

Habitat Categories and Ratings

From Appendix page A-2 of 1991 Tanana Basin Area Plan

(http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/tanana/pdf/appendix_a.pdf)

Categories:

A-1, Highest Value Areas	These include highly sensitive and biologically critical areas. Possible limited seasonal entry of some uses would be allowable.
A-2, Special Value Areas	These include very productive habitats and/or areas that receive heavy human use. Only compatible activities are recommended.
B-1, High Value Areas	High value habitat and/or high human use areas. Conservative management is recommended.
B-2, Important Areas	Important habitat and/or human use areas. Conservative management is recommended.
C-1, Moderate to Low	Habitat and human use values in these areas are of relatively low importance.

Ratings:

Critical Habitat	Critical habitats are necessary for perpetuation of a species in the region.
Prime Habitat	Prime habitats are those capable of supporting maximum densities of one or more species groups on a long term basis and are necessary for perpetuation of those populations.
Important Habitat	Important habitats are those habitats capable of supporting medium or high densities of one or more species groups for short or long periods of time and are important for perpetuation of those populations.

Habitat Designations for proposed Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge:

Most of the proposed refuge land is in the 1991 Tanana Basin Area Plan, Unit 5C.

(<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/tanana/pdf/sub5c.pdf>) Page 3-178 states:

General. State land in this management unit is retained in public ownership for multiple use management. The management emphasis is on recreation, and maintaining fish and wildlife habitat.

Fish and Wildlife: Fish and wildlife habitat is designated a primary use in this unit. Values include prime-rated habitat for moose, caribou, grizzly bears, and sheep (B-1 habitat; see Appendix A, *Glossary*).

Some of the eastern end of the proposed refuge is in the 1991 Tanana Basin Area Plan, Unit 5B. (Maps are of poor quality.) That land is "...prime-rated habitat for caribou, grizzly bear, and upland game (B-1 habitat). Sockeye salmon spawning in Summit Lake and the upper Gulkana River is a significant resource value. There is sport fishing in the lakes." [The plan closes Unit 5B to mineral entry.] For more information, go to <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/tanana/pdf/sub5b.pdf>

The part of the proposed refuge that is in the Copper River Drainage, a fairly narrow strip north of the Denali Highway from near Paxson to about mile 18, is in the 1986 *Copper Basin Area Plan for State Lands*, Unit 28. The chart on page 3-190 shows the northeast corner (Unit 28A) to be "Wildlife: A-1 habitat – caribou; B-2 habitat." It shows the rest (Unit 28B) to be "Wildlife: B-2 and B-2 habitats." For more information, go to http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/copper/pdf/ch3_28.pdf

Note that area plans are being revised, and we cannot be certain which plans these lands might end up in and how they will be designated.

Copper Country Alliance 3-2-18