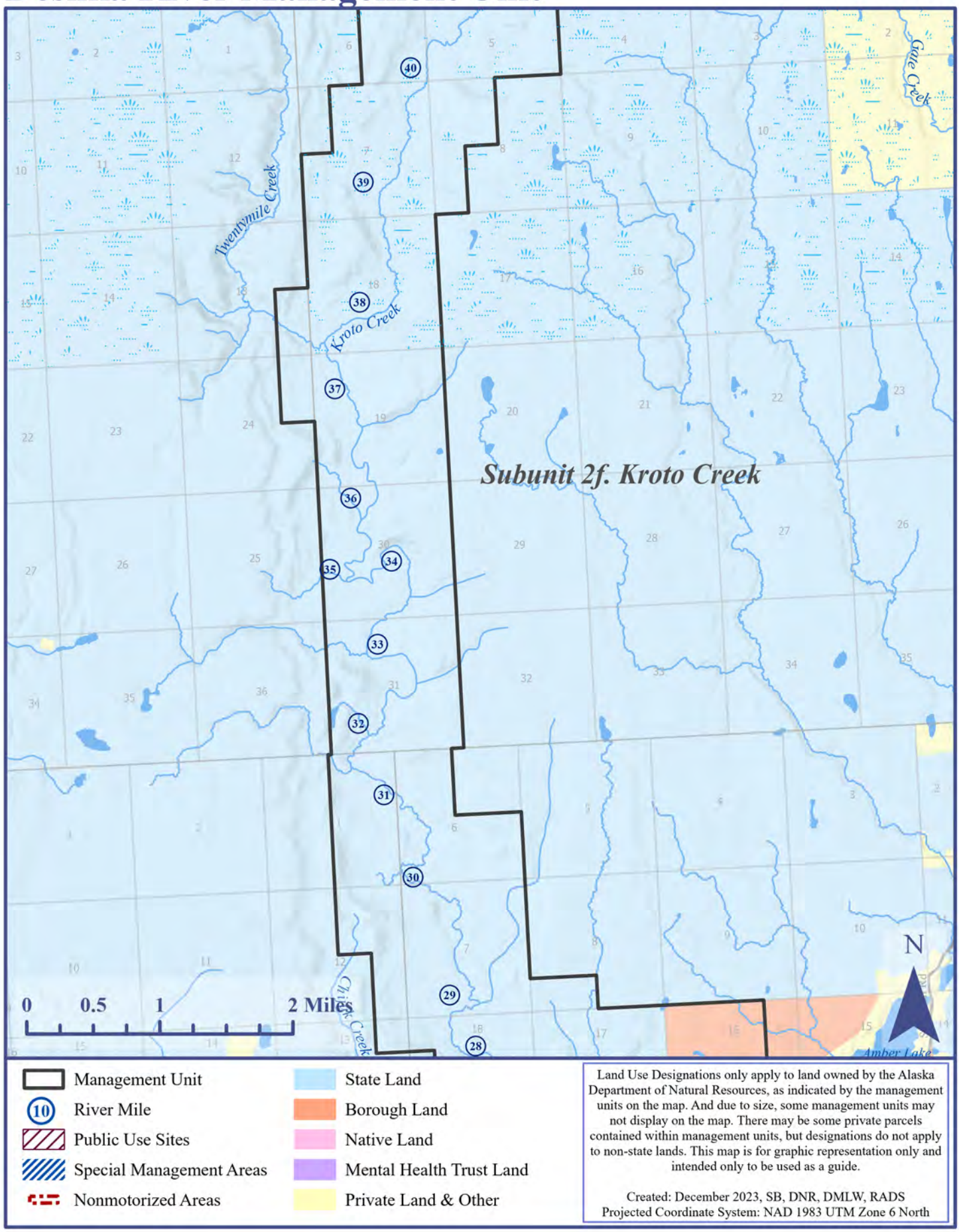
Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 9



Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 10



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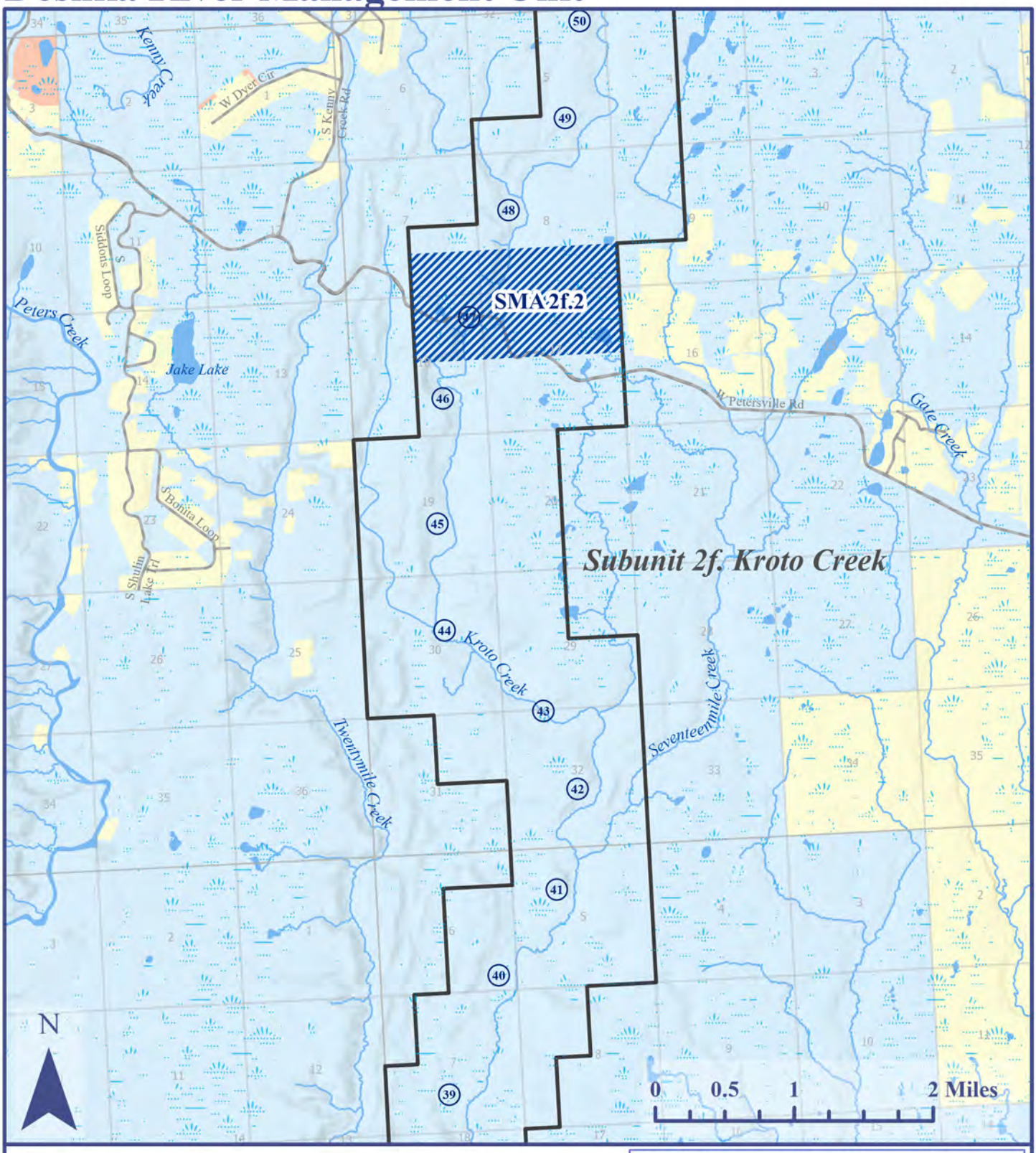
Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 11



- Management Unit
- (10) River Mile
- Public Use Sites
- Special Management Areas
- Nonmotorized Areas
- State Land
- Borough Land
- Native Land
- Mental Health Trust Land
- Private Land & Other

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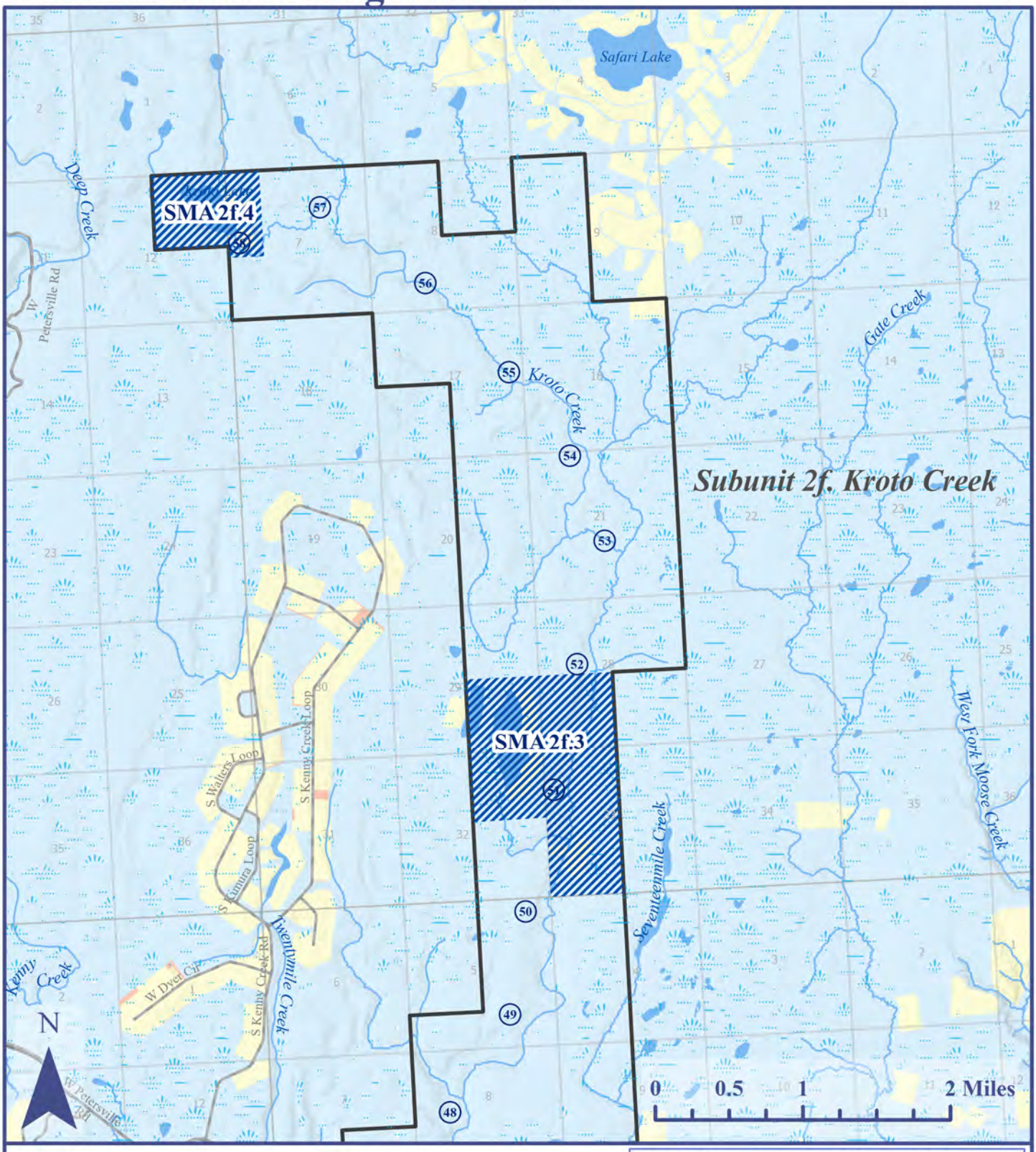
Deshka River Management Unit

MAP 12



- Management Unit
- (10) River Mile
- Public Use Sites
- Special Management Areas
- Nonmotorized Areas
- State Land
- Borough Land
- Native Land
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3. Talkeetna River Management Unit

1
2

3. Talkeetna River Management Unit

Background

Mile of River

This unit includes 44.5 miles of the Talkeetna River from its confluence with the Susitna River to the upper Talkeetna River Canyon, and 9.5 miles Clear (Chunilna) Creek from its confluence with the Talkeetna River (RM 0) to RM 9.5. The unit also includes the mouths of Sheep River, Iron Creek, Disappointment Creek, and Larson Creek.

Land Ownership

State	29,719 acres
Native	20 acres
Private & Other	315 acres
Total	**30,054 acres**

River Characteristics

The volume and velocity of the Talkeetna is greater than the other five Recreation Rivers. The river in the Canyon is narrow and fast-moving. Below the Talkeetna River Canyon, the river is wide and braided, with numerous large, forested islands. Because the river is glacial in origin, it is laden with silt during the summer months. Summer streamflow depths vary from 1 to 6 feet, and the lower river channel varies in width from 200 to 500 feet. The mean annual flow varies from 2249 to 5856 cfs, with winter low flows averaging between 521-686 cfs and summer highs averaging between 766-10,600 cfs.

This unit is highly scenic because of the canyon on the upper river and views of the Talkeetna Mountains and Alaska Range from the lower river. Most human modifications in the unit are not visible from the river with the exception of those along Clear (Chunilna) Creek and in the vicinity of Talkeetna which somewhat diminish the visual quality of the river.

Fisheries

Species Present

Arctic grayling	Dolly Varden
Burbot	Pink salmon
Chinook salmon	Rainbow trout
Chum salmon	Slimy sculpin
Coho salmon	Sockeye salmon

Chum, coho, Chinook, and pink salmon spawn in Clear (Chunilna) Creek. Grayling and rainbow trout are found throughout the Clear (Chunilna) Creek and Lower Talkeetna River subunits. Throughout the remainder of the management unit, chum, coho, sockeye, and Chinook salmon are present, along with Dolly Varden, rainbow trout, and grayling. While chum and pink salmon occasionally spawn in the river itself, the remaining pink, chum, Chinook, and coho salmon spawn in clear tributaries. Sockeye salmon spawn in several lakes draining into the Talkeetna River, including Larson Lake.

Sport Fishing

The peaks in recreation and fishing activity on the Talkeetna River correspond with the Chinook and coho salmon runs and late fall when rainbow trout and Dolly Varden drop down and concentrate in the lower river near Talkeetna. These are approximately June 15 to July 15 for Chinook, July 15 to September 15 for coho, and September 5 to ice up for resident species. The most popular fishing spot is the mouth of Clear (Chunilna) Creek, where all species of sport fish found in the river are caught. Near the railroad bridge and the mouth of Disappointment Creek receive less use.

Special Regulations

Fish Creek, a tributary of Clear (Chunilna) Creek, is designated a catch and release special management area for rainbow trout. Only unbaited, single-hook artificial lures can be used.

Wildlife

Moose

A resident moose population occurs throughout the unit. The river corridor provides essential riparian habitat for wintering moose.

Bear

The unit provides food and cover for bears. Black bear and brown bear begin to frequent the lowlands in early May, with high spring densities of black bear at the mouth of the river. Both species of bear target moose calves as prey in May and early June. During June, July, and August bear concentrate along portions of the unit where salmon can be caught. Brown bear cover large areas in search of food and depend on the river as a transportation corridor.

Bald eagles

Several occupied and unoccupied bald eagle nests have been documented on the lower and middle Talkeetna River. Nest trees are primarily black cottonwood over fifty feet tall that are within twenty feet of the river.

Trumpeter Swans

Trumpeter swans have been sighted along the Lower Talkeetna River subunit. The unit probably serves as a migration and staging area in the fall.

Hunting

Moose and bear hunting is concentrated in the lower reaches of the management unit, where foot, boat and off-road vehicle access is possible. The river also serves as a transportation corridor for hunters using boats to access upriver and tributary hunting areas, including Sheep River, Wiggle, and Iron creeks. These upriver locations receive significant use. Wildlife viewing, particularly of moose, is important in the Talkeetna area.

Trapping

Trapping for beaver, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, otter, wolf and wolverine occur in the corridor during spring and winter seasons.

Subsistence

Within Game Management Unit 13E, there are opportunities for moose and caribou harvests under subsistence regulations. Harvest opportunities also exist for small land mammals and furbearers.

Access

The Talkeetna Spur Road connects the town of Talkeetna to the Parks Highway. In Talkeetna, there are boat launches where powerboats can access the river and floaters can take-out. There are several airstrips in the Talkeetna area but none in the management unit. Some gravel bars on the lower river are infrequently used for landing. There are no lakes in the management unit and the river is too swift for floatplane landings. The mouth of Clear (Chunilna) Creek is often accessed via helicopter and is a drop-off location for float trips. Powerboaters use the river up to the mouth of Iron Creek. Because of Class IV whitewater, the canyon is accessible only by rafts and kayaks to most users.

3a. Lower Talkeetna River

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 0 to RM 15.5 (excluding the mouth of Clear (Chunilna) Creek)

This subunit begins at the confluence of the Talkeetna River with the Susitna River and extends to the mouth of Sheep River. The mouth of Clear (Chunilna) Creek is in a different

subunit. The subunit includes the wide floodplain between the hills and bluffs along the river. Less than 5 percent of this subunit is contiguous wetland.

Land Ownership

State	4,849 acres
Native	20 acres
Private & Other	87 acres
Total	**4,956 acres**

Wildlife

Many bald eagle nests are located near the mouth of the river and long the corridor throughout the subunit. Occupied and unoccupied nests have been documented. Trumpeter swan adults and their young have been observed in recent surveys.

Camping

There are two public campgrounds adjacent to this subunit near the town of Talkeetna. Camping is very popular near Larson Creek during salmon runs. In addition, several undeveloped campsites exist within the area. An unlimited number of marginal campsites are available because of the large number of gravel bars.

Development

The railroad bridge is the only bridge within the subunit. Existing erosion control structures include a large rip-rap revetment near the confluence with the Susitna River and another rip-rap revetment at RM 4. The USGS maintains a gauging station just upriver from the town of Talkeetna. Numerous cabins and businesses are adjacent to this subunit in Talkeetna and in the Chase and Talkeetna Bluffs subdivisions. There are two public facilities in Talkeetna, the Talkeetna boat launch/campground on the river and another campground on the west side of town. The Talkeetna sewage plant is adjacent to, but not in, the management unit. There is a wet crossing location across Larson Creek just outside the subunit however, this requires a Title 16 habitat permit from ADF&G.

Access

The Talkeetna Spur Road and the Alaska Railroad provide the primary access to the mouth of the Talkeetna River. There are a number of roads associated with private lands in town that parallel the river, and an ORV trail from Talkeetna Alaska Teleport to Larson Creek. From there, trails branch out to Larson Lake, Bald Mountain, and Sheep River. Branches of this ORV trail also lead to cabins in the two major subdivisions in the area. The Talkeetna River Trail provides easy access for ORVs as well as boat access. The intertie transmission line has been used to access the Talkeetna River from the south. There are also a number of trails on the north side of the river between the railroad and Clear (Chunilna) Creek. The

Talkeetna River and associated trails are used extensively in winter, particularly below Clear (Chunilna) Creek. Powerboats launch at Talkeetna and travel upriver as far as Iron Creek. The primary destinations during the peak fishing season are the mouths of Clear (Chunilna) Creek and Larson Creek.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential is high and includes the Alaska Railroad bridge, historical features near Talkeetna, and remnants of an old Tanaina settlement.

Other Activities

There are some materials extraction sites in Talkeetna adjacent to but not within the subunit.

Management Intent

Class II. Because of its proximity to the town of Talkeetna, the river is easily accessed by a variety of summer and winter users. This subunit features high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities for powerboaters and floaters. A boat launch, roads and trails along the south side of the river, and several subdivisions are located within the subunit. In winter, the subunit is heavily used for snowmachining, dog mushing, and cross-country skiing. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None

Heritage Resources. Historic and prehistoric sites should be evaluated for their interpretive values for tourism and general public interest. This particularly applies to the lower Talkeetna River because of ready public access and concentration of sites.

Public Information. A kiosk which includes information on Talkeetna Recreation River may be constructed at the Talkeetna boat launch.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 3a.1 **River Mouth and Railroad Bridge** (RM 0.0). The river mouth and railroad bridge are heavily used by Talkeetna residents and visitors to the area for fishing and recreation.

PU 3a.2 **Larson Creek Mouth** (RM 12.8) This site provides public access to the river by the Talkeetna Iron Creek Trail and by road from Talkeetna Alaska Teleport. The area is used for fishing, camping, and launching boats. The site is also one of the most popular areas for recreational use by the residents of nearby subdivisions. Because the area receives such wide use, no permits or leases should be issued which provide exclusive use of any portion of the site. An outhouse should be developed at this location.

3b. Middle Talkeetna River Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 15.5 to RM 31.1

This subunit begins above the mouth of Sheep River and extends to and includes the mouth of Iron Creek. Less than 5 percent of the area is contiguous wetland.

Land Ownership

State	12,682 acres
Private and Other	191 acres
Total	**12,873 acres**

Wildlife

Occupied and unoccupied bald eagle nests have been observed in recent surveys of the subunit.

Camping

There are many isolated sites and several segments of the river where there is an unlimited number of campsites on gravel bars.

Development

There are several cabins on private land between RM 17 and RM 20.

Access

Access to this portion of the river is by powerboat or by floating from points upstream. There is no air access in the subunit although lakes north of the river are used by floatplanes.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential is high due to the high level of historic and prehistoric use.

Management Intent

Class I. Because of the limited fishing opportunities and the limited number of clear water tributaries, this subunit receives moderate use. The area includes important moose winter habitat. It is also used for camping and hunting. In winter, the subunit receives limited use by snowmachiners, dog mushers, and skiers. Only a few private parcels are within the subunit. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Trapping Cabins. There is one valid trapping cabin permit on the Talkeetna River located near RM 22. This permit may be renewed if there are no significant conflicts with fish and wildlife habitat, or recreation.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 3b.1 **Disappointment Creek Junction** (RM 23.5). This is an important creek junction frequently used for camping and day use.

PU 3b.2 **Iron Creek Junction** (RM 31). This is an important site frequently used for camping, day use and for those floating the river.

3c. Clear (Chunilna) Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, Clear (Chunilna) Creek RM 0 to RM 9.5

This subunit includes the uplands around the mouth of Clear (Chunilna) Creek, and the water column and shorelands for the first 9.5 miles of Clear (Chunilna) Creek. Clear (Chunilna) Creek is a clear-water stream which is only marginally navigable by powerboat for the first few miles.

Land Ownership

State	575 acres
Private & Other	37 acres
Total	**612 acres**

Wildlife

Black bear concentrate over the length of the subunit during salmon season. Brown bear also concentrate on the uppermost section of the subunit. Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

Camping

Private uplands limit public camping areas to the vicinity of the mouth, where the public camps on state-owned gravel bars. There are also some marginal campsite areas on state-owned uplands.

Development

Several cabins are located adjacent to the subunit. Because the creek is entrenched in a canyon, these cabins are located on high banks and are generally not visible from the river.

Access

Primary access to the mouth of Clear (Chunilna) Creek is by powerboat from Talkeetna. Above the mouth, Clear (Chunilna) Creek is not easily navigated by boat; the primary access is by trail. Trails along the west side of Clear (Chunilna) Creek connect private cabins with the railroad tracks north of Talkeetna. A foot trail from the mouth of Clear (Chunilna) Creek to Fish Creek crosses private land.

There are several airstrips along Clear (Chunilna) Creek on uplands outside the subunit. The largest strip, at the Clear (Chunilna) Creek headwaters, is private.

Heritage Resources

There are a few known heritage sites in this subunit and the heritage site potential at the mouth of Clear (Chunilna) Creek is high.

Other Activities

There is an active mining claim on Clear (Chunilna) Creek north of the boundaries of the subunit.

Management Intent

Class II. Public use of this subunit is primarily during the Chinook and coho salmon runs near the mouth of Clear (Chunilna) Creek. Because most of the subunit includes only the Clear (Chunilna) Creek water column and shorelands, the subunit also serves as a greenbelt adjacent to several parcels of private land that line the creek. The subunit features high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities. Boaters primarily use the Talkeetna River and the lower half-mile of Clear (Chunilna) Creek. Upper Clear (Chunilna) Creek is only marginally navigable by floatboats and has poor access for dropoffs. Winter use includes snowmachining, skiing, and dog mushing. The subunit contains winter moose and salmon-spawning habitat. There are several mineral locations on upper Clear (Chunilna) Creek. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat. With the exception of uses associated with mining, maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. There are no nonmotorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Public Use Site

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 3c.1 **Clear (Chunilna) Creek Mouth** (RM 6.8). The state land and water in this area is heavily used during the peak fishing season for fishing and camping. While Fish Creek once flowed into Clear (Chunilna) Creek, the mouths are now separate. Trail access to Fish Creek should be improved. A box toilet could be installed near the mouth of Clear (Chunilna) Creek as previous outhouses installed by ADF&G are now in the wooded area.

3d. Talkeetna River Canyon Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 32.25 to RM 44.5

This subunit extends upstream from the mouth of Iron Creek to the middle of the Talkeetna Canyon, and the south boundary of land owned by the Knikatnu Corporation. The river in the canyon drops approximately 29 feet per mile, and for most of this subunit the river is entrenched in a steep-walled canyon. Talkeetna Canyon is one of the premier stretches of whitewater in North America. It offers nearly 14 miles of continuous Class III rapids and several Class IV areas. There are no significant wetlands within the subunit.

Land Status

State	11,613 acres
Total	**11,613 acres**

Wildlife

Active bald eagle nests and trumpeter swans have not been sighted in recent surveys in this subunit.

Camping

There are only two or three marginal campsites at the upper end of the subunit. Campsites are limited because of steep terrain and because there are few places where the river slows enough for a boat to safely land.

Access

There are a few short foot trails for scouting the rapids in the canyon. There are no airstrips or floatplane landing areas in the subunit. Float trips typically begin at Yellow Jacket Creek landing area, outside the Recreation Rivers. Alternately, there are lakes used by floatplanes on upper Prairie Creek. Use of the mouth of Prairie Creek by floatplanes is infrequent. Wheelplanes occasionally use a primitive landing area on a river bar (RM 48.5) downstream from the mouth of Prairie Creek.

Management Intent

Class I. Public use of this subunit is primarily by whitewater floaters. The canyon is very scenic and provides high quality opportunities for Class II, III, and IV whitewater boating. The subunit also provides primitive camping opportunities. There is open water year-round, so the subunit receives little winter use. Because of the primitive nature of the recreation

opportunities, the number of camp encounters in the canyon will be managed to maintain a low level of encounters. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Emergency Caches. Permits for storage of emergency caches may be issued in Talkeetna Canyon. These caches may contain equipment, clothing, cover, food, and reserve gear to be used in the event of a boating accident in the canyon. These caches should be bear-resistant, and out of sight of the river and campsites.

Recommended Addition. The Talkeetna Recreation River should be expanded to include up to RM 51.5. If added, it should be managed as part of this subunit. Prairie Creek is not recommended for designation as a Recreation River at this time. See Chapter 4, *Areas Recommended for Designation as Recreation Rivers, Upper Talkeetna River,* and *Other Recommendations, Future Additions, Prairie Creek.*

Public Information. A sign may be placed on the public easement at the mouth of Prairie Creek to clearly identify the site. The sign may also provide information on the Recreation Rivers. The eastern boundary of the Talkeetna River may also be marked with a sign identifying it as a Recreation River.

Standards for Interaction Impacts. The 14 miles of Class III and IV whitewater in the Talkeetna Canyon is one of the longest stretches of continuous whitewater in North America. The technical skill required to float this stretch limits use to a small, specialized group of users. Among these users, there is a strong consensus about the type of experience offered in the canyon, the impact levels acceptable for that experience, and the need for a permit system if impacts rise above those defined levels.

Key indicators for the type of experience desired by these floaters include camp encounters (or camp sharings – the percentage of nights camping within sight or sound of another party) and river encounters (the number of other parties seen on the river). Users define the Talkeetna Canyon as a remote, wilderness, whitewater float trip. Excessive river and camp encounters can detract from this experience.

In order to preserve the type of experience Talkeetna floaters currently have, the following standards should be applied.

1. No camp encounters in Talkeetna Canyon.
2. Less than two river encounters on the same day.

Monitoring river encounters and establishing a relationship between river encounters and use levels, can be administratively difficult. Camp encounters are more easily measured and their relationship to use levels in Talkeetna Canyon appears direct. The geography of the canyon limits the number of usable campsites to two. Current use levels are low, and competition for these campsites is light. However, if use increases, competition for campsites may be anticipated in the future. If users are forced to share camps (or continue through the canyon when campsites are full resulting, in safety hazards) on more than twenty percent of trips, a use limit system may be developed and implemented.

Voluntary Trip Scheduling Program. For most users, current use levels do not cause impacts greater than the standards described above. However, a minority of trips experience greater impact levels than users consider acceptable. If use increases, this problem could continue until a use limit is developed. To prevent the mandatory trip scheduling associated with a use limit, a voluntary trip scheduling program administered by ADNR may be implemented for the Talkeetna Canyon at this time.

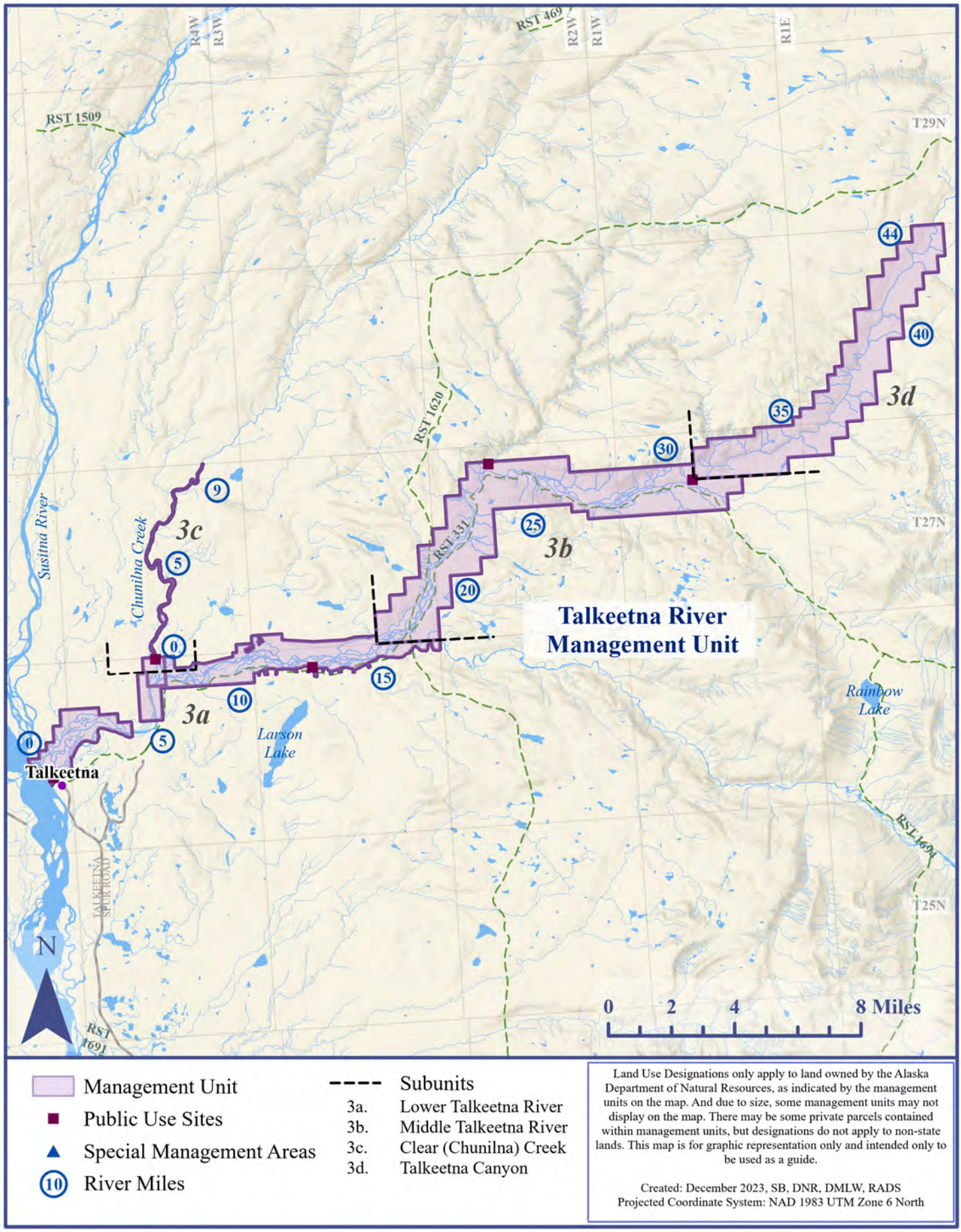
Commercial and private trip leaders will be encouraged to register proposed trips as soon as they have been planned. ADNR will maintain a list and notify trip leaders when more than one trip has been scheduled for the same day (experience indicates that paired launches result in unacceptable impacts). It will be the trip leaders' responsibility to reschedule or otherwise alter trips if they so desire.

Public Use Site

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 3d.1 **Mouth of Prairie Creek** (RM 51.5). If the upper Talkeetna Canyon is added to the Recreation River, the one-acre public site easement at the mouth of Prairie Creek will be a public use site. This site is located just downstream of the confluence on the north side of the Talkeetna River. It includes a one-acre site-easement and adjacent Talkeetna River shorelands. All the uplands in the area are Native-owned and this is the only site where the public can camp. There is also a private five-acre parcel between the site easement and the Talkeetna River - Prairie Creek confluence. The grant of site easement (Talkeetna Recording District, Book 124, pages 587-590) restricts the use of the site as follows: only members of the public traversing the Talkeetna River by watercraft may use the site. The use of the site is exclusively for use as a temporary site for camping. Use is limited to a maximum of twenty-four hours. The site cannot be used for fishing, unlimited camping, or other purposes not associated with the use described above. Signs shall be posted at the site defining both the use and area restrictions of the easement. The site cannot be improved except for those improvements appropriate for a primitive campsite (e.g. sanitary facilities, fire-rings, etc.)

TALKEETNA RIVER



Management Unit
Public Use Sites
Special Management Areas
(10) River Miles

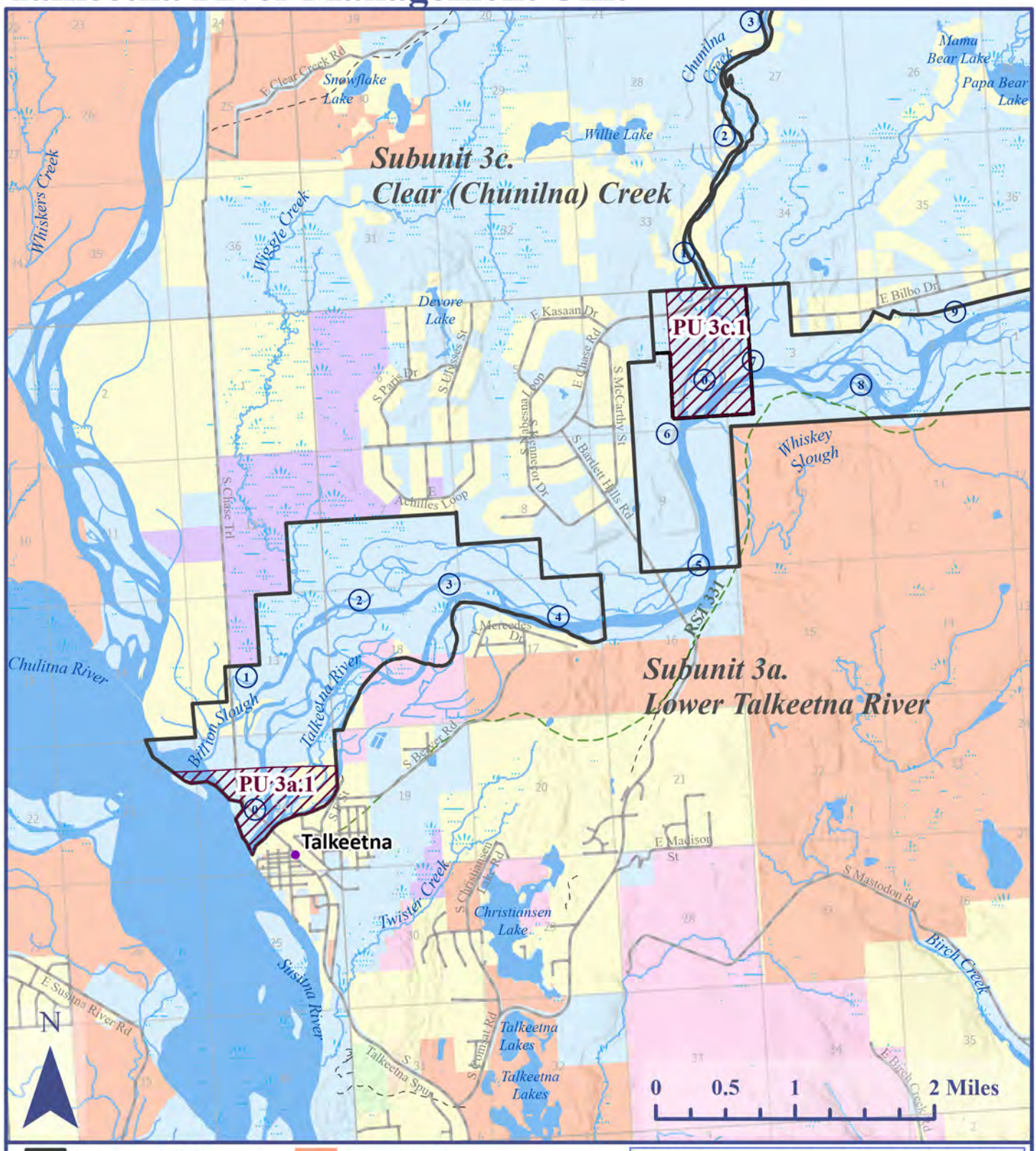
Subunits
3a. Lower Talkeetna River
3b. Middle Talkeetna River
3c. Clear (Chunilna) Creek
3d. Talkeetna Canyon

Land Use Designations only apply to land owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on the map. And due to size, some management units may not display on the map. There may be some private parcels contained within management units, but designations do not apply to non-state lands. This map is for graphic representation only and intended only to be used as a guide.

Created: December 2023, SB, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

Talkeetna River Management Unit

MAP 1



- Management Unit
- River Mile
- Public Use Sites
- Special Management Areas
- Nonmotorized Areas
- State Land
- Borough Land
- Native Land
- Mental Health Trust Land
- Private Land & Other
- BLM Land
- NPS/USFS/USFWS Land

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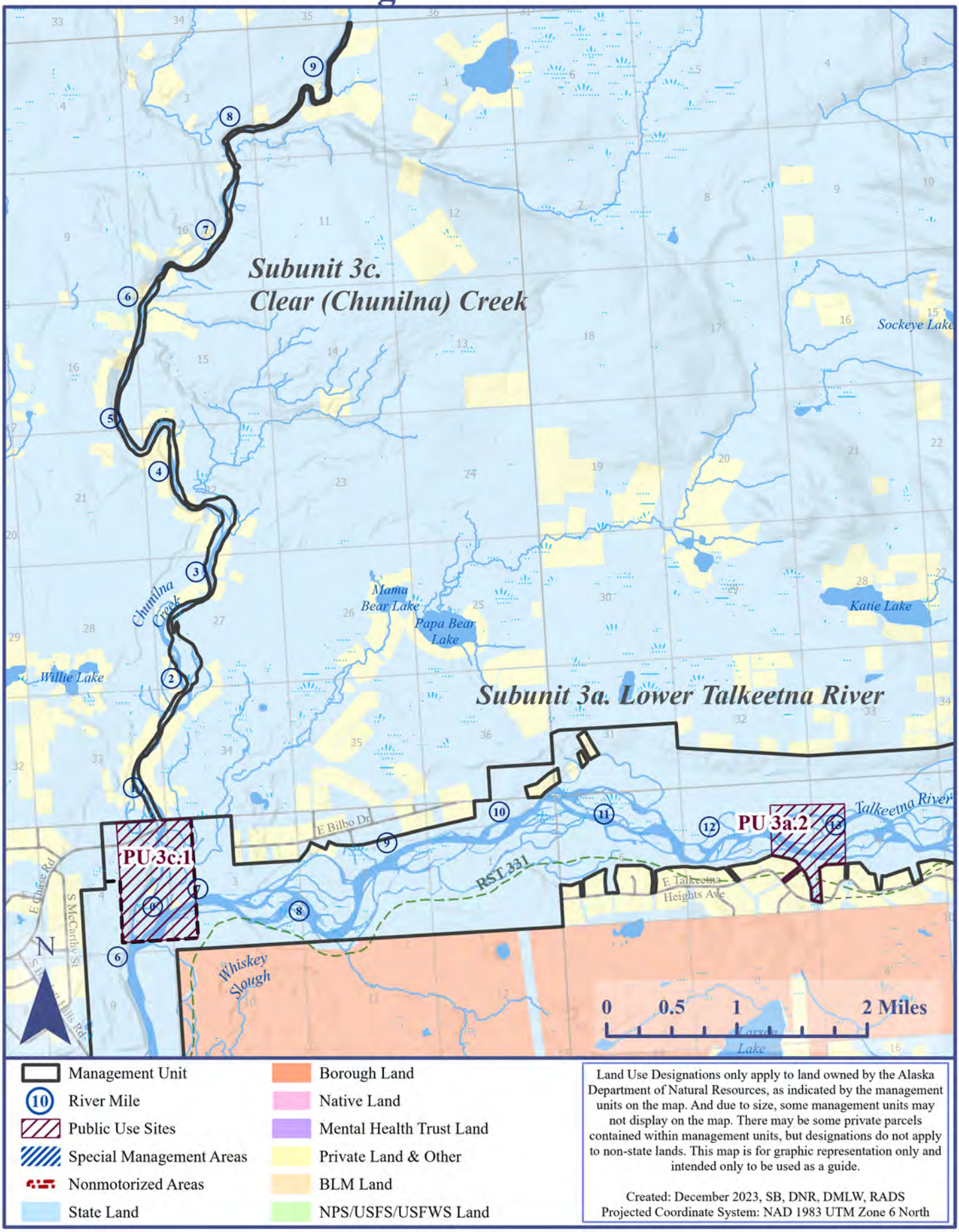
Talkeetna River Management Unit

MAP 2



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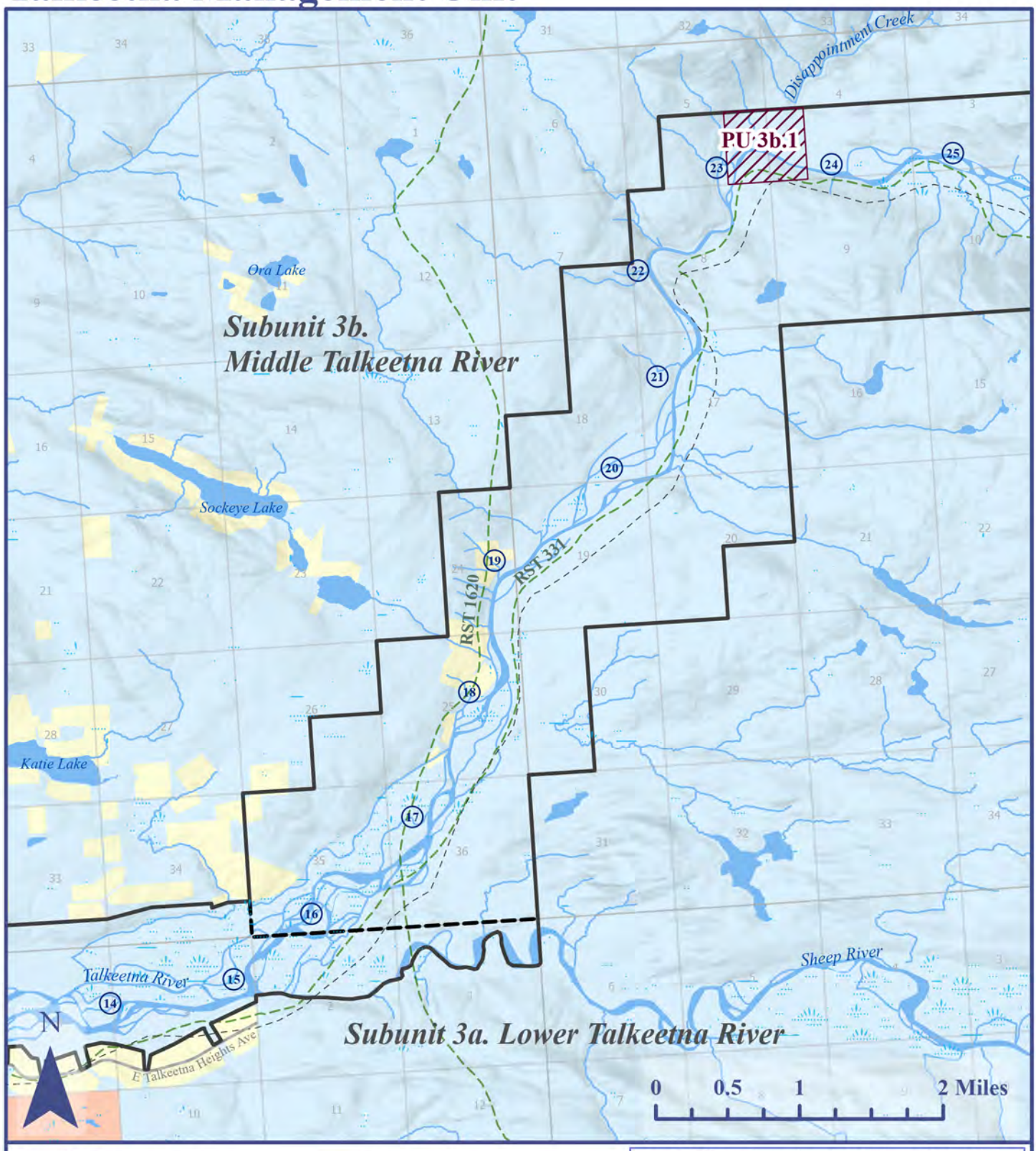
Talkeetna Management Unit

MAP 3



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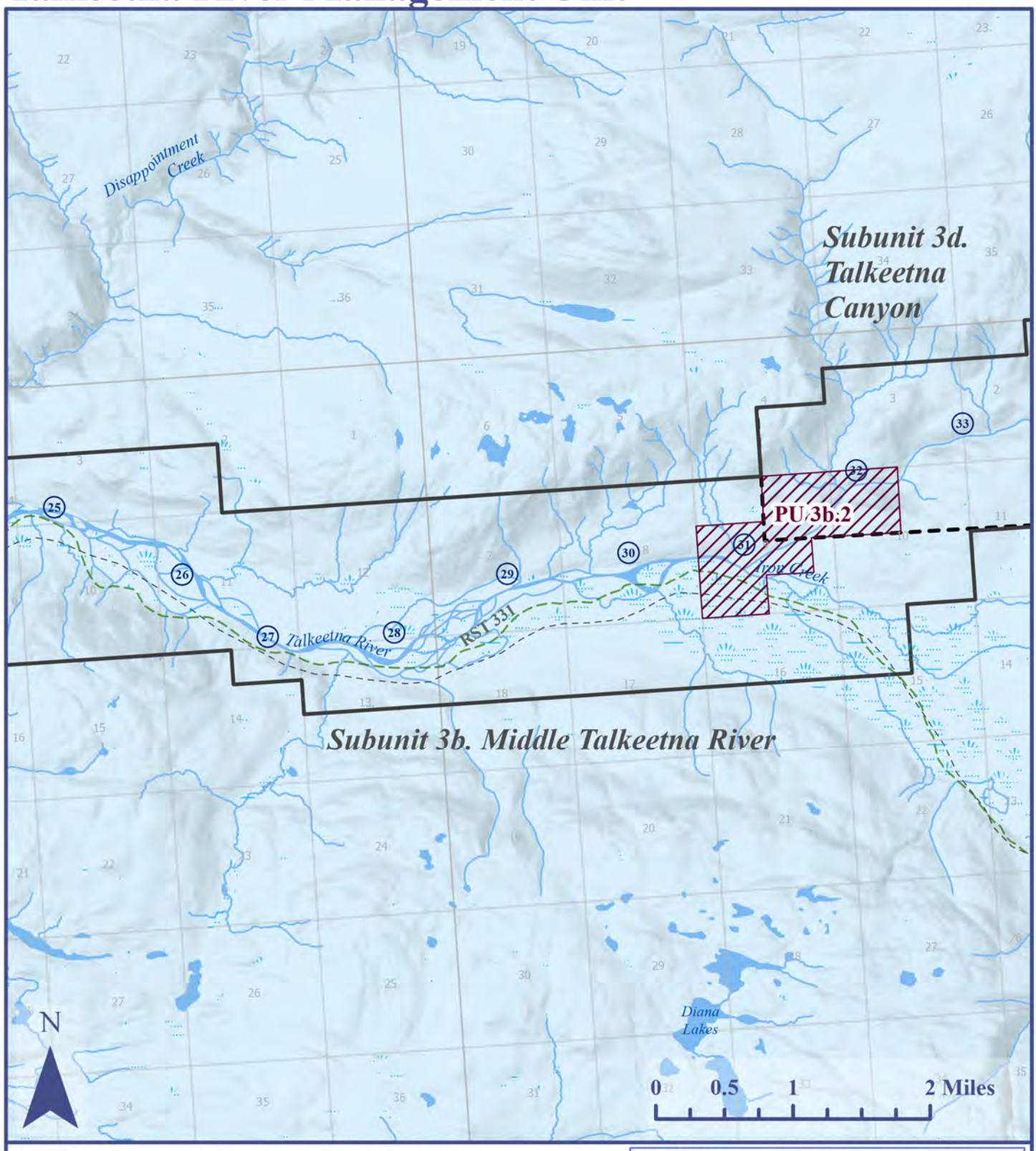
Talkeetna River Management Unit

MAP 4



Management Unit
River Mile
Public Use Sites
Special Management Areas
Nonmotorized Areas
State Land
Borough Land
Native Land
Mental Health Trust Land
Private Land & Other

Land Use Designations only apply to land owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on the map. And due to size, some management units may not display on the map. There may be some private parcels contained within management units, but designations do not apply to non-state lands. This map is for graphic representation only and intended only to be used as a guide.

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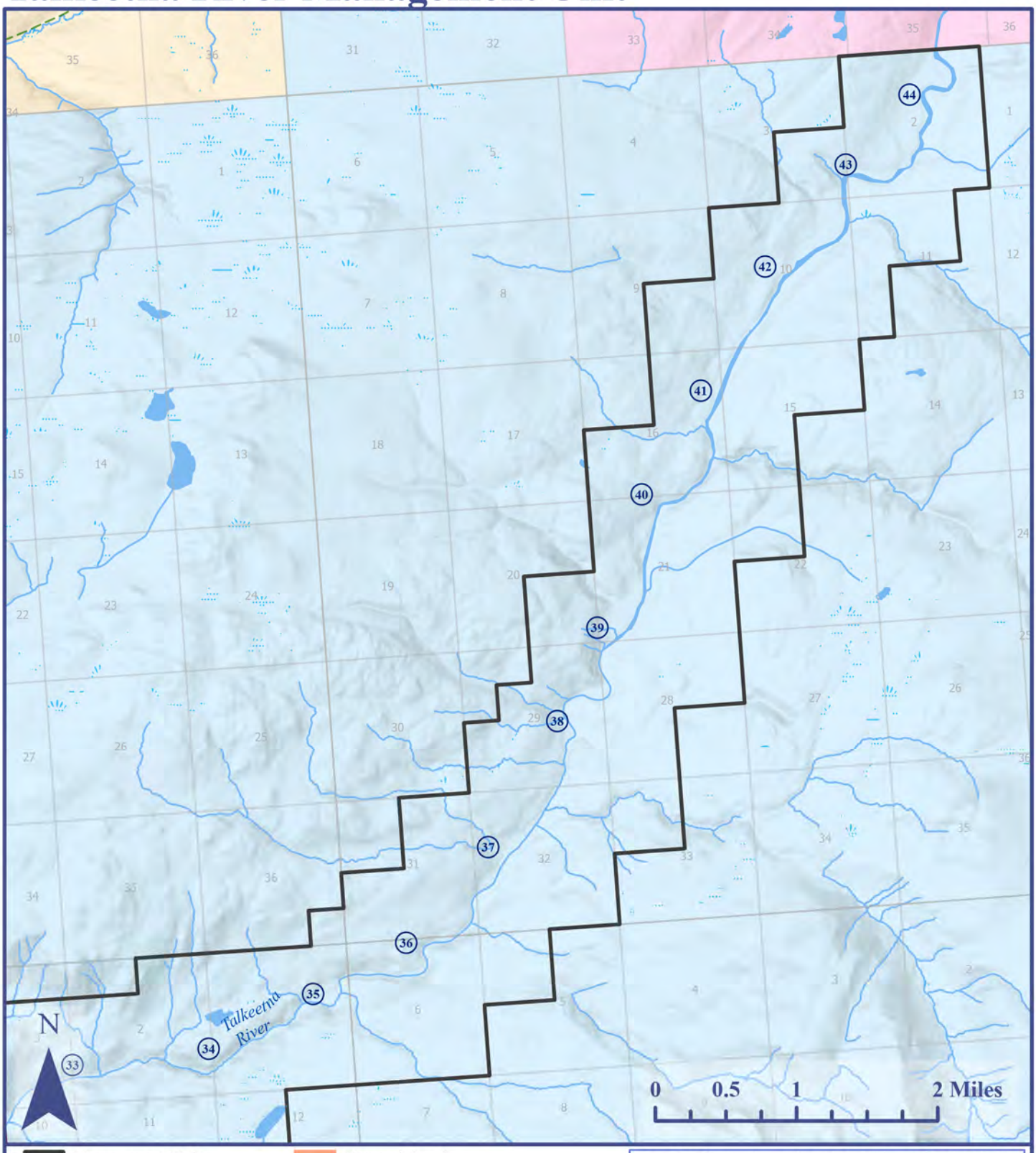
Talkeetna River Management Unit

MAP 5



Management Unit
River Mile
Public Use Sites
Special Management Areas
Nonmotorized Areas
State Land
Borough Land
Native Land
Mental Health Trust Land
Private Land & Other
BLM Land
NPS/USFS/USFWS Land

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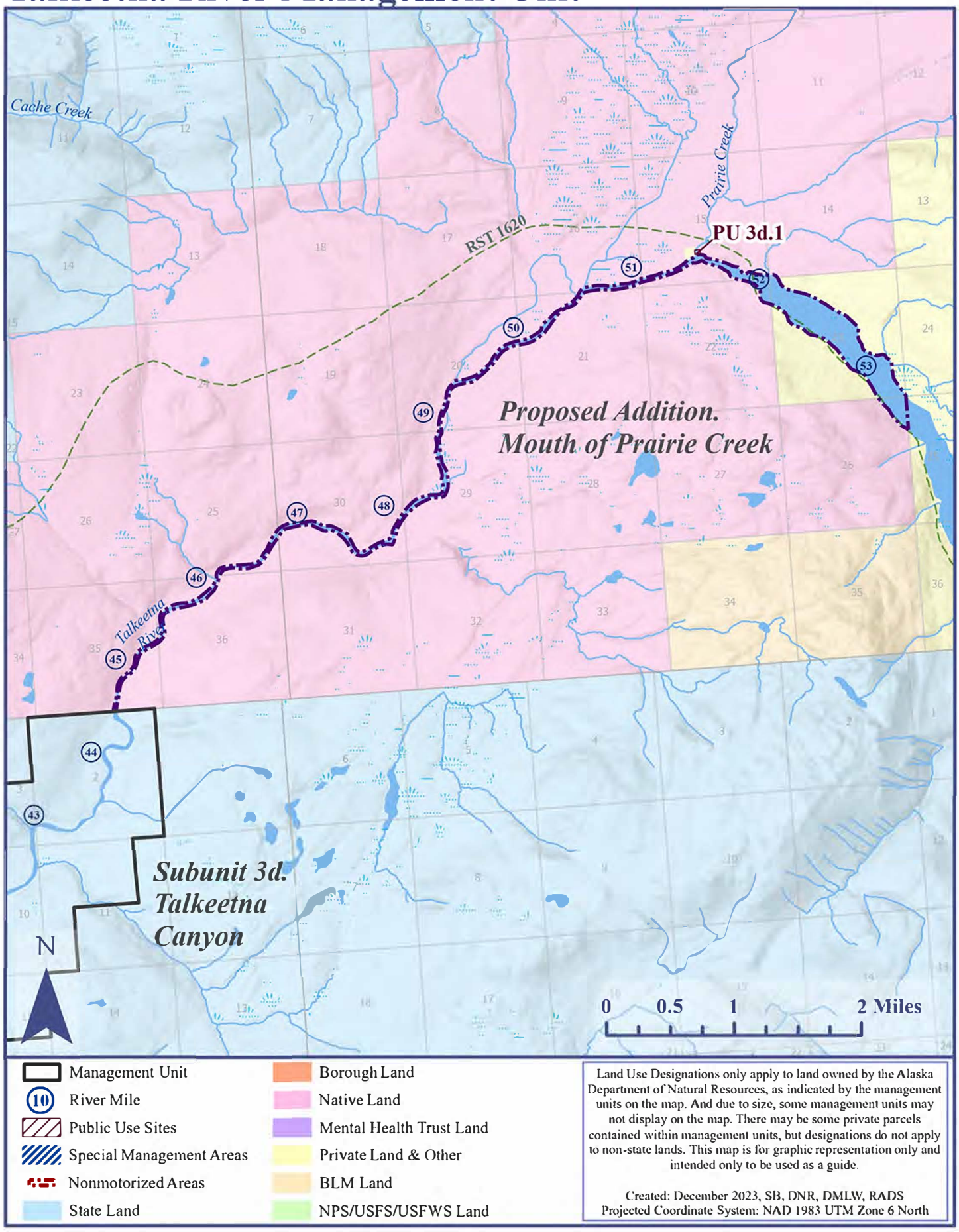
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

Talkeetna River Management Unit

MAP 6



4. Lake Creek Management Unit

1
2

4. Lake Creek Management Unit

Background

Miles of River, RM 0 to RM 64

The Lake Creek management unit begins at the confluence of Lake Creek and the Yentna River and extends to a point about 2 miles above Chelatna Lake on Snowslide Creek. During a large flood event in 2012, the active channel at the mouth of Lake Creek migrated west. In addition to including a mile-wide corridor along Lake Creek, the Recreation River includes Chelatna and Shovel lakes and their adjacent uplands, and the shorelands under Bulchitna Lake, near the mouth.

Land Status

State	63,429 acres
Private & Other	582 acres
Total	**64,011 acres**

River Characteristics

Lake Creek begins at Chelatna Lake which is surrounded by the Alaska Range. The creek is moderately narrow and swift-moving, dropping 24 feet per mile until it reaches RM 8, where it widens and slows down. The creek ranges in width from 75 to 250 feet, and from 2 to 6 feet in depth. A meandering stream with a point bar and cutbank channel, the estimated winter low flows are between 460 and 538 cfs. Summer highs are between 879 and 2,214 cfs. Because most of the upper river runs through a canyon, most flooding in a 100-year flood event would occur below RM 12.5.

The scenic qualities of Lake Creek are perhaps the highest of all the Recreation Rivers. Starting at Chelatna Lake, there are many good views of the Alaska Range. The steep walls of the canyon and the clear water also contribute to the creek's scenic qualities. Some human modifications at Chelatna Lake and the mouth detract slightly from the visual quality of Lake Creek.

Fisheries

Species Present

Arctic grayling	Coho salmon
Burbot	Pink salmon
Chinook salmon	Rainbow trout
Chum salmon	Sockeye salmon

Sockeye salmon run the length of Lake Creek and spawn in Chelatna Lake, and tributary lakes and streams. Coho, Chinook, and pink salmon run up to Chelatna Lake and begin to spawn as far downstream as the mouth of Lake Creek. Chum salmon spawn from the mouth to the canyon. The tributaries of Camp and Sunflower creeks provide extensive Chinook and coho salmon spawning habitat. Burbot, rainbow trout and grayling are present throughout the management unit, particularly at the mouths of tributaries.

Sport Fishing

The peaks in recreation and fishing activity on Lake Creek correspond with the Chinook and coho salmon runs. These are approximately June 4 to July 4, and July 4 to August 20, respectively. Also, in the late summer/early fall, many people fish for rainbow trout. Float trips targeting resident species from Chelatna Lake to the mouth are common throughout the summer.

The more popular fishing areas are the mouth of Lake Creek and the Bulchitna Lake outlet. Other popular spots include the mouths of Coffee, Sunflower, Camp, Home, and Yenlo creeks. The outflow of Lake Creek and some deep holes near Quiet Lake are also regularly fished.

Special Regulations

Special management waters for rainbow trout are designated from a marker located a quarter mile upstream of the stream that drains Bulchitna Lake upstream to Chelatna Lake. Only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used upstream of this marker.

Wildlife

Moose

Moose are distributed throughout the management unit year-round. There are significant fall and winter concentrations of moose in the sections of the corridor adjacent to the Yenlo Hills area. Other important moose concentration areas are located in Sunflower, Camp, Home, and Yenlo creeks.

Bear

Black bear and brown bear are also distributed throughout the unit, brown bear being perhaps more prevalent. Brown bear tend to concentrate along portions of Lake Creek when the salmon are in the creek. Brown bear concentrate along Sunflower, Camp, Home, and Yenlo creeks during salmon spawning seasons.

Bald eagles

Occupied and unoccupied bald eagle nests have been observed in recent surveys from the Lake Creek Mouth subunit to the Middle Lake Creek subunit. Nest trees are primarily in black cottonwood, always over fifty feet tall, and usually within twenty feet of the river.

Trumpeter Swans

Trumpeter swans have been observed in recent surveys from the Lake Creek Mouth subunit to the Upper Lake Creek subunit. Significant nesting habitat occurs in areas northwest of the corridor.

Hunting

Moose and bear hunting occurs along the upper and lower portion of Lake Creek and along Sunflower, Camp, Home and Yenlo creeks.

Trapping

Recreational trapping for otter, muskrat, mink, beaver, fox, coyote, wolf and marten occurs along Sunflower, Camp, Home, and Yenlo creeks.

Subsistence

This area is utilized by Skwentna residents for the Tier II moose hunt. The southern portion of the corridor is utilized for subsistence berry harvest as well.

Camping

Lake Creek provides a popular four- or five-day float trip. The campsites that receive the heaviest use are on Chelatna Lake, major tributary junctions, and below Bulchitna Lake.

Access

Lake Creek is accessible primarily by air. Boaters also travel up the Yentna River to the mouth of Lake Creek from the Deshka or Susitna landings on the Susitna River. Due to numerous rocks and a steep gradient, powerboat access is currently limited to the lower river and Chelatna Lake.

Management Guidelines for the Unit

Boating Restrictions

1.	*Non-motorized area*	Exit of Lake Creek canyon where whitewater ends to exit of Chelatna Lake where whitewater begins (RM 8.1 - 51.2).
	Season:	May 15 - August 20.
	Justification:	This segment provides high quality float trips and is not currently used by powerboats. This restriction is intended to protect high quality whitewater trips from future technologies which could provide powerboat access and result in use conflicts. Although there is private property along this segment, it is better accessed by air or ground vehicles rather than boats because of the whitewater. The flat-water stretches on Chelatna Lake and the lower creek are used by powerboats. There are no boating restrictions on these sections.
2.	*Voluntary no-wake area*	Along north bank of the Yentna River near the mouth of Lake Creek.
	Season:	May 15 - August 20.
	Justification	Boat anglers are concentrated near the mouth of Lake Creek during the fishing season. To protect public safety, signs will be placed on a one-year trial basis in this area. The effectiveness of these signs will be evaluated at the end of the trial period. If the signs are found to be effective in protecting public safety, they will be posted during succeeding seasons. Because the Yentna River is so wide, the no-wake area is not intended to apply to most of the southern 3/4 of the Yentna River used for floatplane landings and powerboat travel up and down the main river where wakes are unlikely to be a hazard to fishermen at the mouth of Lake Creek.

4a. Lake Creek Mouth Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 0 to RM 3.5

This subunit extends from the confluence of Lake Creek and the Yentna River to a point just above the outlet of Bulchitna Lake. During a large flood event in 2012, the active channel at the mouth of Lake Creek migrated west. It also includes Bulchitna Lake shorelands and a one-mile section of the Yentna River. The Yentna River is wide and turbid while Lake Creek is generally clear. Contiguous wetlands make up about half of the uplands in this subunit.

Land Ownership

State	2,071 acres
Private & Other	127 acres
Total	**2,198 acres**

Fisheries

Most of the salmon fishing on Lake Creek is within this subunit and centers near the mouth of Lake Creek and the outlet of Bulchitna Lake.

Wildlife

An active bald eagle nest has been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit close to the mouth of Lake Creek. Trumpeter swans have not been observed in recent surveys.

Development

There are several lodges and cabins within the subunit with others adjacent to the subunit. Many of the cabins are used commercially and host at least a few clients every year. Many of these are no longer on the active channel after the channel migrated west during the large flood event of 2012.

There is a dock located at a lodge located on the eastern channel and several on Bulchitna Lake. Several docks are located just outside the subunit on Fish Lakes and along the Yentna River.

Access

There are several local footpaths and ORV trails associated with lodges, cabins, and public use near the mouth. There are also four section or seismic lines near the mouth. Only one of these appears to be used during the summer. Several of the ORV trails run from Bulchitna Lake to Lake Creek and are used to tow boats. A historic wagon road and RS 2477 right-of-way (RST 136) runs north from McDougal just east of the subunit.

The entire Lake Creek subunit receives ample snowcover during most years. The Iditarod, Iditarod Trail Invitational, and Iron Dog Classic races have been run on the Yentna River through this subunit in recent years. There is extensive winter travel by snowmachine and dog teams during the winter months. The Yentna River is a winter highway for both local residents and recreation users originating from points along the Parks Highway, and Petersville and Knik roads. A series of seismic lines and tractor trails connecting Shulin, Amber, and Trapper lakes is used to transport heavy equipment. In Winter, private property owners and recreational users also travel up the lower part of Lake Creek. Open water prevents snowmachines from running through the canyon.

Floatplane landing areas in the subunit include Bulchitna Lake and the Yentna River. Floatplanes are often moored along the Yentna River in the subunit. There is one airstrip just upstream from the mouth of Lake Creek on a bar in the Yentna River (outside the subunit) by a private lodge.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential is high. There are historic mining trails, the nearby settlement of McDougal, and signs of historic cabins.

Management Intent

Class III. This subunit receives intense public use in a relatively small area during the Chinook and coho salmon runs. The area with the highest concentration of lodges in or adjacent to the Recreation Rivers is at the mouth of Lake Creek. A large proportion of the use is from fly-in commercial use. Bulchitna Lake is a popular fly-in access point for bank fishing. The subunit provides high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities for powerboaters, floaters, and bank users. It also supports salmon spawning and winter moose habitat. There are winter opportunities for snowmachining, dog mushing, and cross-country skiing, particularly along the Yentna River. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat, while accommodating uses associated with private lands. The subunit will be managed to provide opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized use. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit. A voluntary no-wake area was established at the mouth to protect public safety in this high-use fishing area.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Iditarod National Historic Trail. A connecting trail from this historic trail passes through the subunit and terminates at McDougal (See Chapter 2 guidelines on *Heritage Resources, Iditarod National Historic Trail).*

Public Access. Public access between Bulchitna Lake and Lake Creek exists on the east side of the lake along the small tributary that flows from Lake Creek. ADNR will not encourage trespass on private land by marking the trail or trailheads that are on private land. However, obtaining public access between the Bulchitna Lake and the Lake Creek is a high priority.

Public Information. Because of intense use by bank fishermen, a kiosk may be established near Bulchitna Lake that displays information on the Recreation Rivers. A sign was established near the mouth of Lake Creek identifying Lake Creek as a Recreation River.

Anchor Buoys. Anchor buoys are allowed at the mouth under the regulations proposed in Chapter 2, *Shoreline Development, Anchor Buoys.*

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 4a.1 **Lake Creek Mouth** (RM 0). This is a heavily used area for fishing and camping. Numerous boats and floatplanes tie up on the banks. The parcel was acquired by ADF&G for sport fish access and Recreation purposes. It shall be retained and managed for that purpose

PU 4a.2 **Bulchitna Lake** (RM 3.5). The lake is state owned. The lands around the lake are in borough and private ownership. The trail to the lake and the shorelands along the river adjacent to the lake are heavily used for fishing, camping, hiking, and access to the lake. ADNR should develop a box toilet at this location to accommodate use.

4b. Lower Lake Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 3.5 to RM 6.8

This subunit extends from just above Bulchitna Lake to the canyon exit. There are considerable contiguous wetlands in the lower half of the subunit, and no significant wetlands above RM 5.

Land Ownership

State	1,962 acres
Private & Other	38 acres
Total	**2,000 acres**

Wildlife

Bald eagle nests and trumpeter swans have not been observed in recent surveys of this subunit.

Development

There is a private cabin and a dock on Lake 216 (elevation) near RM 6.

Access

The McDougal-Peters Creek Trail (RST 136) parallels the subunit on the east side and is used for winter access by snowmachines and cat trains. Floatplanes may access the area on a small lake near RM 6. A trail leads from it to the creek. Winter use is light. Snowmachines are used to access private property. Several seismic lines that cross the subunit are used in the winter.

Management Intent

Class I. Most of the summer use of this subunit is from powerboaters seeking alternate fishing holes upstream from the mouth and by floaters ending float trips originating on Chelatna Lake. The subunit features high quality fishing, camping, and hunting opportunities in a relatively remote, undeveloped setting. The creek contains salmon spawning habitat. In winter, the subunit receives limited snowmachine, dog mushing, and skiing use. There are some private lands along the west bank of the river. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, primitive setting, and fish and wildlife habitat. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. The numbers of encounters on the river and at campsites will be managed to provide a remote recreation experience. The subunit will be managed to provide opportunities for motorized and non-motorized access. There are no restrictions on motorized access in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Standards for Interaction Impacts. See management guidelines for Subunit 4d, Upper Lake Creek.

Voluntary Trip Scheduling Program. See management guidelines for Subunit 4d, Upper Lake Creek.

Special Management Area

See *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on the map at the end of this unit.

SMA 4b.1 **Lake 216’ (elevation) Campsite** (RM 6) This special management area (SMA) includes the land and water in and adjacent to an unnamed lake. A private parcel and structural improvements are located in the SMA,

including a cabin and dock. The SMA will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate access to private lands in and adjacent to the SMA while providing for and enhancing public recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat.

Public Use Site

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 4b.1 **Lake 216' (elevation) Campsite** (RM 6). This campsite shows evidence of frequent use throughout the fishing season.

4c. Middle Lake Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 6.8 to RM 41.8

This subunit extends from the canyon exit to the mouth of Camp Creek. Below RM 25, there is no significant amount of wetlands. From RM 25 to RM 30, 20 to 30 percent of the area is wetland, mostly contiguous. Above RM 30, 75 to 90 percent of the uplands are contiguous wetlands.

Land Ownership

State	25,440 acres
Private and Other	163 acres
Total	**25,603 acres**

Wildlife

Recent surveys have found occupied and unoccupied bald eagle nests near the creek. Trumpeter swans have also been documented in recent surveys of the subunit. Brown bear densities along Yenlo Creek are high during the summer and fall when salmon are running. The Yenlo Hills and Yenlo Creek area have high fall and winter densities of moose.

Development

There are several private cabins and docks on Quiet Lake, and as well as on Lake 1,015' (elevation) near RM 27.

Access

There is an extensive system of off-road vehicle trails in the wetlands along the northeast side of the creek (from RM 32 to RM 42 and from RM 17 to RM 21 [the Quiet Lake area]) which receive year-round use. These trails are used heavily during hunting season. There are a few airstrips associated with private cabins adjacent to the subunit, but these are not used for activities associated with the creek. The McDougal-Peters Creek Trail (RST 136) parallels the Lake Creek unit on the east side from RM 0 to RM 14. It is used as a tractor trail and off-road vehicle trail. Several lakes in the subunit are used for floatplane access including Quiet Lake, Shovel Lake, Lake 1,015' (RM 27), and Martana Lake (RM 26).

There are extensive areas of open bogs adjacent to the subunit used for snowmachine travel. Two long seismic lines crossing the lower subunit are used in winter, in conjunction with the summer off-road vehicle trails. In previous winters snowmachines were used for trapping in the area.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential is high due, in part, to the history of mining in the area.

Other Activities

This subunit historically contained many active mining claims, however, all mining claims in the subunit are now closed. Located at RM 10, there is an active mining lease that was converted from a mining claim that predated mineral entry closure for the corridors. The historic and currently active mining community of Collinsville is located above Camp Creek 8 miles northwest of the subunit. A dredge, cabin ruins, and cables, visible at RM 7.5, are remnants of historic mining activity in the corridor.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit is primarily used by floaters during the ice-free season. The subunit provides high quality fishing, camping, whitewater, and hunting opportunities in a remote, scenic setting. Class II, III, and IV whitewater provide risk values when floating the river. Private lands are located primarily around lakes. Because the canyon has open water in winter, there is little winter use. The creek and its tributaries contain salmon spawning habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, a primitive setting, and fish and wildlife habitat, while accommodating uses associated with private lands. With the exception of uses associated with private lands, the focus of management will be on maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment. The numbers of encounters on the river and at campsites should be maintained at a low level to provide for a remote recreation experience. Management of activities on existing mine leases will focus on providing opportunities for mineral extraction while avoiding or minimizing negative impacts on recreation, public access, habitat, and water quality. Maintaining public

use sites will be a high priority. The subunit will be managed to provide non-motorized opportunities during the fishing season with the exception of access to mine locations, private lands, and special management areas.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. See management guidelines for the Lake Creek Management Unit in this chapter.

Standards for Interaction Impacts. See management guidelines for Subunit 4d, Upper Lake Creek.

Voluntary Trip Scheduling Program. See management guidelines for Subunit 4d, Upper Lake Creek.

Special Management Areas

See *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on the map at the end of this unit.

SMA 4c.1 **Quiet Lake** (RM 20). This SMA includes the land and water in and adjacent to Quiet Lake. Several private parcels and structural improvements are located in the SMA including cabins, docks, and trails connecting with Lake Creek. The SMA will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate access to private lands in the SMA while providing for and enhancing recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. An airstrip may be constructed on a public easement that exists west of the lake. Seasonal motor restrictions do not apply within the SMA.

SMA 4c.2 **Martana Lake and Two Unnamed Lakes** (RM 24-28). This SMA includes the land and water in and adjacent to Martana Lake, and two unnamed lakes. Several private parcels and structural improvements are located in the SMA including cabins, docks, and trails. The SMA will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate uses associated with private lands in the SMA while providing for and enhancing recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Seasonal motor restrictions do not apply within the SMA.

SMA 4c.3 **Shovel Lake** (RM 32). This SMA includes the land and water in and adjacent to Shovel Lake. Several private parcels and structural improvements are located adjacent to the SMA. There is a primitive trail connecting Shovel Lake with the river. The SMA will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to

accommodate access to private lands adjacent to the SMA while providing for and enhancing recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Seasonal motor restrictions do not apply within the SMA.

SMA 4c.4 **Primitive Landing Area** (RM 39). This SMA includes only a large gravel bar in the middle of the creek that has been traditionally used for wheelplane landings. This SMA will be managed as a Class I area and Class I guidelines will apply. Although the landing area may not be improved, wheelplane landings on this bar will continue to be allowed although upper Lake Creek is designated a non-motorized area. This exception for wheelplane landings does not apply to helicopters or boats on the river adjacent to the gravel bar.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 4c.1 **Upper Hole** (RM 7.9). This side provides fishing and camping opportunities at the point where motor restrictions begin upstream.

PU 4c.2 **Yenlo Creek Junction** (RM 13.5). This site receives high public use for camping and fishing. It is a well-known destination point for float trips down the river.

PU 4c.3 **Two Unnamed Campsites** (RM 20.8 and RM 21). These are frequently used for fishing and camping.

PU 4c.4 **Home Creek Junction** (RM 35.5). This site receives high public use for camping and fishing. It is a well-known destination point for float trips down the river.

4d. Upper Lake Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 41.8 to RM 51.2

This subunit extends from a point just above the mouth of Camp Creek to a point below Chelatna Lake. Seventy-five to ninety percent of the uplands in this subunit are contiguous wetlands.

Land Ownership

There are 8,226 acres of state land.

Wildlife

Bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys within this subunit. Trumpeter swans have been documented in recent surveys.

Access

Originating in the Petersville area, two old tractor trails, Mills Creek-Cache Creek Trail (RST 145) and Youngstown-Home Lake Trail (RST 1608), cross the river at RM 43 and RM 46 respectively. These trails were once used to support mining activities and are used in winter. Some winter recreation users travel from the Petersville Road area, via the Forks Roadhouse and Pickle Creek, and to access the upper creek and Chelatna Lake. Travel is dependent on overflow on the Kahiltna River. There is a floatplane landing area on Rock Lake west of RM 45. It is connected by a trail to Lake Creek, and is used as a pick-up point for commercial float trips beginning at Chelatna Lake.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential is high due in part to the mining history in the area.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit is primarily used by floaters during the ice-free season. The subunit provides high quality fishing, camping, whitewater, hunting, and other recreation opportunities in a remote scenic setting. Class II, III, and IV whitewater provide risk values when floating the river. The creek and its tributaries support salmon spawning habitat. There are no private lands or mining claims in the subunit. Because of its remote location, there is only limited winter use by snowmachiners. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, a primitive setting, and fish and wildlife habitat. Some limited development may occur associated with an area that is open to new mineral entry under lease. Management of activities on active mining locations will focus on providing opportunities for mineral extraction while avoiding or minimizing impacts on recreation, public access, habitat, and water quality. With the exception of uses associated with mining locations, the focus of management will be to maintain an essentially unmodified natural environment. The numbers of encounters on the river and at campsites should be maintained at a low level to provide for a remote recreation experience. Maintaining sites for public use will be a high priority. With the exception of the area open to mineral entry, the subunit will be managed to provide opportunities for a non-motorized experience during the fishing season.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. See management guidelines for the Lake Creek Management Unit described earlier in this chapter.

Mining. The uplands between Camp Creek (RM 41) and Sunflower Creek (RM 46) are open to new mineral entry under lease but the remainder of the subunit is closed to new mineral entry. A 300-foot staking setback from ordinary high water from Lake, Camp, and Sunflower creeks. The public use sites at the mouth of Camp and Sunflower creeks remain closed to new mineral entry. Mining guidelines listed in Chapter 2 under *Surface Resources*, apply. These guidelines are designed to protect water quality, recreation, and habitat values.

Standards for Interaction Impacts. The upper section of Lake Creek has among the lowest use levels and offers one of the most remote, wilderness-oriented float trips in the Recreation Rivers system. The cost, logistics, and technical skill required to float the river limit use to experienced whitewater floaters. Key indicators for the type of experience desired by these floaters include camp encounters (or camp sharing – the percentage of nights camping within sight or sound of another party) and river encounters (the number of other parties seen on the river). Users define Upper Lake Creek as a remote, wilderness whitewater float trip, and excessive river and camp encounters can detract from this experience.

In order to provide for the type of experience Lake Creek floaters currently receive and prefer, prescribed standards for these impacts are:

1. No camp encounters on Lower, Middle, and Upper Lake Creek (Subunits 4b, 4c and 4d).
2. Less than five river encounters per day.

Monitoring these impacts and establishing a relationship between them and use levels can be administratively difficult. However, through a monitoring program, it is possible to generate the necessary information.

At current use levels, these standards are rarely exceeded. However, use is increasing, and competition may be anticipated. If this occurs, and users are forced to share camps or see more than three groups per day on more than twenty percent of trips, a use limit system may be developed and implemented.

Voluntary Trip Scheduling Program. For most users, current use levels do not cause impacts greater than the standards described above. However, a minority of parties experience greater impact levels than users consider acceptable particularly at public use sites. If use increases, this problem could continue until a use limit is developed. To prevent the mandatory trip scheduling associated with a use limit, a voluntary trip scheduling program administrated by ADNR may be implemented for Lower, Middle and Upper Lake Creek (Subunits 4b, 4c, and 4d) before limits are implemented.

Commercial and private trip leaders will be encouraged to register proposed trips as soon as they have been planned. ADNR will maintain a list and notify trip leaders when more than one trip has been scheduled for the same day (experience indicates that paired launches result in unacceptable impacts). It will be the trip leaders' responsibility to reschedule or otherwise alter trips if they so desire.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 4d.1 **Camp Creek Junction** (RM 41.8). This site receives high public use for camping and fishing. It is a well-known destination point for float trips.

PU 4d.2 **Sunflower Creek Junction** (two sites) (RM 46). These two sites are located on either side of the river. They receive high public use for camping and fishing. The junction is a well-known destination point for float trips.

4e. Chelatna Lake Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 51.2 to RM 64

This subunit includes Chelatna Lake and the lower 2.5 miles of Snowslide Creek which drain into Chelatna Lake. The subunit also includes the uplands within a mile of the lake, and the uppermost segment of Lake Creek, downstream to a point where it begins to narrow and gain speed. Chelatna Lake is 7 miles long and less than a mile wide and is the largest lake in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. The Alaska Range rises from its shores and Denali National Park borders on the north half of this subunit. The upper section of Lake Creek in this subunit is about 500 feet wide, slow, and placid. The areas around the south end of the lake and headwaters of the creek are about 90 percent contiguous wetland.

Land Ownership

State	25,730 acres
Private & Other	254 acres
Total	**25,984 acres**

Fisheries

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) occasionally operates a weir on the outlet of Chelatna Lake to count sockeye salmon escapement. A camp near this site is also used occasionally by ADF&G for northern pike eradication efforts.

Wildlife

Neither active bald eagle nor trumpeter swan nests have been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

Camping

Camping is common along Chelatna Lake.

Development

A lodge sits at the outlet of Chelatna Lake. Several private cabins are scattered around the lake, mostly on the north and east shores. Near the lodge, there is a dock, a boat storage area, and an airstrip.

Access

Most trails are concentrated near the south end of the lake. Regional trails connect with Collinsville and the Kahiltna River/Petersville Road. There are also a number of foot, off-road-vehicle, and truck trails adjacent to the lodge on Chelatna Lake and nearby cabins. The slopes near the remainder of the lake support only primitive game trails. Access to the cabins on the north and east sides of the lake is by boat or floatplane. Some recreation users travel from the Petersville Road in winter, via the Forks Roadhouse and Pickle Creek, to access upper Lake Creek and Chelatna Lake areas. Winter travel is dependent on overflow on the Kahiltna River.

The primary areas of the lake used for floatplane landing are near the lodge, the lagoon just downstream from the lodge, near the mouth of snowslide creek and near the mouth of Coffee Creek. The first two areas are used as drop-off and pickup points for lodge clients and the public. Snowslide and Coffee Creeks are used as stopover picnic areas for Alaska Range flightseeing trips.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential is high due to a long history of activity in the area.

Management Intent

Class II. This subunit is primarily used by floaters beginning their descent of Lake Creek, sightseeing flights, and lodge-based recreation users. The lake contains important salmon spawning habitat. The subunit provides high quality fishing, camping, and hunting opportunities. The subunit is the most scenic in the Recreation Rivers, and is bounded on the north by Denali National Park and the Alaska Range. Private lands are located along the south and east shores of the lake. Because of its remote location, there is little winter use. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, a scenic setting, and fish and wildlife habitat, while accommodating uses associated with private lands. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. The subunit will be managed to provide for both motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Chelatna Airstrip (T27N, R12W, Sec. 13, SM). The Chelatna airstrip provides important public access to Lake Creek, and surrounding land and water. It is strategically located at the head of Lake Creek, and serves as the drop-off point for float trips and access to private lands around the lake. No other wheelplane landing area exists in the vicinity. The airstrip is managed as a remote, unmaintained public airstrip. As an unmaintained airstrip, it may be improved or upgraded. It may receive maintenance on an as-needed basis, if included as a line-item in a state agency's budget. The shoreline adjacent the west end of the airstrip is also important for mooring boats, inflating rafts, and as a drop-off point for floatplanes. Actions in this area should ensure that public access to this area is maintained.

Public Information. A kiosk should be established near the Chelatna Airstrip and at one of the primary floatplane drop-off points on Chelatna Lake to display information on the Recreation Rivers. A sign should also be established near the outlet of the lake identifying Lake Creek as a Recreation River.

Foot Trails. Development of hiking trails from the lakeshore to above tree line will provide access to open tundra areas and Denali National Park which surrounds Chelatna Lake. Development of these trails is a low priority for ADNR. Proposals to build hiking trails from applicants or the National Park Service should be considered particularly if they provide pedestrian access to the scenic high country around the lake.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

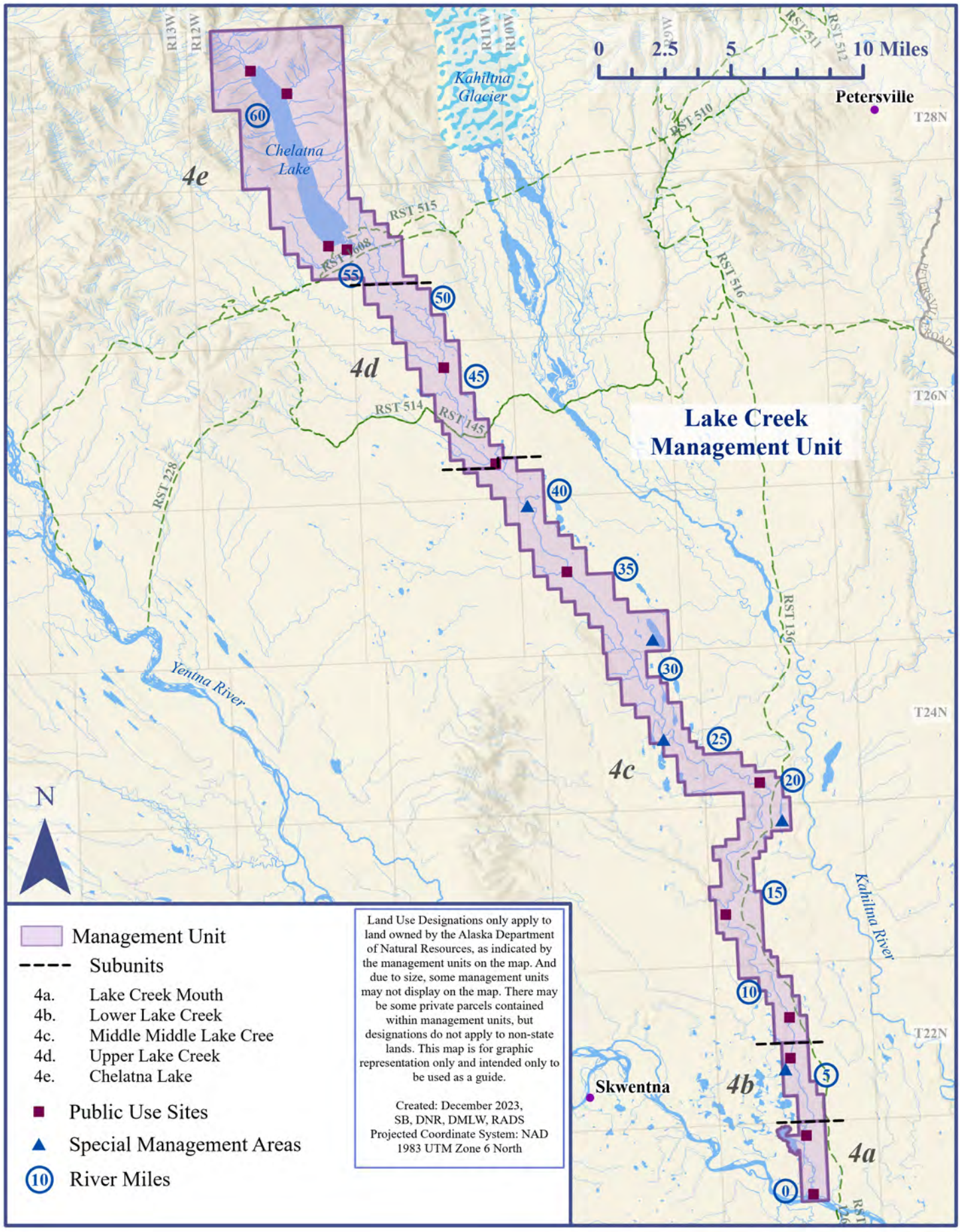
PU 4e.1 **Unnamed Campsite** (RM 54.0). This site is frequently used by floatplanes to drop off floaters. Floaters often camp at this site. ADNR should develop a box toilet at this location to accommodate occurring use.

PU 4e.2 **Chelatna Airstrip** (RM 54.3). This site is frequently used by both wheel and floatplanes for dropping off recreationists, private landowners, and lodge clients. Residents of the lake also store their boats on the banks adjacent to this airstrip. The site is also used for camping prior to float trips.

PU 4e.3 **Coffee Creek** (RM 60.5). The mouth of this creek is frequently used by floatplane pilots and their passengers as a stopover during sightseeing trips of Denali.

PU 4e.4 **Snowslide Creek** (RM 61.5). The mouth of this creek is frequently used by floatplane pilots and their passengers as a stopover during sightseeing trips of Denali.

LAKE CREEK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4a
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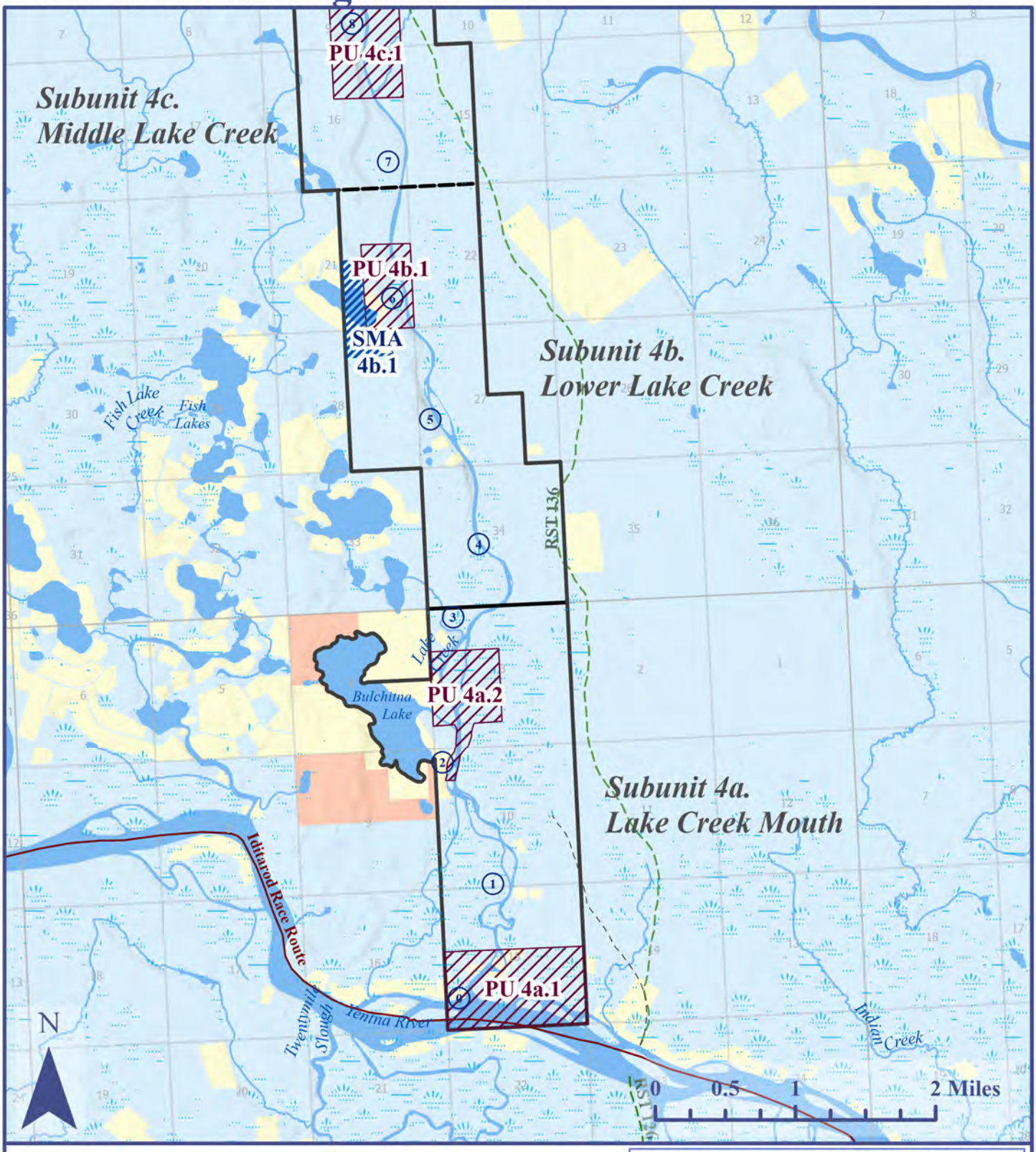
Management Unit
Subunits
4a. Lake Creek Mouth
4b. Lower Lake Creek
4c. Middle Middle Lake Cree
4d. Upper Lake Creek
4e. Chelatna Lake
Public Use Sites
Special Management Areas
River Miles
Land Use Designations only apply to land owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on the map. And due to size, some management units may not display on the map. There may be some private parcels contained within management units, but designations do not apply to non-state lands. This map is for graphic representation only and intended only to be used as a guide.
Created: December 2023,
SB, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

Lake Creek Management Unit

MAP 1



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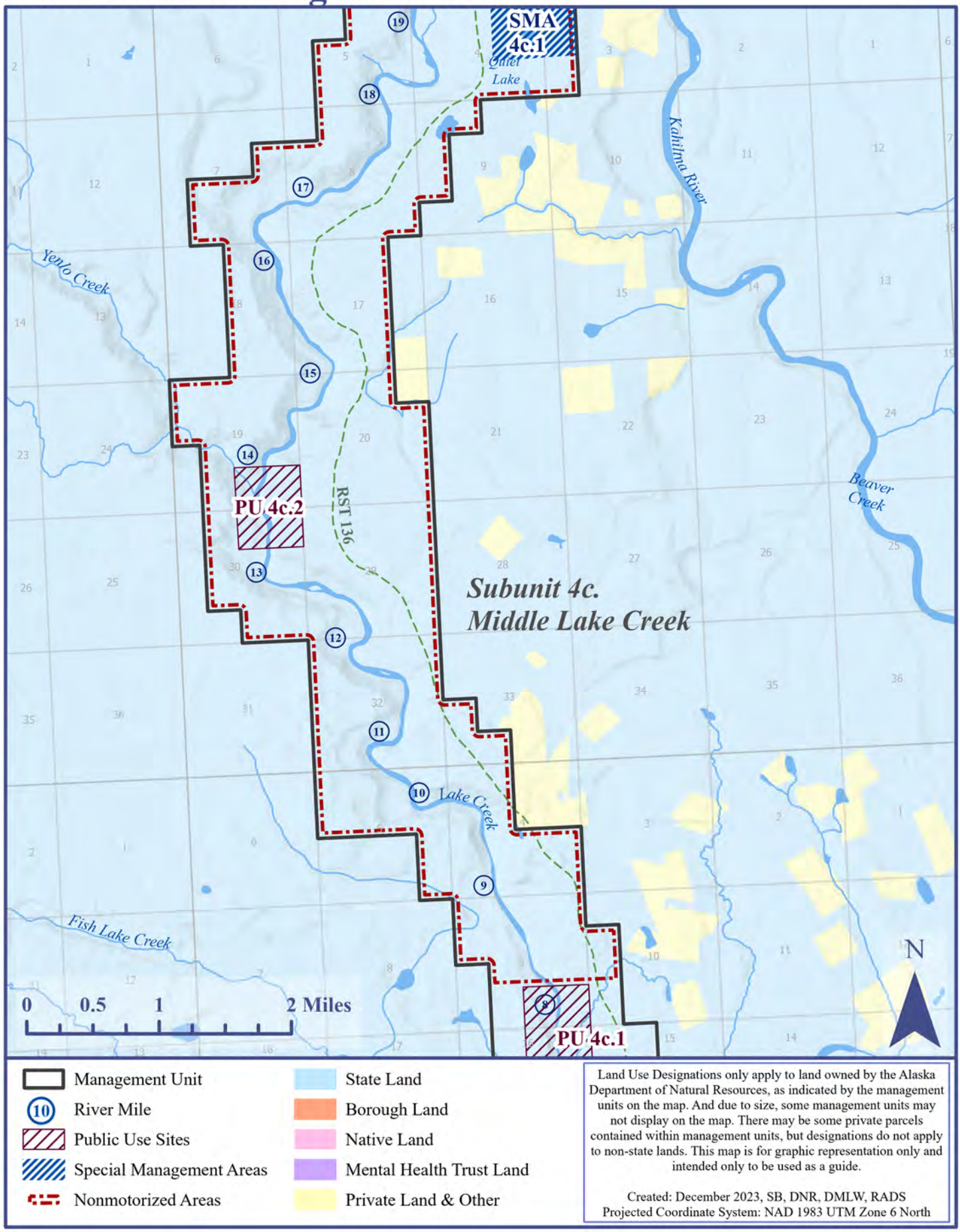
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

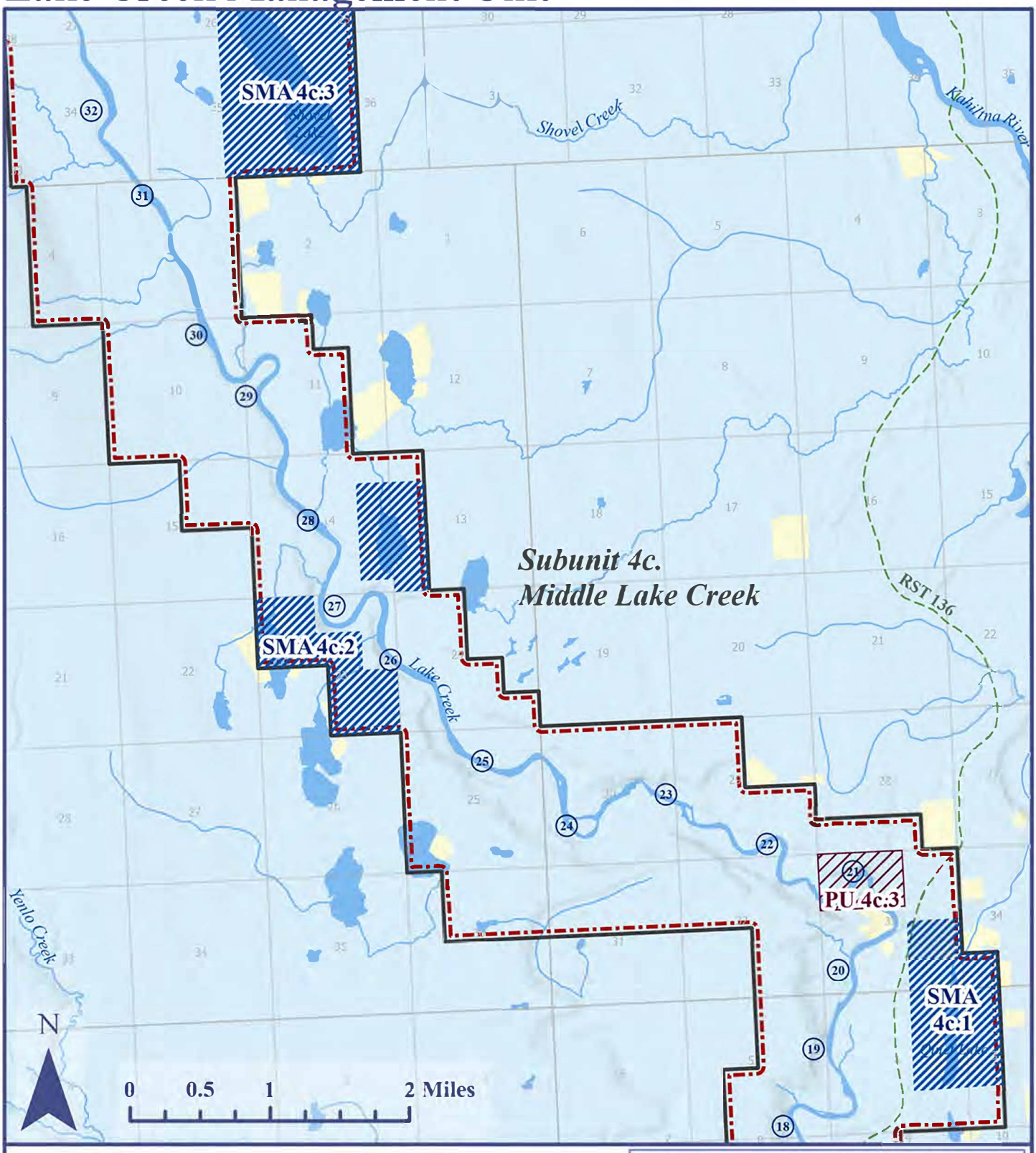
Lake Creek Management Unit

MAP 2



Lake Creek Management Unit

MAP 3



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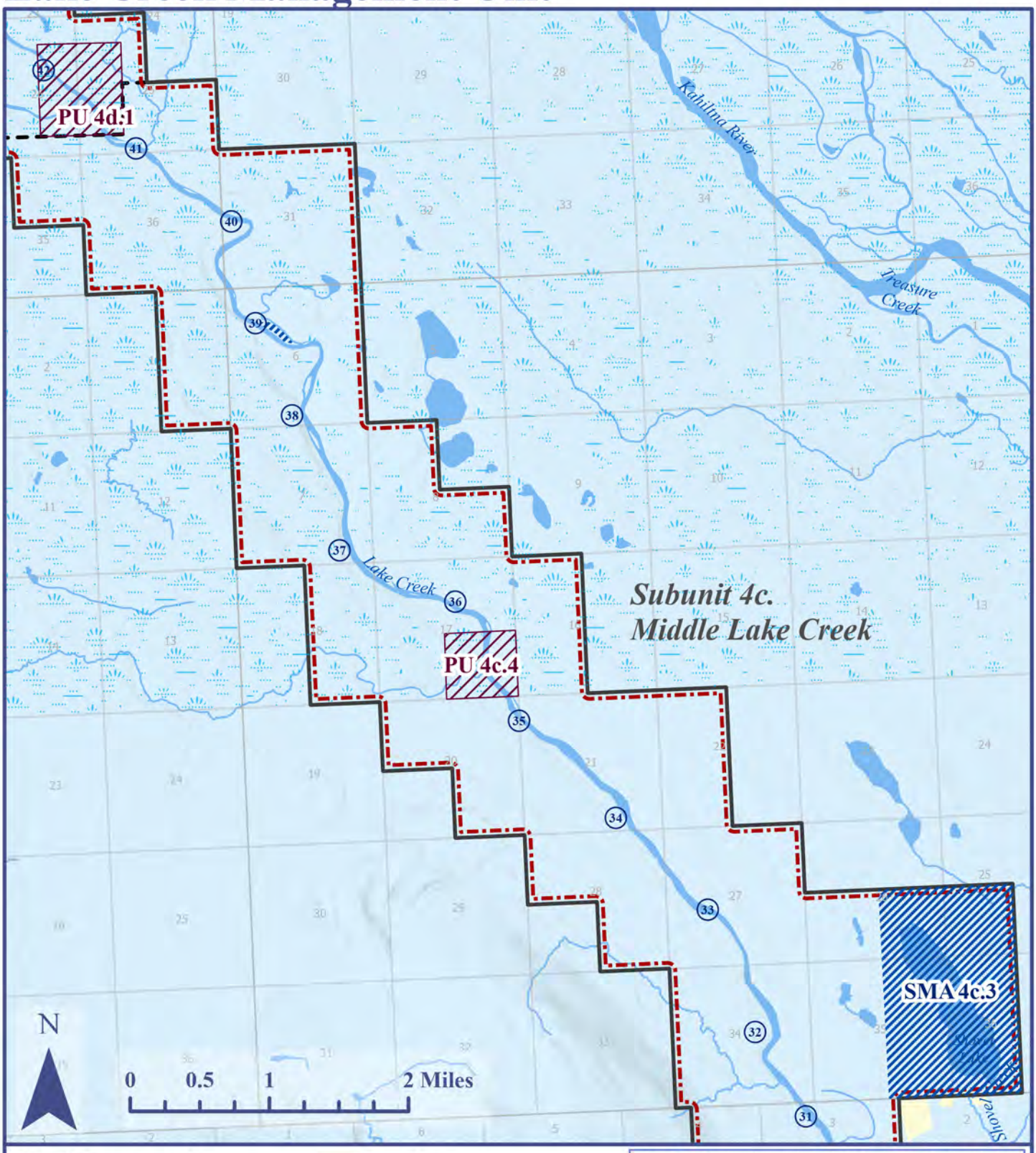
Created: December 2023, SB, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

Lake Creek Management Unit

MAP 4



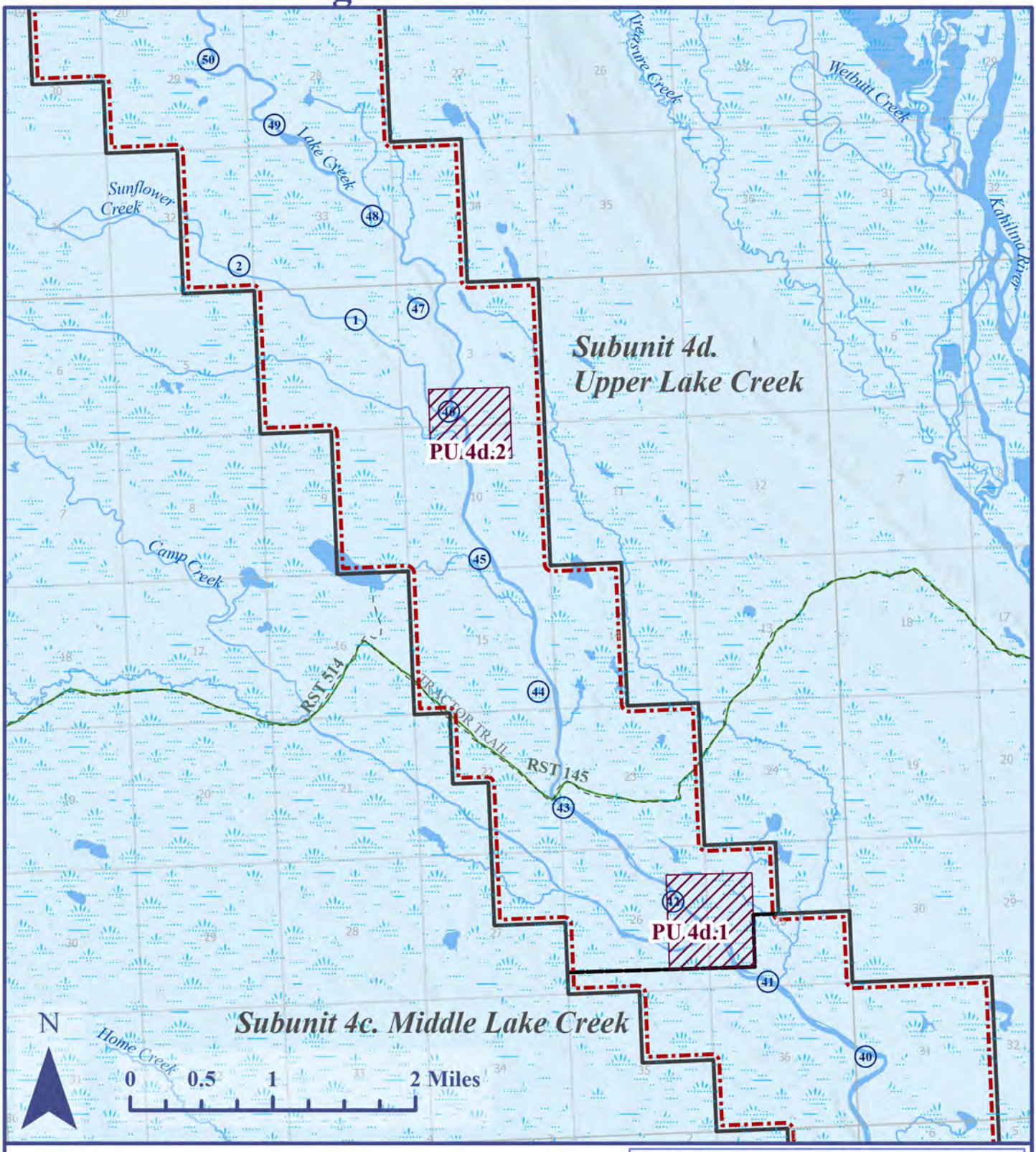
- Management Unit
- River Mile (10)
- Public Use Sites
- Special Management Areas
- Nonmotorized Areas
- State Land
- Borough Land
- Native Land
- Mental Health Trust Land
- Private Land & Other

Land Use Designations only apply to land owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on the map. And due to size, some management units may not display on the map. There may be some private parcels contained within management units, but designations do not apply to non-state lands. This map is for graphic representation only and intended only to be used as a guide.

Created: December 2023, SB, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

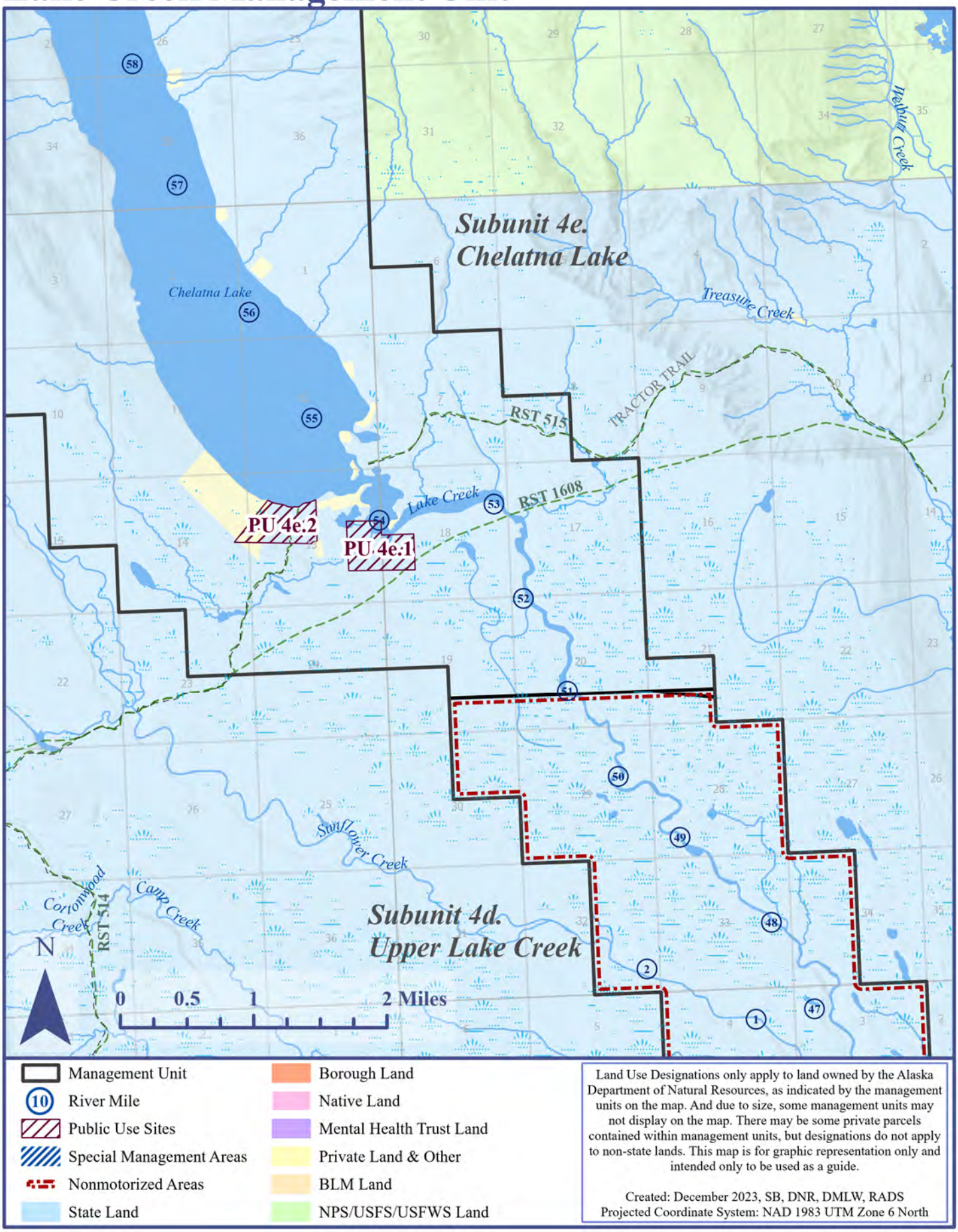
Lake Creek Management Unit

MAP 5



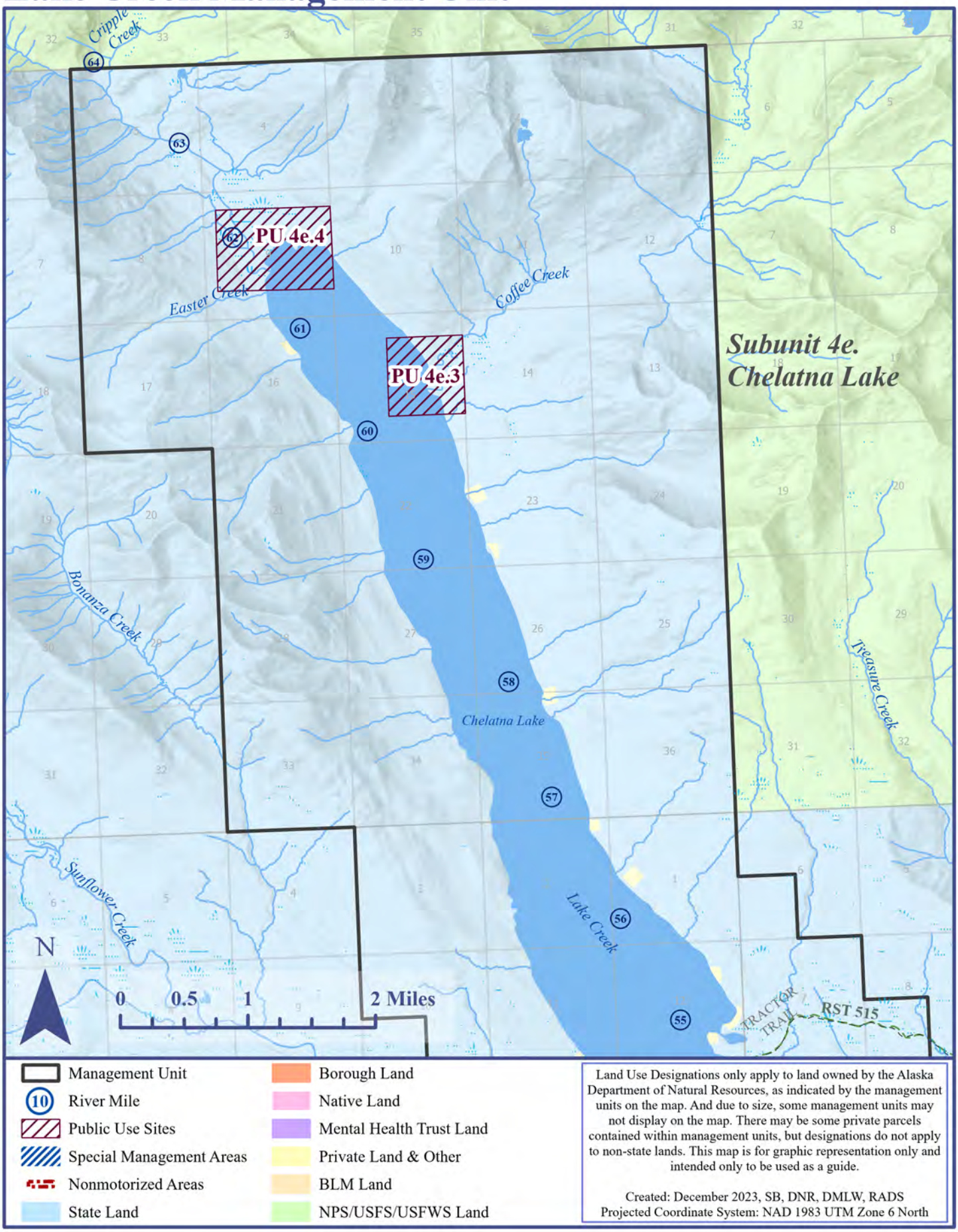
Lake Creek Management Unit

MAP 6



Lake Creek Management Unit

MAP 7



5. Talachulitna River Management Unit

5. Talachulitna River Management Unit

Background

Miles of River

This unit includes 64.5 miles of the Talachulitna River and 22 miles of Talachulitna Creek.

Land Ownership

State	51,734 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	917 acres
Private & Other	147 acres
Total	**52,798 acres**

River Characteristics

The Talachulitna River begins in the Beluga Mountains and runs 65 miles to join the Skwentna River. Talachulitna Creek is the main tributary of the Talachulitna River. The lower half-mile of the following major tributaries are also included in the Recreation River: Grayling, Friday, Deep, and Thursday creeks. The management unit also includes about 3 miles of the Skwentna River. Important lakes include Judd, Talachulitna, and Wolf lakes. Multiple measurements were made from 1989 to 1992 and found discharges as low as 83 cfs in the winter as well as discharges that can exceed 2000 cfs in the summer.

The clear water of Talachulitna Creek, good views of the Alaska Range and Beluga Mountain, and the steep-walled canyon of the Talachulitna River make this unit very scenic. The limited number of man-made improvements detract only slightly from the visual character.

Fisheries

Species Present

Arctic grayling	Pink salmon
Chinook salmon	Rainbow trout
Chum salmon	Sockeye salmon
Coho salmon	

Chum, coho, and pink salmon begin spawning at the mouth, and reach as far up as RM 39, the confluence of Talachulitna Creek and Talachulitna River. Sockeye salmon mostly spawn in Judd Lake and also reach Talachulitna Lake. Chinook salmon migrate most of the way up the Talachulitna River, and as high as Judd Lake on Talachulitna Creek and to the

headwaters of the Talachulitna River. Rainbow trout and grayling are found throughout the management unit.

Sport Fishing

The peaks in recreation and fishing activity on the Talachulitna River correspond with the Chinook and coho salmon runs. These are approximately June 20 to July 4, and August 1 to August 21, respectively. The more popular fishing areas are the mouth, tributary junctions, the confluence with Talachulitna Creek, and the outlet of Judd Lake. Float trips from Judd Lake to the mouth are common for rainbow trout and Arctic grayling.

Special Regulations

The Talachulitna River is designated as a catch-and-release special management area for rainbow trout. Sport fishing is by unbaited, artificial lure, single hook only.

Development

There are four lodges operating along the river. Most private cabins and commercial lodges are around Judd Lake, at RM 20, and near the mouth. Water-dependent improvements such as docks, stairs, and storage sheds are associated with most of these lodges and cabins. There is one private airstrip near the mouth.

Wildlife

Moose

Moose are generally distributed throughout the unit. Fall moose hunting occurs along the upper and middle reaches of the unit. There are significant fall concentrations of moose in the upper reaches of the Talachulitna Creek below Judd Lake. Hunters fly in and float the river to a lower pick-up point.

Bear

Guided brown and black bear hunting occurs along the upper river. During the salmon spawning season, black bear concentrate on the Talachulitna River between the confluence with the Skwentna River and Talachulitna Creek.

Bald Eagles

Bald eagle nests have not been observed in recent surveys. However, bald eagles are known to roost along the river and feed on salmon when available.

Trumpeter Swans

Trumpeter swans are known to nest within the corridor and have been documented in recent surveys. Lakes with suitable nesting habitat also occur adjacent to the corridor.

Hunting

The Talachulitna River and Creek are important for moose and bear hunting from Judd Lake to the Skwentna River confluence. Most of the hunting occurs from rafts or boats or from tree stands along the river.

Trapping

Trapping for beaver, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, otter, wolf and wolverine occur in the corridor during spring and winter seasons.

Subsistence

Residents of Skwentna utilize the area around the Talachulitna River for subsistence. There is a Tier II moose hunt within Game Management Unit 16B which takes place in an area encompassing the Talachulitna River. The area is also utilized for subsistence harvest of small mammals and furbearers as well as upland game.

Camping

The Talachulitna River receives mostly overnight use. Camps mostly occur at sites identified by the plan as the public use sites on the upper river. Camping is also common at the mouth.

Access

The river mouth is accessible to powerboaters traveling up the Skwentna River, and by floatplanes and wheelplanes. The airstrip is in private ownership. ORV use is primarily by private landowners. The middle river is accessible by floatplanes, wheelplanes, and powerboats. Judd Lake supports frequent floatplane traffic associated with lodges and float trips. Small jets boats are also used on the lake and along the river. Float trips typically start at Judd Lake and end at RM 19 or at the Skwentna River. Travel within the corridor by helicopter also occurs. Winter travel is limited primarily to local residents because of the area’s distance to the railbelt.

Management Guidelines for the Unit

Boating Restrictions

1.	*Non-motorized area*	Talachulitna Creek mouth to exit of Judd Lake (RM 0.0-17.1)
	Season:	June 15 - August 20.
	Justification:	This segment is rarely used by powerboaters. This river segment provides high quality float trips. This restriction will protect high quality float trips from future technologies which could allow powerboat access, resulting in conflicts. Restrictions were not proposed for the mouth or the middle portion of the Talachulitna River because of frequent use by powerboats and private property. The Talachulitna River above the forks has no restrictions because it is used infrequently by powerboaters but is inaccessible to floaters.
2.	*Non-motorized area*	From the Talachulitna River confluence with Thursday Creek to Hell's Gate (RM 9.0 to 18.0)
	Season:	June 15 - August 20.
	Justification	See justification above.

5a. Mouth of Talachulitna River Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 0 to RM 2.8

This reach extends from the confluence of the Talachulitna and Skwentna rivers to the bottom of the Talachulitna River canyon. The river here is from 75 to 120 feet wide. Upland areas contain few wetlands: 10 percent contiguous, and 5 percent non-contiguous. The subunit also includes 3 miles of the Skwentna River.

Land Ownership

State	2,649 acres
Private & Other	70 acres
Total	**2,719 acres**

Fisheries

This is a very popular fishing area.

Wildlife

Bears concentrate near the mouth during the summer. Active bald eagle and trumpeter swan nests have not been sighted in recent surveys in this subunit.

Development

Private cabins are located near RM 3 and RM 0.4. ADF&G has a cabin on the east side of the river at RM 0.5. There are various improvements along the river associated with the lodges including steps, ramps, equipment storage, and platforms. They are particularly prevalent on the east side of the river where banks are steep and improvements were needed to access private uplands. Boats are stored adjacent to each lodge. The US Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a gauging station on the Skwentna River. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources has also installed a temporary river gauge near the mouth. Boats are stored by the public at the mouth of the Talachulitna River and at the mouth of Shell Creek. Floatplanes have established primitive tie-ups on a beach on the north side of the Skwentna River near the USGS gauging station.

Access

There are several local foot trails associated with the lodges and cabins, including trails connecting lodges on either side of the Talachulitna River. There is one private airstrip near the river mouth that is not open to the public. The other landing area is on a bar at the mouth of Shell Creek at low water. Floatplanes also land adjacent to the USGS gauging station on the Skwentna River and near the mouth of the Talachulitna River. In the winter, the mouth of the river is used primarily by local residents for snowmachining. Recreation use is low because of its distance from Skwentna and the railbelt.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential is high because several ancient house pits have been found in the area.

Other Activities

There are some mining claims on the north side of the Skwentna River outside of the river corridor.

Management Intent

Class II. Because of its relatively remote setting, this subunit receives only moderate use by recreationists during the snow-free seasons. This subunit features high quality bank and boat fishing for lodge-based users and powerboat users in a scenic, natural setting. The area also features camping opportunities and important take-out points for float trips. The area has

some development with a few commercial recreation lodges located to take advantage of the remote, wilderness setting of adjacent areas. This subunit receives higher use than other areas along the Talachulitna River. The subunit contains salmon spawning and moose wintering habitat. It will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Iditarod National Historic Trail. The primary trail and a connecting trail passes through this subunit paralleling the north side of the Skwentna River. See guidelines in Chapter 2, *Heritage Resources, Iditarod National Historic Trail.*

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 5a.1 **Skwentna Canyon (USGS Gaging Station).** A small bar across from this station on the Skwentna River is frequently used by floatplanes to pick up floaters. The river adjacent to the site is straight and deep, and some pilots prefer landing there rather than at the mouth of the Talachulitna River. ADNR is working to organize a boat storage area at this site.

PU 5a.2 **Mouth of the Talachulitna River** (RM 0.0). This site is frequently used for fishing and camping. During late season when the river is low, the banks and trails along the banks are frequently used because the river is too low to navigate. Multiple lodges are located upstream of site.

PU 5a.3 **Exit of Canyon** (RM 2.9). This site is used by people who walk and boat up from the river mouth and from lodges.

5b. Talachulitna River Canyon Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 2.8 to RM 18.3

This subunit extends the length of the Talachulitna River canyon. The channel width is 40 to 60 feet, and the current is relatively swift. The uplands include steep hillsides and cliffs. Less than five percent of the subunit is wetlands.

Land Ownership

State	10,688 acres
Private & Other	5 acres
Total	**10,693 acres**

Wildlife

Black bears concentrate along the river throughout this subunit during salmon season. Bald eagle nests have not been observed in recent surveys. Trumpeter swans and their young have been observed in recent surveys of the subunit.

Camping

The canyon is a frequent overnight stop-over point for float trips. However, there are fewer campsites than on the upper segments, because of the steep walls of the canyon.

Access

There is one off-road vehicle trail in this subunit around Dog Lake (RM 5). There is also a foot trail from Lake 430' (RM 3) to the river at RM 2.8. Because of the Class III rapids, boat use is primarily by raft or kayak. Dog Lake (RM 5) is used by floatplanes. A lake at RM 3, adjacent to the subunit, is used by floatplanes to access private cabins. A small landing area at RM 6.8 is used to access private land and fishing areas. Helicopters are also used for access within this subunit.

Management Intent

Class I. Because of its remote setting and difficult access, this subunit receives only moderate use by floaters during the snow-free season. This subunit features scenic floating, fishing, and camping opportunities. There is also potential for an adventurous powerboating opportunity during periods of high water. The area is remote, undeveloped, and has important wilderness, and fish and wildlife values. Two sets of Class II-III rapids enhance risk values associated when floating the river. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities and fisheries values while protecting the primitive qualities of the area. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management attention. Social interaction levels will also be managed for low encounters to protect the quality of users' experiences. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. There are seasonal motor restrictions in the southern part of this subunit to provide a nonmotorized experience.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. See management guidelines for the Talachulitna River Management Unit described earlier in this section.

Landing Area in Canyon. A large gravel bar at RM 6.8 is used by wheelplanes for landing. This landing area should remain unimproved and continue to be available for wheelplane access.

Standards for Interaction Impacts. The non-motorized sections of the Talachulitna Creek and Talachulitna Canyon subunits have seen an increase in use levels in recent years due to opportunities to fish for Chinook salmon and improved access via helicopter. They also offer one of the most remote, wilderness-oriented float trips in the planning area. The cost, logistics, and technical skill required to float the river limits use to experienced whitewater floaters. Among these users, there is strong consensus about the type of experience offered on Talachulitna Creek and in the canyon, the impact levels acceptable for that experience, and the need for a permit system if impacts rise above those defined levels.

Key indicators for the type of experience desired by these floaters include camp encounters (or camp sharing – the percentage of nights camping within sight or sound of another party) and river encounters (the number of other parties seen on the river). Users define the Talachulitna as a remote, wilderness-like, whitewater float trip. Excessive river and camp encounters would detract from this experience.

In order to provide for the type of experience Talachulitna floaters currently receive and prefer, prescribed standards for these impacts are:

1. No camp encounters on Talachulitna Creek (Subunit 5d) and in Talachulitna Canyon (Subunit 5b).
2. Less than three river encounters per day in the above two subunits.

Monitoring these impacts, and establishing a relationship between them and use levels, can be administratively difficult. However, through a monitoring program, it is possible to generate the necessary information.

At current use levels, these standards are rarely exceeded. However, if use increases, competition may be anticipated in the future. If this occurs, and the users are forced to share camps or more than three groups per day on more than twenty percent of trips, a use limit system may be developed and implemented.

Voluntary Trip Scheduling Program. For most users, current use levels do not cause impacts greater than the standards described above. However, a minority of trips experience greater impact levels than users consider acceptable, particularly at public use sites. If use increases, this problem could continue until a use limit is developed. To prevent the mandatory trip scheduling associated with a use limit, a voluntary trip scheduling program

administered by ADNR may be implemented for the Talachulitna Canyon (Subunit 5b) and Talachulitna Creek (Subunit 5d) before limits are implemented.

Commercial and private trip leaders will be encouraged to register proposed trips as soon as they have been planned. ADNR will maintain a list and notify trip leaders when more than one trip has been scheduled for the same day (experience indicates that paired launches result in unacceptable impacts). It will be the trip leaders' responsibility to reschedule or otherwise alter trips if they so desire.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 5b.1 **Landing Area** (RM 6.8). The natural gravel bar at this site is flat and frequently used by pilots as a landing strip. The landing area should continue to be available for public use. This site is at the same location as SMA 5b.1.

PU 5b.2 **Thursday Creek Junction** (RM 9). This site receives high public use for camping and fishing. It is a well-known destination point for float trips down the river.

PU 5b.3 **Deep Creek Junction** (RM 14). This site receives high public use for camping and fishing. It is a well-known destination point for float trips down the river.

PU 5b.4 **Friday Creek Junction** (RM 16). This site receives high public use for camping and fishing. It is a well-known destination point for float trips down the river.

PU 5b.5 **Fishing Hole** (RM 16.5). This site includes a popular fishing hole.

PU 5b.6 **Hell's Gate** (RM 18). This rapid is usually portaged all season because of the large, narrow drop. The site is highly scenic with high walls and large rapids. A portage trail follows the west bank. Floaters camp both above and below the drop. Powerboaters tie up just above the drop and walk down to Friday Creek to fish.

Special Management Area

See *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on the map at the end of this unit.

SMA 5b.1 **Primitive Landing Area** (RM 6.8). This area includes a primitive landing area used by wheelplanes to access private land and by the public to access fishing areas. Extensive camping also occurs in the area. The Special

Management Area will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area management intent and guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate uses associated with private lands in the SMA while providing for and enhancing public recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat.

5c. Middle Talachulitna River Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 18.3 to RM 32.5

This subunit extends from the top of the canyon up to the junction of the Talachulitna River and Creek. The river is winding and slower-moving, with oxbow sloughs. The river here is 40 to 60 feet wide. Contiguous wetlands encompass less than 5 percent of the corridor below RM 20, and about 50 percent from RM 20 to RM 32.5. Several oxbow lakes are adjacent to the river.

Land Ownership

State	8,195 acres
Private & Other	24 acres
Total	**8,219 acres**

Wildlife

Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit. Several trumpeter swan and their young have been observed along the river corridor and on the oxbow lakes and sloughs. High concentrations of black bears occur along the river during salmon season.

Development

A few private cabins are located at the midpoint (RM 20). There is also a commercial lodge located on state land under lease near this location. Lodge and cabin owners store boats and boat-related equipment along the river.

Access

Most of the trails in the subunit are in the immediate vicinity of the existing lodge and cabins. They are used to access the river, a primitive landing area, woodlots, and adjacent cabins. There are also trails used in the winter by local residents that parallel the river. Fishermen also walk up tributaries on primitive trails or on river bars. Just downstream of the midpoint lodge is a floatplane landing area (RM 19). Some floaters from Judd Land end their trip here.

Boats and floatplanes are stored at the south end of this floatplane landing area. Powerboats are used to shuttle clients and local residents upstream to the cabins and lodges. During high water, floatplanes can taxi and land in front of the lodge. There is also a private airstrip in a swamp behind the lodge used by the lodge owner. In addition, the lodge uses a helicopter and stores it between the lodge and the river. Hiline Lake (adjacent to and east of the corridor) is used by floatplanes to access private land around the lake.

Winter access is mostly by local residents who live at the midpoint of the river. There is some trapping in the winter. Residents on adjacent lakes such as Trinity and Hiline lakes also use snowmachines. In the past heavy equipment has been transported to Coal, Friday, and Saturday creeks.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential is high for this area.

Other Activities

Timber has been harvested adjacent to all the cabins and the lodges at the midpoint for house logs, firewood, and milled wood.

Management Intent

Class I. Because of the overlapping use between floaters and powerboaters, this subunit receives higher use than adjacent subunits. This subunit features high quality fishing and camping opportunities for floaters and lodge-based powerboaters. The area is moderately developed with commercial lodges located to take advantage of the remote, primitive setting. The subunit contains important salmon spawning habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. While existing development at moderate levels is consistent with this intent, new development on state lands will be minimized. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit. The management intent for the special management area location in this subunit is described below.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None

Boat Storage. A public boat storage area should be designated near the cluster of private land in this subunit and the floatplane landing area at RM 19. See *Shoreline Development, Boat Storage* in Chapter 2.

Special Management Area

See *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on the map at the end of this unit.

SMA 5c.1 **Private Lands** (RM 20). There are several private parcels and a state lease with a commercial lodge in this area. Floatplanes, wheelplanes, and helicopters land in the area. There are also a number of boats and planes moored on the banks in the summer. The Special Management Area (SMA) will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. This area will be managed to accommodate uses associated with private lands in the SMA while providing for and enhancing recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Public Use Sites

PU 5c.1 **Grayling Creek Junction** (RM 25.5). This site is a frequent destination point for floaters and powerboaters. The site is a well-known fishing hole. There is a prominent, sheltered campsite nearby and gravel for campsites immediately downstream of the confluence.

PU 5c.2 **The Forks** (RM 32.5). This site is a popular destination point for floaters and powerboaters. The site is a well-known fishing hole. There is also a large gravel bar used for camping.

5d. Talachulitna Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, Talachulitna Creek, RM 0 to RM 17

This subunit extends from the confluence of Talachulitna Creek and the Talachulitna River, up Talachulitna Creek to a point just below Judd Lake. Talachulitna Creek is clear and shallow, and about 20 to 30 feet wide. The corridor contains about 60 percent contiguous wetlands and 5 percent non-contiguous wetlands.

Land Ownership

State	9,542 acres
Private & Other	5 acres
Total	**9,547 acres**

Fisheries

Chinook salmon fishing occurs within the subunit from mid-June through season closure in mid-July. Fishing for Coho salmon occurs mid-August through mid-September.

Wildlife

Trumpeter swans and their young have been observed along the river corridor and in ponds located in the subunit. Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

Development

There is an abandoned caterpillar on the south bank of the river at RM 7.0. This vehicle was being transported from upper Saturday or Friday Creek to upper Coal Creek when it broke down and was abandoned. There is one cabin on private land in this subunit on the north bank of the Creek at RM 6.8.

Access

Primitive trails exist from the lodge to points downstream. A loop trail has been cut on the north side of the river. There is evidence of heavy off-road vehicle use between the cabin at RM 6.8 and the cabins on the east side of Trinity Lakes. Off-road vehicle trails between RM 6 and RM 9 also parallel the river on the north side. Access within the subunit via helicopter has increased. Winter access to Trinity Lakes and Judd Lake is limited to snowmachines. Winter use is low but increasing and guided tours are being lead in this area onto Beluga Mountain. Some winter trapping and spring bear hunting occurs in the area.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential is high in this subunit.

Management Intent

Class I. Because of its remote setting, this subunit receives only moderate use by floaters who start their trips at Judd Lake and by bank fishermen who walk downstream from Judd Lake. This subunit features high quality floating, fishing, and camping opportunities. The area is remote, undeveloped, and has high wilderness and wildlife values. Sweepers and other hazards present risk values associated with floating the river. The river contains important spawning habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, wilderness, fish, and wildlife qualities of the area. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management attention. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. Social interaction levels will also be managed for low

levels to protect the quality of users' experiences. There are seasonal motorized restrictions in this unit to provide a non-motorized experience.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. See management guidelines for the Talachulitna River Management Unit described earlier in this section.

Standards for Interaction Impacts. See Subunit 5b, Talachulitna River Canyon.

Voluntary Trip Scheduling Program. See Subunit 5b, Talachulitna River Canyon.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 5d.1 **Trinity Creek Junction** (RM 4.5). This site is popular for fishing and camping.

PU 5d.2 **Unnamed Campsite** (RM 14). This site is frequently used for fishing and camping.

PU 5d.3 **Unnamed site** (RM 16.5). This site is a popular fishing area used by clients who walk down from the lodge on Judd Lake. ADF&G has a 4.99-acre parcel, which provides public access to the outfall of Judd Lake and the Talachulitna River.

5e. Judd Lake Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, Talachulitna Creek RM 17 to RM 22

This subunit includes Judd and Talachulitna lakes. Less than 10 percent of the area around the lakes is contiguous wetland.

Land Ownership

State	3,110 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	917 acres
Private & Other	43 acres
Total	**4,070 acres**

Fisheries

The Talachulitna Creek inlet and outlet on Judd Lake are popular fishing areas.

Wildlife

Trumpeter swans have been documented by USFWS near Talachulitna Lake and the surrounding wetlands. Bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

Camping

The most heavily used campsite is at the inlet to Judd Lake.

Development

There are nine cabins on Judd Lake. A lodge has a large dock, an airstrip and several other structures at the creek outlet. ADF&G manages 5 acres of land at the outlet of Judd Lake. This parcel is the location of an ADF&G cabin that it utilized during the operation of the Judd Lake weir. This parcel also provides public access.

Access

Judd Lake is accessible in summer by floatplane or via a private airstrip adjacent to the lodge. The lake is the primary put-in for float trips down the river. The lodge has brushed a foot trail from the west end of the lake along the creek to Talachulitna Lake. The lodge has also cut a loop trail that extends approximately two miles downriver. There are also foot trails around the lake associated with the private cabins and the lodge and some short foot trails associated with the sandy area at the inlet to the lake.

Heritage Resource

There are a couple known heritage sites in this subunit and the potential for more is high.

Management Intent

Class II. This subunit features high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities for lodge-based or airplane-based users in a scenic setting. The lake is also a staging point for Talachulitna River float trips. One lodge and a few private cabins sited in the lake area take advantage of the remote, primitive setting. Both Judd Lake and Talachulitna Lake contain salmon spawning habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Maintaining moderate levels of development in a natural environment will be the focus of management attention. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating restrictions. None.

Public Information. A kiosk which provides information on the Recreation Rivers may be established at a prominent location on Judd Lake. A sign may be established at the outlet of the lake identifying the Talachulitna River as a Recreation River.

Public Use Site

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 5e.1 **Judd Lake** (RM 18). Public lands near the inlet are a drop-off point for float trips. Most of the land directly surrounding the inlet is in private or borough ownership and is the location of a private cabin. The public use site is the shorelands and water column only directly south of the inlet and extends back along Talachulitna Creek to the west. The inlet is mostly wetlands. This site is also used for fishing.

5f. Upper Talachulitna River Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 32.5 to RM 64.5

The river in this subunit is shallow, meandering, and less than 20 feet wide. There are several beaver dams across the main channel. There is a narrow, steep gorge with a waterfall at RM 38. The terrain is flat to rolling except at its headwaters on the shoulder of Beluga Mountain. Thirty to 50 percent of the area is contiguous wetland.

Land Ownership

There are 17,550 acres of state land.

Wildlife

Trumpeter swan have been observed in recent surveys of this subunit. Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

Camping

The use of this subunit is limited with little access to the area. Moose hunters are known to camp at Wolf Lakes.

Access

There are off-road vehicle trails between RM 46 and RM 54, on the east and south sides of the river. The largest of the Wolf Lakes, at the headwaters of the river, is used by floatplanes during hunting season. This subunit is used for snowmachining by a local trapper and residents along the Talachulitna River. To the east is Beluga Mountain which prevents access from Alexander Creek.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit receives minimal summer public use because of its distance from the railbelt and has minimal boat or plane access. It is used infrequently by airplane-based hunters in fall and powerboat-based hunters during periods of high water. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Little active management is expected in this subunit. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

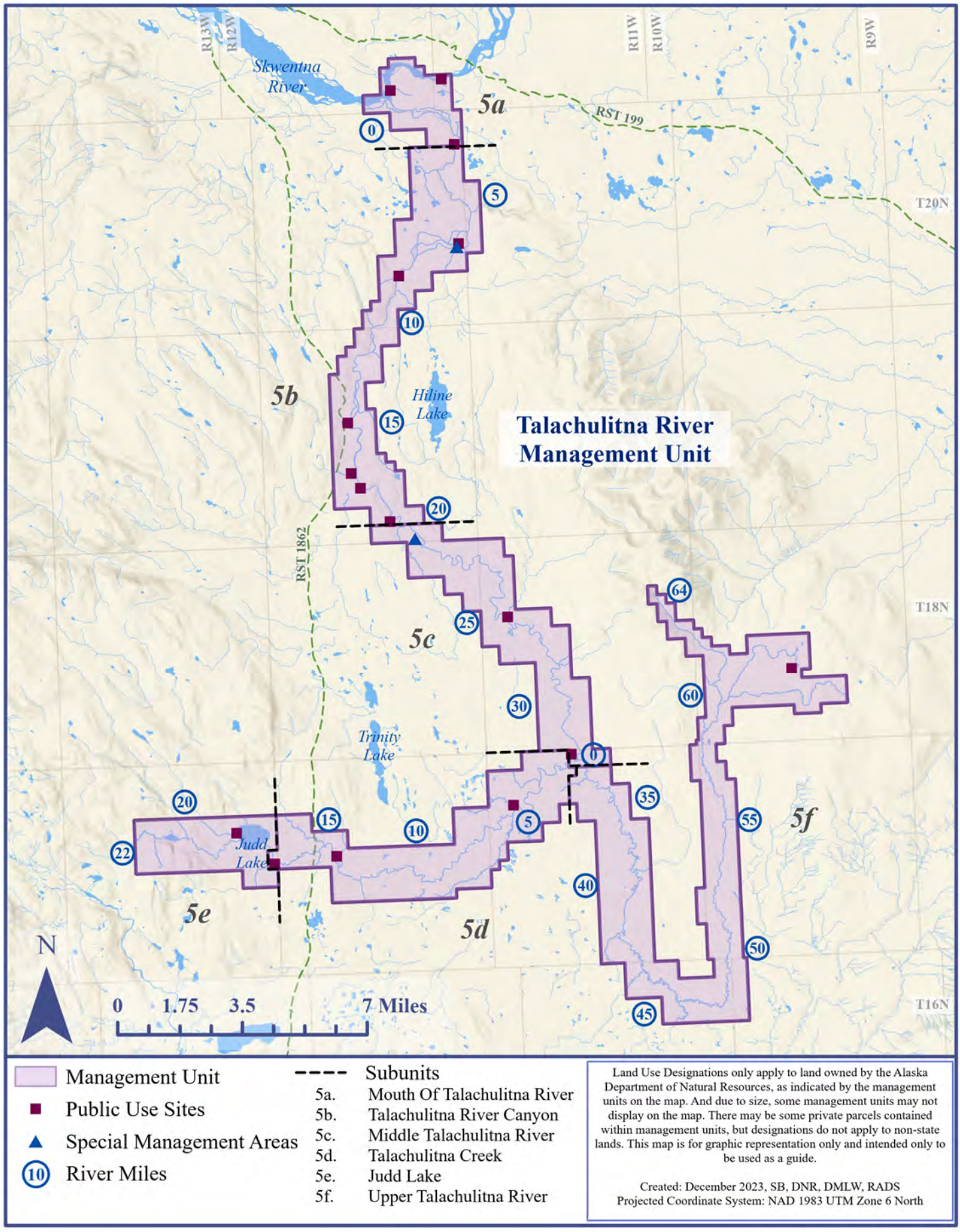
Boating Restrictions. None.

Public Use Site

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

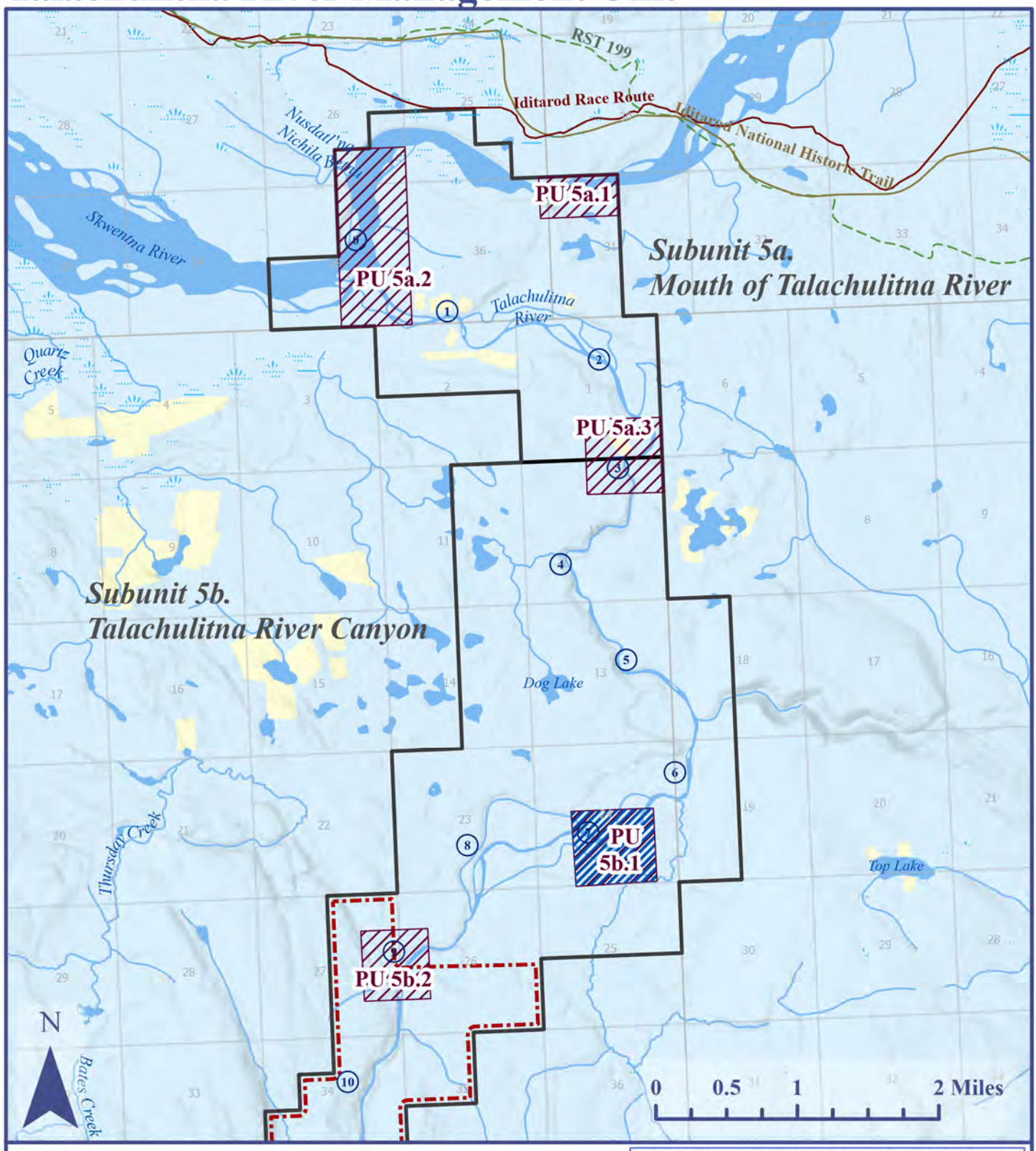
PU 5f.1 **Wolf Lakes** (RM 64). There are only a few campsites adjacent to the lakes. These are used during the moose hunting season.

TALACHULITNA RIVER



Talachulitna River Management Unit

MAP 1



- Management Unit
- River Mile
- Public Use Sites
- Special Management Areas
- Nonmotorized Areas
- State Land
- Borough Land
- Native Land
- Mental Health Trust Land
- Private Land & Other

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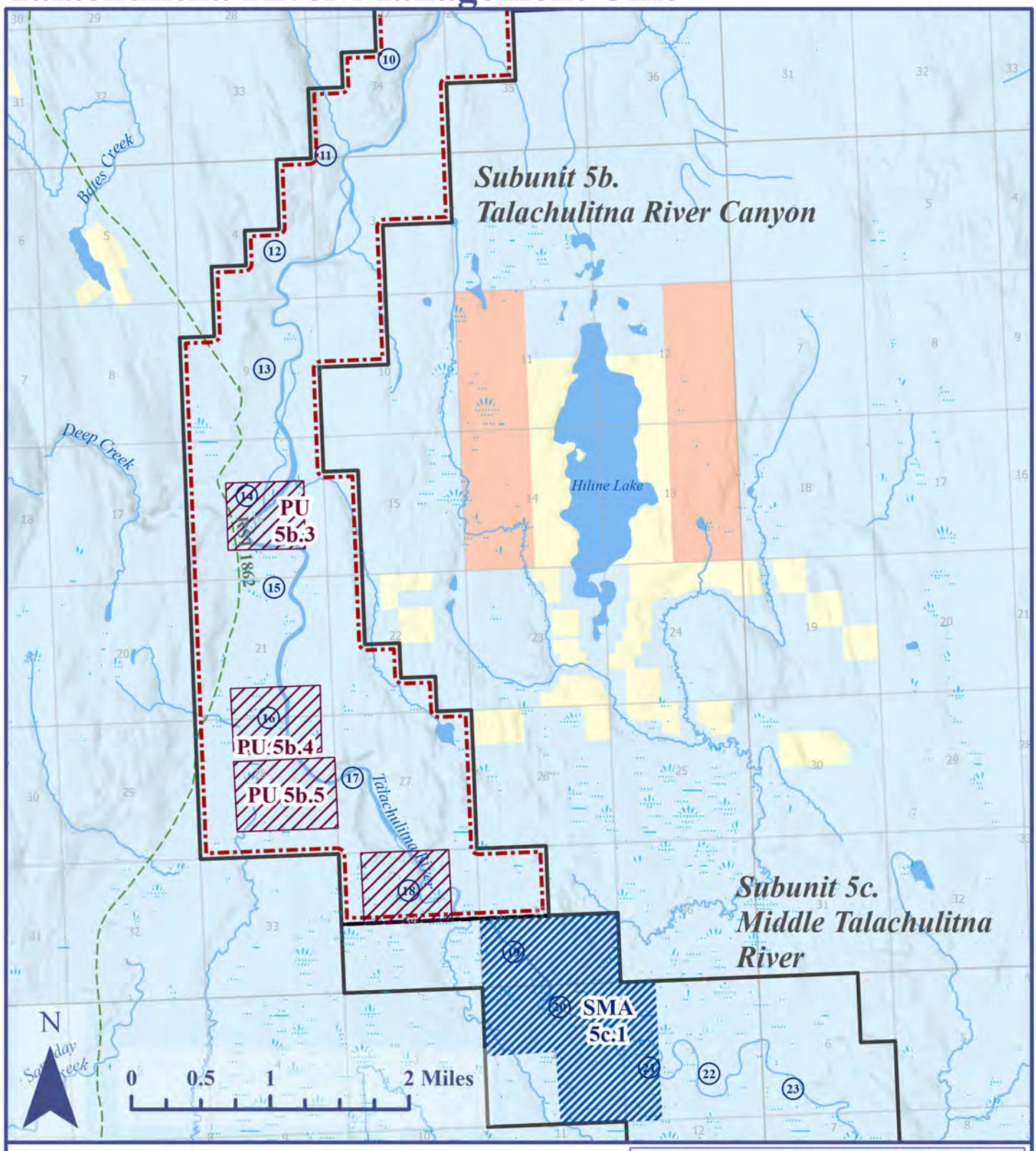
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North

Talachulitna River Management Unit

MAP 2



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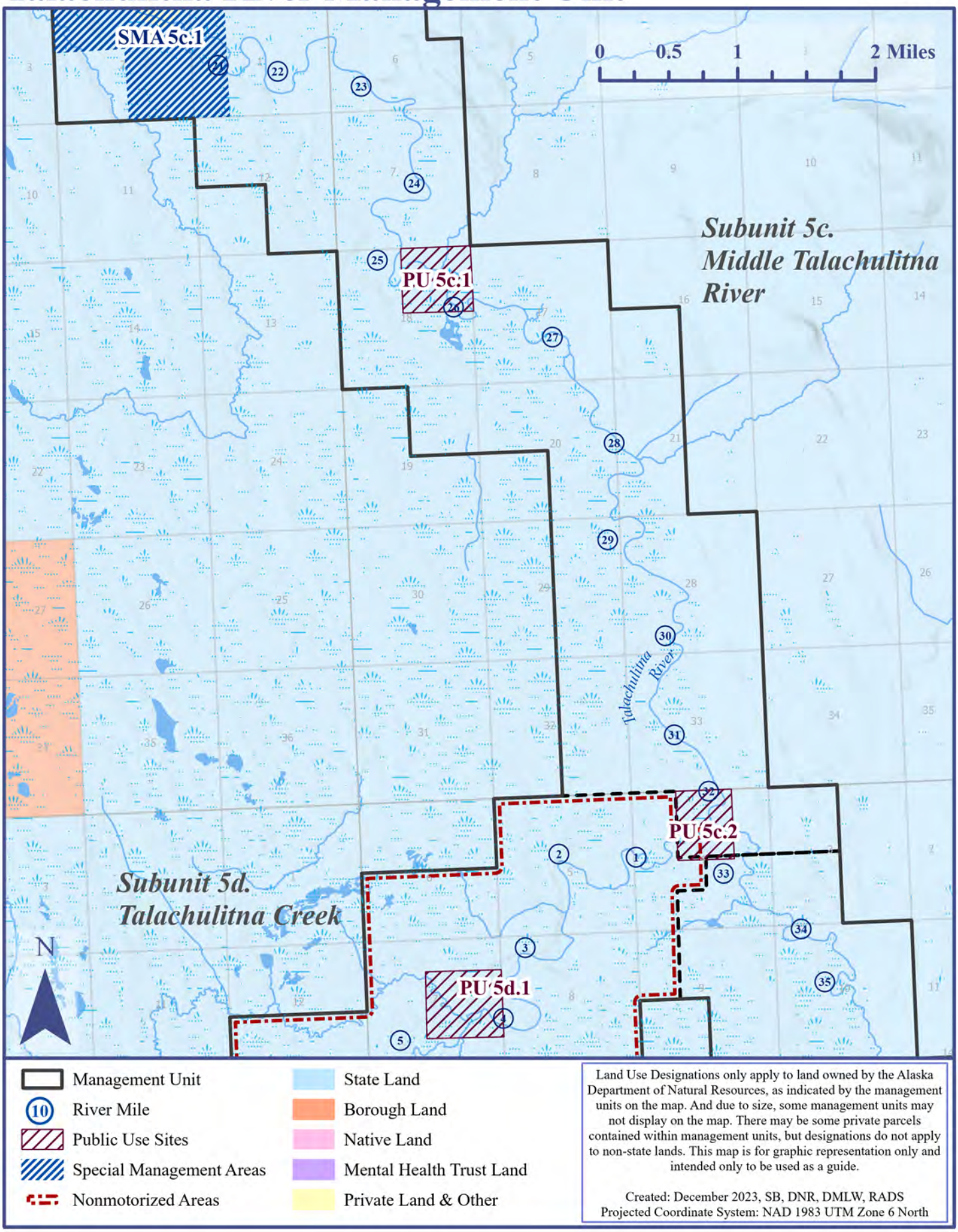
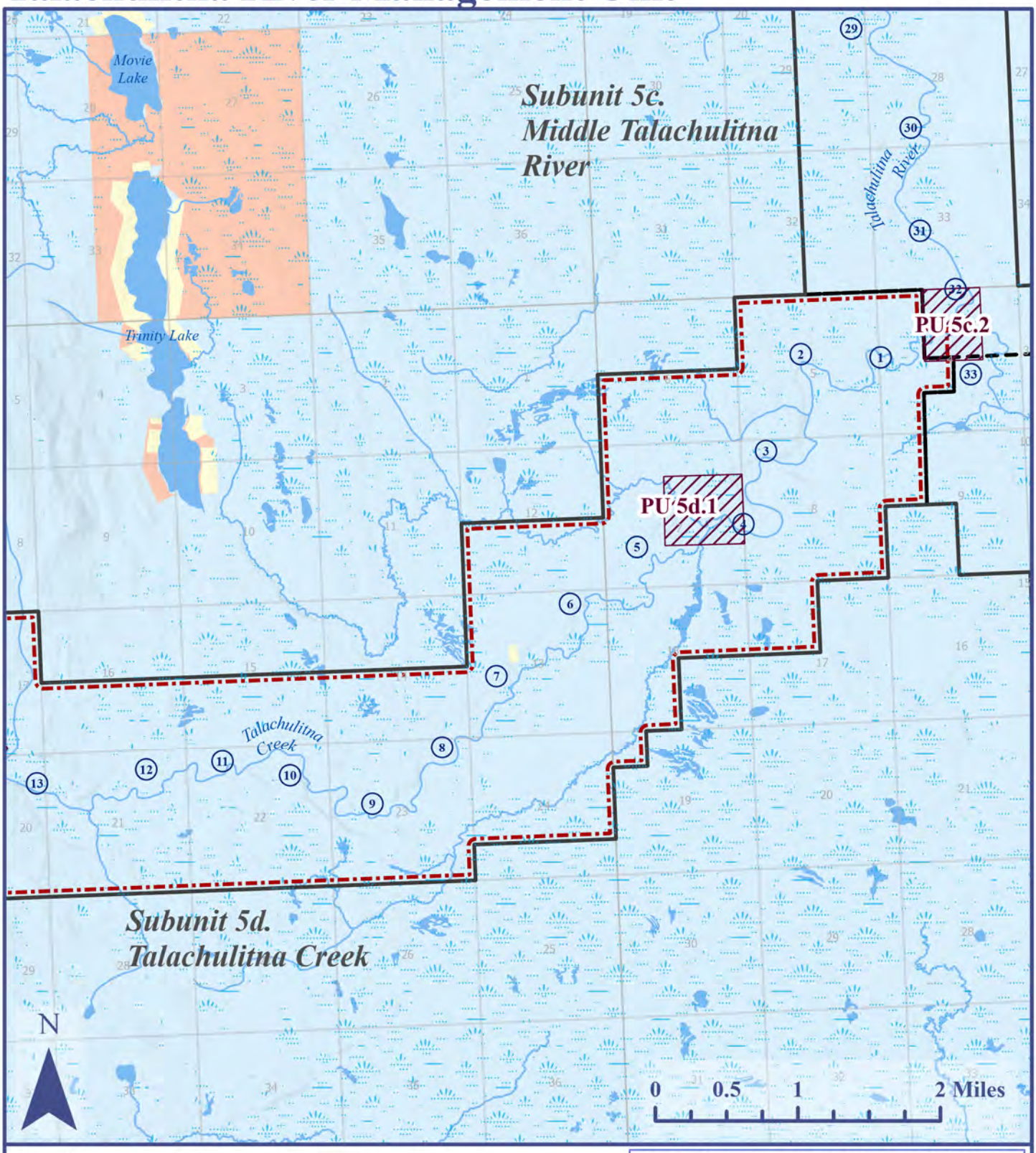
Talachulitna River Management Unit

MAP 3



Talachulitna River Management Unit

MAP 4



Management Unit
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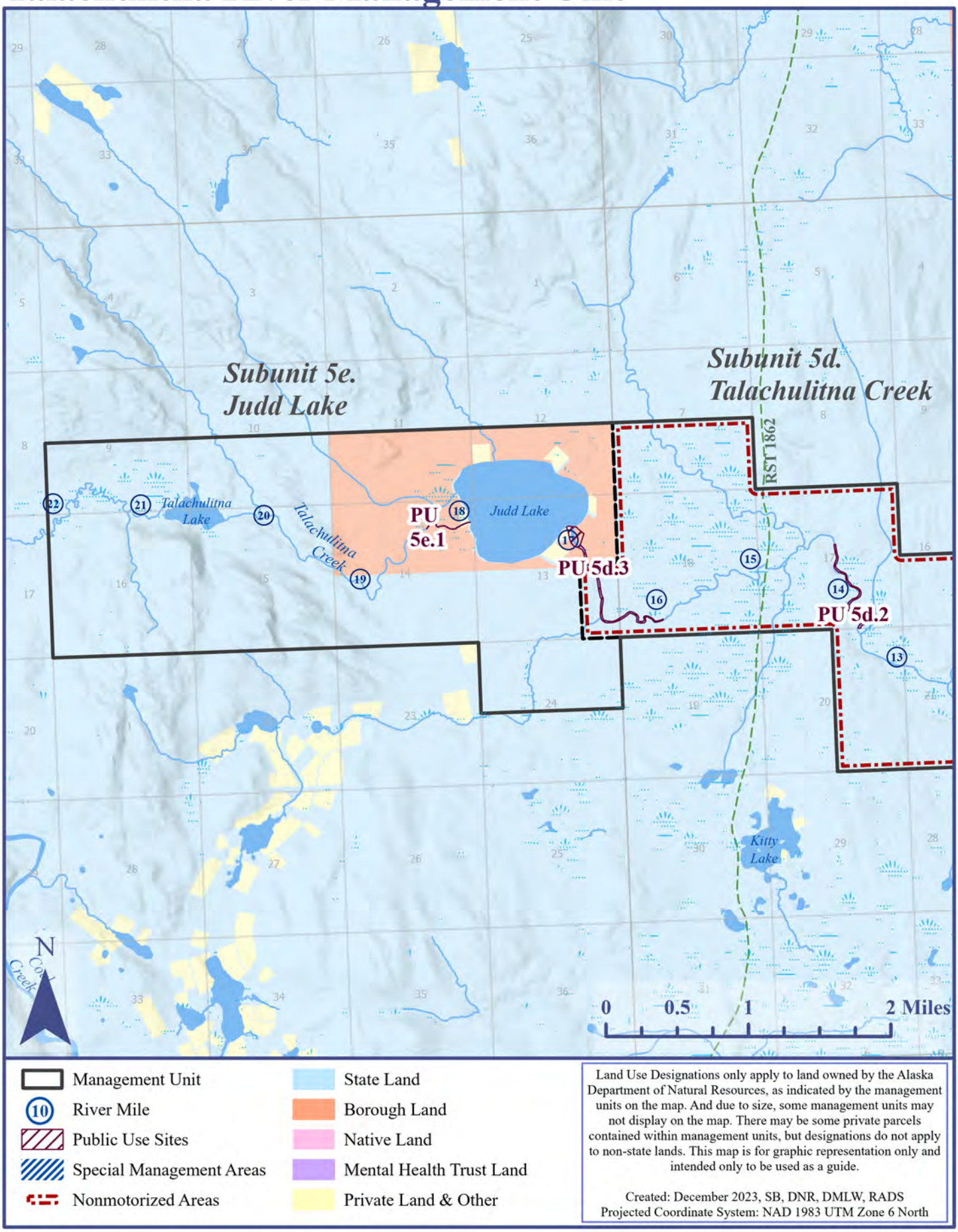
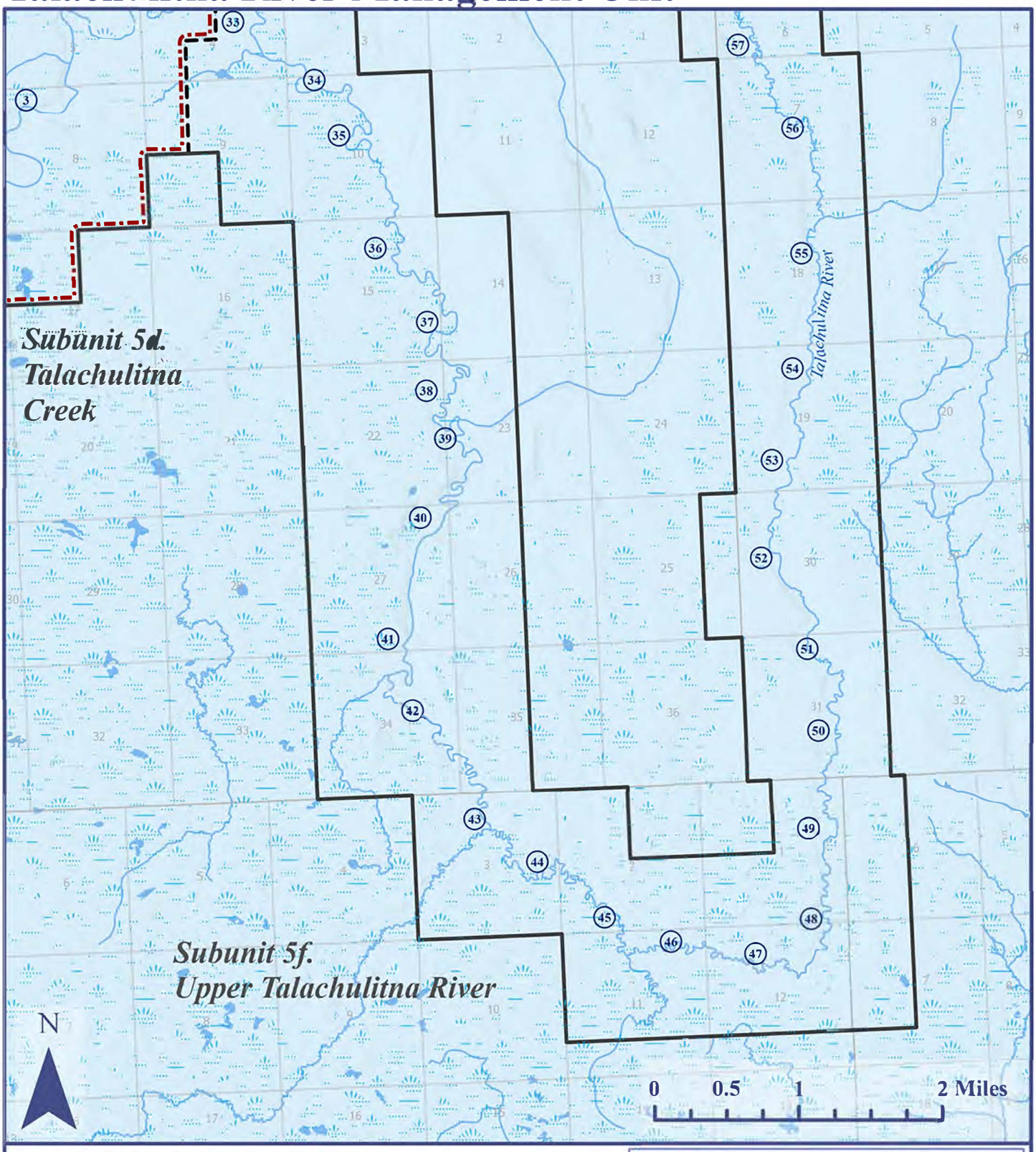
Talachulitna River Management Unit

MAP 5



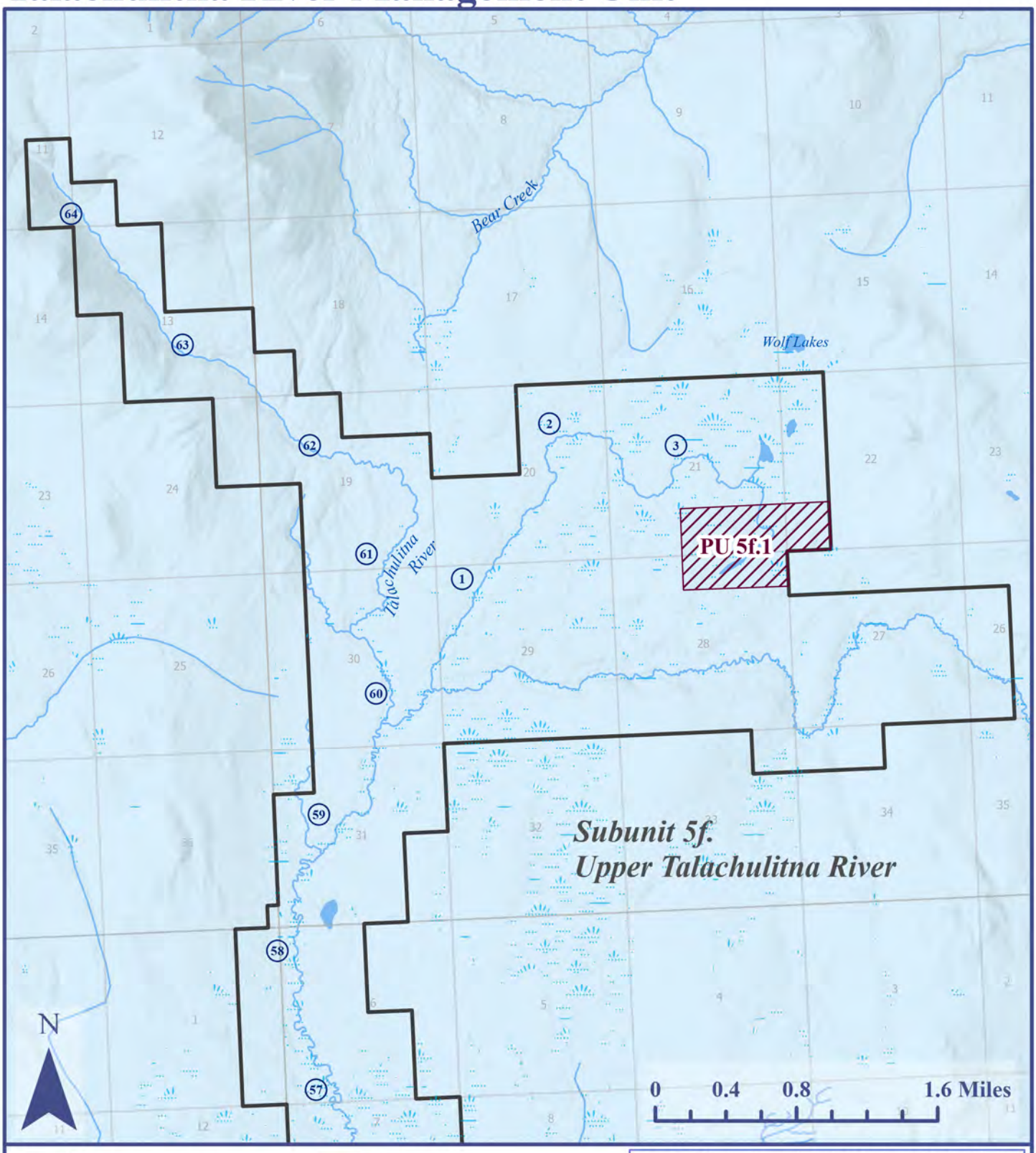
Talachulitna River Management Unit

MAP 6



Talachulitna River Management Unit

MAP 7



Management Unit
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6. Alexander Creek Management Unit

6. Alexander Creek Management Unit

Background

Miles of River

This unit includes 40.2 miles of Alexander Creek from RM 3.8 to RM 44.0. The unit also includes 5.5 miles of Sucker Creek.

River Characteristics

Alexander Creek is a slow, meandering stream that originates in Alexander Lake and flows south to the Susitna River. The creek temperature has been increasing over time and there has been an increase in vegetative growth. The terrain is generally flat to occasionally rolling. The management unit begins 3.5 miles above the confluence with the Susitna and extends up to Alexander Lake and the surrounding uplands. The lower 5 miles of Sucker Creek are also in the unit. The Alexander Creek channel is 1 to 5 feet deep and from 50 to 200 feet wide. Multiple measurements were taken from 1989 to 1992 with discharges ranging from 160 cfs to 473 cfs. Waters from a 100-year flood can cover a considerable area in sections of the upper and lower river because the river is slow moving and the surrounding area is relatively flat.

Around Alexander Lake the visual qualities are high with good views of the Alaska Range, including Denali. Downstream visual qualities are lower because views are confined by high banks and there are more man-made improvements.

Land Ownership

State	20,266 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	2,261 acres
Private & Other	411 acres
Total	**22,938 acres**

Fisheries

Species Present

Arctic grayling	Northern pike
Chinook salmon	Pink salmon
Chum salmon	Rainbow trout
Coho salmon	Sockeye salmon

All species of salmon are present throughout the management unit. The majority of Chinook, coho, and pink salmon spawn all along the river above RM 8. In addition, Sucker Creek and

its upper Wolverine Creek branch provide major spawning grounds for Chinook salmon. Small numbers of chum salmon have been observed by local residents in the vicinity of the mouth of Pierce Creek but the spawning area has not been documented by ADF&G. Northern pike are prolific throughout the drainage, heavily concentrated in Alexander Lake and side channel habitats.

Sport Fishing

The peak of fishing activity on Alexander Creek corresponds with the coho salmon run from approximately July 15 to August 25. The once popular Chinook salmon fishery has been closed since 2008 due to impacts from northern pike predation. Also, throughout the summer and particularly in the late summer, people fishing for Arctic grayling and rainbow trout is common. Popular fishing spots are the mouths of Pierce, Trail, and Sucker creeks. The most popular fishing area for salmon is at the mouth of Alexander Creek which is in the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge. Alexander Lake supports a popular fishery for northern pike during the winter and summer months.

Special Regulations

The whole of Alexander Creek has been designated special management waters for rainbow trout. Retention of rainbow trout is prohibited. Retention of Arctic grayling and Dolly Varden is also prohibited. Only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used upstream of a marker located 400 yards upstream of Trail Creek.

Wildlife

Moose

Winter densities of moose along Sucker Creek and the lower portions of Alexander Creek are very high. The extensive wetlands are important for moose calving in spring. Large numbers of moose summer on Mount Susitna and Beluga Mountain, and other adjoining areas.

Bear

Brown bear and black bear are distributed throughout the unit. Brown bear concentrate on the upper creek to feed on spawning salmon when available. Black bear concentrate on the lower creek during the same period. Both species of bear target moose calves as prey in May and early June.

Bald Eagles

Bald eagle nests have not been observed in recent surveys of the management unit.

Trumpeter Swans

Trumpeter swans have been observed along the corridor and adjacent lakes/ponds.

Hunting

Moose and bear hunting are very popular in this corridor during the fall. Alexander Creek receives some of the heaviest use by hunters of all the Recreation Rivers. The entire river is floatable and hunted from Alexander Lake to its confluence with the Susitna River. Hunters using power boats generally hunt the lower 20 miles.

Trapping

Recreational trapping for otter, muskrat, marten, mink, beaver, fox, coyote, wolf, and wolverine occurs in the corridor during spring and winter seasons.

Subsistence

Located in Game Management Unit 16B, this is an area that Susitna residents utilize for subsistence. Subsistence harvest may occur for moose and black bear, as well as birds and eggs, and plants and berries.

Invasive Species

Elodea

Elodea was first identified in Alexander Lake in 2014 and in Sucker Lake in 2016, and by 2018 both lakes were fully infested. The Alaska Division of Agriculture began implementing an eradication plan for the watershed in 2018.

Northern Pike

Alexander Creek was known for its run of Chinook salmon and was one of the most popular fisheries in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. However, due to heavy pike predation on juvenile Chinook salmon, minimum escapement hasn’t been met since 2005, and the fishery has been closed since 2008. It’s estimated that the Chinook salmon return in the Alexander watershed has been reduced 77% as a result of pike predation. Beginning in 2011, ADF&G began a northern pike suppression program where crews gillnet side sloughs in the spring, targeting northern pike. To date, ADF&G has removed over 30,000 northern pike from Alexander Creek. Unfortunately, Alexander Creek provides ideal habitat for pike, and Alexander Lake/Sucker Lake at the headwaters are completely dominated by northern pike.

Development

Most of the cabins on Alexander Creek are concentrated downstream of the planning area boundary, near the mouth of the creek. However, there are a number of cabins on the river below Trail Creek and around Alexander Lake. In the last 30 years, the number of recreational cabins has increased, however, there has been a decline in the number of residents that live along the corridor year-round. In addition, several lodges were once located along Alexander Creek but have since been closed.

Access

Most of the boat traffic on Alexander Creek is near the mouth which is outside the unit. Powerboats travel from Deshka Landing to access the creek. Alexander Creek is not as popular a rafting trip as it once was, though it is still floated. Most float trips begin at Alexander Lake and last 3 to 5 days. Both float- and wheel-planes land at several places in the unit, particularly at Alexander Lake. Airboats and jetboats are often taken up Alexander Creek to access Alexander Lake.

Management Guidelines for the Unit

Boating Restrictions

1.	*Non-motorized area*	Point just above Sucker Creek (RM 23.0) to a point just below exit of Alexander Lake (RM 38.3)
	Season:	May 15 - August 20.
	Justification:	This river segment provides non-motorized recreation opportunities. This river segment is so shallow that it is seldom used by powerboaters. The restriction ensures that the opportunities for non-motorized whitewater trips are maintained, regardless of technological changes which could allow powerboat use in the future. Restrictions do not cover the motorized trail along the outlet of Alexander Lake nor the area just above the Sucker Creek confluence that contains camping areas used by powerboaters and wheelplanes.
2.	*Safety Warning sign*	Mouth of Pierce Creek (RM 7.4).
	Season:	May 15 - August 20.
	Justification:	Above this point Alexander Creek is narrow, shallow, and winding. Several large boats have grounded above this point. A warning sign will be placed at this point warning large boats about hazards above Pierce Creek.

6a. Lower Alexander Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 3.8 to RM 19.8

This subunit extends from Granite Creek to just above the mouth of Sucker Creek. Alexander Creek is 50 feet wide, widening to 150 feet towards the downstream end of the subunit. Contiguous wetlands make up 20 percent of the area, non-contiguous another 10 percent.

Land Ownership

State	5,252 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	2,261 acres
Private & Other	316 acres
Total	**7,829 acres**

Wildlife

Lower Alexander Creek has some of the highest winter and spring densities of moose in the planning area. Active bald eagle nests and trumpeter swans have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

Development

The subunit includes many private recreational cabins with several year-round residents. One of these cabins is used commercially as a fishing lodge. Private landowners just west of the subunit use a trail and dock at RM 4.6 to access the creek. There are also numerous cabins outside the subunit around Otter and Weenie lakes.

Access

A prominent summer trail near RM 12 parallels Trail Creek for at least one mile. A section line on the east side of the subunit and parallel to the river is accessible in the summer and connects a block of private land at RM 5 with an airstrip. Another airstrip lies west of RM 18. There is a dock and major trail at RM 4.6 on the west side of the river that is used by private landowners west of the subunit.

There is extensive winter travel along Alexander Creek below Sucker Creek. Snowmachine use is by both recreational users and private property owners. The Beluga gas line from the Knik Road is used as a trail to access Alexander Creek in winter. Snowmachines also travel to lower Alexander Creek from the Iditarod race trail and from Deshka Landing. The Iditarod National Historic Trail runs through this subunit on a trail paralleling the river just west of Otter Lake.

Heritage Resources

There are several areas of known heritage sites in this subunit, and the potential for discovery of more is high due to historic subsistence use, and the proximity to the village of Alexander near the mouth.

Management Intent

Class II. Most recreation use in this subunit occurs during the coho salmon run. The once popular Chinook salmon fishery has been closed since 2008 due to impacts from northern pike predation. Also, throughout the summer and particularly in the late summer, people fishing for Arctic grayling and rainbow trout is common. Because of strong salmon runs and other sport fishing opportunities, relatively inexpensive air access from the railbelt, and the placid nature of the river, the subunit receives heavy use by both powerboaters and floaters. The subunit provides opportunities for boaters in a relatively remote, undeveloped setting. The subunit also contains salmon spawning and winter moose habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands. Some temporary camps will be allowed. Because of high public use, amount of private land, and the absence of state uplands, temporary camps will not be allowed below RM 4 if the mouth is added to the Recreation Rivers. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. The subunit will be managed to provide opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

No-wake Area. See management guidelines for the Alexander Creek Management Unit described earlier in this section.

Temporary Camps. Up to three temporary camps may be permitted in this subunit. They will not be authorized in public use sites nor below RM 4 if the river mouth is added to the Recreation Rivers.

Public Information. A sign should be placed at the south boundary of the Alexander Creek corridor identifying it as a Recreation River.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 6a.1 **Pierce Creek** (RM 7.4). This site is used for fishing and camping.

PU 6a.2 **Trail Creek** (RM 12.2). This site is used for fishing and camping. ADF&G has a seasonal weir camp at this location.

6b. Upper Alexander Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 20.1 to RM 38.3

The subunit begins above the mouth of Sucker Creek and extends to the south end of a trail downstream from Alexander Lake. The creek is 3 to 4 feet deep, and 20 to 50 feet wide. The water is generally clear above RM 25 but becomes silty below this point. The terrain is gently rolling. Contiguous wetlands cover about half of the area.

Land Ownership

There are 8,680 acres of state land in this subunit.

Wildlife

Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit. Trumpeter swans and their young have been observed.

Camping

There are numerous secondary and marginal campsites along the entire length of the subunit.

Development

There is a parcel under state lease at RM 33 on Rose Lake which contains cabins and docks used for a commercial guiding business.

Access

There is a short trail between Rose Lake and Alexander Creek. The lake is also used by floatplanes, often to drop off floaters. The Iditarod National Historic Trail crosses Alexander Creek near RM 21.5. Seismic lines along the river are also used for winter access. There are

extensive open bogs adjacent to the river that are used for snowmachining. Airboats are sometimes taken up the creek.

Heritage Resources

There are a few known heritage sites in this subunit and the potential for more is high.

Management Intent

Class I. Most recreation use in this subunit occurs during the coho salmon run. The once popular Chinook salmon fishery has been closed since 2008 due to impacts from northern pike predation. Because of fishing opportunities, relatively inexpensive air transportation from the railbelt, and the placid nature of the river, this subunit receives moderate use by floaters. Suitability for powerboat use is marginal because of low water volumes. The subunit provides float boat opportunities in a relatively remote, undeveloped setting. The area contains important winter moose habitat and supports salmon spawning. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, a primitive setting, and fish and wildlife habitat. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. With the exception of the Rose Lake special management area, the subunit will be managed to provide a non-motorized experience during the fishing season.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. See management guidelines for the Alexander Creek Management Unit described earlier in this section.

Iditarod National Historic Trail. The trail system parallels the river in this subunit between Otter Lake and Alexander Lake. See guidelines in Chapter 2, *Upland Access, Trails, Iditarod National Historic Trail* and *Iditarod Race Trail.*

Special Management Area

See *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on the map at the end of this unit.

SMA 6b.1 **Rose Lake** (RM 33). There is a parcel under state lease on the lake which contains cabins and docks used for a commercial guiding business. Floatplanes use the lake. The Special Management Area (SMA) will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area management intent and guidelines will apply. This area will be managed to accommodate uses associated with

existing state leases in the SMA while providing and enhancing recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat.

6c. Alexander Lake Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 38.3 to RM 44.0

Alexander Lake is about 2.5 miles long and 0.5 miles wide. The terrain around the lake is flat. Contiguous wetlands make up at least 90 percent of the area within the subunit. Well-drained sites are mostly in private ownership.

Land Ownership

State	5,007 acres
Private & Other	95 acres
Total	**5,102 acres**

Wildlife

In recent surveys, trumpeter swans have been observed along Alexander Creek and adjacent lakes/ponds. Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys in this subunit.

Invasive Species Concerns

The Division of Agriculture has been working to eradicate the invasive aquatic plant, *Elodea* from Alexander Lake since 2018. Full eradication in Alexander Lake is challenging due to the many inflows into the lake that make maintaining a specific concentration of herbicide difficult. Reintroduction is also a challenge from the inflows but also from anthropogenic sources such as boats, floatplanes and gear. The Division of Agriculture anticipates full eradication in the next few years.

ADF&G began a northern pike suppression program in 2011. Crews have been gillnetting side sloughs in the spring, targeting, and removing northern pike. To date, ADF&G has removed over 30,000 northern pike from Alexander Creek. Unfortunately, Alexander Creek provides ideal habitat for pike, and Alexander Lake/Sucker Lake at the headwaters are completely dominated by northern pike. ADF&G plans to continue implementation of aggressive pike removal in the watershed.

Development

The former Alexander Lake Lodge is located on the south end of the lake. There are a number of improvements associated with the lodge including equipment storage and boat

storage areas adjacent to the river. No longer operating as a commercial lodge, the structures are still used for private purposes. Several private cabins are scattered around the lake, mostly on the south end.

Access

There is a major off-road vehicle trail from the former lodge along the east shore of the lake. Most of this trail is in wetlands. Another trail is located in the woods on the north side of the creek. Seismic lines in this subunit do not appear to be heavily used in summer. Floaters are usually dropped off by floatplanes at one of three primitive campsites around the lake. The most commonly used landing area is near the lake exit. The other floatplane drop-off area is on the northwest side of the lake. This second site is more commonly used in late summer when the lake becomes clogged with vegetation.

The Iditarod National Historic Trail parallels this subunit to the west of Alexander Lake. Private property owners around the lake use snowmachines on the lake and on the river.

Heritage Resources

The heritage site potential is high.

Management Intent

Class II. This subunit is used primarily as a put-in point for float trips down Alexander Creek and other recreational activities at the lake. This subunit provides fishing and hunting opportunities. The subunit contains winter moose and salmon spawning habitat. Camping opportunities are limited because well-drained sites around the lake are in private ownership. Private lands are located on the south half of the lake and along the creek. Winter use of the subunit is primarily by snowmachines, skiers, and dog mushers following the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands. Developing a suitable dry access point for the public is a high priority. Wetlands compose over 90 percent of the public lands in this subunit. Development of, or activities on, wetlands that would result in significant damage should be avoided or minimized. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. The subunit will be managed to provide opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized access. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Iditarod National Historic Trail. The trail system parallels this subunit to the west of Alexander Lake. See guidelines in Chapter 2, *National Historic Trail and Trails, Iditarod Race Trail.*

Public Information. A kiosk should be established to provide information on the river at the most commonly used public air-taxi drop-off point on Alexander Lake. A sign should be established at the outlet of the lake identifying it as a Recreation River.

Public Use Site

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 6c.1 **Unnamed Put-in Site** (RM 41.2). Most of the well-drained upland sites around the lake are in private ownership.

6d. Sucker Creek Subunit

Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, Sucker Creek, RM 0.0 to RM 5.5

Sucker Creek is a clear-running tributary about 20 feet wide near the mouth. The subunit contains a few contiguous wetlands, less than 20 percent of the area.

Land Status

There are 1,327 acres of state land.

Wildlife

Active bald eagle and trumpeter swan nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

Fisheries

The mouth of Sucker Creek (just outside the subunit) is used as a fishing and camping area for boaters on Alexander Creek. The creek is also fished by floaters originating on Trail or Sucker lakes.

Invasive Species Concerns

The Division of Agriculture has been working to eradicate the invasive aquatic plant, *Elodea* from Sucker Lake since 2018. Full eradication in Sucker Lake is challenging due to the inflow and possible reintroduction from Alexander Creek. Reintroduction is also a challenge due to anthropogenic sources such as boats, floatplanes and gear. The Division of Agriculture anticipates full eradication in the next few years.

ADF&G began a northern pike suppression program in 2011. Crews have been gillnetting side sloughs in the spring, targeting, and removing northern pike. To date, ADF&G has removed over 30,000 northern pike from the Alexander Creek drainage. Unfortunately, Alexander Creek provides ideal habitat for pike, and Alexander Lake/Sucker Lake at the headwaters are completely dominated by northern pike. ADF&G plans to continue implementation of aggressive pike removal in the watershed.

Camping

Three marginal campsites exist near the mouth of Sucker Creek (in adjacent subunits).

Access

There is a foot trail from Trail Lake to Sucker Creek. This trail is used by floaters who carry their gear from the floatplane drop-off on Trail Lake to Sucker Creek. The trail is through wetlands, making it difficult to carry heavy gear including rafts. There is only limited winter use of this subunit. Small wheel planes land on a gravel bar at RM 20.6 although use has declined, and fishermen walk down to the mouth.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit is used primarily by powerboaters coming upriver, floaters descending Alexander and Sucker creeks and users who access the area by wheelplane. The subunit provides fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities. In winter the subunit receives some snowmachine use. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, a primitive setting, and fish and wildlife habitat. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. Maintaining the public use site at the mouth of Sucker Creek will be a high priority. The subunit will be managed to provide both motorized and non-motorized opportunities. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

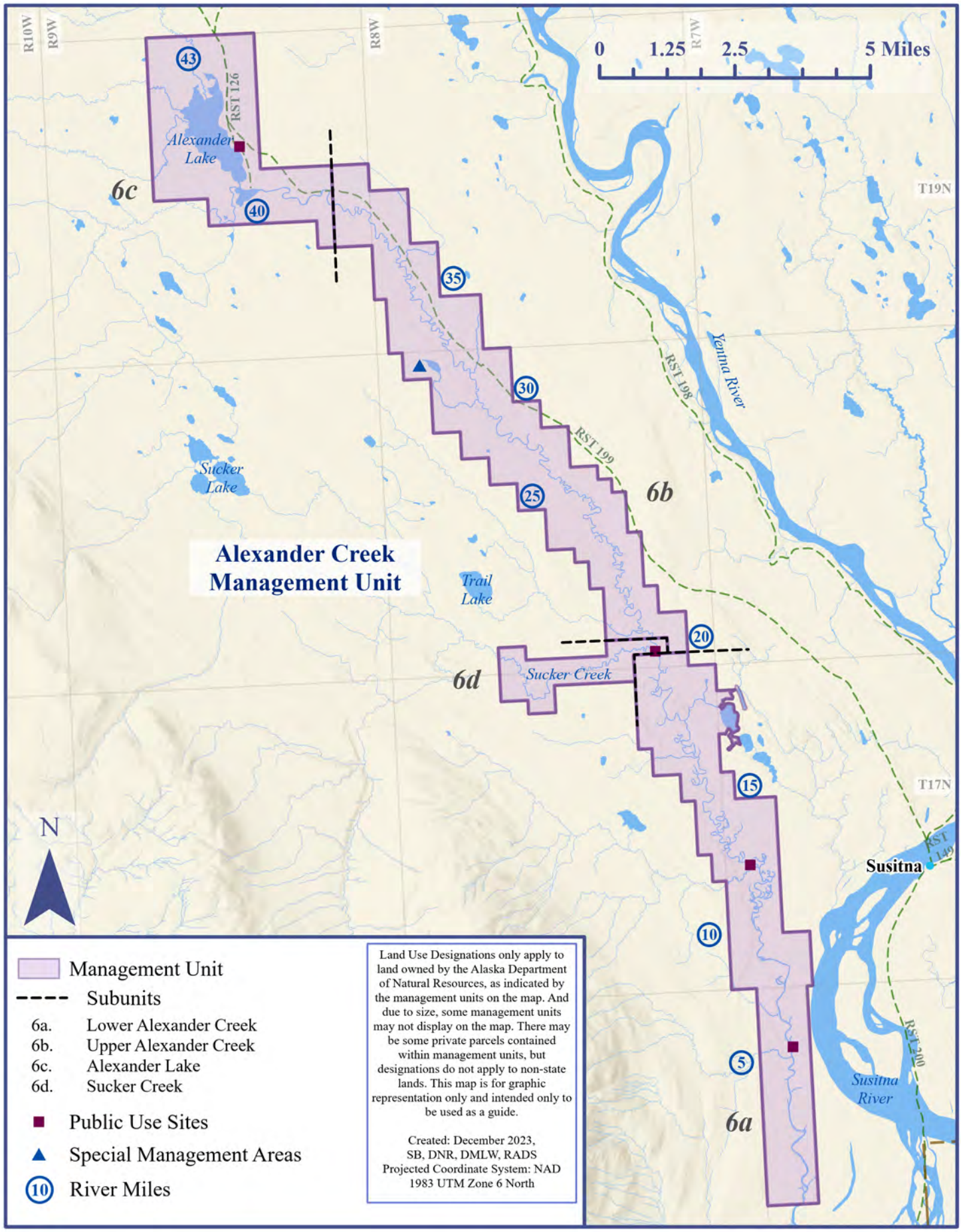
Boating Restrictions. None.

Public Use Site

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

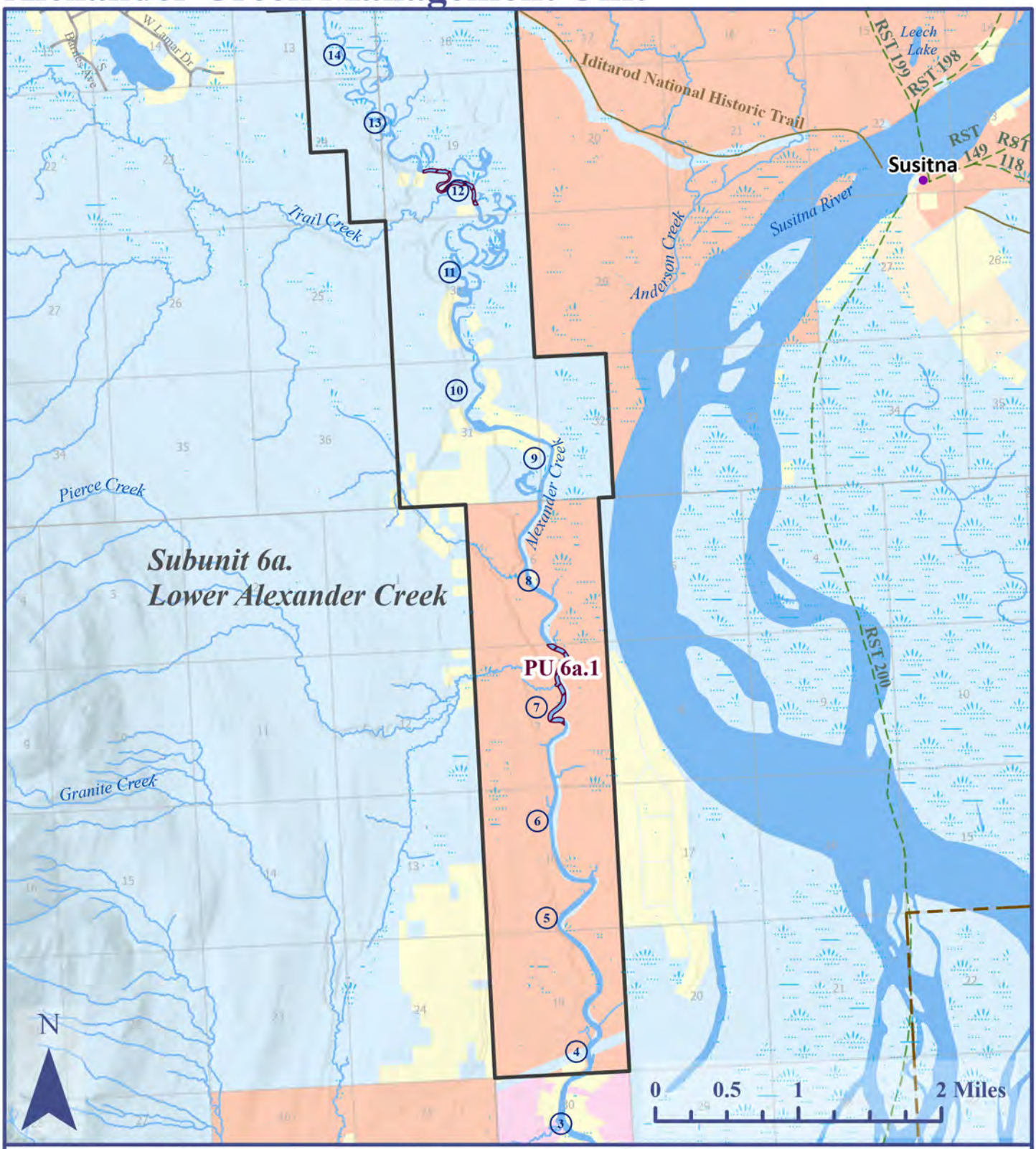
PU 6d.1 **Sucker Creek Junction** (RM 2.0). The area along both Alexander and Sucker creeks within one-quarter mile of the confluence is used for fishing and camping.

ALEXANDER CREEK



Alexander Creek Management Unit

MAP 1



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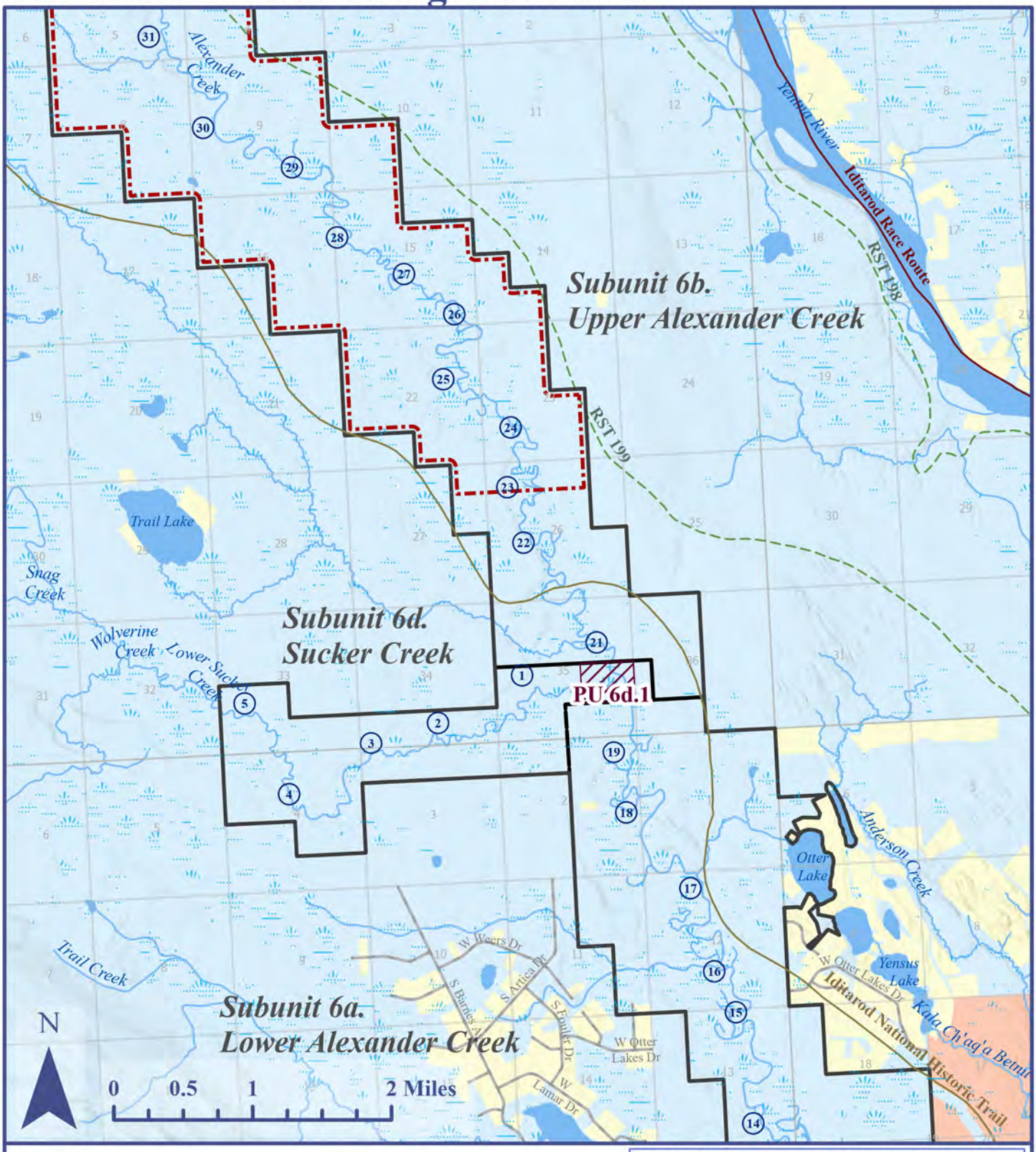
Alexander Creek Management Unit

MAP 2



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Alexander Creek Management Unit

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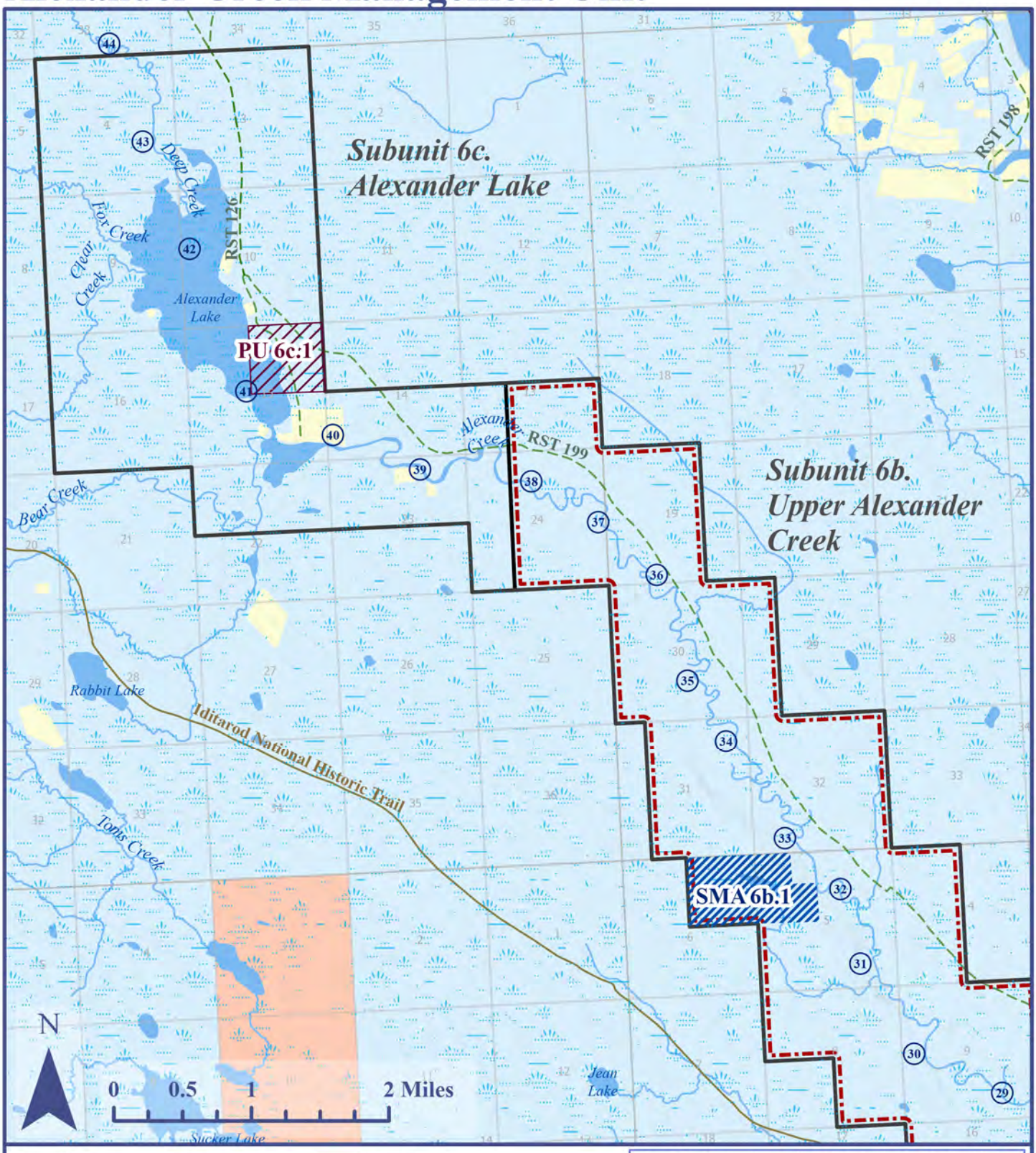

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