

Chapter 3
Land & Water Management Policies
for each Management Unit

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Management Intent	1
3	Delineation of Management Units & Subunits.....	2
4	Borough Lands.....	2
5	Table 3-1: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.....	3
6	Map 3.1: Index Map.....	5
7	1. Little Susitna River Management Unit	7
8	1a. Lower Little Susitna River Subunit.....	13
9	1b. Middle Little Susitna River Subunit	16
10	1c. Upper Little Susitna River Subunit.....	18
11	Location Map: Little Susitna River Management Unit.....	23
12	Map 1: Little Susitna River.....	25
13	Map 2: Little Susitna River.....	27
14	Map 3: Little Susitna River.....	29
15	Map 4: Little Susitna River.....	31
16	Map 5: Little Susitna River.....	33
17	2. Deshka River Management Unit.....	35
18	2a. Mouth of Deshka River Subunit	40
19	2b. Lower Deshka River Subunit.....	44
20	2c. Middle Deshka River Subunit.....	46
21	2d. Neil Lake Subunit	48
22	2e. The Forks Subunit.....	50
23	2f. Kroto Creek Subunit.....	52
24	2g. Lower Moose Creek Subunit	55
25	2h. Oilwell Road Subunit.....	57
26	2i. Upper Moose Creek Subunit.....	59
27	Location Map: Deshka River Management Unit.....	61
28	Map 1: Deshka River	63
29	Map 2: Deshka River	65
30	Map 3: Deshka River	67
31	Map 4: Deshka River	69
32	Map 5: Deshka River	71
33	Map 6: Deshka River	73
34	Map 7: Deshka River	75
35	Map 8: Deshka River	77
36	Map 9: Deshka River	79
37	Map 10: Deshka River	81
38	Map 11: Deshka River	83
39	Map 12: Deshka River	85
40		
41		
42		
43		
44		

1	3. Talkeetna River Management Unit.....	87
2	3a. Lower Talkeetna River.....	91
3	3b. Middle Talkeetna River Subunit.....	94
4	3c. Clear (Chunilna) Creek Subunit.....	96
5	3d. Talkeetna River Canyon Subunit.....	98
6	Location Map: Talkeetna River Management Unit	101
7	Map 1: Talkeetna River	103
8	Map 2: Talkeetna River	105
9	Map 3: Talkeetna River	107
10	Map 4: Talkeetna River	109
11	Map 5: Talkeetna River	111
12	Map 6: Talkeetna River	113
13	4. Lake Creek Management Unit.....	115
14	4a. Lake Creek Mouth Subunit.....	120
15	4b. Lower Lake Creek Subunit.....	123
16	4c. Middle Lake Creek Subunit	125
17	4d. Upper Lake Creek Subunit.....	128
18	4e. Chelatna Lake Subunit	131
19	Location Map: Lake Creek Management Unit	135
20	Map 1: Lake Creek.....	137
21	Map 2: Lake Creek.....	139
22	Map 3: Lake Creek.....	141
23	Map 4: Lake Creek.....	143
24	Map 5: Lake Creek.....	145
25	Map 6: Lake Creek.....	147
26	Map 7: Lake Creek.....	149
27	5. Talachulitna River Management Unit.....	151
28	5a. Mouth of Talachulitna River Subunit	155
29	5b. Talachulitna River Canyon Subunit.....	157
30	5c. Middle Talachulitna River Subunit.....	161
31	5d. Talachulitna Creek Subunit.....	163
32	5e. Judd Lake Subunit.....	165
33	5f. Upper Talachulitna River Subunit.....	167
34	Location Map: Talachulitna River Management Unit.....	169
35	Map 1: Talachulitna River	171
36	Map 2: Talachulitna River	173
37	Map 3: Talachulitna River	175
38	Map 4: Talachulitna River	177
39	Map 5: Talachulitna River	179
40	Map 6: Talachulitna River	181
41	Map 7: Talachulitna River	183
42		

1	6. Alexander Creek Management Unit	185
2	6a. Lower Alexander Creek Subunit.....	190
3	6b. Upper Alexander Creek Subunit.....	192
4	6c. Alexander Lake Subunit.....	194
5	6d. Sucker Creek Subunit	196
6	Location Map: Alexander Creek Management Unit.....	199
7	Map 1: Alexander Creek.....	201
8	Map 2: Alexander Creek.....	203
9	Map 3: Alexander Creek.....	205
10		
11		

1 Chapter 3

2 Land & Water Management Policies for Each Unit

3 Introduction

4
5 This chapter includes background information, management intent, and management
6 guidelines for management units, subunits, public use sites, and special management areas.
7

8 9 Management Intent

10
11 Management intent for state land and water in the planning area is based on a three-class
12 system, where each class represents a point on a spectrum of possible levels of development
13 and use of state lands. The management intent for a specific subunit, special management
14 area, or public use site reflects the desired future condition of that area. The three classes of
15 management intent for the 31 subunits are described in Table 3.1. More specific management
16 intent for each subunit, public use site, and special management area is described under each
17 unit. When making management decisions for activities taking place in these areas, the
18 management intent for the specific subunit, public use site, or special management area, and
19 the management intent described in Table 3.1 and below should be taken into consideration.
20 When the general management intent described here varies from the specific intent described
21 under each subunit, the more specific management intent takes precedence.
22

23 **Special Management Areas.** There are thirteen (13) special management areas (SMAs) on
24 state land and water in the planning area. These are areas of existing or proposed isolated
25 developments, or clusters of private land in Class I areas. Their designation as special areas
26 acknowledges these circumstances; and the need to manage them for different levels of
27 development and recreation experiences than on the surrounding public lands. Special
28 management areas will be managed as Class II areas. Motorized access is allowed in these
29 areas even when they are located along non-motorized river segments. See the subunit maps
30 following each unit in this chapter for the location of special management areas. Also see
31 *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 2.
32

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

1 making management decisions about public use sites, consideration should be given to: the
2 general management intent for public use sites described here; specific management intent
3 for the site; and the management intent for the subunit. Public use sites in Class I areas are
4 generally managed for a more primitive recreation experience than those located in Class II
5 and III areas. The management intent for public use sites does not apply to borough or
6 private lands adjacent to these sites. See the subunit maps following each unit in this chapter
7 for the location of these sites. Also see *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2.
8
9

10 **Delineation of Management Units & Subunits**

11
12 There are six management units within the planning area (one for each river system) and
13 31 subunits. Each subunit includes a river segment and its associated uplands. Subunit
14 boundaries are based on river-use patterns, resources, management concerns and
15 constraints, river characteristics, and land ownership. Management intent and guidelines
16 are provided for each subunit.
17
18

19 **Borough Lands**

20
21 The Matanuska-Susitna Borough owns land in the following subunits: Lower Little Susitna
22 River (1a), Mouth of Deshka River (2a), Lower Deshka River (2b), Middle Deshka River
23 (2c), Kroto Creek (2f), Oilwell Road (2h), Upper Moose Creek (2i), Lake Creek Mouth (4a),
24 Judd Lake (5e), and Lower Alexander Creek (6a). To obtain classifications and management
25 intent for borough lands, contact the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.
26

1 **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.

2

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.

1
2

1
2
3
4
5

Map 3.1: Index Map

1
2