

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	3,407 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	4,640 acres
104 Private Parcels	633 acres
Total	8,600 acres

WILDLIFE

There is a bald eagle nest about one mile below the Petersville Road. Active trumpeter swan nests have not been sighted in recent surveys in this subunit.

CAMPING

The following undeveloped campsites were identified:

Primary campsites	1
Secondary campsites	6
Marginal campsites	3

DEVELOPMENT

The area along Moose Creek near the Oilwell and Petersville roads is heavily developed. There are 30 cabins in the in this subunit and commercial businesses on the Petersville Road.

Three bridges cross Moose Creek. The Petersville Road bridge is heavily used in both summer and winter. The Oilwell Road bridge abutments have been completed but the span has not been built. 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 the most popular float put-in on the Deshka River, with as many as 150 people starting trips per week in early and mid-June. Above Oilwell Road the river is seldom floated. There are no aircraft landing areas.

Moose Creek is extensively used in winter by snow-machiners 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. Snow-machine trail rides and dog mushing races (including the Moose Creek 200) 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 king salmon is

prohibited. Rainbow trout fishing is catch-and-release only. In winter, the subunit features snow-machining, skiing, and dogmushing 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.

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

Management Guidelines

Boating restrictions. None.

Public Information. A kiosk should be placed at the end of the Oilwell Road providing information on the Recreation Rivers. Signs should also be placed on either side of the Moose Creek bridge on the Petersville Road and at the end of the 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. A primitive access point may be constructed off the Oilwell Road to accommodate boats carried on rooftops. Because of high public use and problems with littering and sanitation in the past, developing a campground may be compatible at the end of the Oilwell Road on Moose Creek.

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** **End of Oilwell Road (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. A parcel adjacent to the bridge may be acquired from a willing seller to provide public access to the creek in this high-use area.

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
Borough	1,333 acres
15 Private Parcels	75 acres
Total	4,133 acres

WILDLIFE

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

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.