

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 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. Wetland make up 10 to 25 percent of this subunit above Amber Lake.

LAND OWNERSHIP

State	29,159 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,040 acres
55 Private Parcels	257 acres
Total	30,456 acres

WILDLIFE

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

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 five cabins in the subunit.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities recently built a new bridge across Kroto Creek on the Petersville Road. There is a dock on a lake at RM 51 in this subunit and a dock on Amber Lake, adjacent to but outside the subunit.

ACCESS

Summer

Kroto Creek users access Amber Lake by floatplane and float Amber Lake Creek for one mile before entering Kroto Creek. The extension of the Oilwell Road passes by Amber Lake, crosses Kroto Creek, and eventually parallels Lake Creek, before it crosses the Yentna River. Because of the bridge over Moose Creek has not yet been completed, this road is primarily used in winter. There is also a major trail south of the Oilwell Road that avoids a dogleg in the road where it crosses Kroto Creek. There are extensive off-road 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. Most of this damage may be a result of one property owner near Safari Lake who uses a track vehicle to access the 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 in

tertwining trails along the creek above the Petersville Road. This area is extremely popular for snowmachining, dog mushing, and cross-country skiing. 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 uncompleted 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 king 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

Borough Lands. Borough lands in this subunit are classified "Borough Land Bank." For management intent on borough-owned lands, contact the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

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

DOTPF Materials Site. There is an existing DOTPF materials site in this subunit. See Chapter 2, Materials.

Public Information. A kiosk should be constructed on Amber Lake where the public is

dropped-off for float trips down Amber Lake and Kroto creeks. If the Oilwell Road is extended to Kroto Creek, the kiosk should be moved to the area 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 and near Amber Lake.

Boat Launch. If the Oilwell Road is extended to Kroto Creek, a boat launch that accommodates trailers should not be built. 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.
- PU 2f.2** **Amber Lake** (RM 24). Currently there is no well-developed trail between Amber Lake and Amber Creek. However, as more cabins are built on the lake, and if a road is built to the lake, a public trail is likely to develop.

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** **Proposed Oilwell Road Crossing of Kroto Creek** (RM 21.5) This special management area includes the proposed 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 proposed 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. With the exception of the bridge, this road crossing is undeveloped. 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.