

## MANAGEMENT UNIT 28: Summit Lake

### Background

This management unit includes state-owned land around Summit Lake and state-owned and state-selected land along the Denali Highway west of Summit Lake. The area is mostly alpine with very few trees. The elevation is generally over 3,000 feet above sea level. Summit Lake, Gunn Creek, Fish Creek, and the Upper Gulkana River are major salmon spawning and rearing areas. The unit is a popular recreation area, particularly for residents of Fairbanks and the Tanana Valley. Recreation activities include fishing, boating, hiking, climbing, snowmachining, and cross country skiing. Some private land exists near the Summit Lake Lodge, and a state subdivision was offered east of the Richardson Highway on land that overlooks the lake. The U.S. Air Force is currently evaluating an area east of Summit Lake as a possible site for an Over-the-Horizon Backscatter Radar System.

### Management Intent

The unit should be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on public recreation and protection of salmon habitat. Unsold lots in the previous state subdivision may continue to be offered for private ownership. All land uses around the lake and its anadromous tributaries should occur in a manner that ensures protection of these waters for recreation and fish. Summit Lake will be managed as a recreation lake (see p. 2-41). The upper Gulkana hatchery site should be reserved (through an Interagency Land Management Agreement) for ADF&G's use. The Gulkana River, Summit Lake, the area between the south arm of the lake and Gulkana River, Fish Creek, and Gunn Creek will be closed to new mineral entry to protect salmon and resident fish habitat and populations. The TAPS right-of-way was previously closed to mineral location. The remainder of the unit remains open to mineral location.

The state should select additional federal land along the Denali Highway in T. 21 S., R. 10 E.; T. 22 S., R. 10 E.; and T. 22 S., R. 11 E., Fairbanks Meridian. These selections complement state selections filed November 12, 1986, for most of the land along the Denali Highway from Tangle Lakes west to near Cantwell. DNR will evaluate all of these selections to determine which lands it wishes to own. Lands that are conveyed to the state will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat and recreation.

The Summit Lake area is identified in the Tanana Basin Area Plan as a potential State Recreation Area along with the Fielding Lake area to the northwest. Summit Lake is suitable for such designation, but is not currently recommended for legislative designation because other high value recreation areas in the basin have higher priority for action by the legislature.

### Management Guidelines

**Potential Gas Line Corridor.** A corridor 1/4 mile wide on both sides of the TAPS line should be reserved in state ownership for a possible future gas line until a more specific route is established. The proposed route for the Yukon-Pacific natural gas line from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez passes through this unit. The route roughly parallels the TAPS line except where it diverges west of Summit Lake.

**Denali Highway - Visual Impacts.** The report Denali to Wrangell - St. Elias, Assessment and Management of Scenic Resources Along the Highways Between Denali and Wrangell - St. Elias National Parks, (1982), should be used when planning for land

use and management activities that will probably result in significant visual changes along this road.

**Backscatter Radar.** If the USAF selects a site in this area for the proposed backscatter radar facility, it should be developed to minimize impacts on fisheries and recreation resources. Access roads will be designed to minimize impacts on habitats and enhance public use of state land.

**Gravel Pits.** Existing gravel pits will be retained in public ownership.

**Mineral Closures.** Some areas will be closed to mineral location to protect salmon and resident fish spawning and rearing areas: Summit Lake; Gulkana River; Fish Lake; land within 200 feet of Gunn Creek and Fish Creek; and Gunn and Fish Creeks themselves. The area between the south arm of Summit Lake and the Gulkana River will also be closed to mineral location because water used in the Gulkana fish hatchery flows through here.

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline right-of-way will remain closed to mineral location to protect existing and future uses.

**Trails.** Swede Lake Trail, from the Denali Highway, gives road access to high value recreation resources. Currently under BLM management, the area is proposed for state selection. If the state receives title, DLWM should consider appropriate management guidelines at that time.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources

# **LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY** **MANAGEMENT UNIT: 28 - Summit Lake**

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
28A	State	Public recreation Water resources Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry except Summit Lake, Gunn Creek, Fish Creek, Gulkana River	Available for leasing	Land offerings* <sup>2</sup> Remote cabins	Past land offering east of Summit Lake
28B	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

\*<sup>1</sup> Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

\*<sup>2</sup> Reofferings of lots in past subdivision is considered an allowed use.

# RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

## Management Unit 28 - Summit Lake - Upper Gulkana

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	28A	28B
Fish	salmon - s/r	salmon - s/r
Forestry	unsuitable	low
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown
Minerals	moderate to low	moderate
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high for Summit Lake; fishing, boating, snowmobiling, hiking	high; snowmobiling, hiking
Sand and Gravel	existing sites and potential area	existing sites
Settlement Suitability	low	low
Transportation	Richardson Hwy.	Denali Hwy.
Wildlife	A-1 habitat - caribou; B-2 habitat	B-1 and B-2 habitats

Notes: a) Future State Recreation Area at Summit Lake and Fielding Lake to the northwest is proposed in Tanana Basin Area Plan.

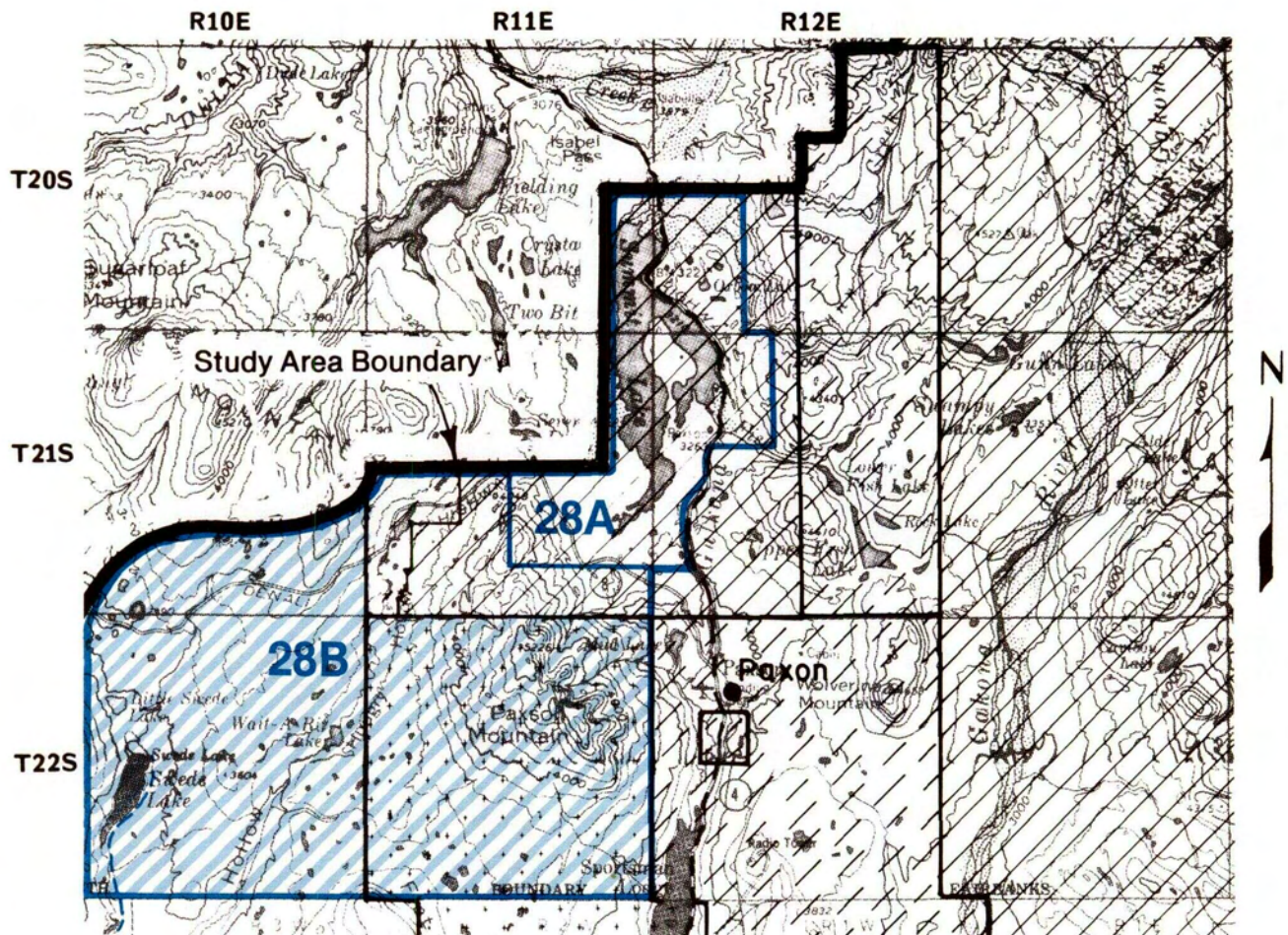
b) Fish hatchery site on upper Gulkana River.

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

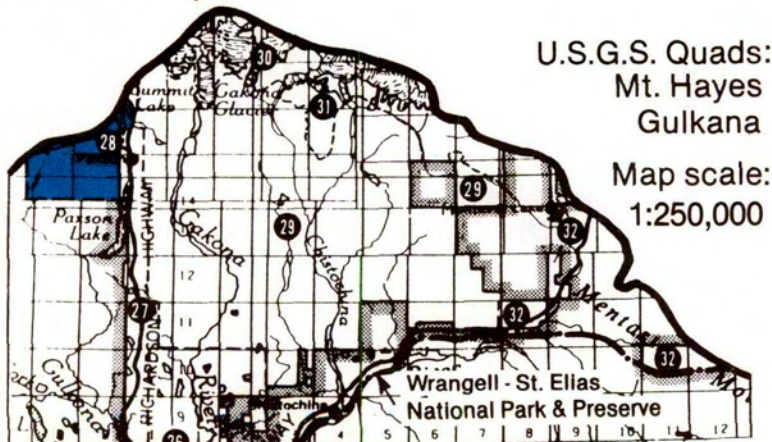


# MANAGEMENT UNIT 28

## Summit Lake



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:  
Mt. Hayes  
Gulkana

Map scale:  
1:250,000

- State Owned
- State Selected
- Native/Private Owned
- Native Selected
- Federal
- Proposed State Selections
- Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

---

# Appendix A

## GLOSSARY

### Acronyms:

<b>AAC</b>	Alaska Administrative Code	<b>DOM</b>	Division of Mining
<b>ADF&amp;G</b>	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	<b>DOT&amp;PF</b>	Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
<b>ANCSA</b>	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act	<b>DPOR</b>	Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
<b>AS</b>	Alaska Statute	<b>FMR</b>	Forest Management Report
<b>DCRA</b>	Department of Community and Regional Affairs	<b>RMP</b>	Range Management Plan
<b>DEC</b>	Department of Environmental Conservation	<b>SCS</b>	Soil Conservation Service
<b>DL</b>	Division of Land	<b>TBAP</b>	Tanana Basin Area Plan
<b>DNR</b>	Department of Natural Resources	<b>TVSF</b>	Tanana Valley State Forest
<b>DOF</b>	Division of Forestry		

### Definitions:

**All-season road.** A road constructed and intended to be used in all seasons of the year (See also, *Road Standards*, in Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan, page 2-32).

**Buffer.** An area of public land between two activities or resources used to reduce the effect of one activity upon another.

**Closed to Mineral Entry.** Areas where the staking of new mineral claims is prohibited because mining has been determined to be in conflict with significant surface uses in the area. Valid existing mineral claims at the time of plan adoption are not affected by mineral closures.

**Consultation.** Processes followed by the Department of Natural Resources under existing statutes, regulations, and procedures to inform other groups of the intention to take some action, and seek their advice or assistance in deciding what to do. Consultation is not intended to be binding on a decision. It is a means of informing affected organizations and individuals about forthcoming decisions and receiving the benefit of their expertise.

**Corridor.** A general term for a zone of land that may be a state-owned buffer, or an easement, or a right-of-way.

**Director.** The director of the state division responsible for managing state land. For lands administered by DL, the director refers to the Director of DL.

**17(b) Easements.** Easements across Native corporation land reserved through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Uses of the easements are limited to transportation purposes and other uses specified in the act and in conveyance documents.

**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 guideline modified by the term "feasible and prudent".

**Goal.** A statement of basic intent or of a general condition desired in the long term. Goals usually are not quantifiable nor do they have specified dates for achievement.

**Grazing.** Two types of grazing are discussed in the Tanana Basin Area Plan: improved pasture grazing and unimproved pasture grazing. Improved pasture grazing involves some alteration of existing vegetation; unimproved pasture grazing makes use of existing vegetation only. When the inclusive term "grazing" is listed as a prohibited use for a management unit, both improved and unimproved pasture grazing are prohibited.

**Guideline.** A specific course of action required to be followed by resource managers or required of land or water uses when the manager permits, leases, or otherwise authorizes use of state land. Some guidelines state the intent that must be followed and allow flexibility in achieving it. Guidelines range from giving general guidance for decision-making or identifying factors that need to be considered, to setting detailed standards for decisions.

**Habitat Categories.** The following categories were used to rank fish and wildlife habitats and areas of human use of fish and wildlife in the Tanana Basin planning region. The rankings and accompanying recommendations for management provide standardized guidance at a generalized level for land and water management decisions from the Department of Fish and Game. For additional information, see the Tanana Basin Area Plan Fish and Wildlife Element (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1983).

CATEGORY	ADF&G MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION
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. More liberal management is recommended.
C-1, Moderate to Low	Habitat and human use values in these areas are of relatively low importance.

**Habitat 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.

**LADS.** Land Availability Determination System; a three year process that precedes a land disposal.

**Land Disposal.** Disposal of state land to private ownership as authorized by AS 38.04.010, including fee-simple as authorized and sale of agricultural rights, but not including leases, land use permits, water rights, rights-of-way, material sales, or other disposal of interest in lands or waters.

**Land Sales.** Used with the same meaning as "Land disposals."

**Leasable Mineral.** Leasable minerals include deposits of coal, sulfur phosphates, oil shale, sodium, potassium, oil, and gas.

**Leasehold Location.** See "Mineral Lease."

**Locatable Mineral.** Locatable minerals include both metallic (gold, silver, lead, etc.) and non-metallic (fluorspar, asbestos, mica, etc.) minerals.

**Management Plan.** A land and resource use plan that makes more detailed allocation decisions and gives more detailed guidance for management than an area plan. Management plans are a primary means of implementing this area plan. They translate the management intent statements, land use designations, and guidelines into detailed decisions on resource use or development. The scale and scope of management plans varies considerably, from large projects taking one or two years and dealing with a variety of management decisions, to small, short-term projects affecting only a limited number of actions on a few thousand acres. Some management plans deal with a single issue - for example, trails or transportation - for a whole region. Management plans are prepared according to departmental procedures that involve interagency and public participation.

**Mineral Lease.** An exclusive property right to develop and mine deposits of "locatable minerals" (see definition for locatable mineral). Rights to locatable minerals on uplands owned by the State of Alaska are obtained by making a mineral discovery, staking the boundaries of the location, and recording a certificate of location. In most areas, such a location is a "mining claim," which gives the owner an immediate property right to mine deposits. However, in areas of the plan that have been restricted to leasing, the location is a "leasehold location," not a mining claim. The leasehold location must be converted to an upland mining lease before mining begins. In unrestricted areas, locators may convert their mining claims to leases if they wish.

**Mining Location, Mining Claim, and Leasehold Location.** The property right to possess and extract all locatable minerals within the boundaries of the location. This right is acquired by discovery, location, and filing in accordance with the legal requirements of the Alaska Statutes and the Alaska Administrative Code which apply to locatable minerals. The term "mining location" also applies to a prospecting site which does not require a discovery, is acquired by location and filing, and remains in effect for one year.

**Multiple Use.** Means the management of state land and its various resource values so that it is used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the people of Alaska, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; it includes

- (A) the use of some land for less than all of the resources, and
- (B) a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the short-term and long-term needs of present and future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values. [AS 38.04.910]

**Native Owned.** Land that is patented or will be patented to a Native corporation.

**Native Selected.** Land that is selected from the federal government by a Native corporation but not yet patented.

**Navigable.** Used in its legal context, this refers to lakes and rivers that meet federal and state criteria for navigability. Under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Alaska Statehood Act, and the Submerged Lands Act, the state owns land under navigable waterbodies.

**Policy.** An intended course of action or a principle for guiding actions. Department policies for land and resource management in this plan include goals, management intent statements, management guidelines, land use designations, implementation plans and procedures, and various other statements of the department's intentions.

**Primary Use.** A designated, allowed use of major importance in a particular management unit. Resources in the unit will be managed to encourage, develop, or protect this use. Where a management unit has two or more designated primary uses, the management intent statement and guidelines for the unit, together with existing regulations and procedures, will direct how resources are managed, to avoid or minimize conflict between these primary uses.



**Prohibited Use.** A use not allowed in a management unit because of conflicts with management intent, designated primary or secondary uses, or management guidelines. Uses not specifically prohibited nor designated as primary or secondary uses in a management unit are allowed if compatible with primary and secondary uses, the management intent statements for the unit, and the plan's guidelines.

**Public Trust.** A doctrine that requires the state to manage tidelands, shorelands, and submerged lands for the benefit of the people, so that they can engage in such things as commerce, navigation, fishing, hunting, swimming, and ecological study.

**RS 2477.** An historic federal statute, repealed in 1976, that granted transportation rights-of-way on unappropriated and unreserved federal land. These rights-of-way are established by public use or construction.

**Remote Cabin.** A cabin constructed under a permit issued through the Remote Cabin Permit program authorized in AS 38.05.079 and further described in 11 AAC 67.700-.790.

**Right-of-Way.** A legally established right designated to a particular person or agency.

**Secondary Use.** A designated, allowed use considered important but intended to receive less emphasis than a primary use because it: (a) has less potential than a primary use or contributes less to achieving the management intent of the unit than a primary use; or, (b) occurs only on limited sites. In those very site-specific situations where a secondary use has higher value than a primary use, the secondary use may take precedence over the primary use. Management for a secondary use will recognize and protect primary uses through application of guidelines, regulations, and procedures. However, if a secondary use can not take place without detrimentally affecting a primary use in the management unit as a whole, the secondary use will not be allowed.

**Shall.** Requires a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word "shall" is required to be followed by resource managers or users. If a guideline constrained by the term "shall" is not complied with, a written decision justifying the variation is required (see *Procedures for Plan Modification and Amendment*, Chapter 4).

**Shorelands.** State-owned lands beneath navigable waters.

**Should.** States intent but allows DNR to use existing procedures to determine the best methods of achieving intent or whether particular circumstances justify deviation from the intended action or set of conditions. A guideline may include criteria for deciding if such a deviation is justified.

**State-Owned Land.** Land that is patented or will be patented to the state.

**State-Selected Land.** Federal-owned land that is selected by the State of Alaska, but not yet patented.

**Trapping Cabin.** A cabin constructed under a Trapping Cabin Construction Permit as authorized and described in AS 38.95.080 and 11 AAC 94.

**Will.** Used interchangeably with and meaning the same as "shall" (see above).

**Winter Road.** A road constructed and intended for winter use only when the ground is frozen and snow depth is greater than a specified minimum.

# MANAGEMENT UNIT 5B

## *Fielding Lake*

---

### MANAGEMENT INTENT

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

Subunit 5B1 is recommended for legislative designation as a State Recreation Area. (See Chapter 4, Areas Recommended for Legislative Designation).

**Fish and Wildlife.** Fish and wildlife is designated a primary use in this unit. The Fielding Lake area 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 area will be managed for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and maintaining important habitat values.

**Minerals.** The southern half of this unit contains plutonic rocks with moderate to poor potential for mineralization. Access to existing mineral claims will be coordinated to minimize impacts on recreation. Subunit 5B1 is closed to new mineral entry and to coal leasing because of conflicts with recreation values. Subunit 5B2 is closed to new mineral entry because of conflicts with the transportation corridor for the pipeline.

**Recreation.** The unit has very high recreation values because of its easy accessibility, high eleva-

tion, and panoramas of alpine scenery. There is recreation on Fielding and Summit lakes, and summer and winter back-country exploration.

This alpine environment is very sensitive and its natural landscape is easily damaged.

The Fielding Lake area (Subunit 5B1) is recommended for legislative designation as a State Recreation Area. Subunit 5B2 may also be suitable for designation as a State Recreation Area, and should be re-evaluated after the Trans Alaska Gas Pipeline is constructed, or during the next update of this plan (see Chapter 4, Areas Recommended for Legislative Designation). Public use cabins are recommended because they would serve a greater number of recreation users than private recreation cabins.

The unit will be managed to maintain its important recreation values. Material sales, access to mining operations, and new transportation and utility corridors must be carefully planned to avoid adverse impacts to recreation values.

**Transportation corridor.** Transportation corridor is a designated primary use within Subunit 5B2. The proposed Trans-Alaska Gas Pipeline crosses this subunit.

### MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management guidelines that apply to all state land are listed in Chapter 2. Some or all of those guidelines may apply to uses in this unit.

**LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY**  
**MANAGEMENT UNIT 5B: *Fielding Lake***

Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>2</sup> Surface Use	Comments
5B1	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Closed to location Closed to coal	Land disposals Remote cabins	Fielding Lake recommended for a State Recreation Area
5B2	Public recreation Transportation corridor Wildlife habitat		Closed to location		

<sup>1</sup> Subsurface designations refer to locatable minerals. All areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals, except as noted for coal.

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

# MANAGEMENT UNIT 5C

## *North Slope of the Alaska Range*

### MANAGEMENT INTENT

**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*).

There are several smaller areas that contain critical-rated caribou calving grounds (Subunit 5C1) and two known critical-rated sheep mineral licks (A-1 habitat). The caribou calving grounds lie at the headwaters of the Delta River and south of Molybdenum Ridge.

The mineral licks in Subunit 5C1 and other places not yet identified are heavily used primarily during the spring. The regular use of the licks suggests an important biological role, especially for sheep. Licks may also be an indicator of mineral values.

The management intent for Subunit 5C1 is to protect the mineral licks for wildlife use and allow exploration and development of mineral resources. The licks should be managed as a group and some licks should be available to wildlife at all times. Additional lick areas may be added to Subunit 5C1 in the future.

**Minerals.** The mineral potential of this unit is moderate. Leasehold location has been made on low silica, high calcium limestone near the Hoodoos in Subunit 5C1. Limestone will be produced to provide agricultural lime for the Delta Barley Project with secondary uses as cement mix and for road de-icing. Mining claims have been located near Mt. Moffit and Mt. Skarland.

Subunit 5C1 (the nine sections surrounding the mineral lick) is subject to leasehold location to protect wildlife habitat values. Existing claims in the leasehold area will not be converted to leasehold location or be required to obtain a lease from the state prior to production. However, exploration and min-

ing on existing claims will be managed according to additional guidelines listed for this unit. The remainder of state land is open to mineral entry.

**Recreation.** Recreation is designated a primary use in subunits 5C2 and 5C3. Areas of heavy use and high recreation values are the Castner, Cantwell, and Gulkana glaciers, Black Rapids, and the Delta River. High scenic values at the southern tip of Subunit 5C2 should be protected.

The Black Rapids access site should be retained in public ownership to facilitate access to and from the Delta River and Black Rapids Glacier.

The Delta River downstream from the National Wild and Scenic River will be managed consistently with the Delta Wild and Scenic River.

### MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management guidelines that apply to all state land are listed in Chapter 2. Some or all of those guidelines may apply to uses in this unit.

**Black Rapids Glacier Selection.** The plan recommends selecting blocks of land within Subunit 5C3. For further description, see Chapter 4, *Proposed State Selections*.

**Subsurface Resources.** Permits or operating plans for activities within the mineral licks and immediately adjacent sections must show how direct or indirect impacts on the mineral licks and wildlife trails will be avoided during the exploration and development phases.

The Department of Natural Resources will ensure, as much as possible, that a minimal number of licks are being explored at the same time.

The nine sections surrounding each lick will be under leasehold location. These concerns should be addressed in the permits or leases: 1) avoiding licks and trails leading to the licks; 2) mitigating negative impacts; 3) compensation for destruction or loss of a lick; and 4) type and location of access in the area.

**LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY**  
**MANAGEMENT UNIT 5C: *North Slope of the Alaska Range***

Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>2</sup> Surface Use	Comments
5C1	Wildlife habitat		Open through leasehold location	Land disposals Remote cabins	Mineral licks See guidelines in text
5C2	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals Remote cabins	
5C3	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals Remote cabins	

<sup>1</sup> Subsurface designations refer to locatable minerals. All areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals, except as noted for coal.

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