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# *Land & Water Management Policies for each Management Unit*

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## CHAPTER 3

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# *Land & Water Management Policies for Each Unit*

## INTRODUCTION

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This chapter includes background information, management intent, and management guidelines

for management units, subunits, public use sites, and special management areas.

## MANAGEMENT INTENT

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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 fifteen (15) 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 Map 2.1 and the unit 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 seventy-three (73) 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. Maps at the end of each unit in Chapter 3 show the location of these sites. Also see *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2.

## DELINEATION OF MANAGEMENT UNITS & SUBUNITS

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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

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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).

Borough classifications for these lands are noted in Chapter 3 under Management Guidelines for each subunit. To obtain management intent for borough lands, contact the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

**TABLE 3-1 RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM**

VARIABLE	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
<b>Development</b>	There are generally no facilities <sup>1</sup> 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.
<b>Environment</b>	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.
<b>Signs of Use</b>	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.
<b>Social Interaction</b>	Interaction levels between groups are low.	Interaction between groups is moderate.	Interaction between groups is high.
<b>Risk</b>	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.
<b>Management Presence<sup>2</sup></b>	Management presence is low.	Management presence is higher.	A relatively high degree of management presence may be necessary for safety or resource protection reasons.
<b>Access (Does not include winter travel)</b>	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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> "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.

