CHAPTER 3: MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR EACH MANAGEMENT UNIT

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents more detailed land management information for specific areas within the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF). There are 14 Management Units, each of which may be divided into one or more subunits based on management objectives and geography.

For each Management Unit, this chapter presents four types of information:

A. **Summary of Management Intent**. This summary identifies in general terms which resource values or uses will be emphasized in different parts of the management unit.

B. **Existing Resources and Uses**. The resources present in each management unit are briefly described. This information provides the rationale for the guidelines and planned activities discussed below. The resources are listed in alphabetical order.

C. **Management Guidelines and Activities**. This subsection states how the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will react to proposed uses for specific areas and describes which resource uses the state intends to protect or foster.

D. **Land Management Summary**. This table provides an overview of policies for each subunit.

The following terms have specific meaning in the context of this plan and are used frequently in this chapter. Additional definitions are in Appendix A.

Consultation: Under existing statutes, regulations and procedures, the Department of Natural Resources informs other groups of its intention to take a specific action(s) and seeks their advice or assistance. Consultation is not intended to be binding on a decision; it is a means of informing affected organizations and individuals about forthcoming decisions and getting the benefit of their expertise.

Feasible: Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, technical, and safety factors.

Feasible and Prudent: Consistent with sound engineering practice and not causing environmental, social, or economic problems that outweigh the public benefit to be derived from compliance with the standard which is modified by the term “feasible and prudent”.

Goal: A general statement of intent, usually neither quantifiable nor having a specified date of completion. Goals identify desired long-range conditions.

Guideline: A specific course of action that must be followed when a resource manager permits, leases, or otherwise authorizes use of state lands. Some guidelines state the intent that must be followed and allow flexibility in achieving it. Guidelines also range from giving general guidance for decision-making or identifying factors that need to be considered to setting detailed standards for on-the-ground decisions.

Policy: An intended course of action or a principle for guiding actions. In this plan, DNR policies for land and resource management include goals, management intent statements, management guidelines, planned activities, implementation plans and procedures, and various other statements of DNR's intentions.

Shall: Requires a course of action or set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word 'shall' must be followed by resource managers or users. If such a guideline is not complied with, a written decision justifying the noncompliance is required (see Appendix B, Finding of Incompatibility).

Should: States intent for a course of action or set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word 'should' states the plan's intent and allows a resource manager to use discretion in deciding the specific means for best achieving the intent or whether circumstances justify deviation from the intended action or set of conditions. A guideline may include criteria for deciding if such a deviation is justified.

Will: Same as 'shall' (above), however, when the word 'will' refers to a planned management activity by DNR or another agency, the carrying out of this activity is contingent on available funding.

LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

A land use designation recognizes uses or resources that are of major importance in a particular management unit. Unit designations are based on current and projected future use patterns and the most significant resources identified in each unit. DOF will manage activities in the unit to encourage, develop, or protect the uses or resources for which the unit is designated. Plan designations are more specific than the land use classifications required under 11 AAC 55.040, and are converted to land use classifications, as required by 11 AAC 55.020. DOF will manage state land according to these designations and according to the equivalent land use classification.

Under AS 38.05.300, all designations are intended for multiple use. Uses other than those receiving primary designations for a given unit may still be authorized if they are not incompatible with the primary uses or resources for which a unit is designated. If DOF determines that a proposed use is incompatible with a primary designation, the proposed use will not be authorized or will be authorized in a manner that minimizes the incompatibility. Activities exempt from this guideline include Generally Allowed Uses listed under 11 AAC 96.020. Primary designated uses cannot take precedence over disposals of interest that have already occurred. Such disposals include property rights such as mining leases, land leases, and rights-of-way, that once issued, are protected by the Constitution. A primary designation, however, may take precedence over uses authorized by permits that were issued on a revocable at will basis.

When the plan assigns a designation to a unit, the designation is accompanied by region-wide management guidelines and by management intent specific to that unit. These three pieces of information – designations, management guidelines, and statement of intent – must be taken into consideration in determining how a parcel of state land will be managed and in making disposal and authorization decisions.

Primary designated use. Most management units are assigned a primary designated use, which indicates, in a general way, how state land is to be used and managed. Primary designated uses shall take precedence over other uses. Generally, however, land management in the TVSF allows multiple uses. DOF initially presumes that all other uses are compatible with the primary use. However, if DOF determines that a use conflict exists and that the proposed use is incompatible with the primary use, the proposed use should not be authorized, or it should be modified so that the incompatibility no longer exists or the impacts from the proposed use have been effectively mitigated (from 11 AAC 55.040 (c)). The plan may assign a designation to ensure a future use that will best serve the public interest, even if that use is not imminent.

Co-designated use. Where a unit has two or more designated uses, DOF will avoid or minimize conflicts between designated uses by applying the management intent statement and guidelines for the unit, the regional intent, and the Chapter 2 guidelines from this plan together with existing statutes, regulations, and procedures. Only those co-designations that are generally complementary to or compatible with each other are included in this plan. Co-designated uses should, therefore, be viewed as compatible unless indicated otherwise by specific conditions that exist at the time the Department is evaluating whether to grant an authorization. In this plan, co-designated uses are Forestry and Materials, Forestry and Reserved Use, or Forestry and Public Recreation. Within areas so co-designated, forestry is considered an appropriate use, but such activities and projects must consider their potential impacts upon the indicated resource and must either avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts.

Designations are based on resource and use inventories. The best available information has been analyzed and mapped for the following resources and uses:

- timber resources;
- fish and wildlife habitat and harvest;
- recreation areas and facilities;
- mineral potential and material sites;
- access and transportation; and
- heritage resources

In some cases, the plan assigns a designation to ensure a future use that will best serve the public interest, even if that use is not imminent.

DESIGNATIONS USED IN THIS PLAN

F – Forestry. Land that is or has been forested and is suited for long-term forest management because of its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions. This land will remain in state ownership. Approving authorizations in these areas will be conducted in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95), the specific management guidelines in the Forest Resources section of Chapter 2, and any specific requirements that might apply at the management unit level identified for a particular management unit. Forest Land is to be retained by the state, although timber sales, a type of disposal, are recognized as appropriate.

Certain sites within the plan area contain both habitat and forestry values and, as such, are co-designated Forestry and Habitat. In these instances, while forest management projects are recognized as appropriate uses, any proposed activity must take into consideration the impacts upon wildlife, fisheries, and their associated habitats.

This designation converts to a land use classification of Forest Land as defined by 11 AAC 23 55.070.

Ma – Materials. Sites suitable for extraction of materials, which include common varieties of sand, silt, gravel, rock, peat, pumice, pumicite, cinders, clay, and sod. This land will remain in state ownership until the material on the site is no longer required for state purposes (such as road construction and maintenance, materials storage, and public or state facilities) after which these lands may be conveyed to municipalities. These lands cannot be sold without redesignation and reclassification although some sites may be suitable for forestry after material resources are exhausted.

This designation converts to a land use classification of Material Land as defined by 11 AAC 20 55.120.

Rp – Public Recreation and Tourism-Public Use Site. This designation applies to areas used by concentrations of recreationists or tourists compared to the rest of the planning area; or areas with high potential to attract concentrations of recreationists and tourists. These areas offer localized attractions, or ease of access, or developed facilities. Examples include cabins, lodges, anchorages, scenic overlooks, road-accessible shore locations that are used for picnicking, sports and fishing. The recreation and tourism uses for which these units are designated may be either public or commercial. The primary management intent for these sites is to protect the opportunity of the public to use these sites, and their public values for recreation. Many of these sites require additional management attention because of the public use they receive. This land will remain in state ownership. This designation converts to a land use classification of Public Recreation Land as defined by 38 11 AAC 55.160.

Rs – Reserved Use. These sites are reserved to serve state or other public interests. This designation converts to a land use classification of Reserved Use Land as defined by 11 AAC 55.170. See Chapter 4 for more information about the relationship between land use designations and classifications.

MANAGEMENT INTENT

The plan provides management intent for both the resources and types of authorizations that are expected to occur within the planning area for the specific management units. Management intent describes how the Division intends to manage a resource or management unit and may describe what is intended to occur as well as what is not intended to occur. It may also identify specific management direction. The plan may provide management guidance for a resource without designating it. For example, the plan may address the resource by providing management intent for a specific area or through areawide guidelines. In addition, other state, federal, or local regulations will determine the conditions for using undesignated resources.

In some cases, the management intent for a unit discourages specific uses because these uses may create conflicts with designated uses. Discouraged uses may be allowed if ADNR determines that the use does not conflict with the management intent, designated uses, and the management guidelines. Discouraged uses include activities that should not be authorized or will not be allowed if there are feasible and prudent alternatives. If the DOF determines that the discouraged use conflicts with the management intent or designated uses and cannot be made compatible by following the management guidelines, the DOF would allow it only through a plan amendment.

In some cases, the plan may also identify prohibited uses. These are uses that have significant conflicts with other uses or resources and will not be permitted without a plan amendment. Prohibited uses are not often identified, because the plan seeks to minimize land use conflicts through plan guidelines and intent rather than through prohibitions, but in those instances where a prohibited use occurs, it is noted in a unit's management intent.

Management intent statements for each unit refer only to state management of state land. While these statements accommodate certain proposed uses on state lands, there is no guarantee that other regulatory agencies will issue permits necessary for the proposed use. All proposed development uses referenced in the management intent statements are assumed to employ best management practices in siting and operating the proposed use.

LAND USE SUMMARY TABLES

Each unit description in this chapter includes a summary table describing the land use designations, management intent, and other relevant resource and land use information for a given unit. This information is intended to provide managing foresters with categorical information about the non-timber, non-forest resources in a unit that should be considered when planning management activities. In general, specific land use records are not listed by casefile numbers in these summary tables because new authorizations will inevitably be added during the lifecycle of this management plan revision. The AK DMLW maintains a web-based record system, Alaska Mapper, which allows users to query up-to-date land use information by geographic location or casefile number. Alaska Mapper can be accessed at https://mapper.dnr.alaska.gov/. Land records that require a plan revision to be changed, such as Mineral Orders, Leasehold Location Orders, or Special Use Designations, may be listed by casefile number in unit summaries.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1: DUGAN HILLS

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit encompasses the Dugan Hills and a smaller portion of state land along the Hutlinana River south of the Elliot Highway. It includes 3 Subunits.

Subunit 1A, which includes sections of Baker Creek and the Hutlinana River, will be managed for commercial and personal use timber production while protecting recreation and habitat values near the streams.

Subunit 1B, the Dugan Hills, will be managed for multiple-use consistent with 11 AAC 96 and AS 41.17.200, including active forest management, recreation, and mineral use. Current levels of recreation, mineral and timber use are low but could increase due to recent improvements to the Elliot Highway between Livengood and Manley Hot Springs. There is limited demand for personal use timber and fuelwood production in portions of the unit closer to the Elliot Highway and in the southern portion near areas included in past land disposal programs.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** None identified.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Lowland areas near Baker Creek and Hutlinana River (Subunits 1A-B) provide important moose and furbearer habitat. Baker Creek and the Hutlinana River provide spawning habitat for chum salmon. The Tolovana River, which drains the Minto Flats, provides habitat for species of anadromous fish such as Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, and supports high value resident species such as Arctic grayling. Big game hunting is moderate, and the area supports intensive trapping activity. ADF&G holds a permit for radio telemetry towers in Subunit 1C (ADL 421533). The Minto Flats State Game Refuge is east of Unit 1.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** One private parcel is identified in the southern portion of Subunit 1C.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** Numerous trails are located within this unit and are used by dog mushers and snowmachiners, though none of these trails are documented by official DNR records. Baker Creek and the Hutlinana River are valued for boating and fishing, and several hunting guides work in this area. Several "pothole" lakes that have recreational value are located along a creek in T. 3 N., R. 11 W. The Tolovana River is important for boating, paddling, fishing, and hunting. The Tolovana River is also used for tourism operations that include fishing, duck hunting, and wildlife viewing. The Innoko and Nowitna Rivers are used for pike fishing charters, and there are some additional chartered trips in the Minto Flats and on the Baker, Fish, and Kantishna Rivers.
5. **Scientific Resources:** None identified in this unit.
6. **Subsurface Resources:** Current information suggests that the area has low mineral values except in Subunit 1A, located near the Eureka Mining District. No significant sources of gravel are apparent in this unit.

7. **Timber:** Most of this unit contains extensive pole-sized hardwood stands. Small stands of mixed spruce-hardwood in Subunit 1A, accessible from the Elliot Highway, are an important source of fuelwood and spruce sawtimber for residents.
8. **Transportation and Access:** Road access to Unit 1 is most likely from the Elliot Highway to the north of the Unit. Major access to the Dugan Hills is via RS 2477 segments. Portions of the RS 2477 Trails over Bean Ridge Corporation land are reserved for public use by a 17(b) right-of-way. The easements are 25 feet wide and allow winter off- road-vehicle and non-motorized use.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Minerals:** This unit will remain open to mineral location and leasing.
2. **Recreational Facilities:** Authorized trails may be maintained in this unit.
3. **Streamside and Lakeshore Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to water bodies in all subunits. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.
4. **Timber Sales:** Timber within Subunit 1A will be managed for local personal use and commercial production.
5. Subunit 1B has low demand and limited access. Timber sales have not been scheduled for this subunit. Timber will be made available in the future if warranted by a change in demand or accessibility. Subunit 1B, by virtue of difficult access, may be valuable as a timber or carbon reservoir, especially if other parts of the State Forest experience forest health declines.
6. Timber sales in this unit are within the Fairbanks Area. For more detail when specific proposals are developed, see the Fairbanks Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.
7. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to trails within the State Forest. No trails with active DNR records are identified within Unit 1. Undocumented trails may exist in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.
8. **Transportation:** Some secondary roads may be constructed to provide timber access in Subunit 1A. If timber harvest becomes feasible in Subunits 1B and 1C, primary access to Subunit 1B will likely be a winter road on the flats west of the Dugan Hills or a road from the Elliot Highway. Access to Subunit 1C will likely be a winter road on the western margin of Minto Flats, west of the Tolovana River. Both roads will tie into the primary roads that access Unit 2. Management of state land west and east of Unit 1 should allow for development of access to Subunits 1B.

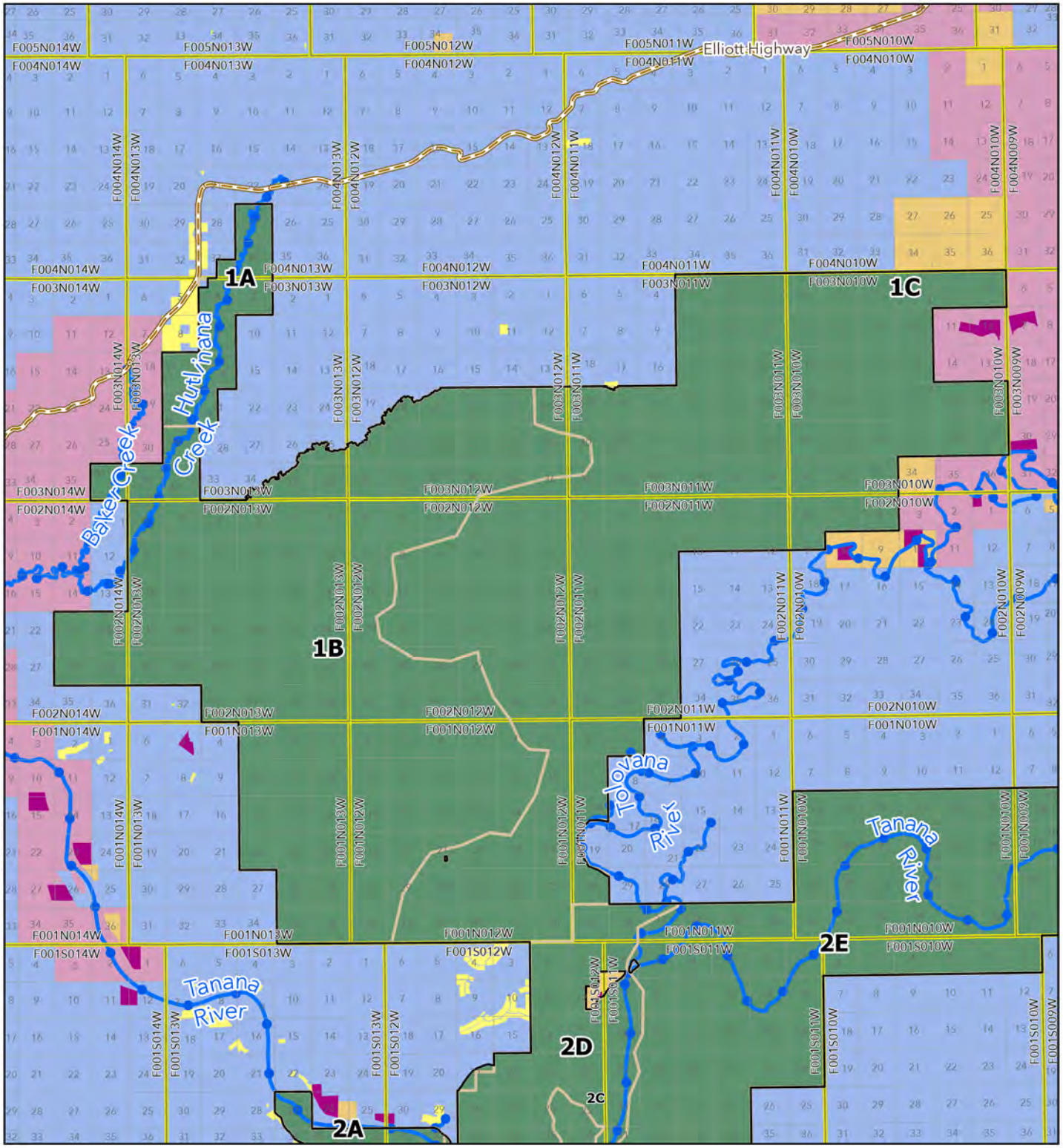
LAND USE SUMMARY

Table 3.1. Unit 1 (Dugan Hills) Land Use Summary

Unit 1: Dugan Hills							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Uses**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
1A / F / 5,560 acres	Timber production, stream & lake values, recreation	Commercial and personal use timber sales	Some 2° roads may be constructed	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	
1B / F / 69,965 acres	Forestry/Multiple Use	None planned.	None planned, but if harvest becomes feasible, 1°/2° access will be by winter roads	Open to mineral entry except in areas affected by MCO 202	Available for leasing	Land disposal	
1C / F / 80, 175 acres	Forestry/Multiple Use	None planned	Likely winter access only	Open to mineral entry except in areas affected by MCO 202	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Private parcel located in southern part of subunit; ADF&G telemetry towers; Minto Flats State Game Refuge borders subunit to the east

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 1
Dugan Hills



State Forest Boundary
- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership
- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology
- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads
- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation
- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

1A For
1B For
1C For

N W E S

0 1 2 4
Miles

Created by DNR DOF GIS on 09/2025

MANAGEMENT UNIT 2: LOWER TANANA

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit consists of land that abuts approximately 60 miles of the lower Tanana River and about 40 miles of the lower Kantishna River. It contains 5 subunits.

Subunits 2A, 2D, and 2E, Most of the land within these subunits will be managed for commercial timber production while protecting recreation and habitat values near the Tanana and Kantishna Rivers.

Subunits 2B and 2C, These areas will be managed in their natural states for research and educational use.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** The Tolovana Roadhouse, located on a privately owned inholding, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Probability of cultural sites is low to medium along the Kantishna River and low along the Tanana River. The old village site, known as Old Minto (within T1N, R8W) is the site of seasonal cultural activities. This site was conveyed to the Minto Village Council in 2006 (ADL 414434). Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on the cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Much of this unit is important moose and furbearer habitat with the exceptions of dune and upland areas west and north of the Kantishna River confluence. Low elevation areas of both the Kantishna and the Tanana Rivers are important habitat for black bears and moose. Wood bison were reintroduced to Unit 2A of the TVSF near the Minto Flats State Game Refuge in 2024. The Tanana and Kantishna Rivers provide habitat for species of anadromous fish such as Chinook, coho, and chum salmon, and supports high value resident species such as Arctic grayling. The area is heavily used by residents of Minto, Nenana, and Fairbanks for subsistence and sport hunting, trapping, and fishing. An ADF&G telemetry tower is permitted in Subunit 2A. The Minto Flats State Game Refuge is to the north and south of Subunit 2E.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** Numerous privately-owned tracts and leaseholds are adjacent to and within this unit. Several Alaska Native allotments are located near Old Minto Village in Subunit 2E, and many remote parcels are located along the Kantishna River west of Subunit 2A. Much of the Iksgiza Lake Subdivision and the lake are surrounded by the TVSF. The Tolovana Roadhouse, a privately-owned inholding, is operated commercially.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** The Tanana, Kantishna, and Tolovana Rivers are heavily used for recreational camping, boating, fishing, hunting and access to surrounding land. Several operators from Nenana and Manley Hot Springs take people camping, fishing, wildlife viewing and hunting for ducks, bear and moose. The Tolovana River is used for canoeing, as is the Tanana River in this unit. The Yukon 800, a powerboat race that goes from Fairbanks to Galena and back, follows the Tanana River in this unit. In the winter, dog mushing and snowmachining are common on RS 2477 trails within this Unit. The Tanana River is also a popular route for snowmachining, cross-country skiing and ski plane landing.

5. **Scientific Resources**: The Oblique Lake Research Natural Area (Subunit 2B) includes a deep, undeveloped upland lake in a depression between low, horseshoe-shaped dunes and a contrasting oxbow lake on the floodplain of the Kantishna River. South-facing sand bluffs support hill prairies greatly reworked by ant colonies.

   The Caribou Crossing Research Natural Area (Subunit 2C) includes an undisturbed, mature white spruce forest, a hill prairie, a bottomland of permafrost, and a wetland marsh. The area appears to be optimal habitat for late-succession, snag cavity-dependent birds and small mammals. The hill prairie is a scientifically interesting sagebrush grassland. See also Appendix E, Research Natural Area Report, for more information.

6. **Subsurface Resources:** Despite the existence of a few active mining claims near Old Minto Village, mineral potential in this unit appears low. Oil and gas potential is not known. The only upland source of gravel in this unit appears to be rock outcrops along the Tanana River opposite the Kantishna confluence.

7. **Timber:** Bottomlands along the Tanana and Kantishna Rivers contain a patchwork of mature spruce stands and productive, younger, mixed hardwood-spruce stands. Muskeg is predominant further away from the rivers. Harvestable stands lie on both sides of the Tanana River in Subunit 2E. Unburned uplands north of the Kantishna River confluence contain high volumes of spruce sawtimber. Many late successional white spruce stands in the floodplain are underlain by shallow permafrost. These stands are losing productivity, as evidenced by perched water tables, leaning trees, windthrow and rot, and dramatic loss of basal area. Extensive sand dune areas west of the confluence are forested with productive hardwood stands. Doyon Limited lands south of Subunit 2A hold significant quantities of mature spruce. Subunits 2B and 2C are research natural areas, which are closed to timber harvest.

8. **Transportation and Access:** Because this unit is not accessed by all-season roads, summer access to the area is via the Tanana and Kantishna Rivers. Barge service out of Nenana offers possibilities for log transport to the rail and highway system. Winter access is via established RS 2477 routes. The Totchaket Road presently extends 12 miles W of the Nenana River bridge (completed in 2020) at 10th Street, and the Phase 1 land auction was complete in 2022. The extension of this road towards the Kantishna River may create new access to Subunit 2A.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Development Activities Near Private Land:** Due to a relatively large number of private land holdings in this unit, roads, timber harvest, and other development activities will be sited and designed to avoid trespass and harm to scenery near private cabins and settlement to the extent feasible and prudent.

2. **Minerals:** Subunits 2A, 2D, and 2E will remain open to mineral location and leasing. Within Subunits 2B and 2C, the research natural areas, mineral exploration or development will be restricted if it conflicts with the overriding scientific values. Within the RNAs, rights to locatable minerals may be acquired only under the leasehold location system, AS 38.05.205, and may not be acquired by locating a mining claim under AS 38.05.195. The stipulations used in approving plans of

operations per Leasehold Location Order #24 (See Appendix C.) will also be included in any miscellaneous land use permits issued for exploration activities within the RNAs.

3. **Research Natural Areas:** RNAs within subunits 2B and 2C will be managed in their natural states for research and education. Guidelines for research natural areas in the Scientific Resources Section of Chapter 2 will apply to these subunits.

   Roads and landings for timber harvest in Subunit 2D may be located in the narrow strip between the bluff and the drainage in Subunit 2C.

4. **Streamside Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management Section of Chapter 2) apply to waterbodies within the State Forest, including their side channels, sloughs, and backwaters. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.

5. **Timber Sales:** Suitable lands will be managed for commercial timber production in accordance with other policies stated in this plan. Forest stands in decline from permafrost or other factors will be priorities for harvest where feasible and prudent. Firewood, house logs, and other products will be made available to local residents as requested. As inventories are updated and demand increases, levels of commercial harvest may increase.

   a. Timber sales in this unit are within the Fairbanks Management Area. For more detail when specific proposals are developed, see the Fairbanks Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.

6. **Timber Development Cooperation with Alaska Native Corporations:** When appropriate, the State will seek cooperative agreements with Alaska Native Corporations to share timber development costs and ensure that the timing and size of timber sales offered by the state and Alaska Native Corporations are in the general interest of the public.

7. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section in Chapter 2) apply to trails within the State Forest. Documented RS 2477 Trails are present in Subunits 2D and 2E. Undocumented trails may exist in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

   None of these trails are planned to be upgraded permanently to primary forest roads; however, crossing and temporary use of sections of the trails will be necessary.

8. **Transportation:** Timber in this unit will be accessed primarily by winter roads and ice bridges. Where feasible and prudent the state will seek cooperative agreements or easements with Alaska Native regional and Village Corporations, Alaska Department of Agriculture, or any other land managers to reduce costs of access roads. Thirty miles of the Commissioner's Line may be upgraded to a primary winter road. The Nenana-Totchaket Road clearing may also be used for access to the southern portion of Subunit 2A. Subunit 2E may be accessed by constructing approximately 34 miles of primary winter road north from the Commissioner's Line. The road would pass through the Minto Flats State Game Refuge. Subunit 2D may be accessed by this road or the Commissioner's Line. Barging timber to Nenana on the Tanana River is an option, though may be less cost effective

than roading. Generally, secondary winter road is proposed in these subunits for timber management. Major access to the unit is via documented RS 2477 segments.

LAND USE SUMMARY

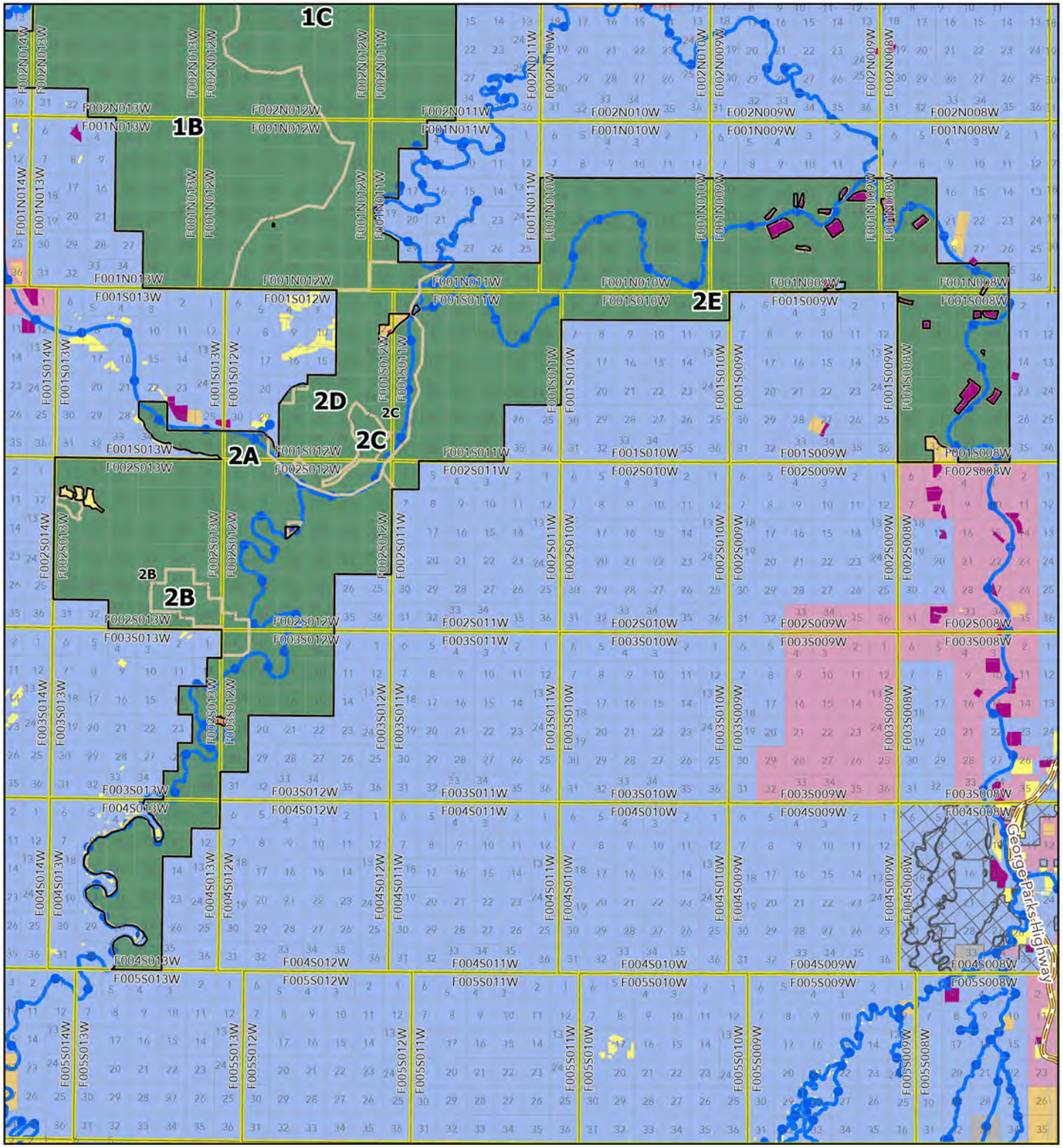
Table 3.2. Unit 2 (Lower Tanana) Land Use Summary

Unit 2: Lower Tanana							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
2A / F / 62,285 acres	Commercial timber production; habitat and recreation near Tanana and Kantishna Rivers and other waterbodies	long-term commercial timber sales	**Unit 2A:** Mostly 1° and 2° winter roads will be used for additional access. Unit 2A: Nenana-Totchaket Rd. may be used	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	**Unit 2A:** Private parcel in southern part of subunit; ADF&G Telemetry Tower
2D / F / 15,881 acres			**Unit 2D:** Nenana-Totchaket Rd. or Commissioner's Line may be used				**Unit 2D:** Private inholdings; RS 2477 trails
2E / F / 74,799 acres			**Unit 2E:** Construct 34 miles of 1° winter road from Commissioner's Line				**Unit 2E:** Private inholdings; RS 2477 trails; Hunting and Trapping

Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	Management Intent	Summary of Management Activities	Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)	Subsurface Designation		Prohibited Surface Uses*	Other Uses and Resources
				Locatable	Leasable		
2B / F, Rs / 2,990 acres	Oblique Lake Research Natural Area, subject to management intent in ADL 228312	Research	No new road construction planned.	Leasehold location LLO 24	Available for leasing	Land disposals; commercial leases; developed recreation; material extraction; remote cabins; timber harvest; trapping cabins; introduction of non-endemic species; carbon offset projects	
2C / F, Rs / 1,251 acres	Caribou Crossing Research Natural Area, subject to management intent in ADL 228313	Research	No new road construction planned.	Leasehold location LLO 24	Available for leasing	Land disposals; commercial leases; developed recreation; material extraction; remote cabins; timber harvest; trapping cabins; introduction of non-endemic species; carbon offset projects	

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 2
Lower Tanana



State Forest Boundary

- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership

- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology

- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads

- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation

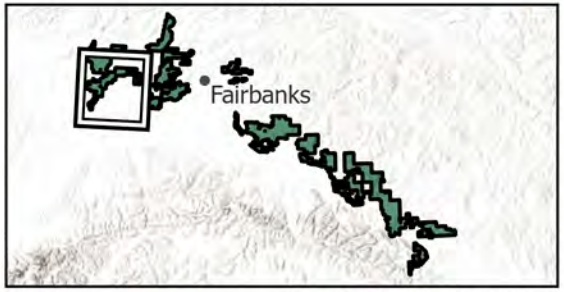
- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

2A For
2B For Rsu
2C For Rsu
2D For
2E For

N W E S

0 1 2 4
Miles



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MANAGEMENT UNIT 3: TATALINA RIVER

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit encompasses the State Forest land between the Tolovana River and the Tatalina River. It contains 2 subunits.

Subunits 3A and 3B will both be managed for multiple-uses consistent with 11 AAC 96 and AS 41.17.200. Current levels of recreation and timber use are very limited but may increase in the future. Land adjacent to the Tolovana and Tatalina Rivers will be managed to protect the recreation and habitat values of the stream corridors.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** None identified in this unit.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Lowlands near the Tolovana and Tatalina Rivers contain important moose, black bear, and furbearer habitat. This extent of the Tolovana River provides habitat for species of anadromous fish such as Chinook and chum salmon, and both rivers support high value resident species of fish such as Arctic grayling. Portions of the Minto Flats within Subunit 3B contain trumpeter swan habitat designated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in 2015 as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (see Chapter 2: Fish & Wildlife Management Guidelines). The unit supports moderate to heavy hunting and trapping and borders the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** Alaska Gasline Development Corporation holds a non-competitive lease for a Pipeline Right of Way and associated sites for the construction of this pipeline, bisecting Unit 3 north-south (ADL 421297).
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** The Tolovana River and stretches of the Tatalina River are used for sport fishing and canoeing. A documented RS 2477 passes through a portion of this unit near the Tatalina River, used by dog mushers, skiers and snowmachiners. A small number of trapping cabin permits are located within Unit 3.
5. **Scientific Resources:** None identified in this unit.
6. **Subsurface Resources:** Mineral potential is moderate to high, and especially high in Subunit 3A, which is near the Livengood-Tolovana mining district. Exposed bedrock on ridges and mining tailings provides sources of material. There is active mining exploration occurring in Subunit 3A.
7. **Materials:** An active material site is partially located within Subunit 3A.
8. **Timber:** Upland portions of this unit contain primarily hardwood stands. Productive mixed hardwood-spruce stands occur on lower slopes adjacent to Minto Flats and the Tatalina and Tolovana Rivers.
9. **Transportation and Access:** Access to Subunit 3A is provided by a gated pipeline access road that parallels Wilber Creek. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline and Elliot Highway form the northern boundary of

this unit. Subunit 3B is not accessed by an all-season road, but instead by an unnamed trail that continues south from the pipeline to Slate Creek and by a documented RS 2477 trail.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND GUIDELINES

1. **Minerals:** This unit will remain open to mineral location and leasing, except for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline right-of-way, which will remain closed to mineral location to protect existing and future utility uses.
2. **Streamside Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to water bodies in this unit. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.
3. **Timber Sales:** Timber sales have not been scheduled in Subunit 3A or 3B. This unit, by virtue of its difficult access and remote location, may be valuable as a timber or carbon reservoir, especially if other parts of the State Forest experience forest health declines. Timber for commercial and personal use will be made available if warranted by a change in demand or accessibility. Timber sales in this unit would be within the Fairbanks Area. For more detail if specific proposals are developed, see the Fairbanks Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.
4. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to the following trails within the State Forest. An RS 2477 trail is documented in Unit 3B. Undocumented trails may exist in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.
5. **Transportation:** Future primary access development may be limited to this unit due to uneconomic access to existing timber, and high recreation values. However, if demand changes for timber, all-season access from the Elliot Highway will be considered. Additionally, upgrading local winter trails to primary winter road will be considered for access if timber harvest becomes feasible in Subunit 3B.

LAND USE SUMMARY

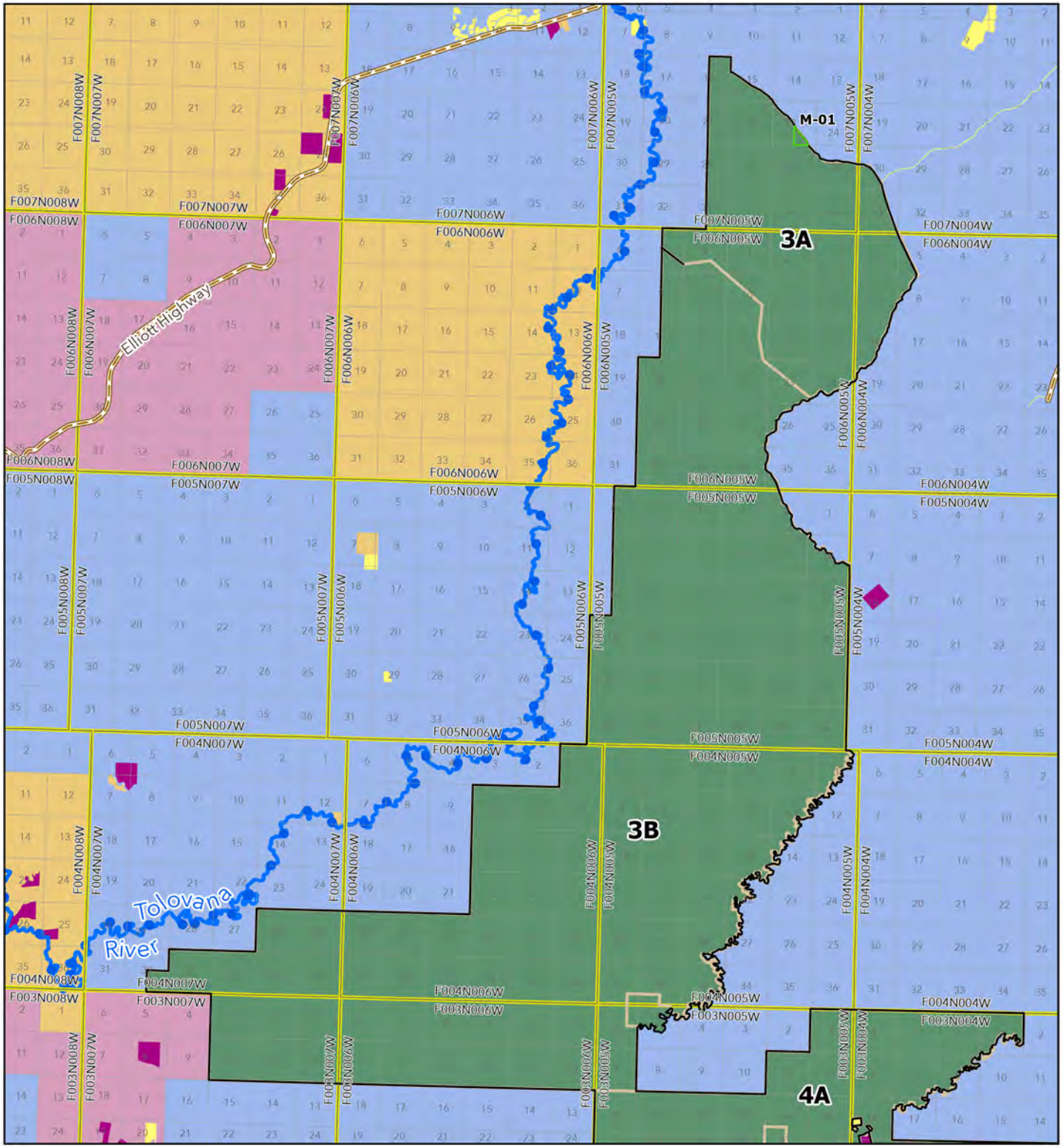
Table 3.3. Unit 3 (Tatalina River) Land Use Summary

Unit 3: Tatalina River							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
3A / F / 14,954 acres	Forestry/Multiple Use	None planned	None planned, but if harvest becomes feasible, Dunbar-Livengood Trail may be upgraded to 1° winter road	Open to mineral entry, except oil pipeline ROW	Available for leasing	Land Disposal	Pipeline ROW mining claims
3B / F / 75,827 acres	Forestry/Multiple Use	None planned	None planned, but if harvest becomes feasible, Dunbar-Livengood Trail may be upgraded to 1° winter road	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land Disposal	RS 2477 trail; Pipeline ROW

Unit 3: Tatalina River							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
M-01 / F, Ma / 51 acres	Manage for material values and resources consistent with any authorizations issued by ADNR or derived from federal patent. Retain in state ownership. See the Material Sites Section in Chapter 2 for additional information. Material sites will be managed for forestry values after the site has been closed.	Material Extraction					

*Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 3
Tatalina River



State Forest Boundary

- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership

- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology

- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads

- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation

- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

3A For
3B For
M-01 For Mat

N W E S

0 1 2 4
Miles

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MANAGEMENT UNIT 4: CHATANIKA RIVER, CACHE CREEK, GOLDSTREAM VALLEY

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This area includes most of the uplands between Washington and Goldstream Creeks northwest of Fairbanks and is divided into 4 subunits.

Subunit 4A will be managed for general multiple-use management consistent with 11 AAC 96 and AS 41.17.200. Current levels of recreation, mineral development and timber use are low, but could increase in the future.

Subunit 4C, the Murphy Dome Highlands, will be managed for dispersed and developed recreation and for commercial and personal use timber production.

Portions of Subunits 4A and 4C within the Chatanika River watershed will be managed to balance its high recreational and habitat values with the primary State Forest purpose of Timber Management.

Subunit 4D will be managed primarily for commercial timber production.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** Four cultural sites have been identified in this unit as part of this plan, including an historic railroad bridge over Goldstream Creek. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for management guidelines regarding cultural resources in the State Forest. Further information on the cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Important moose, black bear, and furbearer habitat are found at lower elevations near Minto Flats, the Chatanika River, and Goldstream Creek. Highlands near Murphy Dome provide important furbearer and small game habitat. The Chatanika River provides spawning habitat for Chinook and chum salmon, migratory habitat for coho salmon, and supports high value resident species such as Arctic grayling. Because this area is easily accessed and close to Fairbanks, it is heavily used for hunting, trapping, and sportfishing, as well as bird watching, wildlife photography and wildlife viewing. The Minto Flats State Game Refuge is west of this unit.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** Numerous privately owned tracts and leaseholds are adjacent to and within this unit. Concentrations of inholdings exist along the Chatanika River and Left Fork Creek. The Hayes Creek, McCloud, and Lincoln Creek Subdivisions abut this unit.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** Land within Unit 4 has high recreational value because of its landscape diversity (e.g., of forest types and topography) and easy access from Fairbanks. The highlands near Murphy Dome are used for hunting, trapping, viewing scenery, and berry picking. The Chatanika River and nearby land are used for fishing, hunting, camping, and recreation. The end of the Murphy Dome Extension is used as a boat launch site for the Chatanika River and point of entrance to Minto Flats. Trails and forest roads are used in all seasons by motorized and human-powered recreationalists. Public emphasis has been placed on recreation and tourism uses in this Unit. All of Unit 4, including the southern portion of Subunit 4C, is managed for multiple uses with an emphasis on timber production, as described in other sections in this plan. Consideration will be given at the

discretion of managing foresters concerning sale design in units abutting private land (see Chapter 2, Section I: Private Land) or areas with established or proposed trail systems (see Chapter 2, Section O: Recreation and Section P: Trails). Matters of specific design or treatment can be discussed in the public comment process as draft Best Interest Findings (BIFs) and Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs) are released for review.

5. **Scientific Resources:** University of Alaska holds permits for 36 seismic research stations within a 6.25 square mile area in Subunit 4C (LAS 34916). Permanent University of Alaska Forest Measurement Plots are permitted in Subunits 4C and 4D (LAS 17939).
6. **Subsurface Resources:** Mineral potential appears low to moderate in the northern part of this subunit but higher in the hills above the Goldstream Valley, which are part of the mineralized Cleary Sequence. Leases for energy exploration have been issued previously within Subunit 4D.
7. **Timber:** This unit contains productive, mature stands of mixed spruce-hardwood in lower, unburned side drainages of the major creeks and Minto Flats. Uplands are stocked with pole- sized hardwood stands. Timber values are especially high on the lower slopes above the Goldstream Valley which have been logged through state timber sales since the early 1960s. Most of Subunit 4A is currently uneconomical to access because of its remoteness. A variety of Interior forest types exist, including the range of age classes and species that contribute to biodiversity. However, forest age classes younger than forty years old are less common in the road-accessible portions of Subunits 4C and 4D except where prior timber harvest has occurred. Habitat enhancement projects have been carried out in hardwood stands in the late 1990s and early 2000s.
8. **Transportation and Access:** Subunit 4C is accessible by all-season road and numerous trails. Access to timber harvest areas near Standard Creek is via the 32-mile-long Standard Creek Road from the Old Nenana Highway. Access to the Cache Creek drainage from Murphy Dome Road is via the Cache Creek Road. An extension of the Cache Creek Road to the Standard East Road has been contemplated for many years, though presently a rough 3-mile winter trail separates the two road systems. The Murphy Dome Extension (ADL 407800) provides access to the Luck Dome highlands that are west of Murphy Dome and is a direct link between Fairbanks and the heavily used Minto Flats and Chatanika River. Other recreational and settlement access routes include the Old Murphy Dome Road and a number of RS 2477 trails as well as trails that are not documented in DNR's land record system.

   Most of Subunit 4A is not accessed by all-season roads. A public right-of-way connects the Elliot Highway to the Hayes Creek Subdivision on the eastern end of the subunit. One ridge to the south, a dozer line constructed to access the 2011 Hastings Fire is used by local residents and recreationalists to access Subunit 4A. ADL 419281 provides public access across state lands.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Cultural Site Protection:** Four cultural sites have been identified in Subunit 4D as part of this plan. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.

2. **Development Activities Near Private Land:** Because of the relatively large number of private holdings in or near Subunit 4C, roads, timber harvest, and other development activities will be sited and designed to minimize negative impacts on private land to the extent possible. See the Private Lands section of Chapter 2 for guidelines on avoiding conflicts with landowners. Forest Land Use Plans shall address roads and other impacts to private lands. The Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF) will consider landowner comments as they relate to the type and location of roads.
3. **Minerals:** Oil and gas exploration and development activities will be sited or timed to mitigate impacts on the fish and wildlife habitat and public use values of the Chatanika River corridor. Specific mitigation measures necessary to protect the values for which the river corridor was established will be developed as part of the lease-sale process. Mitigation measures will be developed case- by-case and will consider timing, topography, vegetation, and other factors that affect the impact of oil and gas exploration and development activities on fish and wildlife habitat and public-use values. The rest of Unit 4 will remain open to mineral location and leasing.
4. **Recreational Facilities:** Recreational facilities, for example parking for vehicles towing trailers, an improved boat launch, or camp sites, may be suitable at the end of the Murphy Dome Extension. Proposal and management of such facilities are subject to DMLW authorization, including final approval by DOF.
5. **Scenic Quality:** Development activities on the western side of Unit 4 will be sited and designed to enhance or minimize harm to scenic quality of State Forest land visible from the Minto Flats State Game Refuge to the extent feasible and prudent. Chapter 2 guidelines for management of visual resources will apply to these areas. The Scenic Values guideline of the Recreation section of Chapter 2 contains scenic value guidelines, as does the Silviculture and Harvest Practices part of the Timber Management section of Chapter 2.
6. **Streamside Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to water bodies in Unit 4, including their side channels, sloughs, and backwaters. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.
7. **Timber Sales:** Timber sales have been repeatedly scheduled in Subunit 4A since the 2011 Hastings Fire, and it is expected that sales will be offered as soon as access issues with FNSB are resolved to mutual satisfaction. Suitable land will be managed for timber production in Subunits 4C and 4D in accordance with other policies stated in this plan. Subunits 4C and 4D are heavily used by local hunters, and forest roads infrastructure has received investment from ADF&G's Hunter Access and similar grant programs over previous decades. Timber sales within this area will conform to the best practices of both timber management and wildlife habitat, to the extent feasible and prudent. ADF&G is expected to identify for DOF consideration "rare features that provide critical habitat for a species of high conservation priority" during the appropriate public/agency comment periods.

   Timber sales in this unit are within the Fairbanks Area. For more detail when specific proposals are developed, see the Fairbanks Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.
8. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to trails within the State Forest. RS 2477 routes and public access easements have

been identified in Unit 4. Trails without active DNR records may exist in this unit. Public review of Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

Construction of Approximately 2 miles of the Lincoln Creek Loop Trail may be considered along Keystone ridge in accordance with the FNSB Lincoln Creek Subdivision plans. Details of siting, design, and management will be developed jointly with the FNSB. On non-motorized trails on State Forest lands within this unit, signs may be posted on or near the trail indicating that they are for non-motorized use. Where conditions for conflict among motorized and non-motorized users exist, parallel trails may be considered. Safety for all users will be considered in construction of intersections.

9. **Transportation:** Timber in Subunits 4C and 4D will be accessed by all-season roads. Additional primary road may be constructed north of Dunbar for permanent access to Subunit 4D. Additional secondary road may be constructed in Subunits 4C and Subunit 4D for timber management. Roads in State Forest land near the Minto Lakes will be sited and designed to retain a visual barrier between the roads and the Minto Lakes. The objective of the barrier is to prevent unauthorized roads and trails that may harm recreational, habitat, and public use values of Minto Flats.

   Extension of the Cache Creek Road is intended for timber transportation and incidental recreational use. Significant additional use, such as that associated with a subdivision, will require funds for road maintenance in addition to those funds or resources available from timber development. Because logging traffic will share the road with residents, construction of turnouts as part of a timber sale contract should be considered where necessary for safety purposes. When a conflict or safety concern exists with private landowners, road closures will be considered along with other options (see the “Road Use Restrictions part of the Transportation section of Chapter 2).

   Primary access to Subunit 4A is desired by DOF to access the significant timber present and is expected to provide access opportunities for recreationalists. Obtaining access via the Hastings Fire Dozer Line is the subject of ongoing negotiations between FNSB and DOF.

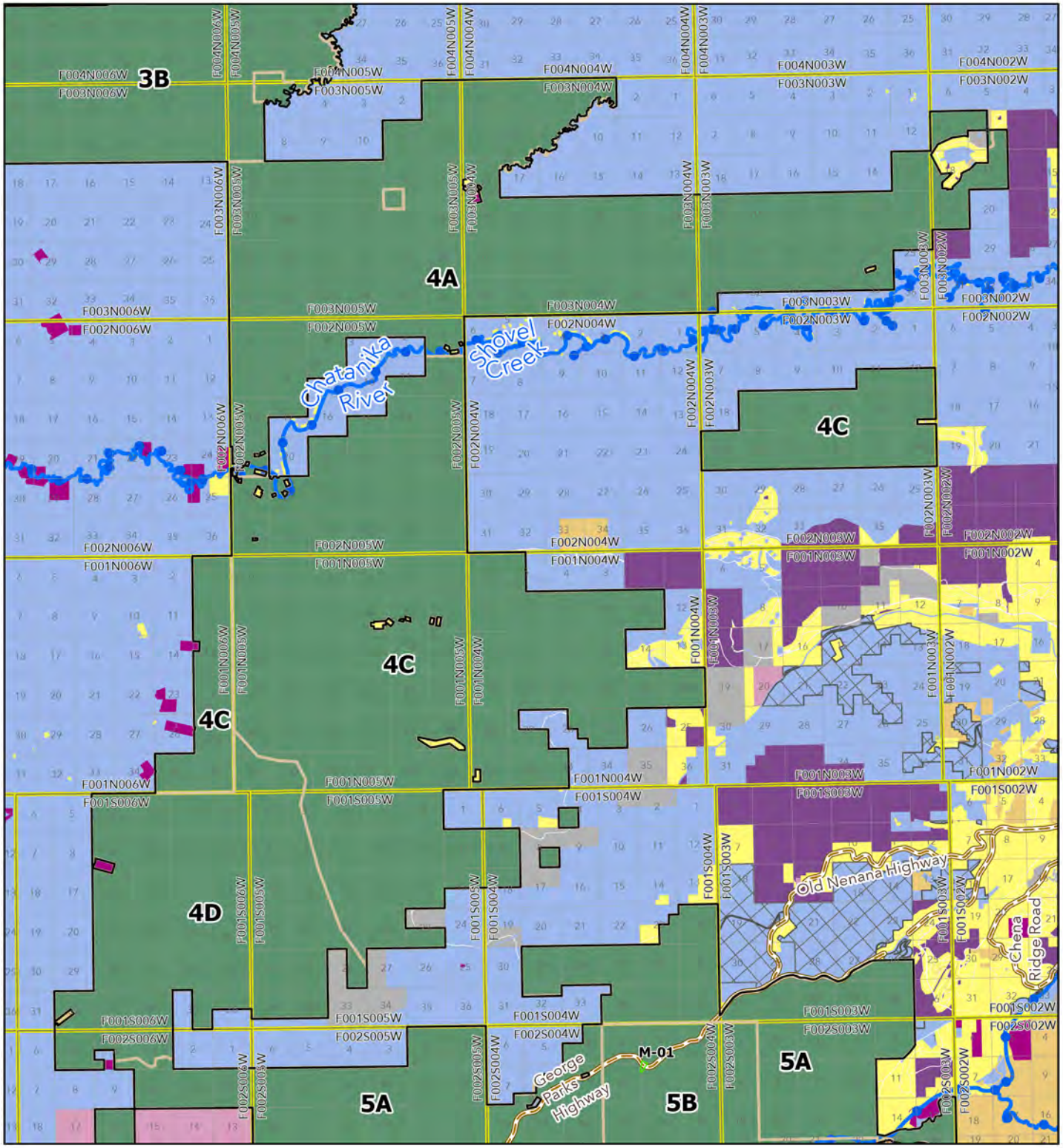
LAND USE SUMMARY

Table 3.4. Unit 4 (Chatanika River, Cache Creek, and Goldstream Valley) Land Use Summary

Unit 4: Chatanika River, Cache Creek and Goldstream Valley							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Summary of Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
4A / F / 50,980 acres	Forestry, multiple use	None planned	None planned, but if harvest becomes feasible, 1° access will be from Hayes Cr. Subdivision or from Murphy Dome Extension.	Open to mineral entry, Northwest corner affected by MCO 67A03	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Private inholdings; Public access easement; AK gas line pipeline
4B / - / -	*Removed from State Forest*						
4C / F / 70,348 acres	Recreation and tourism, timber production	scenic turnout, trail construction, timber sales	Will be accessed by all-season roads	Open to mineral entry, small portions affected by MCO 262, MCO 140, and MO's closing road and pipeline ROWs	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Private inholdings; Public Access easement; State mining claims ; AK gas line pipeline
4D / F / 24,978 acres	Timber production, stream values	Timber sales	Will be accessed by all-season roads	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Private inholdings; RS 2477 Trail; AK gas line pipeline

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2

Management Unit: 4 Chatanika River, Cache Creek, and Goldstream



State Forest Boundary

- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership

- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology

- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads

- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation

- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

4A For
4C For
4D For

N W E S

0 1 2 4
Miles

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MANAGEMENT UNIT 5: NENANA RIDGE

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit encompasses much of the state land on Nenana Ridge and includes about 50 miles of the Tanana River. It contains 2 subunits.

Subunit 5A will be managed for timber production, wildlife habitat, and recreation while minimizing impacts to scenic values along the Parks Highway and Tanana River where feasible and prudent.

Subunit 5B, the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest, will be managed to protect research activities and to maintain its value for experimental and observational research.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** Six cultural sites have been identified in Subunit 5A as part of this plan. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for management guidance regarding cultural resources. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** The Tanana River and Goldstream Creek bottomlands are important moose, black bear, and furbearer habitat. Peregrine falcon nesting sites are present on the Tanana floodplain. The Tanana River serves as a staging area and migration corridor for waterfowl. The river provides habitat for Chinook, coho, and chum salmon and supports high value resident species of fish such as Arctic grayling. Because this unit is easily accessed from Fairbanks and Nenana, it is used intensively for hunting and trapping.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** Several private inholdings are present along the Tanana River.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** The Tanana River is important for recreational boating, camping, snowmachining, and access to surrounding areas for hunting and fishing. The clearwater tributaries of the Tanana are also important for fishing and hunting. In the winter, the Tanana River corridor is used for winter recreation. The many logging roads in this unit provide access for recreational activities. An 18-mile network of logging roads and trails is used by recreationalists in all seasons. Grouse and moose hunters use the area in the fall. Many of these trails are not documented in Alaska DNR land records system. Public review of Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

   Views of the Alaska Range and Tanana River are especially good from the Parks Highway in this unit. Tourism operators are known to utilize portions of the trail system as well, for example for dog mushing or snowshoeing. Operators take people out on the Tanana River and its tributaries for fishing, hunting for bear, moose, and birds, and camping, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Zasada Road, Bonanza Creek Road, Nenana Ridge Road, and Skinny's Road and associated logging roads are heavily used by berry-pickers and other non-timber forest product harvesters and for other recreational and personal uses.
5. **Scientific Resources:** The Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest has been used for forest research since the late 1950s. Use of the Experimental Forest is guided by a 55-year lease (ADL 21408)

granted by the state to the USDA Forest Service Institute of Northern Forestry, now known as the Boreal Ecology Cooperative Research Unit (Appendix D). The current lease runs until June 30, 2074. A number of forest measurement plots, climate data collection, and permafrost monitoring sites are permitted in Unit 5.

6. **Subsurface Resources:** The highly mineralized Cleary Sequence underlies most of the unit. In the past, an oil and gas lease was recorded south of Dunbar, but development potential is not known. Existing quarries and bedrock outcrops provide sources of material near the Parks Highway.
7. **Timber:** Much of Unit 5A is especially valuable for timber production because of its relatively high productivity, high existing spruce sawtimber volume, and economic all-season access. Subunit 5B has similar forest characteristics, and also contains one of the highest densities of silvicultural research sites in Alaska's boreal forest. Past and ongoing research have informed forest management practices in Interior Alaska. DOF last sold a timber sale within 5B in 1997.
8. **Transportation and Access:** All of Unit 5 is accessible from the Parks Highway, and over 230 miles of all classes of forest road exist within the Unit. Main forest road networks include Bonanza Creek, Rosie Creek, Skinny's , Nenana Ridge/Maisch, and Standard Creek. Recreational access is provided by the Tanana River and the Cripple Creek-Rosie Creek and Rosie Creek Trails. A number of RS 2477 routes provide access to the unit.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Habitat Enhancement in Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest:** Habitat enhancement will be conducted in Subunit 5B only as part of research projects.
2. **Minerals:** All of this unit will remain open to mineral entry and leasing. The Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest is open to mineral development subject to leasehold location. Mineral activity will be restricted within the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest (Subunit 5B) if it conflicts with the overriding scientific values. Clause 12 of the lease allows mineral activities within the experimental forest only if they are in compliance with stipulations agreed upon by the State and the lessee.
3. **Recreational Facilities and Activities:**
    a. **Rosie Creek Logging roads.** This 18-mile network of logging roads and connecting trails depends upon existing forest roads constructed and maintained to provide access for timber management. The primary use of these roads will continue to be for timber management. The DOF's consideration of opening timber sales will take safety concerns of all users into account, and upgrades will give priority to safety improvements that benefit both recreationalists and logging traffic. Identification and mitigation of safety risks inherent in overlapping usage will be made with feedback from all user groups, within the stated priority framework.
    b. **Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest:** Developed recreational sites will not be established in Subunit 5B outside of the Parks Highway corridor because of likely conflicts with research values. The U.S. Forest Service's Boreal Ecology Cooperative Research Unit may establish signs along the Bonanza Creek Road system listing activities that require authorization.

4. **Research Activity:** Research activity within the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest (Subunit 5B) will be governed by the Lease between the State of Alaska and US Department of Agriculture (ADL 21408).
5. **Scenic Quality:** Timber, road, mining, and other development activities in this unit will be sited and designed to enhance views or minimize adverse impacts on scenic views from the Parks Highway and Tanana River to the extent feasible and prudent. The perceived value of a scenic resource will be assessed according to the management guidelines set forth in Chapter 2, and proposals to mitigate scenic impacts from a management action shall be commensurate with the scenic value in question. A 300-foot buffer from centerline on each side of the roadway should be managed to maintain or enhance scenic views along the highway. Development activities such as timber harvesting and land-use authorizations may be allowed within this buffer if the activity is designed to maintain or enhance the scenic values of the highway corridor, and to provide opportunities for viewing background scenery.
6. **Streamside Management**: Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to waterbodies in this unit, including their side channels, sloughs, and backwaters. Waterbodies with Special Management Zones are listed in Table 2.3
7. **Timber Sales:**

   Subunit 5A. Suitable lands will be managed for commercial and personal use timber production in accordance with other policies stated in this plan.

   Subunit 5B. The primary goal of timber management in the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest is to enhance research values. Timber sales to enhance research values will be initiated at the request of the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest (lease holder).

   Timber within this subunit will not be included in the forest wide sustained yield base. In general, timber will be harvested by commercial operators, not by the public, so that harvest activities may be more controlled. All timber sales within this subunit will be designed and conducted under the written approval of the team leader, Boreal Ecology Cooperative Research Unit. A Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) will be prepared jointly by DNR and the Research Unit for each timber sale. Each report will include a description of the research or forest protection objectives of the timber sales and other conditions agreed on by DNR and the U.S. Forest Service's Boreal Ecology Cooperative Research Unit. Design of timber sales will ensure that activities do not conflict with existing research and will provide coordinated data collection. Although DNR and the U.S. Forest Service's Boreal Ecology Cooperative Research Unit will be responsible for monitoring compliance with timber sale contracts, only DNR will administer the contract and convey instructions to the operator.

   Timber sales in this unit are within the Fairbanks Area. For more detail when specific proposals are developed, see the Fairbanks Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.

8. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to documented trails within Unit 5. Trails that are not

documented in DNR's land record system are present and heavily used in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

Research activities in Subunit 5B will be designed not to conflict with use of these trails.

9. **Transportation:**

   a. **Subunit 5A.** All-season roads will provide access to timber in upland portions of this unit; winter roads and ice bridges will provide access to stands near the Tanana River.

   b. **Subunit 5B.** Road and trail construction, management, access, and maintenance are subject to the terms of the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest Lease Agreement (ADL 21408). The DOF and the Boreal Ecology Cooperative Research Unit will cooperate with each other regarding the maintenance, construction, upgrading, and gating of roads within the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest and may enter a memorandum of understanding to address road issues. The following interpretations do not supersede the lease:

      i. **Road Construction.** Subject to Section 55. Limits of Access, no new access or trails are authorized within Subunit 5B without the express permission of the State's Authorized Officer. The State will notify the Lessee, and to the extent practical and feasible, will consult on any changes to the road or trail system management.

      ii. **State Access.** Subject to Section 43. Concurrent Usage, the State (including authorized agents and contractors) shall continue to enjoy access to all existing roads within Subunit 5B and retain the right to establish necessary additional road segments to carry out timber management activities on State land adjacent to 5B.

      iii. **Public Access.** Subject to Section 56. Navigable Waters and 57. Public Access, the State, in consultation with the Leaseholder, will determine what kinds of access optimize research needs and the public's right of access.

LAND USE SUMMARY

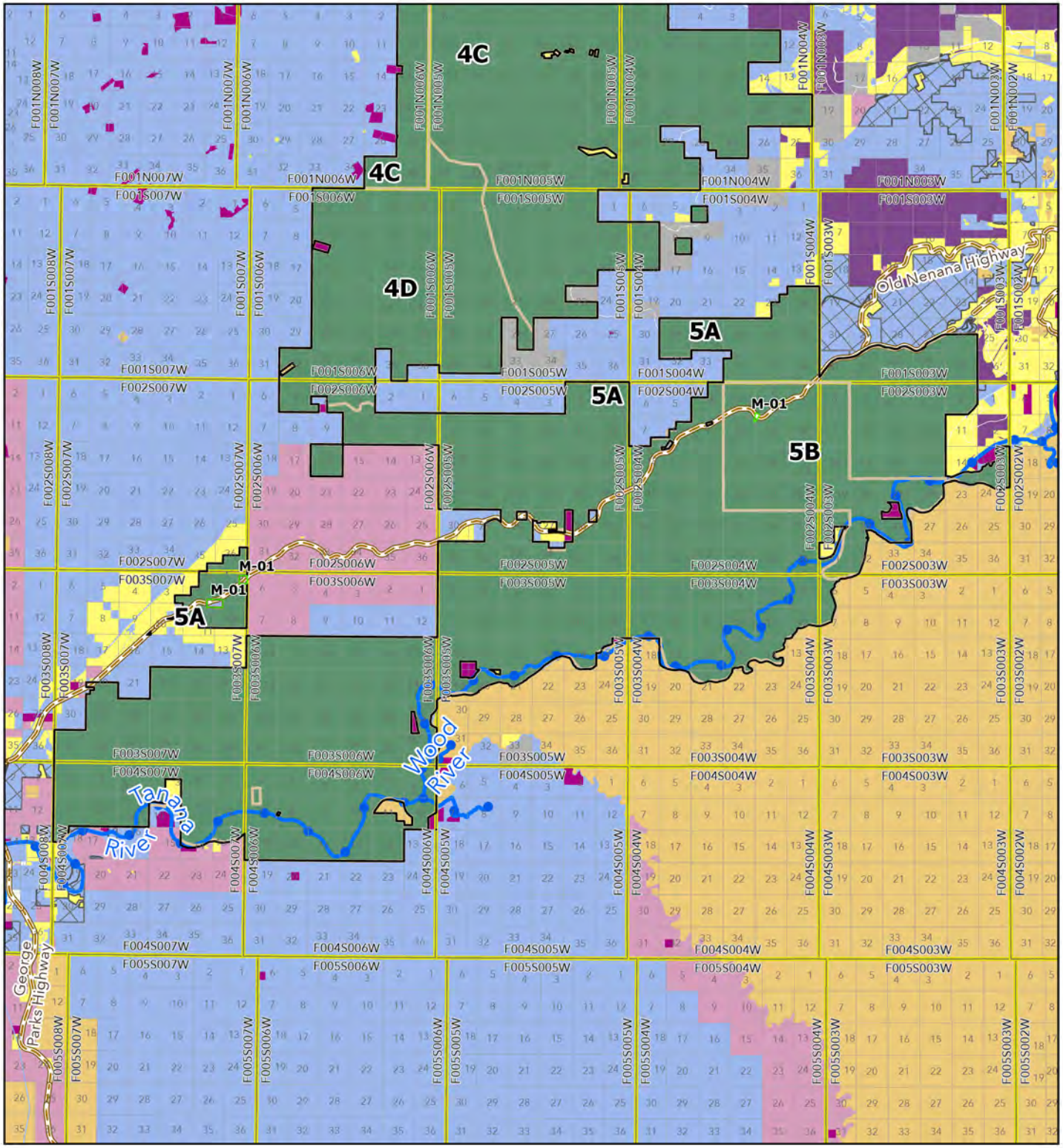
Table 3.5. Unit 5 (Nenana Ridge) Land Use Summary

Unit 5: Nenana Ridge							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
5A / F / 108,540 acres	Scenery on Parks Hwy, timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation near Tanana River	Recreation Timber sales	All-season roads will access uplands, winter roads will access stands near Tanana River	Open to mineral entry except where affected by MO 1045 MCO 262 MCO 176	Available for leasing except where affected by Leasehold Location Order LLO 39	Land disposal	Private inholdings; Portions of this subunit included in University Research Forest (ADL 229382); RS 2477 Trails; Forest Measurement, Climate, and Permafrost Monitoring sites
5B / F, Rs / 13,852 acres	Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest. Manage according to ADL 229382	Research Recreation	No new 1° roads will be constructed. 2° roads will be developed as necessary for research and timber mgmt. 2° roads to fire salvage areas will be closed after harvest/ reforestation.	Leasehold Location Order LLO 24 MO 1045	Available for non-coal leasing only	Land disposal; Commercial leases; Trapping cabins; Remote cabins; Carbon offset projects	Private inholdings; Public Access Easements; Permafrost Monitoring Sites; Lease for Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest (ADL 21408)

Unit 5: Nenana Ridge							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
M-01 / F, Ma / 16.5 acres	Manage for material values and resources consistent with any authorizations issued by ADNR or derived from federal patent. Retain in state ownership. See the Material Sites Section in Chapter 2 for additional information. Material sites will be managed for forestry values after the site has been closed.	Material Extractions					

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 5
Nenana Ridge



State Forest Boundary

- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership

- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology

- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads

- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation

- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

5A For
5B For
M-01 For Mat

N W E S

0 1 2 4
Miles

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MANAGEMENT UNIT 6: CHENA

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit consists of one of the largest areas of state-owned land near Fairbanks and fronts 10 miles of the Chena and Little Chena Rivers.

The entire unit will be managed for commercial and personal- use timber production, while providing recreation opportunities.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** The prehistoric Chena Bluff site and a site that includes historic cabins and mining debris are recognized in this unit. There exists a possibility that these sites may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Four cultural sites have been identified in this unit as part of this plan. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Much of this unit contains important habitat for moose, black bear, and furbearers. Easy access from Fairbanks results in heavy hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing. The Chena River system provides spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook and chum salmon and supports high value resident species of fish such as Arctic grayling. Critical nesting habitat for peregrine falcons has been identified along the Chena River.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** Numerous privately-owned or leased tracts are located within or near this unit. About 10 inholdings are located along the Chena River, and a notable cluster of remote parcel leases is located on Anaconda and Caribou Creeks just north of the State Forest boundary. A residential and agricultural area is located between the Chena Hot Springs Road and this unit.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** This unit is of particular value for recreation because it is near Fairbanks, fronts the Chena and Little Chena Rivers, and contains an extensive system of trails and roads that are heavily used by OHVs, snowmachiners, equestrians, mountain bikers, hikers, skiers, and dog mushers. The Two Rivers Road was constructed by DOF in the early 1980s and receives intense recreational use. The Little Chena Dozer Line, constructed in response to wildfires in 2004, has been upgraded to the 13.5-mile Mike Kelly Trail managed by the Division of Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW). The Chena River is easily accessed by roads and is important for motorboating, paddling, and recreational cabin use. Tourism businesses use forest road and trail infrastructure for ATV and dog mushing tourism operations.
5. **Scientific Resources:** None identified in this unit.
6. **Subsurface Resources:** Kinross/Fort Knox has operated an open pit gold mine on lands adjacent to the northwest of Unit 6 since 1996. Mineral potential is moderate to high in this unit because of the presence of the Cleary Sequence in the northern portion, potential for silver and zinc in the

southern portion, existing mining claims, and access. Large mining claim blocks are in drainages north of the unit. Mining claims within the State Forest are located near Iowa and Potlatch Creeks.

7. **Timber:** The Chena and Little Chena River floodplains contain productive, high-value spruce sawtimber; warmer slopes are covered with hardwoods. Moderate levels of timber harvest have occurred in this unit for the last 80 years. Easy access makes this unit important as a firewood and house log supply for the Fairbanks area.
8. **Transportation and Access:** This unit is accessed by numerous roads and trails. The Two Rivers and Pheasant Farm Roads provide the major access routes to the northern and southern portions of this unit respectively. Other access is provided by the Hipas (Big Bend) and Grange Hall Roads. Mining trails north of the State Forest are potential access to mining and timber harvest areas in the northern portion of the unit. Numerous documented and undocumented trails are used in winter and summer for recreation. The Two Rivers Road and Colorado Creek Trail are also used for access to the Anaconda - Caribou Creek settlement area. Access into the Smallwood and Iowa Creek drainages has been primarily winter only access from Adventure Road / Chena Hot Springs Road Mile 11. RS 2477 trails have been identified in Unit 6.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITY

1. **Cultural Site Protection:** Guidelines for cultural site protection (see the Cultural Resources section of Chapter 2) apply to cultural sites within this unit.
2. **Mineral:** All of this unit will remain open to mineral location and leasing.
3. **Recreational Facilities:** A boat launch site may be constructed on the Chena River at the end of the Grange Hall Road. The Grange Hall Road should be improved before the boat launch site is constructed.
4. **Streamside Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to waterbodies within Unit 6, including their side channels, sloughs, and backwaters. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.
5. **Timber Sales:** Suitable lands will be managed for commercial timber production in accordance with other policies stated in this plan. Timber harvest along designated recreation trails and navigable rivers will be sited using established best management practices to limit impacts to the recreation opportunities, habitat, and scenic quality to the extent prudent and feasible. Commercial timber sales will continue to be offered in the area, along with personal-use harvest.

   Timber sales in this unit are within the Fairbanks Area. For more detail when specific proposals are developed, see the Fairbanks Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.
6. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to documented trails within Unit 6. One RS 2477 trail and a small number of public access easements intersect Unit 6. Trails that are not documented in DNR's land record system may be present in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

Approximately 6 miles of trail may be constructed and maintained for cross-country skiing and horseback riding near Lyrad Creek. The trail will tie into a trail system within the adjacent Chena River Recreation Area.

If efforts to maintain the current alignment of the Chena Hot Springs Winter Trail (RST 278) are unsuccessful, consideration should be given to relocation to the southern portion of this unit.

7. **Transportation:** Timber access may require the construction of secondary road or winter road. However, it is likely that less road will be constructed because of the existing road system and the relatively concentrated timber resources. When feasible, roads will be constructed to all- season standards to provide access for public firewood and house log cutting. Land south of the Chena River will be accessed by ice bridges and winter roads.

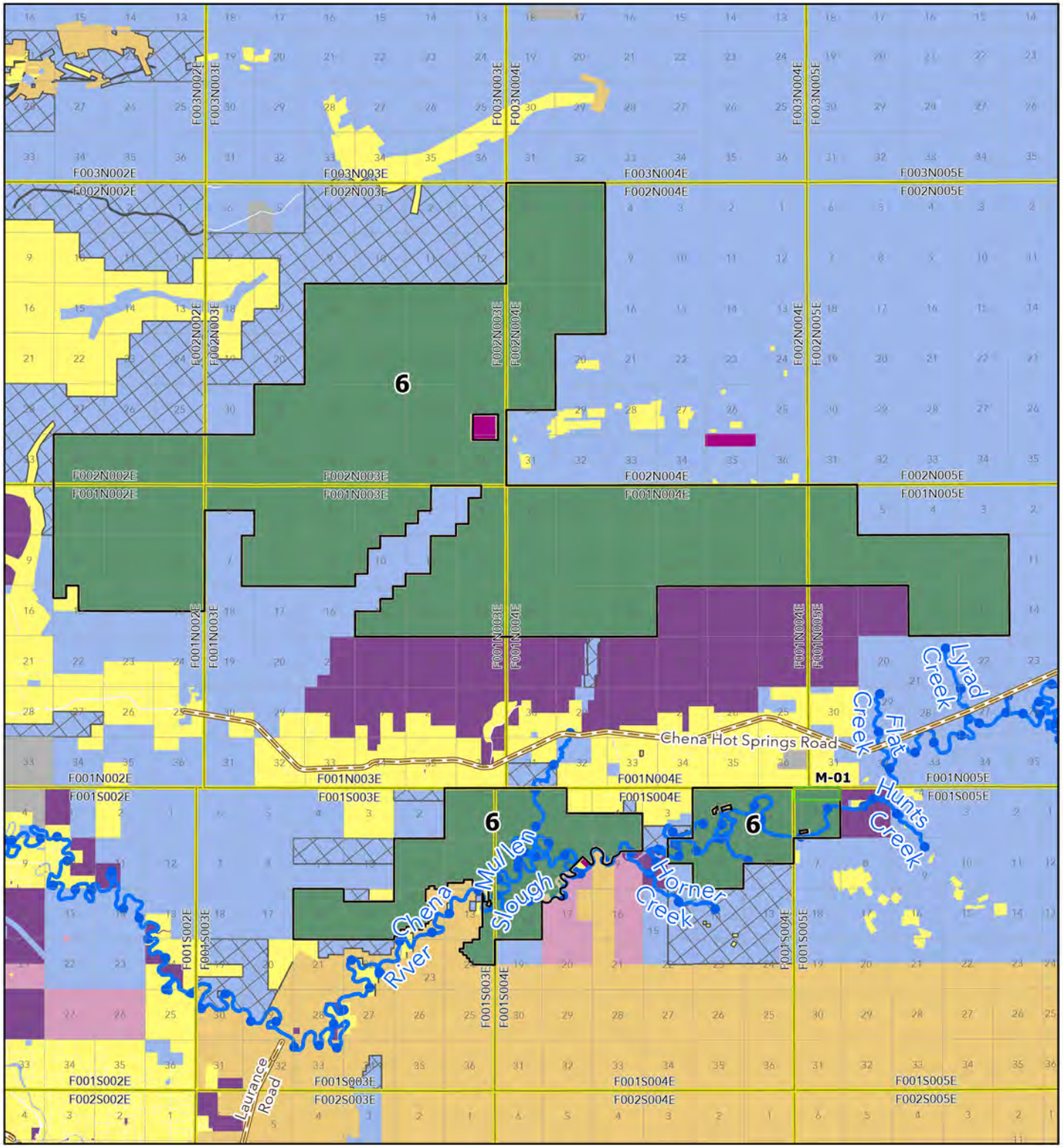
LAND USE SUMMARY

Table 3.6. Unit 6 (Chena) Land Use Summary

Unit 6: Chena							
Subunit / Designation / Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
6 /F / 54,534 acres	Timber production, Recreation	Timber sales, Recreation	Some 2° road may be constructed. When possible, all-season roads will be constructed to provide for public wood-cutting	Open to mineral entry except where affected by MCO 229	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Private Inholdings; RS 2477 Trails; Public Access Easements; State Mining claims in northwestern portion of Unit
M-01 / F, Ma / 147 acres	Manage for material values and resources consistent with any authorizations issued by ADNR or derived from federal patent. Retain in state ownership. See the Material Sites Section in Chapter 2 for additional information. Material sites will be managed for forestry values after the site has been closed.	Material extraction					

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 6
Chena



State Forest Boundary
- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership
- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology
- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads
- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation
- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

6 For
M-01 For Mat

N W E S

0 1 2 4
Miles

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MANAGEMENT UNIT 7: SALCHA

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit consists of 20 miles of bottomland of the Tanana River and forested uplands and valleys north of the river. It contains 3 subunits.

Subunit 7A will be managed for commercial and personal use timber production while protecting fish and wildlife habitat and recreation values of the Tanana River and the mouth of the Salcha River.

Subunits 7B and 7C will be managed for commercial timber production and mineral production while protecting fish and wildlife values near Redmond Creek.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** Several pre-historic and historic cultural sites in the Richardson Mining District have been identified in this unit. Probability is high for occurrence of other cultural resources along creeks in this unit. Multiple cultural sites have been identified in every Subunit. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology**.**
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** The lowlands of this unit are generally important moose and furbearer habitat; upland areas are prime black bear habitat. The lowlands receive heavy to moderate hunting and trapping. The Salcha River system provides spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook and chum salmon and supports high value resident species of fish such as Arctic grayling.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** An Alaska Native allotment is located in the center of Subunit 7A.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** Although this unit is adjacent to 12 miles of the Richardson Highway and Old Valdez Trail, most people are drawn to nearby Birch and Harding Lakes. Roadside views are generally restricted. Potential for Tanana River access is high within Subunit 7A, but few people take air boats and jet boats on the Tanana River through this subunit. The mouth of the Salcha River, a popular river for motorboating, is in this unit. The Mosquito Creek logging road and the Canyon Creek logging road receive moderate recreational use, primarily by hunters in the fall. Logging roads have created access for recreationists in the area. Fishing is also a popular activity in the Richardson/Clearwater area of the Tanana River. This unit is sometimes used to access recreational cabins on the Salcha River, and many people use this area for recreational snowmachining and four-wheeling. One known dog mushing tourism business operates in parts of Subunit 7C and much of Unit 8.
5. **Scientific Resources:** A number of permanent UA forest measurement sites are permitted in Subunit 7B (LAS 19739). The northwest corner of Subunit 7B contains permitted seedling growth study plots (ADL 421870).
6. **Subsurface Resources:** Numerous active mining claims, both placer and hard rock, located along Banner and Canyon Creeks are part of the Richardson Mining District. Recent studies suggest at least moderate mineral potential in other parts of Subunits 7B and 7C. Active and abandoned

floodplains of the Tanana River are a likely source of materials. A small number of active material sites are located in Subunit 7B near the Richardson highway.

7. **Timber:** Bottomlands along the Tanana River contain a patchwork of mature spruce and productive, younger mixed hardwood-spruce stands. Ridges north of the Tanana are forested with mixed hardwood-spruce stands.
8. **Transportation and Access**: The Richardson Highway and the Old Valdez Trail provide primary access to Subunits 7A and 7B. Subunit 7C is not accessed by an all-season road. Multiple RS 2477 trails access Subunit 7B. A public access easement managed by ADF&G connects Harding Lake to the northwest corner of Subunit 7B. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System passes through the middle of the unit.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

1. **Cultural Site Protection:** Guidelines for cultural site protection (see the Cultural Resources section of Chapter 2) apply to cultural sites within this unit.
2. **Minerals:** All of this unit is open to mineral exploration and leasing, except for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System right-of-way, which will remain closed to mineral location to protect existing and future utility uses.
3. **Scenic Quality:** Timber, road, and other development activities in Subunits 7A and 7B will be sited and designed to enhance or minimize harm to scenic views from the Richardson Highway to the extent feasible and practical. The perceived value of a scenic resource will be assessed according to the management guidelines set forth in Chapter 2, and proposals to mitigate scenic impacts from a management action shall be commensurate with the scenic value in question.
4. **Streamside management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to waterbodies in Unit 7, including their side channels, sloughs, and backwaters. See table 2.3 for a list of waterbodies in TVSF with Special Management Zones.
5. **Timber Sales:** Subunits 7A and 7B will be managed for commercial timber production in accordance with other policies stated in this plan. Within the floodplain of the Tanana River in Subunit 7A there exists substantial areas of flood-killed timber and active bank erosion. In Subunit 7A, DOF shall cooperate with the ADF&G to salvage timber value, provided the terms of any salvage sale are deemed by ADF&G to adequately protect anadromous fish habitat.

   Timber will be made available in more remote portions of Unit 7 if warranted by a change in demand or accessibility.

   Timber sales in this unit are within the Fairbanks Area. For more detail if specific proposals are developed, see the Fairbanks Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.
6. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to documented trails within Unit 7. Trails that are not documented in DNR's land record system may be present in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

7. **Transportation:** Subunits 7A and 7B will be accessed by secondary roads from the Richardson Highway and Old Valdez Trail, including new road construction for timber access. Three possible alignments exist for a winter primary road that accesses Subunit 7C and the Redmond Creek drainage in Subunit 7B: 1) upgrade the trail west of Birch Lake and the extension over Gunnysack Creek, 2) use a 200-foot-long floating easement 1.5 miles east of Birch Lake, or 3) construct a winter road east of the end of the Mosquito Creek Road. Routes 1 and 2 would cross land owned by the FNSB and would necessitate cooperative planning. Road planning will consider the access needs of existing and potential mining claims in Subunits 7B and 7C.

   When Subunit 7C is accessed, its access road and 11 miles of the existing Redmond Creek Trail may be upgraded into primary winter road. This level of development requires an interest finding, whether published by the DMLW Region office for an easement creating long term use or by DOF in a FLUP for short-term applications.

LAND USE SUMMARY

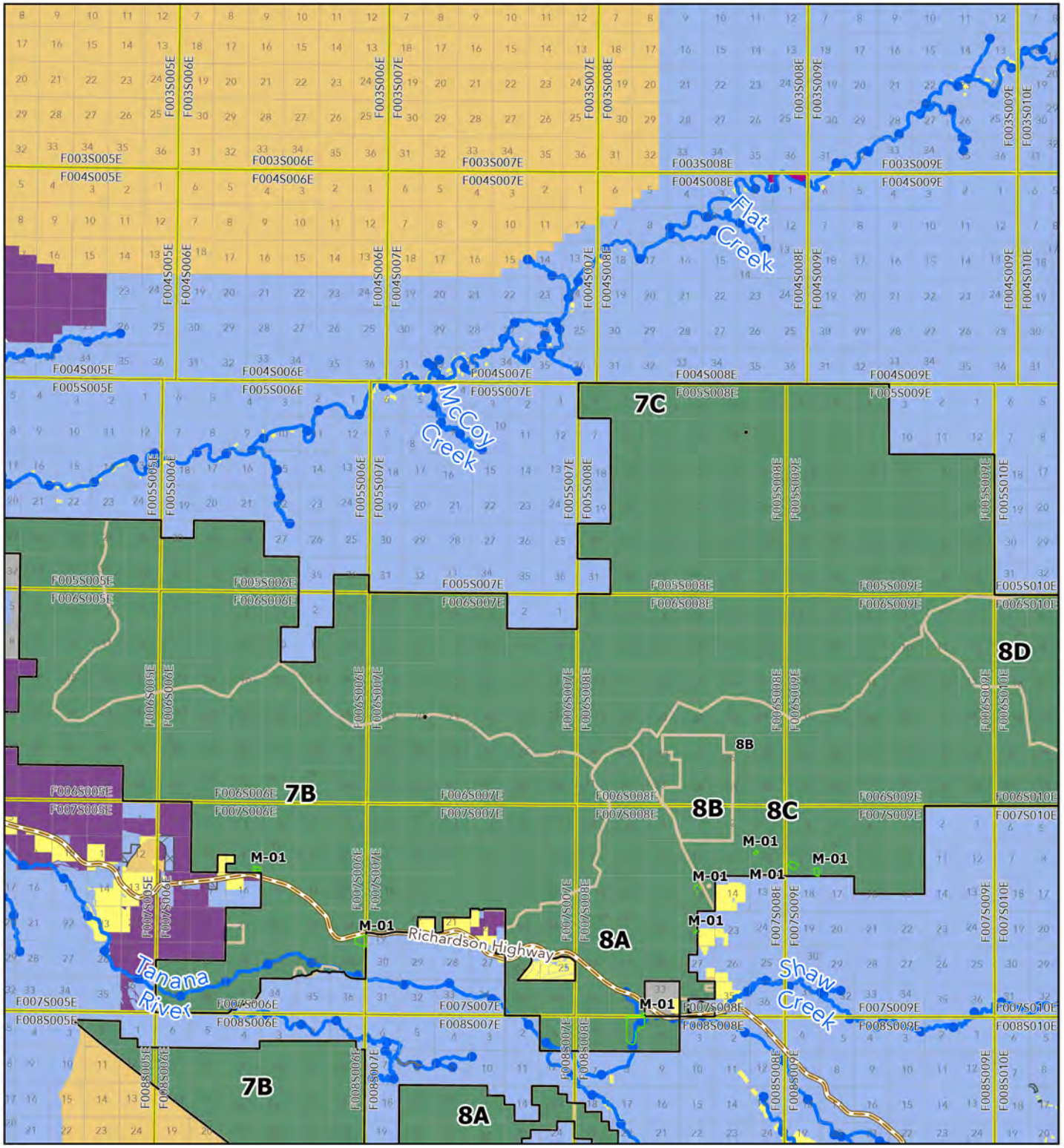
Table 3.7. Unit 7 (Salcha) Land Use Summary

Unit 7: Salcha							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Summary of Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
7A / F / 14,339 acres	Timber production, habitat and recreation near Tanana River	Timber sales	2° roads from Richardson Hwy and Old Valdez trails will access this unit	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Active Alaska Native Allotment; State Mining Claims; Instream Flow Reservation; Public Access Easement
7B / F / 75,684 acres	Mineral production, timber production, habitat and recreation near Tanana River and other streams	Timber sales	2° roads from Richardson Hwy and Old Valdez trails will access this unit	Open to mineral entry except where affected by MCO 383	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Public Access Easements; RS 2477 Trails; Forest Research Plots; State Mining Claims; Public Utility Leases; Hunting and Trapping; Instream Flow Reservation

Unit 7: Salcha							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Summary of Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
7C / F / 94,036acres	Forestry/Multiple Use	Timber sales	Will be accessed by 1° winter road	Open to mineral entry except where affected by MO 1147	Available for leasing	Land disposal	RS 2477 Trails; State Mining Claims; Hunting and Trapping; Trans-Alaska Pipeline System ROW; Instream Flow Reservations; Public Access Easement; DOD Electronic Telemetry Installation
M-01 / F, Ma/ 62 acres	Manage for material values and resources consistent with any authorizations issued by ADNR or derived from federal patent. Retain in state ownership. See the Material Sites Section in Chapter 2 for additional information. Material sites will be managed for forestry values after the site has been closed.	Mineral Extraction					

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 7
Salcha



State Forest Boundary
- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership
- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology
- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads
- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation
- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

7A For
7B For
7C For
M-01 For Mat

0 1 2 4
Miles

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MANAGEMENT UNIT 8: SHAW CREEK

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit includes the upland area north of Shaw Creek Flats and about 8 miles of the Tanana River. It contains 4 subunits.

Subunits 8A, 8C and 8D contain high value mineral resources and will be managed for both commercial timber production and mineral exploration / production. These and other activities in these subunits will be managed to protect fish and wildlife values near the Tanana River and Shaw and Caribou Creeks. Timber salvage prior to mining development opportunities will be evaluated as per AS 41.17.083.

Subunit 8B, the Rosa - Keystone Dunes Research Natural Area, will be managed in its natural state for research and educational use.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** Several prehistoric and historic sites are recognized in this unit. Probability is considered high that other cultural resources are present at Campbell Lake and promontories that overlook waterbodies or large vistas. Multiple cultural sites have been identified in each subunit as part of this plan. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** The unit provides important moose and furbearer habitat, contains black bear habitat in lower elevations, and brown bear habitat in upper elevations. The unit supports the Fortymile caribou herd, primarily as winter habitat, and Shaw Creek Flats provides waterfowl habitat. Shaw Creek provides rearing habitat for Chinook and coho salmon and supports high value resident species of fish such as Arctic grayling.
3. **Private Lands and Leaseholds:** The Tenderfoot Subdivision is located south of the Richardson Highway in Subunit 8A.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** Recreational uses are low throughout this unit. However, air boats and jetboats are used on the Tanana River through this unit, with some berry-picking reported. Dog mushing tourism businesses have operated in the past in this unit. A number of trapping cabins are permitted in Unit 8.
5. **Scientific Resources:** The Rosa Keystone Dunes Research Natural Area contains a series of high "fossil" sand dunes and dune-impounded ponds. Temperature inversions have formed an inverted tree line in deep, undrained hollows between 200-foot-tall dune crests. See also Appendix E, Research Natural Area Report, for more information. ADF&G telemetry tower permitted in Subunit 8A. UA permafrost monitoring sites are permitted in Subunit 8A.
6. **Subsurface Resources:** Pogo Mine, operated by Northern Star Resources Ltd. since 2006, is located at the end of a 49-mile access road that passes through or near much of this unit. Other active mineral exploration is ongoing in this area, for example SAM ALASKA in 2020 began building access north into the TVSF (DMLW Permit #9882). Land along Tenderfoot Creek in Subunit 8A is actively

being mined for placer gold, and other areas are being explored for hard rock mining. Depending on the results of exploration activities in the area, some areas could be cleared and mined. A Leasehold Location Order applies to Subunit 8B.

7. **Timber:** This unit is forested extensively with productive, pole-sized hardwood. Warmer slopes in Unit 8 contain significant areas of mature mixed stands with moderate levels of spruce sawtimber. Pockets of spruce sawtimber are located south of the Richardson Highway in Subunit 8A. Timber harvest activities in mining areas should focus on utilization of the resource prior to mine development or as part of mine development.
8. **Transportation and Access:** The 49-mile Pogo Mine Road provides all-season access to Subunits 8C and 8D. The establishment of this road is governed by ADL 417066, and its ongoing use, maintenance, and management is governed by ADL 421276. Eight miles of the Richardson Highway provide primary access to Subunit 8A. Secondary access to Subunit 8A is provided by the Tenderfoot Subdivision roads, and several mining roads that spur off the highway. Two trails are used for mining, hunting, and trapping access to the upper Gilles and Caribou Creeks. Future access into Unit 8 is likely to come from the Pogo Mine Road, though use of this easement is time-limited unless access across surrounding private land is secured.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Cultural Site Protection:** Guidelines for cultural site protection (see the Cultural Resources section of Chapter 2) apply to cultural sites within this unit.
2. **Minerals:** Subunits 8A, 8C, and 8D will remain open to mineral location and leasing, except for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which will remain closed to mineral location to protect existing and future utility uses. Within Subunit 8B, a research natural area, mineral exploration or development will be restricted if it conflicts with the overriding scientific values. Within the RNA, rights to locatable minerals may be acquired only under the leasehold location system, AS 38.05.205, and may not be acquired by locating a mining claim under AS 38.05.195. The stipulations used in approving plans of operations per Leasehold Location Order #24 (See Appendix C.) will also be included in any miscellaneous land use permits issued for exploration activities within the RNA.
3. **Research Natural Areas:** Subunit 8B will be managed in its natural state as a research natural area. Guidelines for research natural areas in the Scientific Resources section of Chapter 2 will apply to this subunit. Several pipeline right-of-way leases and applications run through and adjacent to this Research Natural Area. Management of the Research Natural Area is subject to valid existing rights.
4. **Streamside Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to waterbodies within Unit 8, including their side channels, sloughs, and backwaters.

   Roads in this unit and in Shaw Creek Flats will be located to avoid whenever possible crossing or closely paralleling Shaw and Caribou Creeks to protect identified salmon spawning and rearing habitats (see the Mitigation part of the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section of Chapter 2).
5. **Timber Sales:** Lands in Subunits 8A, 8C, and 8D will be managed for commercial timber production in accordance with other policies stated in this plan.

Subunit 8B is a research natural area and is closed to timber harvest.

Timber sales in this unit are within the Delta Area. For more detail when specific proposals are developed, see the Delta Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.

6. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to documented trails within Unit 8. Trails that are not documented in DNR's land record system are present and heavily used in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

7. **Transportation:** Primary all-season access to most of Unit 8 is principally from the 49-mile Pogo Mine Road and its main forest road spurs. When Pogo Mine operations conclude and the Road Use Agreement (ADL 421276) is terminated, Forestry will consider expanding public access options if possible in ways compatible with the statutory intent of the State Forest to provide a sustainable timber resource while allowing for multiple uses.

   The State has developed a portion of the winter trail on the north margin of Shaw Creek Flats to a primary winter road for timber access to Subunit 8C. Additional development of this winter access route may occur to access timber sales in Subunit 8C and 8D.

   If roads on public rights-of-way within subdivisions are used for timber or other resource management activities, they will be maintained by the state as secondary all-season roads during periods of use. Use of subdivision roads will be coordinated to minimize conflict with private land values.

LAND USE SUMMARY

Table 3.8. Unit 8 (Shaw Creek) Land Use Summary

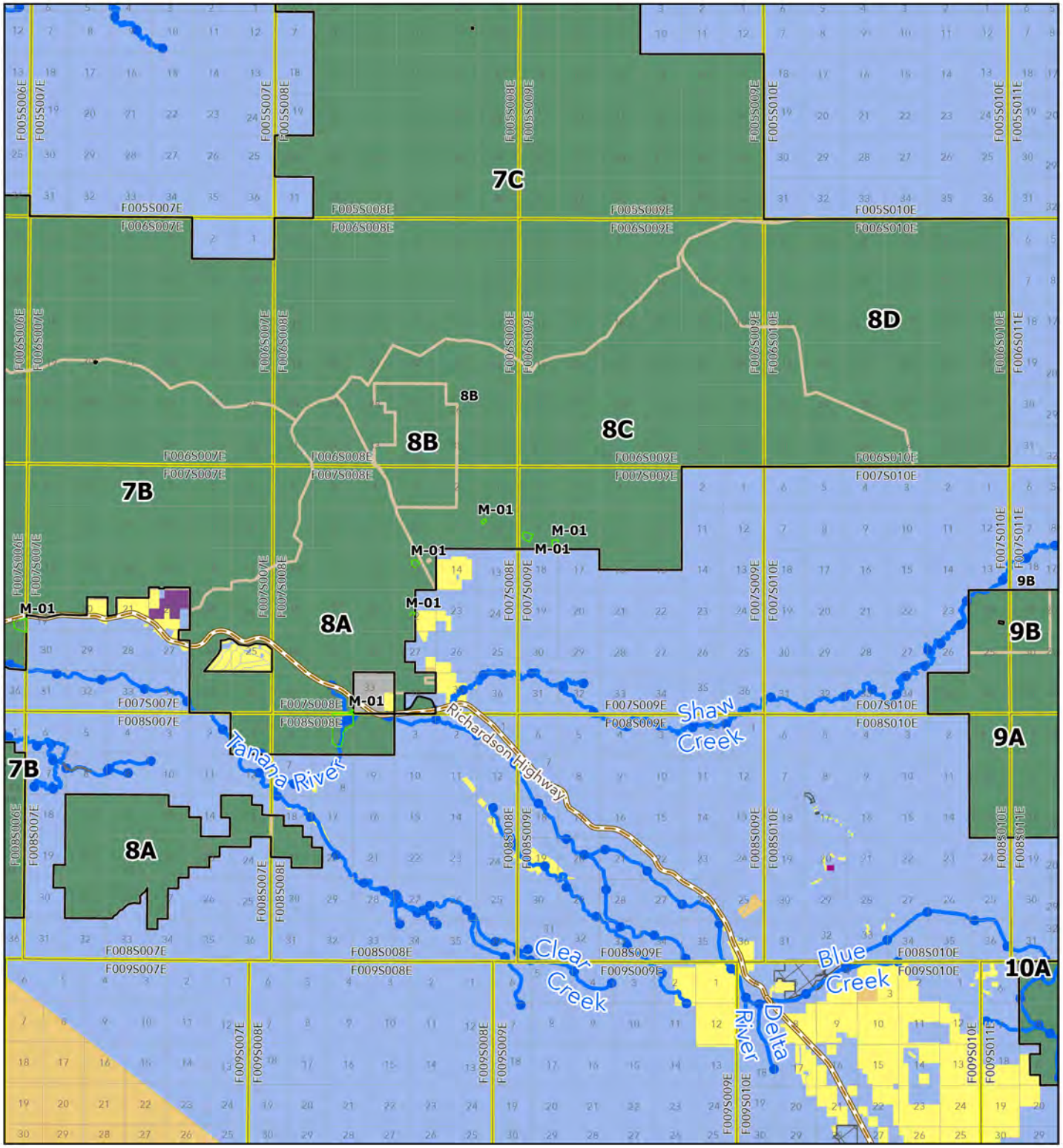
Unit 8: Shaw Creek							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Summary of Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
8A / F / 25,620 acres	Mineral production, timber production, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation near Caribou Creek	Timber sales	1° all-season access is planned from Shaw Creek Rd	Open to mineral entry, except where affected by MO 1147 and MCO 223	Available for leasing	Land disposal	RS 2477 Trails; State Mining Claims along Tenderfoot Creek; ADF&G telemetry tower; Permafrost monitoring site; Trans-Alaska Pipeline ROW; Instream Flow Reservation; Public Access Easements; Private Easement
8B / F, Rs / 3,243 acres	Rosa-Keystone Dunes Research Natural Area Manage Under ADL 228314	Research	No new road construction planned	Open under leasehold location LLO 24 except where affected by MO 1147	Available for leasing	Land disposal; Commercial leases; developed recreation; material extraction; remote cabins; timber harvest; trapping cabins; introduction of non -endemic species	RS 2477 Trails; Special Use Designation; RS 2477 Trails; Instream Flow Reservation; A trapping cabin was erroneously authorized in this subunit in 2006 (ADL 417594). Permit expires 03/2026.

Unit 8: Shaw Creek							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Summary of Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
8C / F / 31,323 acres	Timber production, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation near Tanana River and Shaw Creek, mineral production	Timber sales	1° winter road will be extended to access timber sales. 1° all-season access is planned from Shaw Creek Rd	Open to mineral entry except where affected by MO 1147 or LLO 24	Available for leasing	Land disposal	RS 2477 Trails; Private Easement; State mining claims along northeast boundary; Hunting and Trapping; Public access easement; Public utility easement;

Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	Summary of Management Intent	Summary of Management Activities	Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)	Subsurface Designation		Prohibited Surface Uses*	Other Resources and Uses
				Locatable	Leasable		
8D / F / 20,856 acres	Forestry /Multiple Use	Timber sales	1° winter road may be extended to access timber sales. All season access is planned from Shaw Creek	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	State Mining Claims on much of the subunit; Hunting and trapping
M-01 / F, Ma / 251 acres	Manage for material values and resources consistent with any authorizations issued by ADNR or derived from federal patent. Retain in state ownership. See the Material Sites Section in Chapter 2 for additional information. Material sites will be managed for forestry values after the site has been closed.	Material extractions					

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 8
Shaw Creek



State Forest Boundary
- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership
- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology
- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

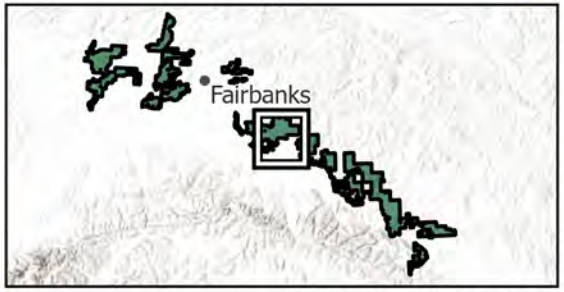
Roads
- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation
- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

8A For
8B For Rsu
8C For
8D For
M-01 For Mat

0 1 2 4
Miles



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MANAGEMENT UNIT 9: RAPID CREEK

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit includes most of the uplands between Shaw Creek and the Goodpaster River. It contains 3 subunits.

Subunit 9A will be managed for commercial timber production while protecting fish and wildlife values near Liscum Slough and Rapid Creek.

Subunit 9B, the Shaw Creek Tamarack Research Natural Area, will be managed in its natural state for research and educational use.

Subunit 9C will be managed for general multiple-use management consistent with 11 AAC 96 and AS 41.17.200.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** One cultural site been identified in this unit as part of this plan. Probability of other sites is considered high on promontories that overlook waterbodies or large vistas. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.

2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Moose and furbearers occur throughout this unit. The unit contains important black bear habitat, primarily in lower elevations, and brown bear habitat in upper elevations. This unit is used by the Fortymile caribou herd, primarily as winter habitat. Lowland areas are used intensively for trapping. The lower Goodpaster River system provides rearing habitat for Chinook salmon and supports high value resident species of fish such as Arctic grayling.

3. **Private Lands and Leaseholds:** A small parcel of privately owned land is located in subunit 9B, west of Big Lake

4. **Recreation and Tourism:** Most recreation in this area occurs outside of the TVSF near Quartz Lake or in the Goodpaster River valley. The ridge that bisects the unit offers a good view and is accessed by trails used by local residents. "Lake 992" in Subunit 9B generally has low recreational use. Snowmachiners use this area for day trips. People who have cabins along the Goodpaster River access their cabins through this unit on an RS 2477 trails that passes through Subunit 9A.

5. **Scientific Resources:** Subunit 9B, the Shaw Creek Tamarack Research Natural Area, used to contain representative upland and lowland stands of tamarack suitable for research uses. However, the tamarack have been killed by repeated defoliation over a five-year period by the larch sawfly in the late 1990s. It is plausible that tamarack ingrowth has occurred since the 2001 Plan Update, but there is no known recent site visit to confirm this. There are two cabins within the Research Natural Area, along the east side of the lake. Two active traplines were observed and a trail circles the lake. See also Appendix E, Research Natural Area Report, for more information.

6. **Subsurface Resources:** Mineral potential is low to moderate within this unit. Mining claims exist in Subunit 9A and a small number in Subunit 9C. A Leasehold Location Order applies to Subunit 9B.

7. **Timber:** The Rapid Creek drainage contains substantial stands of spruce sawtimber; hills north of the Goodpaster River support moderate levels of spruce. There is a history of large-scale fires in this contiguous landscape block. Portions of this Unit are deemed to have high site productivity. Values are lower in most of Subunit 9C because of remoteness.

8. **Transportation and Access:** Quartz Lake Extension Road provides 8 miles of all-season access into Subunit 9A. Winter trails provide additional access into this unit. The historic Fortymile-Big Delta Trail and two spur trails are used chiefly in winter for access to traplines and cabins on the Goodpaster River. The Goodpaster Trail from Quartz Lake was built in the 1930s to access mines in the upper drainage. Spur trails lead up Central Creek and to the lower mile of the Goodpaster. The Goodpaster Trail is listed as an RS 2477 route. Another RS 2477 route does not pass through the unit, but provides access to the area. Access to Rapid Creek is via the Indian Creek Trail that links to an old army maneuver trail in Shaw Creek Flats. The army trail is currently being used as a winter road to haul timber from Subunit 9A.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Cultural Sites:** Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.

2. **Minerals:** Subunits 9A and 9C will remain open to mineral location and leasing. Within Subunit 9B, the research natural area, mineral exploration or development will be restricted if it conflicts with the overriding scientific values. Within the RNA, rights to locatable minerals may be acquired only under the leasehold location system, AS 38.05.205, and may not be acquired by locating a mining claim under AS 38.05.195. The stipulations used in approving plans of operations per Leasehold Location Order #24 (See Appendix C.) will also be included in any miscellaneous land use permits issued for exploration activities within the RNA.

3. **Goodpaster River Corridor.** When authorizing development activities, measures will be taken to minimize impacts to the scenic values or recreational uses of the Goodpaster River corridor, here defined as Unit D-15 of the 2015 Eastern Tanana Area Plan (ETAP), to the extent feasible and prudent. ETAP Unit D-15 is “to be managed to protect and maintain habitat and public recreation values”, and a large number of private inholdings and public trails exist within ETAP Unit D-15. Measures to minimize the impacts of timber management actions on scenic values are discussed in Chapter 2.

   To minimize impacts on the scenic and recreational values of the Goodpaster River, and to maintain the roadless character of the river, winter roads in this unit will be designed and managed to minimize possible use by all-terrain vehicles in the summer.

4. **Research Natural Area:** Subunit 9B will be managed in its natural state as a research natural area. Guidelines for research natural areas in the Scientific Resources section of Chapter 2 will apply to this subunit.

5. **Streamside and Lakeshore Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to water bodies in Unit 9. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.

6. **Timber:** Suitable lands in Subunit 9A will be managed for commercial timber production. Timber sales over 10,000 board feet are prohibited in a 160-acre parcel near Jolly's Cabin (T8S, R11E, Sec. 27 SW¼).

   Timber will be made available in Subunit 9C if warranted by a change in demand or accessibility.

   Subunit 9B is a research natural area and is closed to timber harvest.

   Timber sales in this unit are within the Delta Area. For more detail when specific proposals are developed, see the Delta Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.

7. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to documented trails within Unit 9. Trails that are not documented in DNR's land record system are present and heavily used in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

   To minimize impacts on the scenic and recreational values of the Goodpaster River, and to maintain the roadless character of the river, the Goodpaster Winter Trail (Fortymile-Big Delta Trail) should be managed for winter-only use by road vehicles. DNR will adjudicate land actions, including timber sales, consistent with this intent. DNR will not upgrade this trail to an all-season road.

8. **Transportation:** Subunit 9A is currently accessed by the Quartz Lake Extension Road, a primary all-season forest road. A trail developed by the army on the south side of Shaw Creek has been used to access timber salvaged from the Rapid Creek fire. This trail has also been used to access timber sales to the east and north of Quartz Lake. This access route will continue to be used for timber management. If an all-season road is constructed, it will be routed on the hillsides north of the Goodpaster Winter Trail.

   The following guideline applies to new access only in a 160-acre parcel near Jolly's Cabin (T8S R11E, Sec. 27 SW ¼). To adjacent units. For example, a road could cross the edge of this parcel to skirt a ridge extending into the parcel. A road designed under a special exception must minimize the distance within the parcel and must not provide new road access to the river. See Chapter 4, Plan Modification, for a description of the special exception process. Access routes to mining claims should avoid this parcel unless no feasible and prudent alternative exists.

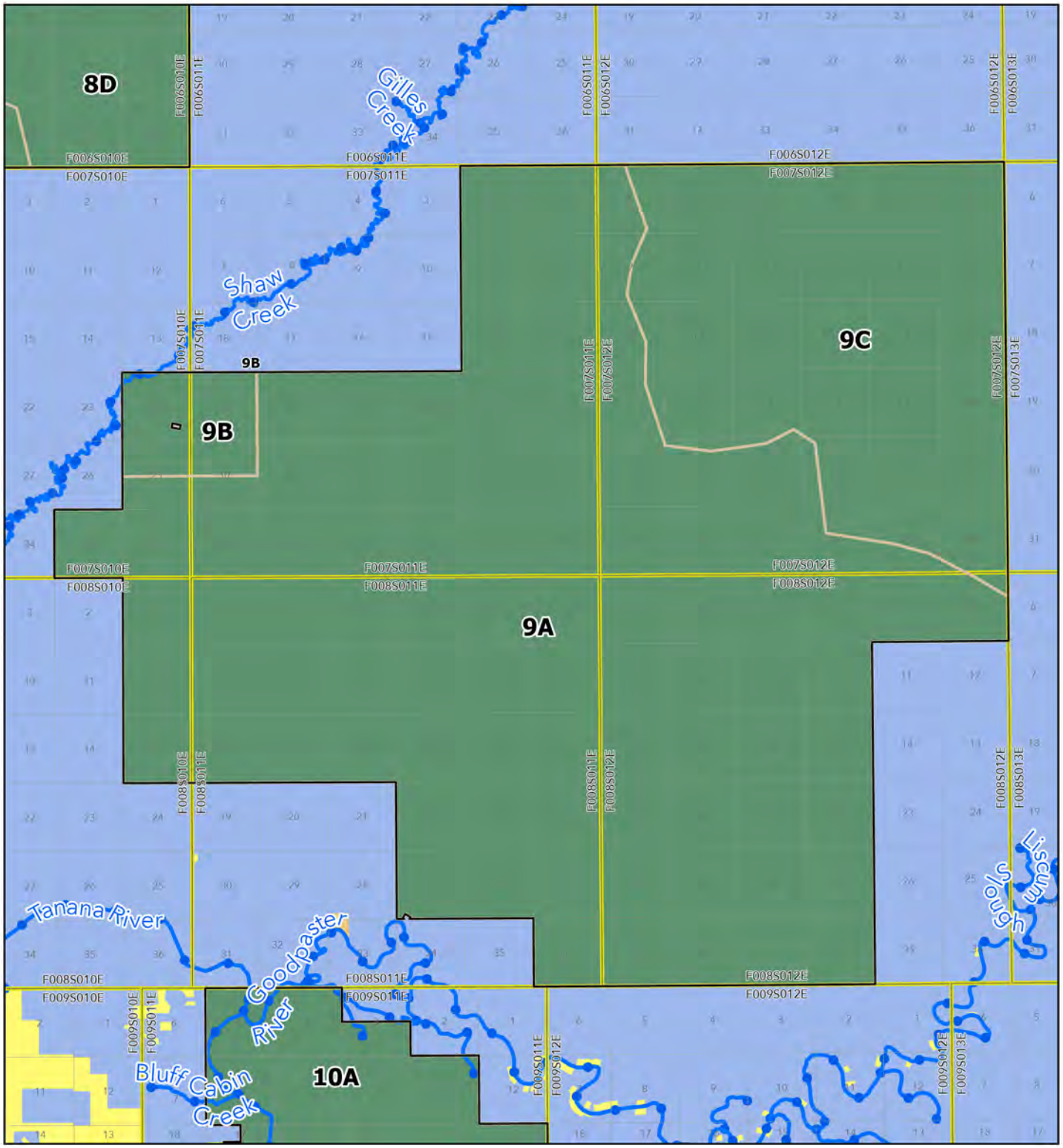
LAND USE SUMMARY

Table 3.9. Unit 9 (Rapid Creek) Land Use Summary

Unit 9: Rapid Creek							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Summary of Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
9A / F / 56,544 acres	Timber production, habitat and recreation near waterbodies	Timber sales	Probable access by 1° road. All-season access road is planned to be extended	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	RS 2477 trails
9B / F / 1,909 acres	Shaw Creek Tamarack Research Natural Area Manage according to ADL 228315	Research	None planned	Open under leasehold location LLO 24	Available for leasing	Land disposal, Commercial leases, developed recreation; material extraction; remote cabins; timber harvest; trapping cabins; introduction of non-endemic species; Carbon offset projects	Private inholding
9C / F / 16,839 acres	Timber production	None planned	None planned. Area may be accessed by all-season road	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 9
Rapid Creek



State Forest Boundary
- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership
- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology
- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads
- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation
- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

9A For
9B For, For Rsu
9C For

N W E S

0 1 2 4
Miles

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MANAGEMENT UNIT 10: GERSTLE RIVER

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit consists of 65 miles of bottomland along the Tanana River between Big Delta and Dot Lake and includes the highlands that surround Volkmar Lake. It contains 4 subunits.

Most of Subunit 10A will be managed for timber and wildlife habitat. The Bluff Cabin Ridge area will be managed to protect its high recreational, fisheries habitat, and cultural values.

Subunits 10B and 10D will be managed in their natural states as research natural areas.

Subunit 10C will be managed for commercial and personal use timber production while protecting fish and wildlife habitat and recreation use near the Tanana and Volkmar Rivers and other waterbodies.

EXISTING RESOURCES

1. **Cultural Resources:** This unit contains a number of historic and prehistoric cultural sites, including one site that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Bluff Cabin Ridge area is particularly rich in cultural resources, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks has previously used the Gerstle River quarry site for an archaeological field school. Every subunit contains at least 1 cultural site identified as part of this plan. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Moose and furbearers occur throughout this unit. The unit contains important black bear habitat, primarily in lower elevations, and brown bear habitat in upper elevations. This unit is used by the Fortymile caribou herd, primarily as winter habitat. Plains bison were introduced to the Delta Junction area in 1928. Nearby, the Delta Junction State Bison Range was established in 1979, with Unit 10C of the TVSF established adjacent on the east in 1983.A substantial number of peregrine falcon nests have been identified along the Tanana River, and many eagles and other raptors are known to nest in bottomlands. Large numbers of sandhill cranes and other birds migrate through the area. The Tanana River system in this area provides spawning habitat for coho and chum salmon, rearing habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, and supports high value resident species of fish such as Arctic grayling.
3. **Private Lands and Leaseholds:** Agricultural parcels are located in the central portion of Subunit 10C.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** The Tanana and Volkmar Rivers are used for recreational access. Subunit 10A includes a small amount of frontage on the south fork of the Goodpaster River and on Volkmar Lake between private inholdings. The scenic Bluff Cabin Ridge area is easily accessed by snowmachines and dog teams from Delta Junction. The Goodpaster Historical Trail connects the ridge area to Rika's Roadhouse, a State Historic site. Other trails in the area are used for horseback riding, hiking, and hunting. The boat ramp near Delta Junction is used heavily by hunters in the fall, and there is a lot of hunting in the sloughs of the Tanana. The Tanana is also used for recreational

boating, paddling, snowmachining, dog mushing, and cross-country skiing. Many snowmachiners travel through Subunit 10B on their way to Volkmar Lake.

5. **Scientific Resources:** Subunit 10B, the Volkmar Bluffs Research Natural Area, includes portions of the largest contiguous set of hill prairies in central interior Alaska. Hill prairie slopes are uniquely gentle and contain uncommon plants pollinated by a specialized species of bee. Subunit 10D, the Johnson Slough Bluffs Research Natural Area, contains hill prairie surrounded by open aspen forest. Rare species of plants adapted to warm sites and others adapted to high elevations occur together in prairie areas. See also Appendix E, Research Natural Area Report, for more information.
6. **Subsurface Resources:** Mineral potential is moderate east of Volkmar Lake and low elsewhere. No mining claims are located in this unit. A number of material sites are located in Subunit 10C.
7. **Timber:** As early as 1920 a sawmill has operated at or near the State Historical Site at Rika's Roadhouse and forested lands in Subunit 10C have been harvested since the 1940s. Subunit 10C has served as the only all-season accessible harvest area to the Delta timber industry. Stands of white spruce occur along the Gerstle and Tanana River corridors and side channels.
8. **Transportation and Access:** Subunit 10C is accessed by the Alaska Highway, Cummings Road, and other all-season roads. The Tanana River provides important access for recreational and subsistence activities during the summer, winter, and hunting seasons. An unimproved, unmaintained public boat launch off Cummings Road provides access to Healy Lake and George Lake. Trails and logging roads provide hunting and trapping access. 17(b) right-of-way easements are reserved over two RS 2477 routes in the area. The easements are 25 feet wide and allow winter off-road vehicle and non-motorized use. Other RS 2477 routes pass near and through Unit 10. Portions of the Tanana River remain open throughout the winter in Subunit 10A.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Cultural Site Protection:** Guidelines for cultural site protection (see the Cultural Resources section of Chapter 2) apply to all cultural sites identified as part of this plan.
2. **Minerals:** Subunits 10A and 10C shall remain open to mineral location and leasing. Within Subunits 10B and 10D, the research natural areas, mineral exploration or development will be restricted if it conflicts with the overriding scientific values. Within the RNAs, rights to locatable minerals may be acquired only under the leasehold location system, AS 38.05.205, and may not be acquired by locating a mining claim under AS 38.05.195. The stipulations used in approving plans of operations per Leasehold Location Order #24 (See Appendix C.) will also be included in any miscellaneous land use permits issued for exploration activities within the RNAs.
3. **Goodpaster River corridor.** When authorizing development activities, measures will be taken to minimize impacts to the scenic values or recreational uses of the Goodpaster River corridor, here defined as Unit D-15 of the 2015 Eastern Tanana Area Plan (ETAP), to the extent feasible and prudent. ETAP Unit D-15 is "to be managed to protect and maintain habitat and public recreation values", and many private inholdings and public trails exist within ETAP Unit D-15. Measures to minimize the impacts of timber management actions on scenic values are discussed in Chapter 2.

To minimize impacts on the scenic and recreational values of the Goodpaster River, and to maintain the roadless character of the river, winter roads in this unit will be designed and managed to minimize possible use by all-terrain vehicles in the summer.

4. **Research Natural Areas:** Subunits 10B and 10D will be managed in their natural states for research. Guidelines for research natural areas in the Scientific Resources section of Chapter 2 will apply to these subunits.

5. **Streamside and Lakeshore Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to water bodies in Unit 10. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.

6. **Timber Sales:** Suitable lands in Subunits 10A and 10C will be managed for commercial timber production in accordance with policies stated in this plan. Public firewood cutting areas will be provided in easily accessed portions of these subunits.

   Timber harvest will be prohibited within the research natural areas in Subunits 10B and 10D.

   The area immediately surrounding Volkmar Lake will be managed to provide firewood, house logs, and other products to cabin owners.

   Timber sales in this unit are within the Delta Area. For more detail when specific proposals are developed, see the Delta Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.

7. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to documented trails within Unit 10. Trails that are not documented in DNR's land record system are present and heavily used in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

8. **Transportation:** Unit 10A is accessed by a secondary winter road crossing the Tanana from the Delta Agricultural Tracts at the end of Sawmill Creek Road. Most of the timber on the south side of the Tanana in Subunit 10C has an access road within two miles. Timber on the west side of the Gerstle River will be accessed through easements between agricultural tracts or by crossing the Gerstle River during the winter. Timber north and east of the Tanana River will be accessed by ice bridges and winter roads. Roads will be sited to avoid causing trespass on land owned by Mendas Chaag Corporation, Dot Lake Village Corporation, and local residents.

   To minimize impacts on the scenic and recreational values of the Goodpaster River, and to maintain the roadless character of the river, winter roads in Unit 10 will be designed and managed to minimize possible use by all-terrain vehicles in the summer.

   Access routes to mining claims should avoid this parcel unless no feasible and prudent alternative exists.

LAND USE SUMMARY

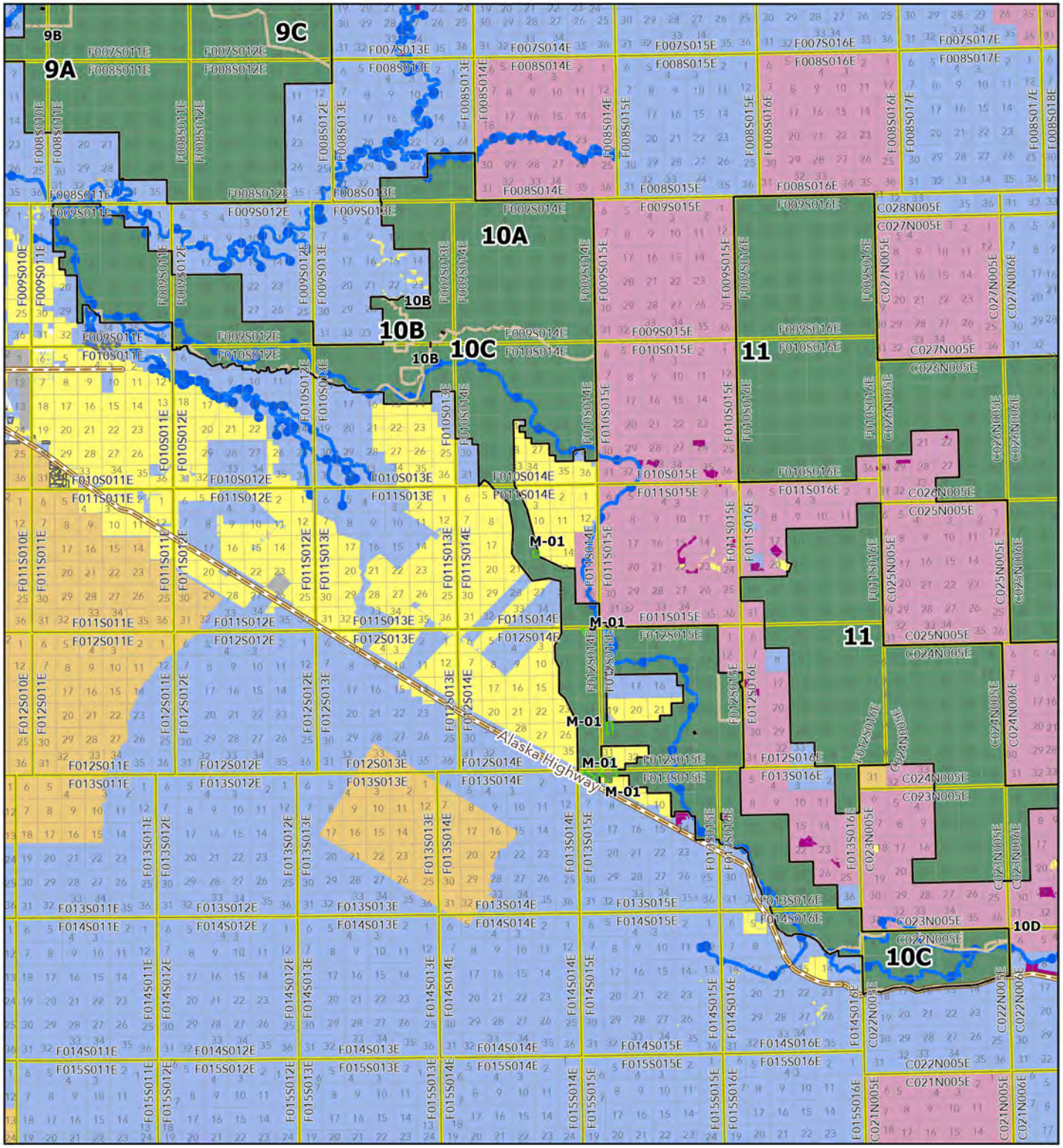
Table 3.10. Unit 10 (Gerstle River) Land Use Summary

Unit 10: Gerstle River							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
10A / F / 60, 524 acres	Timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation, cultural values	Timber sales	Some 2° winter roads may be constructed. Additional 1° and 2° roads may also be constructed	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	RS 2477 trails; Public Access Easements
10B / F, Rs / 1,894 acres	Volkmar Bluffs Research Natural Area manage under ADL 228316	Research	None planned.	Open under leasehold location LLO 24	Available for leasing	Land disposal, Commercial leases, developed recreation, material extraction, remote cabins, timber harvest, trapping cabins, introduction of non-endemic species; Carbon Offset Projects	Public Access Easement
10D / F, Rs / 903 acres	Johnson Slough Bluffs Research Natural Area manage under ADL 228316						

Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	Management Intent	Summary of Management Activities	Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)	Subsurface Uses		Prohibited Surface Uses*	Other Resources and Uses
				Locatable	Leasable		
10C / F / 70,935 acres	Timber production Habitat and recreation near Tanana River and other waterbodies	Timber sales	Some additional all- season and winter roads are planned through the Gerstle River area	Open to mineral entry except where affected by MCO 271	Available for leasing	Land disposal	RS 2477 Trails; Agricultural inholdings; Private inholdings; ADF&G telemetry tower; Boat launch; Permafrost monitoring site; DOT rest area; Potential Hazard Site overlaps slightly in southeast corner of subunit; Lease to UA for Delta Mine Training Center
M-01 / F, Ma / 537 acres	Manage for material values and resources consistent with any authorizations issued by ADNR or derived from federal patent. Retain in state ownership. See the Material Sites Section in Chapter 2 for additional information. Material sites will be managed for forestry values after the site has been closed.	Material extraction					

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 10
Gerstle River



State Forest Boundary

- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership

- State Land
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- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
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Hydrology

- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads

- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation

- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

10A For
10B For Rsu
10C For
10D For Rsu
M-01 For Mat

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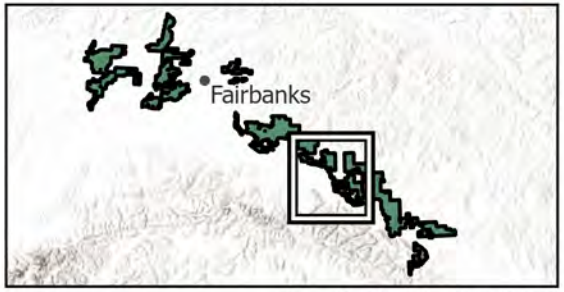
Miles



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MANAGEMENT UNIT 11: HEALY RIVER

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit consists of a rugged upland area separated from the Alaska Highway by the Tanana River and private land.

The entire unit will be managed for multiple-use management consistent with 11 AAC 96 and AS 41.17.200. Extensive land selections by ANCSA Regional and Village Corporations and Alaska Native Allotments surround the unit.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural resources:** A caribou fence is among many cultural sites identified in this unit as part of this plan. Probability of additional sites is considered high along bluff areas in this unit. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Moose and furbearers occur throughout this unit. The unit contains important black bear habitat, primarily in lower elevations, and brown bear habitat in upper elevations. This unit is used by the Fortymile caribou herd, primarily as winter habitat. Lowlands along Healy River and Billy Creek are concentration areas for moose and black bear in spring; the Healy River Valley contains wetlands that provide important waterfowl habitat. Water bodies in this area support high value resident species of fish such as Arctic grayling. Fish and wildlife within this unit are harvested for both sport and subsistence. Larger valleys in the unit are extensively trapped.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** Large tracts owned by ANCSA Regional/Village Corporations border much of Unit 11. Numerous private inholdings & Allotments adjacent to Unit 11 near Healy Lake & George Lake.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** George Creek has high recreation value chiefly because of sport fishing and hunting. Healy River and Sand Creek have moderate recreational values for sport fishing.
5. **Scientific Resources:** None identified in this unit.
6. **Subsurface resources:** This unit appears to have low mineral potential.
7. **Timber:** This unit consists of heavily dissected uplands that are generally above 1,500 feet elevation. Higher elevation areas are of low productivity and support pole-sized hardwood forests. Mature spruce sawtimber stands are patchy and generally on lower, south-facing slopes, especially along George Creek, George Lake, and Healy River. Understories of spruce are developing in the hardwood stands. There are no recorded State of Alaska timber sales in this unit.
8. **Transportation and Access:** This unit is separated from the Alaska Highway by the Tanana River and land owned by the Mendas Chaag and Dot Lake Alaska Native Corporations. The Healy Lake

and George Lake Trails follow public 17(b) right-of-way easements that are 25 feet wide and allow winter off-road vehicle and non-motorized use. Several RS 2477 routes provide access to Unit 11.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Cultural Site Protection:** Guidelines for cultural site protection (see the Cultural Resources section of Chapter 2) apply to all cultural sites within this unit. Generally, the land selections by ANCSA Regional and Village Corporations surrounding this Unit suggest this area has cultural or subsistence values that are not known to land managers. Prior to any development action that modifies ground conditions, TVSF managers must cooperate with adjacent landowners to fully assess cultural values and uses on impacted lands.
2. **Mineral:** All of this unit will remain open to mineral location and leasing.
3. **Streamside Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to water bodies in Unit 11. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.
4. **Timber Sales:** Timber sales are currently not scheduled for this unit. This unit, by virtue of its difficult access and remote location, may be valuable as a timber or carbon reservoir, especially if other parts of the State Forest experience forest health declines. Timber will be made available in this unit if warranted by a change in demand or accessibility.

   Timber sales in this unit would be within the Delta Area. For more detail if specific proposals are developed, see the Delta Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.
5. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to documented trails within Unit 11. Trails that are not documented in DNR's land record system are present and heavily used in this unit. Public review of Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.
6. **Access and Transportation.** TVSF managers should cooperate with adjacent landowners to obtain access prior to undertaking any development actions in this unit.

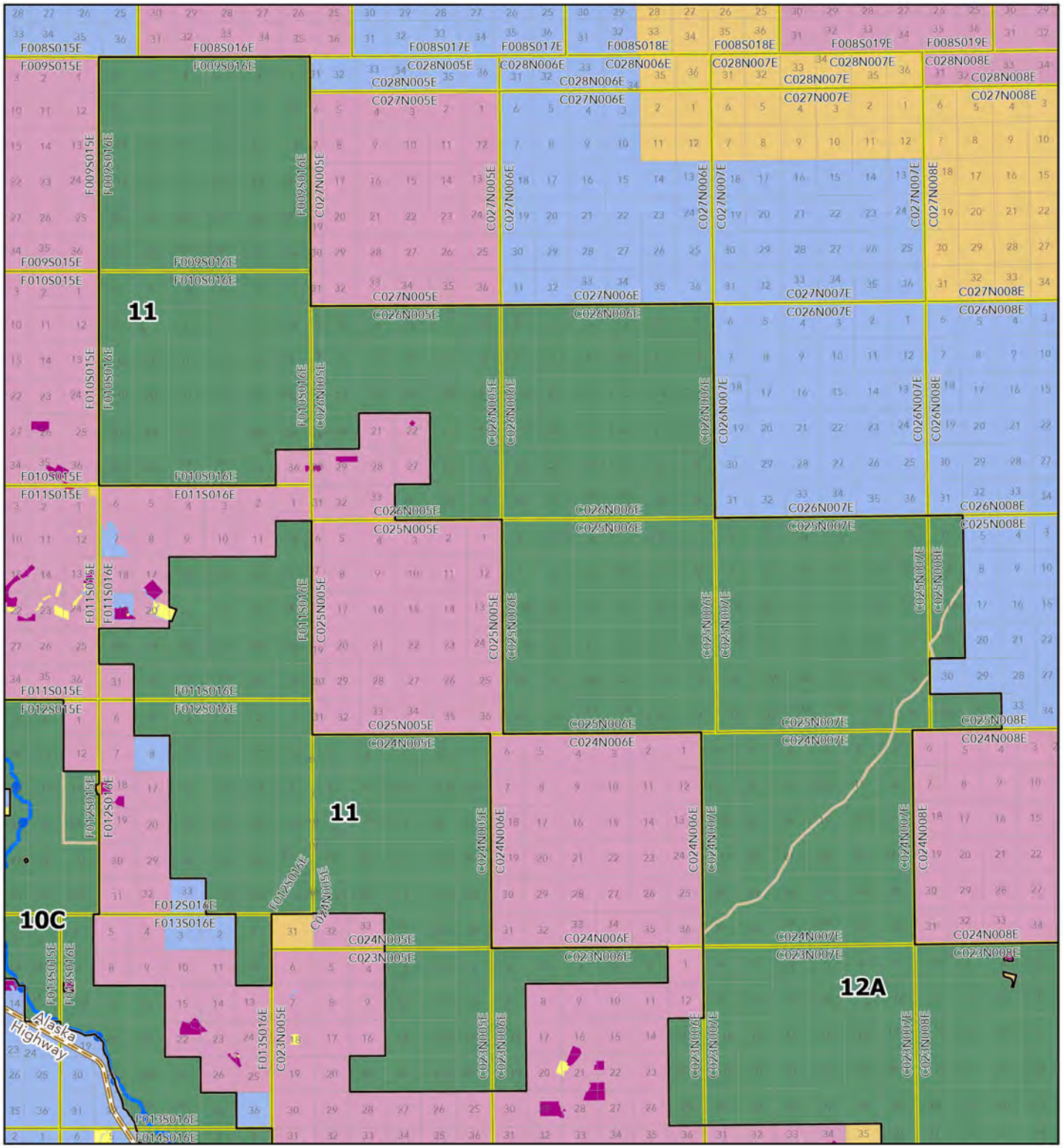
LAND USE SUMMARY

Table 3.11. Unit 11 (Healy River) Land Use Summary

Unit 11: Healy River							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
11 / F / 199,685 acres	Forestry/Multiple Use	None planned	None planned	Open to mineral entry	Available for mineral leasing	Land disposals	RS 2477 Trails

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 11
Healy River



State Forest Boundary
- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership
- State Land
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- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology
- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads
- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation
- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

11 For

N W E S

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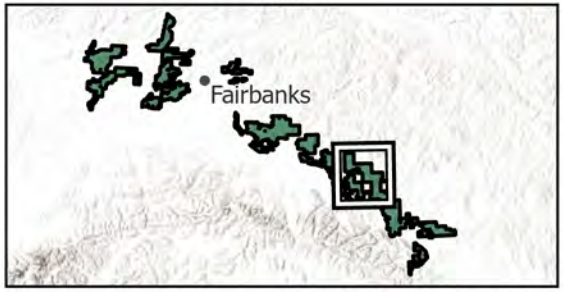
Miles



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MANAGEMENT UNIT 12: TOWER BLUFFS

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit includes wetlands in the lower Mansfield and Billy Creek drainages and fronts about 30 miles of the Tanana River. It contains 2 subunits.

Subunit 12A will be managed for general use until additional information is gathered about access development and resource potential.

Subunit 12B is accessible during the winter from the Alaska Highway and will be managed for timber production while protecting fish and wildlife habitat values and public uses along the Tanana River.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** Eight cultural sites have been identified in Subunit 12B as part of this plan, at least one of which is prehistoric in nature. Probability is considered high that Tower Bluffs, Cathedral Bluffs, T Lake, and other bluffs within this unit contain other cultural resources. The Eagle Trail is a historic route used by Alaska Natives and miners. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** The large lakes and wetlands in this unit provide waterfowl habitat and support high value resident species of fish. Important habitat for moose, black bears, upland game birds (e.g., grouse and ptarmigan), and furbearers is found throughout. The moose population increased within this area following wildfires during the 2000s and 2010s, possibly aided by reduced wolf abundance. Important raptor habitat and nesting areas exist within the unit, primarily in the lowland areas along the Tanana River. The unit is heavily utilized for trapping by residents and is an important moose and bear hunting area.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** Numerous privately owned tracts exist within both subunits, in particular concentrated in the Cathedral Bluffs and Mansfield areas.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** The Tanana and Robertson Rivers and Mansfield and T Lakes support sport fisheries. T Lake is accessed by float planes. Powerboaters use the Tanana River in this unit for fishing, hunting, and sightseeing. In the winter, the Tanana is used for snowmachining, dog mushing, and trapping. Snowmachiners and dog mushers also use the logging roads. Most of the hiking and four-wheeling in this unit is associated with moose hunting in the fall.
5. **Scientific Resources:** None identified in this unit.
6. **Subsurface Resources:** Mineral potential in this unit appears low. A material sale is active in Subunit 12B.
7. **Timber:** The Tanana River bottomlands in this unit support mature sawtimber stands of white spruce. Except for the south-facing slopes, the higher elevation area of this unit to the east and north of the Tanana River has generally low productivity, with only patches of sawtimber spruce

on lower, warmer slopes. The lower slopes of the highlands north of the Tanana River are productive areas. Timber resources in this area are currently being evaluated.

8. **Transportation and Access:** The Tanana River separates almost all the land within this unit from the Alaska Highway. The Tanana Crossing - Grundler Trail follows a 17(b) public right-of- way over land owned by Tanacross, Inc. The easement is 25 feet wide and allows winter off- road vehicle or non-motorized use.

   Documented RS 2477 routes provide access to and through Unit 12. Undocumented trails may exist in this unit.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Cultural Site Protection:** Guidelines for cultural site protection (see the Cultural Resources section of Chapter 2) apply to all cultural sites within this unit. Structures or other evidence of historic activity near the Eagle Trail will be identified and protected consistent with these guidelines. Care will be exercised when locating timber sales on high probability cultural site locations.
2. **Development Activities Near Private Land:** Roads, timber harvest, and other development activities near Cathedral Bluffs and Mansfield Lake will be sited and designed to avoid trespass on adjacent private land.
3. **Minerals:** All this unit will remain open to mineral location and leasing. The Robertson River campground site will be closed to locatable mineral entry when funding for campground development is secured.
4. **Recreational Facilities:** No authorized recreational facilities are currently found on T Lake, and none are currently planned for this area. A campground may be developed on a scenic bluff north of the Robertson River and east of the Alaska Highway in Subunit 12B. Campground siting and design will avoid negative impacts on peregrine falcon nest sites.
5. **Streamside and Lakeshore Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to water bodies in Unit 12. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.
6. **Timber Sales:** Timber sales have not been scheduled in Subunit 12A. Timber will be made available in this subunit if warranted by a change in demand or accessibility. Timber sales in this unit would be within the Tok Area.

   Suitable lands in Subunit 12B will be managed for commercial and personal- use timber production in accordance with other policies and guidelines stated in this plan.

   For more detail if specific proposals are developed, see the Tok Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.
7. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to documented trails within Unit 12. Trails that are not documented in DNR's land record system are present and heavily used in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule

of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

8. **Transportation:** Timber in Subunit 12B will be accessed by secondary winter roads and ice bridges from the Alaska Highway. Secondary winter roads will probably be constructed in Subunit 12B for timber management. The DNR will seek agreements with the Dot Lake Corporation for cooperative timber agreements and access development near Dot Lake.

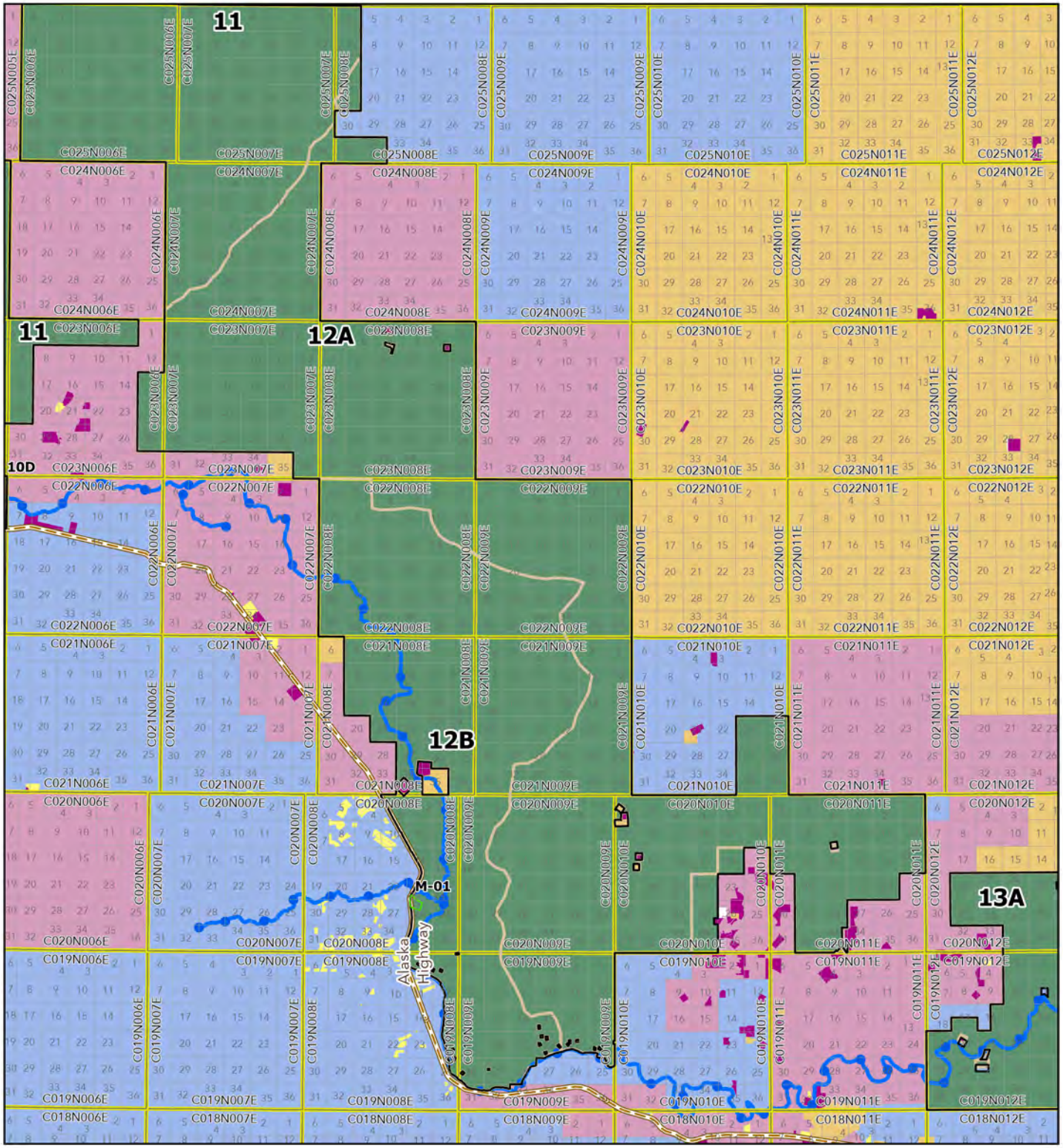
LAND USE SUMMARY

Table 3.12. Unit 12 (Tower Bluffs) Land Use Summary

Unit 12: Tower Bluffs							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
12A / F / 194,100 acres	Forestry/Multiple Use	None planned	None planned	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Private inholdings; RS 2477 trails
12B / F / 70,700 acres	Recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, timber sales	Timber sales	Will be accessed by 2° winter roads and ice bridges from the Alaska Hwy	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Private inholdings; RS 2477 trails
M-01 / F, Ma / 102 acres	Manage for material values and resources consistent with any authorizations issued by ADNR or derived from federal patent. Retain in state ownership. See the Material Sites Section in Chapter 2 for additional information. Material sites will be managed for forestry values after the site has been closed.	Material Extraction					

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 12
Tower Bluffs



State Forest Boundary

- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership

- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology

- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads

- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation

- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

12A For
12B For
M-01 For Mat

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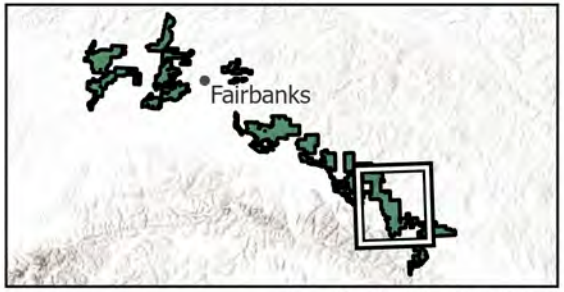

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MANAGEMENT UNIT 13: PORCUPINE CREEK

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit consists of a high elevation area north of the Tanana River and Tok. It contains 2 subunits.

Subunit 13A will be managed for general use because of its currently low mineral, developed recreation, and timber values.

Subunit 13B, accessed by the Taylor Highway and Old Alaska Highway, will be managed for commercial and personal use timber production while protecting fish and wildlife habitat and recreation values near the river.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** Two cultural sites have been identified within this unit. Consult Chapter 2, Cultural Resources, for a list of the cultural site codes in this unit. Further information on cultural sites can be obtained from the Office of History and Archaeology**.**
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** The water bodies in this unit that drain into the Tanana River support high value resident species of fish. Important habitat for moose, brown bears, black bears, upland game birds (e.g., grouse and ptarmigan), and furbearers is found throughout this unit. The moose population increased within this area following the large 2004 wildfires, possibly aided by reduced wolf abundance. Important raptor habitat and nesting areas exist within the unit, primarily in the lowland areas along the Tanana River. The unit is heavily utilized for trapping by local residents and is important for hunting of moose, bears, and small game.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** A number of private inholdings and Alaska Native allotments are identified along the Tanana River in Unit 13.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** The Tanana River is used for camping, boating and fishing, especially in its clearwater tributaries. The Taylor Highway corridor is used for camping, trapping, and hunting access and offers scenic views from highlands. Powerboaters use the Tanana River in this unit for fishing, hunting, and sightseeing. In the winter, the Tanana is used for snowmachining, trapping, and dog mushing. Snowmachines and dog mushers also use the logging roads. Most of the hiking and four-wheeling in this unit is associated with moose hunting in the fall.
5. **Scientific Resources:** None identified in this unit.
6. **Subsurface Resources:** Mineral potential in this unit is low. A mining claim block exists along the Taylor Highway where it crosses Porcupine Creek. An active material site exists in the eastern part of Subunit 13B.
7. **Timber:** Much of this unit is higher in elevation than the rest of the TVSF and is of lower productivity, except for south-facing slopes, which are productive areas. High fire frequency combined with a rugged landscape have created a patchwork of vegetation and timber types.

Since 1986, about 10 to 12 million board feet of timber have been burned, and timber is still being salvaged from burnt areas of the forest.

8. **Transportation and Access:** The Taylor Highway, closed in the winter, and the Old Alaska Highway provide primary access to Subunit 13B. Timber salvage operations use an ice bridge to cross the Tanana River northeast of Tok. Winter trails may provide access to Unit 13. Subunit 13A is not accessed by existing roads. Winter access to the subunit is by snowmachine on the Tanana River, and summer access is via boat on the river.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Cultural Sites:** Guidelines for cultural site protection (see the Cultural Resources section of Chapter 2) apply to all cultural sites within this unit.
2. **Habitat Enhancement:** Riparian and upland stands may be manipulated by ADF&G's Division of Wildlife Conservation, in cooperation with the DOF, to increase available moose browse and begin staggered rotations of hardwood forest beneficial to moose, ruffed grouse and other early- to mid-successional wildlife species. Techniques may include prescribed burning, silvicultural methods, tractor crushing of riparian willow, and bulldozer shearblading or felling of hardwoods. Habitat enhancement projects will be discussed in the Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales or by some other public process.
3. **Minerals:** All of this unit will remain open to mineral location and leasing.
4. **Streamside Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to water bodies in Unit 13. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.
5. **Timber Sales:** Suitable lands will be managed for commercial and personal use timber production in accordance with other policies and guidelines stated in this plan.

   No timber sales are currently scheduled in Subunit 13A. Timber will be made available in this subunit if warranted by a change in demand or accessibility.

   Timber sales in this unit are within the Tok Area. For more detail if specific proposals are developed, see the Tok Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.
6. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to documented trails within Unit 13. Trails that are not documented in DNR's land record system are present and heavily used in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.
7. **Transportation:** Timber in this unit will be accessed by secondary roads from the Old Alaska Highway and by secondary all-season roads from the Taylor Highway.

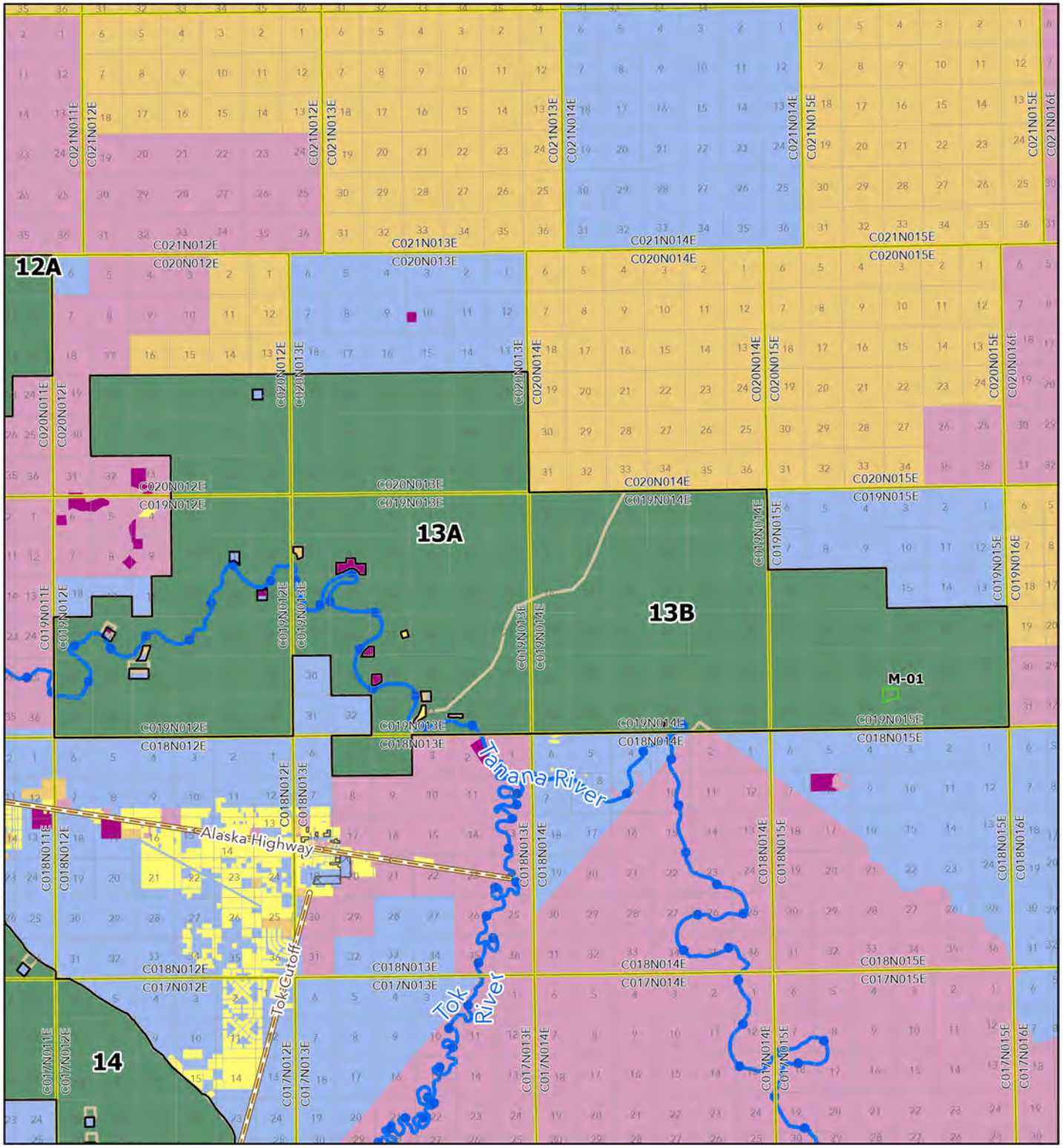
LAND USE SUMMARY

Table 3.13. Unit 13 (Porcupine Creek) Land Use Summary

Unit 13: Porcupine Creek							
Subunit / Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
13A / F / 59,350 acres	Forestry/Multiple Use	None planned	None planned	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Private Inholdings
13B / F / 36,128 acres	Timber production Habitat and recreation near Tanana R. and Porcupine Cr.	Timber sales, habitat enhancement	Accessed by 2° roads from the Old Alaska Hwy and 2° all- season roads from the Taylor Hwy	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposal	Private inholdings; Public access easement; State mining claims in southeast corner of subunit
M-01 / F, Ma / 67 acres	Manage for material values and resources consistent with any authorizations issued by ADNR or derived from federal patent. Retain in state ownership. See the Material Sites Section in Chapter 2 for additional information. Material sites will be managed for forestry values after the site has been closed.	Material extraction					

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 13
Porcupine Creek



State Forest Boundary

- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership

- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology

- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads

- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation

- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

13A For
13B For
M-01 For Mat

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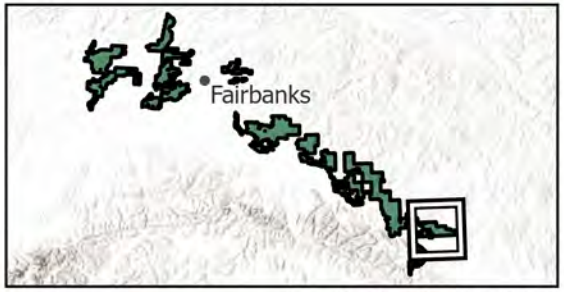
Miles



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MANAGEMENT UNIT 14: TOK RIVER

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit includes much of the lower Tok River Valley and adjacent highlands of the Alaska Range.

The unit has high value for hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, scenery, and timber harvest. It will be managed to maintain these multiple uses. The Eagle Trail State Recreation Site is located in this unit, 17 miles south of Tok along the Tok Cutoff.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND USES

1. **Cultural Resources:** There are no recorded cultural sites in this unit. However, slopes above the Tok River may contain cultural sites.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** The Tok is listed in the ADF&G anadromous waters catalogue, and the drainage system supports high value resident species of fish. Lower elevation areas of this unit are used as winter range by moose and support prime black bear and furbearer habitat while higher elevations (above ~4,000 feet) contain prime sheep habitat. This area in general is one of the most important wintering areas for moose in Game Management Unit (GMU) 12. Moose migrate to the Tok River flats (including both to this unit and through the unit to areas further down the Tok River) from GMU 13 and from higher elevation areas within GMU 12. The resident moose population currently exists at moderate densities and likely continues to benefit from improved habitat that resulted from the nearby 1990 Tok River Fire, but that effect will decrease as the forested portions mature. To increase available moose browse in the area, the ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation crushed about 400 acres of riparian vegetation within and near the unit in the 1980s and 1990s and roller-chopped >450 acres during 2015–2016 in the lower Tok River valley. The unit is heavily trapped by local residents and serves as an important area for moose and bear hunting.
3. **Private Land and Leaseholds:** Two Alaska Native allotments are located over the Old Glenn Highway. One other allotment is located at the junction of the Johnny Trail and the Glenn Highway.
4. **Recreation and Tourism:** This unit is important for developed and dispersed recreation because of easy access and its location near the junction of two major tourist routes, the Alaska and Glenn Highways. The Eagle Trail State Recreation Site, a 35-unit campground, is located on Clearwater Creek. Steep slopes that overlook the Glenn Highway from the west provide scenic views from the highway. The Tok River is used for boating and fishing, as well as hunting access. Trails in the area are used by people on four-wheelers for hunting and by snowmachiners, dog mushers, trappers, and cross-country skiers in the winter.
5. **Scientific Resources:** State, Federal, and UA long-term forest inventory plots are located in Unit 14. Research activity in the area does not limit forest management activities.

6. **Subsurface Resources:** The unit has moderate mineral potential and supports mining claim blocks in the Clearwater Creek area and drainages to the Southwest. A number of material sale sites are located adjacent to the Tok Cutoff Highway.
7. **Timber:** This unit is the primary source of spruce sawtimber, fuelwood, and house logs for the surrounding area. Mature stands of white spruce located in the Tok River flats and productive immature stands of mixed hardwood-spruce at lower slopes in the northern portion of this unit are operable year-round.
8. **Transportation and Access:** The Glenn Highway provides primary all-season access to this unit. Potential secondary access is via the graveled surfaces of the Eagle Trail, an RS 2477 route, and Old Glenn Highway. A portion of the Eagle Trail, Slana - Tanana Crossing (RST 188) follows a 17(b) public easement. The easement is 50 feet wide and allows all-season use. The Johny Trail provides hunting access and is a potential access route to timber in the State Forest and to massive sulfide deposits in the upper Tok River basin. A DOT&PF erosion easement is present along the Tok Cutoff highway (LAS 420323).

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Cultural Site Protection:** Portions of the Eagle Trail south of the northern-most junction with the Glenn Highway will be identified on the ground. Structures or other evidence of historic activity will be identified and protected consistent with guidelines for cultural site protection (see the Cultural Resources section of Chapter 2).
2. **Habitat Enhancement:** Riparian and upland stands may be manipulated by ADF&G's Division of Wildlife Conservation, in cooperation with the DOF, to increase available wildlife habitat, including moose browse, and begin staggered rotations of hardwood forest beneficial to moose, ruffed grouse and other early- to mid-successional wildlife species. Techniques may include prescribed burning, silvicultural methods, tractor crushing of riparian willow, and bulldozer shearblading or felling of hardwoods. Habitat enhancement projects will be discussed in the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales or by some other public process.
3. **Mineral:** All of this unit will remain open to mineral location and leasing, except for the Eagle Trail State Recreation Site, which is closed to mineral entry.
4. **Scenic Quality:** Timber, road, mining, and other development activities visible from the Glenn Highway and in the Clearwater Creek Valley will be sited and designed to enhance or minimize impact to scenic views.
5. **Streamside Management:** Guidelines for special management zones (see the Riparian and Instream Flow Management section of Chapter 2) apply to water bodies in Unit 14. Waterbodies with special management zones are listed in Table 2.3.
6. **Timber Sales:** Suitable lands will be managed for commercial and personal use timber production in accordance with other policies stated in this plan.
7. Timber sales in this unit are within the Tok Area. For more detail when specific proposals are developed, see the Tok Area Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans.

8. **Trails:** Guidelines for trail corridors of regional or statewide significance (see the Trails section of Chapter 2) apply to documented trails within Unit 5. Trails that are not documented in DNR's land record system are present and heavily used in this unit. Public review of Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, Best Interest Findings, and Forest Land Use Plans are critical opportunities for information about undocumented trails to be communicated to the Division.

   The portion of the Eagle Trail between the Glenn and Alaska Highways is a road and will be upgraded for timber access as necessary.

9. **Transportation:** Roads may be constructed in this unit for timber management.

LAND USE SUMMARY

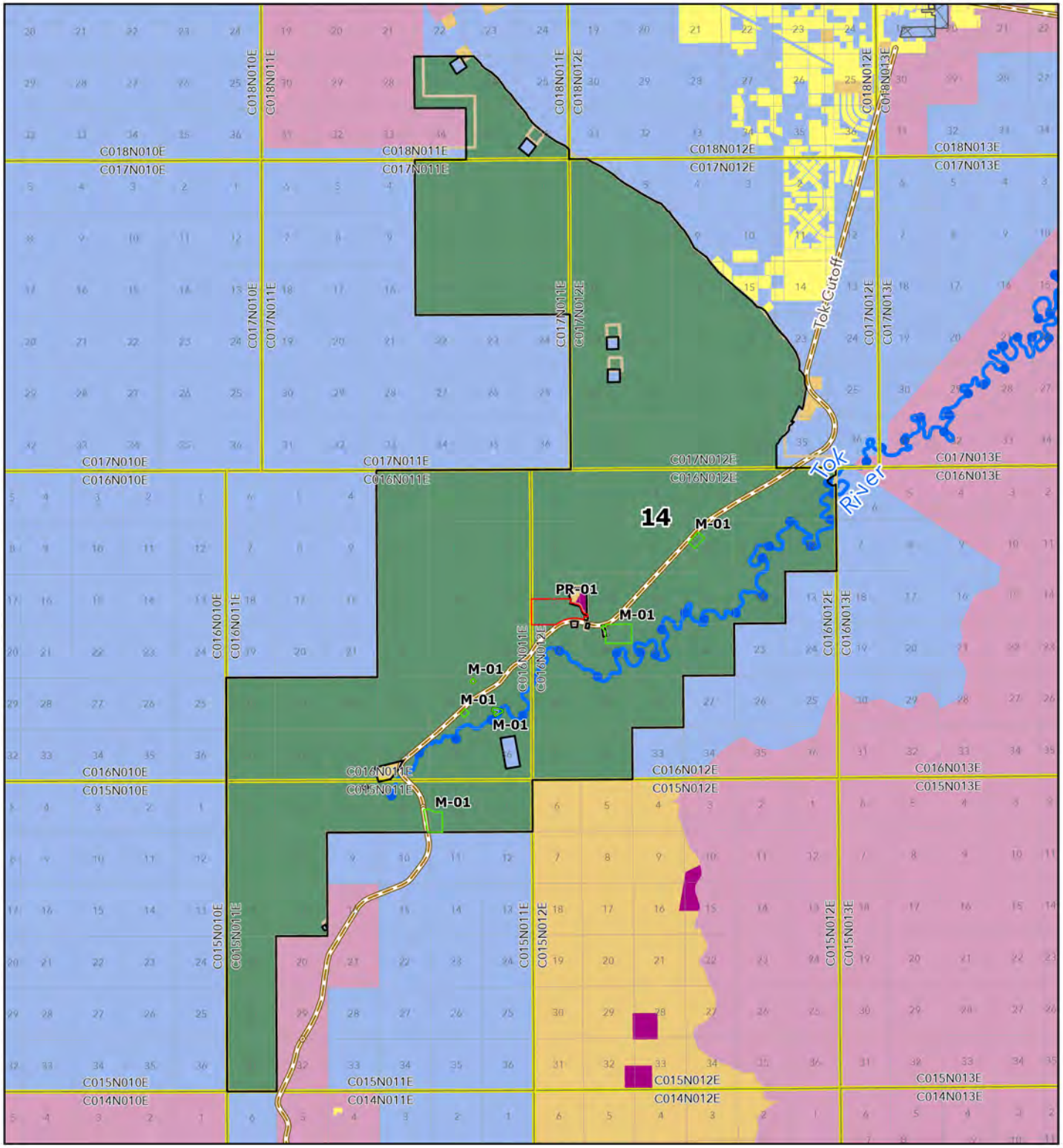
Table 3.14. Unit 14 (Tok River) Land Use Summary

Unit 14: Tok River							
Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	**Management Intent**	**Summary of Management Activities**	**Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)**	**Subsurface Designation**		**Prohibited Surface Uses***	**Other Resources and Uses**
				Locatable	**Leasable**		
14 / F / 59,230 acres	Wildlife habitat protection and enhancement, recreation, timber production	Habitat enhancement, timber sales	1° all-season: old highway. Other 1° all-season and 2° all-season and winter roads north of the Tok River. 2° all-season south of the Tok River on seasonal ice bridge	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land disposals	Private inholdings; RS 2477 trails; DOTPF Erosion control Easement ADL 420323; Public access easement; State mining claims; long term forest measurement plots
M-01 / F, Ma / 263 acres	Manage for material values and resources consistent with any authorizations issued by ADNR or derived from federal patent. Retain in state ownership. See the Material Sites Section in Chapter 2 for additional information. Material sites will be managed for forestry values after the site has been closed.	Material extraction					

Subunit/ Designation/ Acres	Management Intent	Summary of Management Activities	Potential Access Roads: 1°/2° (primary/ secondary)	Subsurface Designation		Prohibited Surface Uses*	Other Resources and Uses
				Locatable	Leasable		
PR-01 / F, Rp / 274 acres	Eagle Trail State Recreation Site Manage according to ADL 50050	Developed public recreation facilities		Closed to Mineral Entry MCO 761			

* Other uses, such as material sales or land leases, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit and with the relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Management Unit: 14
Tok River



State Forest Boundary

- Unit Boundary
- State Forest Subunit Boundary
- Tanana Valley State Forest

Land Ownership

- State Land
- Federal Land
- Private Lands
- Alaska Native Allotment
- ANCSA
- University of Alaska
- AK DNR-Mental Health Trust
- Borough

Hydrology

- Anadromous Waters
- Streams

Roads

- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Spur
- Winter

Land Designation

- Forest/Material Land
- Forest/Public Recreation Land

Unit Designations

14 For
M-01 For Mat
PR-01 For Pur

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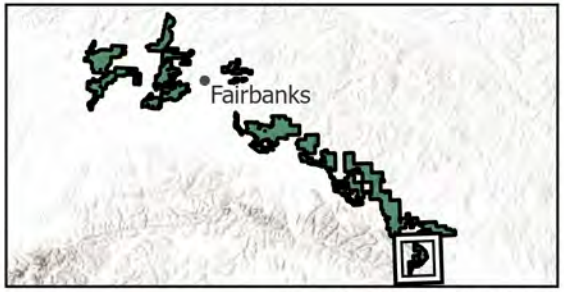

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