

LEG. FINANCE - BILLS

HB 353 cont.

1977 - 1978

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1 persons, and promote wind and erosion control, all of which will in-
2 crease the productive capacity of the land to sustain wildlife and
3 forestry in the state.

4 (b) It is declared to be the policy of the state, in the interests
5 of promoting the health, security and general welfare of all the people
6 of the state, and a public purpose, to increase job opportunities and
7 otherwise to encourage the economic growth of the state, to stimulate
8 agricultural production as a renewable resource so that the people of
9 Alaska can produce a substantial portion of their food for Alaskan and
10 export markets, and to place state agricultural land into production, by
11 granting powers, duties, and functions as provided in this chapter.

12 Sec. 38.08.020. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR. The director
13 shall

14 (1) manage, inspect and control state land and improvements
15 on it belonging to the state and under the jurisdiction of the division;

16 (2) execute laws, regulations and orders adopted by the
17 commissioner;

18 (3) prescribe application procedures and practices for the
19 sale of an interest in land under the jurisdiction of the division;

20 (4) prescribe fees or service charges, with the consent of
21 the commissioner, for any public service rendered;

22 (5) under the conditions and limitations imposed by law and
23 the commissioner, issue deeds or other conveyances disposing of an
24 interest in land under the jurisdiction of the division;

25 (6) have jurisdiction over state land located within an
26 agricultural development project under this chapter; to this end the
27 director possesses the powers and, with the approval of the commis-
28 sioner, shall perform the duties necessary to protect the state's rights
29 and interest in state land, including the taking of all necessary action

1 to protect and enforce the state's contractual or other property rights;

2 (7) maintain such records as the commissioner considers
3 necessary, administer oaths, and do all things incidental to the author-
4 ty imposed; the following records and files shall be kept confidential
5 upon request of the persons supplying the information:

6 (A) the name of the person nominating or applying for
7 the sale of an interest in land under this chapter;

8 (B) all geological, geophysical and engineering data
9 supplied, whether or not concerned with the extraction or develop-
10 ment of natural resources;

11 (C) cost data and financial information submitted in
12 support of applications;

13 (D) applications for rights-of-way or easements;

14 (E) requests for information or applications by public
15 agencies for land which is being considered for use for a public
16 purpose;

17 (8) account for the fees or other money received in the ad-
18 ministration of this chapter including the sale of an interest in land,
19 identify their source, and promptly transmit them to the proper fiscal
20 department after crediting them to the proper fund; receipts from land
21 application filing fees and charges for copies of maps and records shall
22 be deposited immediately in the general fund of the state by the direc-
23 tor;

24 (9) select and employ or obtain at reasonable compensation
25 cadastral, appraisal, or other professional personnel he considers
26 necessary for the proper operations of the division;

27 (10) adopt regulations necessary to administer the provisions
28 of this chapter.

29 ARTICLE 2. DISPOSAL OF LAND.

1 Sec. 38.08.030. REVIEW, DESIGNATION AND APPROVAL. (a) The direc-
2 tor may with respect to land available for disposal by the state and
3 classified for agricultural use

4 (1) identify land suitable for large-scale agricultural
5 development under this chapter;

6 (2) determine whether the project, if developed under this
7 chapter, will be economically advantageous to the state and the general
8 public welfare and will contribute to the economic growth of the state;

9 (3) determine whether provision to meet increased demand upon
10 public facilities, including utilities and public access routes, that
11 would result from the designation of a project is reasonably assured;

12 (4) recommend annually, but not later than October 1 of each
13 year, that the commissioner designate land available for disposal by the
14 state and identified as suitable for development under (1) of this
15 subsection as an agricultural development project.

16 (b) The commissioner shall with respect to a recommendation made
17 under (a)(4) of this section

18 (1) transmit a report containing the information required
19 under (a)(4) of this section to those local governing bodies and regional
20 corporations entitled to notice and review under AS 38.05.305.

21 (c) Within 10 days of the convening of the regular legislative
22 session, the commissioner shall transmit to the president of the senate
23 and the speaker of the house of representatives

24 (1) a report containing the identifications, determinations
25 and recommendations required under (a) of this section;

26 (2) a report containing the department's findings concerning
27 the recommendation made under (a)(4) of this section; and

28 (3) a copy of comments received, if any, from a local govern-
29 ing body or regional corporation under AS 38.05.305.

1 (d) The commissioner shall, unless he makes a finding that the
2 determination under (a)(2) of this section is arbitrary and not in the
3 best interests of the state, designate the project as an agricultural
4 development project under this chapter and issue an order describing the
5 land within the boundaries of the project and placing that land under
6 the jurisdiction of the division of agriculture unless the legislature
7 by concurrent resolution disapproves the report of the commissioner
8 under (c) of this section within 30 legislative days of the transmittal
9 of the report, or the end of the session, whichever occurs first. A
10 decision by the legislature to disapprove a proposal under this chapter
11 shall be accompanied by a recommendation to the commissioner with re-
12 spect to future actions which he and the director should take concerning
13 the proposal.

14 Sec. 38.08.040. SALE OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT LAND. (a) The
15 director may sell an interest in land only for agricultural purposes,
16 and all other interests in the land remain in the state; the sale shall
17 be by direct negotiation with an individual selected under sec. 50 of
18 this chapter, and the price may not be greater than the pro rata share
19 of the costs incurred by the state in surveying, clearing, breaking, and
20 administering the sale of the agricultural rights to land within the
21 project. The terms of the sale shall be set by regulation adopted
22 under AS 44.62 for each project designated under sec. 30(d) of this
23 chapter. The director shall divide the agricultural development land
24 into parcels that will assure the creation of an economical farm unit as
25 determined by the director.

26 (b) The remaining interests may not subsequently be sold by the
27 director and will be held in perpetuity by the state.

28 (c) A subsequent conveyance, assignment or lease of an interest in
29 land sold under (a) of this section shall be conditioned upon the prior

1 approval of the director.

2 (d) Consideration paid for a subsequent conveyance, assignment or
3 lease interest in land sold under (a) of this section by the grantee may
4 not be more than the agricultural use value as determined by the direc-
5 tor.

6 Sec. 38.08.050. SELECTION OF QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS. (a) The
7 director shall, after designation of a project under sec. 30(d) of this
8 chapter, publicly solicit applications from individuals desiring to
9 participate in the development of a project under this chapter.

10 (b) The director shall select individuals who have applied for
11 participation in a project and who are best qualified, in the judgment
12 of the director, to successfully farm the land located within a project.
13 He shall sell the agricultural rights in land under sec. 40 of this
14 chapter to individuals selected under (a) of this section. Alaskan
15 residents continuously present in the state for five years before the
16 sale under sec. 50 of this chapter shall be given a preference under
17 this subsection.

18 ARTICLE 3. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS.

19 Sec. 38.08.060. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVOLVING FUND.
20 There is established an agricultural development project revolving fund
21 which shall be administered by the director under the supervision of the
22 commissioner exclusively for the purposes of this chapter. The fund is
23 composed of money appropriated by the legislature to it and any other
24 money made available for the purposes of this chapter.

25 Sec. 38.07.070. ACCOUNTS AND DEPOSIT. The commissioner of revenue
26 is ex officio the treasurer and custodian of the fund and shall admin-
27 ister it as directed by the director under the supervision of the com-
28 missioner. The director shall transmit all money received for the sale
29 of agricultural rights in land located within an agricultural develop-

1 ment project to the commissioner of revenue for deposit in the fund.

2 Sec. 38.08.080. REPAYMENT TO GENERAL FUND. All money made avail-
3 able to the fund from the general fund or a special fund is a loan from
4 the general fund or the special fund. All surplus at the end of a
5 fiscal year over amounts made available to the fund from the general
6 fund or from any special fund shall be repaid to the general fund or the
7 special fund until the loan is repaid in full. Repayments need not
8 begin until after the first five complete fiscal years after the fund is
9 created.

10 Sec. 38.08.090. EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND. The director, with
11 the approval of the commissioner, may expend money from the fund to
12 contract for the clearing and draining of land under AS 38.07.040 if the
13 land to be cleared or drained is located within an agricultural develop-
14 ment project under this chapter.

15 Sec. 38.08.100. LOAN GUARANTEES. (a) The director may enter into
16 agreements with private banks, other lending institutions and indivi-
17 duals to guarantee loans made for farm development and operations,
18 storage and processing of farm produce, livestock and machinery, and to
19 individuals, partnerships or corporations, for storage and processing
20 plants for agricultural products, transportation and access for those
21 products and necessary utilities to assure the economic viability of a
22 project under this chapter.

23 (b) The guarantees under (a) of this section may not exceed 90 per
24 cent of the amount loaned, and the loan shall be secured by acceptable
25 collateral and may not exceed 90 per cent of the appraised value of the
26 collateral offered as security. The director shall by regulation set
27 the interest rate and terms acceptable for loans guaranteed under this
28 section.

29 Sec. 38.08.105. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

1 (1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department
2 of Natural Resources;

3 (2) "director" means the director of the division of agri-
4 culture, Department of Natural Resources;

5 (3) "interest in land only for agricultural purposes" means
6 fee simple ownership of land conditioned upon the right of the owner to
7 develop the land only for production of plants and animals useful to man
8 including forage and sod crops, grains and feed crops, dairy and dairy
9 products, livestock including breeding and grazing, fruits, vegetables,
10 and other similar uses and activities; a structure or improvement may
11 not be placed on the land except for use as a single-family dwelling of
12 the owner or one that is consistent with agricultural operations.

13 ARTICLE 4. DELTA-CLEARWATER-TANANA LOOP

14 AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

15 Sec. 38.08.110. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION. (a) Under
16 the authority granted by art. VIII, secs. 6, 8, and 9 of the Alaska
17 State Constitution, the legislature finds

18 (1) that all preliminary identifications and determinations
19 required under sec. 30(a)(1) - (4) of this chapter concerning the
20 Delta-Clearwater-Tanana Loop agricultural development project as de-
21 scribed in sec. 110 of this chapter have been satisfied as evidenced by
22 a report entitled "Potential Barley Production in the Delta-Clearwater
23 area of Alaska" and Volumes I and II of the "Delta Land Management
24 Study" prepared by the division of lands and dated August 1976 and
25 November 1976 respectively;

26 (2) that sec. 30(b)(1) of this chapter has been satisfied and
27 that notice and review of the proposed action to create the Delta-
28 Clearwater-Tanana Loop agricultural development project as described in
29 sec. 120 of this chapter is unnecessary unless a local governing body or

1 regional corporation entitled to notice and review under AS 38.05.305
2 enacts a resolution objecting to the designation of the project within
3 30 days after the effective date of this section.

4 (b) The Delta-Clearwater-Tanana Loop agricultural development
5 project as described in sec. 120 of this chapter is designated an agri-
6 cultural development project under this chapter. The review and desig-
7 nation required under sec. 30(c) and (d) of this chapter are waived
8 through exercise of the authority granted to the legislature under art.
9 VIII, secs. 6, 8, and 9 of the Alaska State Constitution.

10 Sec. 38.08.120. PROJECT DESCRIPTION. The lands designated as the
11 Delta-Clearwater-Tanana Loop agricultural development project and
12 limited to agricultural use are those within the following described
13 parcels:

- 14 (1) Township 10 South, Range 12 East, Fairbanks Meridian
15 Section 26: NW1/4 of NW1/4, SW1/4 of NW1/4, SW1/4
16 Section 31: E1/2 of SW1/4, SE1/4
17 Section 32: S1/2
18 Section 33: S1/2
19 Section 34: S1/2
20 Section 35: NW1/4, NW1/4 of NE1/4, S1/2 of NE1/4, S1/2
21 Section 36: W1/2 of SW1/4, W1/2 of SE1/4 of SW1/4
22 (2) Township 11 South, Range 12 East, Fairbanks Meridian
23 Section 1: NW1/4, SW1/4 of NE1/4, W1/2 of SE1/4 of
24 NE1/4, SW1/4, W1/2 of SE1/4, W1/2 of NE1/4 of
25 SE1/4, W1/2 of SE1/4 of SE1/4
26 Sections 2 - 5
27 Section 6: NE1/4, NE1/4 of NW1/4, SE1/4 of NW1/4,
28 NE1/4 of SW1/4, SE1/4 of SW1/4, SE1/4
29 Section 7: NE1/4 of SW1/4, SE1/4 of SW1/4, SE1/4

1 Sections 8 - 16

2 Section 17: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

3 Section 18: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

4 Section 20: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

5 Section 21: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

6 Section 22: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

7 Sections 23 - 25: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

8 Section 26: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

9 Section 26: South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

10 Section 27: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

11 Section 27: South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way and
12 East of a line from SW corner of 27 to NE corner
13 of 27

14 Section 33: East of a line from SW corner of 33 to NE
15 corner of 33

16 Section 34

17 Section 35: South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way, North
18 of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

19 Section 36: South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way, North
20 of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

21 (3) Township 11 South, Range 13 East, Fairbanks Meridian

22 Section 1: South of a line from SW corner of 1 to NE
23 corner of 1

24 Section 2: South of a line from SE corner of 2 to NW
25 corner of 2

26 Section 3: South of a line from SW corner of 3 to NE
27 corner of 3

28 Section 7: NW1/4 of NW1/4, SW1/4 of NW1/4, SE1/4 of
29 NW1/4, SW1/4, NW1/4 of SE1/4, SW1/4 of SE1/4,

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SE1/4 of SE1/4

Section 9: South of a line from SW corner of 9 to
NE corner of 9

Sections 10 - 16

Section 17: NW1/4 of NW 1/4, S1/2 of NW1/4, NE1/4
of NE1/4, S1/2 of NE1/2, SE1/4, SW1/4

Sections 18 - 30

Section 31: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

Section 31: South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

Sections 32 - 36

(4) Township 11 South, Range 14 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Section 5: South of line from NE corner of 5 to SW
corner of 5 and South of a line from NW corner of
5 to SE corner of 5

Section 6: South of a line from SE corner of 6 to
NW corner of 6

Sections 7 and 8

Section 9: NW1/4 of NW1/4, S1/2 of NW1/4, SW1/4

Section 16: W1/2

Sections 17 - 20

Section 21: W1/2 of NE1/4, SE1/4, W1/2

Section 22: SW1/4 of SW1/4

Section 26: NW1/4 of SW1/4, SW1/4 of SW1/4

Section 27: NW1/4, SW1/4, SE1/4

Sections 28 - 34

Section 35: W1/2

(5) Township 12 South, Range 12 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Section 1: North of a line 1 1/4 miles South and
parallel to the Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

1 Section 2: North of a line 1 1/4 miles South and
2 parallel to the Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

3 Section 12: NE1/4 of NE1/4

4 (6) Township 12 South, Range 13 East, Fairbanks Meridian

5 Sections 1 - 4: Excluding T. and M. site in S1/2 and
6 North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

7 Section 5: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way and
8 excluding T. and M. site in NE1/4

9 Section 5: South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

10 Section 6: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way and
11 South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

12 Section 7: North of a line 1 1/4 miles South and
13 parallel to the Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

14 Section 8: North of a line 1 1/4 miles South and
15 parallel to the Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

16 Section 9: South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way and
17 North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way excluding
18 T. and M. site in NE1/4

19 Section 10: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way and
20 South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way, excluding
21 T. and M. site in the SE1/4 of section 10

22 Sections 11 and 12

23 Section 13: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

24 Section 14: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

25 Section 15: NW1/4, SW1/4, SE1/4

26 Section 16: North of line 1 1/4 miles South and
27 parallel to the Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

28 Section 22: NW1/4, North of a line 1 1/4 miles South
29 and parallel to Alaska Highway Right-of-Way

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- Section 24. North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way
- (/) Township 12 South, Range 14 East, Fairbanks Meridian
 - Section 2: NW1/4, W1/2 of SW1/4, W1/2 of NE1/4 of SW1/4, W1/2 of SE1/4 of SW1/4
 - Sections 3 - 10
 - Section 11: W1/2 NW1/4, W1/2 of SW1/4
 - Section 14: W1/2 of NW1/4, SW1/4, W1/2 of SW1/4 of SE1/4
 - Sections 15 - 18
 - Section 19: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way
 - Section 19: South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way
 - Sections 20 - 23
 - Section 25: W1/2 of NW1/4, W1/2 of SE1/4 of NW1/4, W1/2 of NE1/4 of SW1/4, W1/2 of SW1/4, SE1/4 of SW1/4
 - Sections 26 and 27
 - Section 28: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way
 - Section 28: South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way
 - Section 29: North of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way
 - Section 29: South of Alaska Highway Right-of-Way
 - Section 30: NE1/4, N1/2 of SE1/4
 - Section 32: E1/2 of NW1/4, NE1/4, N1/2 of SE1/4
 - Section 33: Excluding Alaska Highway Right-of-Way
 - Section 34: Excluding Alaska Highway Right-of-Way
 - Section 35: Excluding Alaska Highway Right-of-Way
 - Section 36: W1/2
- (8) Township 8 South, Range 10 East, Fairbanks Meridian
 - Section 36: S1/2
- (9) Township 9 South, Range 10 East, Fairbanks Meridian

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Section 1: NE1/4

Section 2: W1/2

Section 3: E1/2, S1/2 of SW1/4

Section 9: N1/2, NE1/4 of SW1/4, N1/4 of SE1/4

Section 10

Section 11: W1/2

Section 11: SE & SW1/4 of SE1/4

Section 12: W1/2 & SE1/4

Sections 13 - 15

Section 22: N1/2 & SE1/4

Sections 23 - 26

Sections 35 and 36

(10) Township 10 South, Range 10 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Section 2: NE1/4 of NW1/4, NW1/4 of NE1/4, NE1/4 of NE1/4, SE1/4 of NE1/4, E1/2 of SW1/4 of NE1/4, E1/2, NW1/4 of SE1/4, NE1/4 of SE1/4, NE1/4 of SE1/4

(11) Township 9 South, Range 11 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Section 6: NW1/4 of NW1/4, S1/2 of NW1/4, N1/2 of NE1/4 of SW1/4, N1/2 of NW1/4 of SW1/4

Section 7: SW1/4 of NW1/4, SW1/4, SW1/4 of SE1/4, SE1/4 of SE1/4

Section 17: NW1/4 of NW1/4, S1/2 of NW1/4, SW1/4, SW1/4 of SE1/4

Sections 18 - 20

Sections 29 - 31

Section 32: NW1/4, W1/2 of NE1/4, SW1/4, SE1/4

(12) Township 10 South, Range 11 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Section 6: NW1/4, NE1/4, N1/2 of NW1/4 of SW1/4, N1/2

1 of NE1/4 of SW1/4, N1/2 of NW1/4 of SE1/4, N1/2
2 of NE1/4 of SE1/4

3 Sec. 38.08.130. PUBLIC HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY. All rights-of-way
4 for public highways under AS 19.10.010 not in use on the effective date
5 of this section and located within the boundaries of the Delta-Clear-
6 water-Tanana Loop agricultural development project as described in sec.
7 120 of this chapter are relinquished.

8 * Sec. 2. AS 03.10.050(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) The director of the division of agriculture [COMMISSIONER]
10 shall administer the loan fund in conjunction with the agricultural
11 revolving loan fund board. No loan in excess of \$100,000 [\$25,000] may
12 be made by the director [COMMISSIONER] without the approval of a major-
13 ity of the board.

14 * Sec. 3. AS 38.05.020(a) and (b) are amended to read:

15 (a) The commissioner shall supervise the administration of the
16 land and agriculture divisions [DIVISION].

17 (b) The commissioner may

18 (1) establish reasonable procedures and adopt reasonable
19 rules and regulations necessary to carry out this chapter and may, when-
20 ever necessary, issue directives or orders to the directors [DIRECTOR]
21 to carry out specific functions and duties; all rules and regulations
22 adopted by the commissioner shall be adopted under the Administrative
23 Procedure Act (AS 44.62); orders by the commissioner classifying lands
24 issued after January 3, 1959, are not required to be adopted under the
25 Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62);

26 (2) enter into agreements which he considers necessary to
27 carry out the purposes of this chapter and ch. 8 of this title, includ-
28 ing agreements with federal and state agencies;

29 (3) review any order or action of the directors [DIRECTOR];

1 (4) exercise the powers and do the acts necessary to carry
2 out the provisions and objectives of this chapter and ch. 8 of this
3 title;

4 (5) notwithstanding the provisions of any other section of
5 this chapter or ch. 8 of this title, grant an extension of the time
6 within which payments due on any lease or sale of state land, minerals,
7 or materials may be made, including payment of rental and royalties, if
8 he finds that compliance with the requirements is or was prevented by
9 reason of war, riots, or acts of God.

10 * Sec. 4. AS 38.05.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

11 (f) The sale of an interest in state lands available for disposal
12 by the state and classified for agricultural use and located within a
13 project under ch. 8 of this title shall be under the jurisdiction of the
14 director of the division of agriculture.

15 * Sec. 5. AS 38.05.035(7) is amended to read:

16 (7) have jurisdiction over state lands, except for those
17 lands located within an agricultural development project under ch. 8 of
18 this title and those lands acquired by the Alaska World War II Veterans
19 Board and the Agricultural Loan Board or the departments or agencies
20 succeeding to their respective functions through foreclosure or default;
21 to this end the director possesses the powers and, with the approval of
22 the commissioner, shall perform the duties necessary to protect the
23 state's rights and interest in state lands, including the taking of all
24 necessary action to protect and enforce the state's contractual or other
25 property rights;

26 * Sec. 6. AS 38.05.045 is amended to read:

27 Sec. 38.05.045. GENERALLY. All lands owned in fee by the state or
28 to which the state may become entitled, excepting tide, submerged or
29 shorelands, [AND] timber or grazing lands, and lands located within an

1 agricultural development project under ch. 8 of this title may be sold
2 as provided in secs. 45 - 69 of this chapter. However, this section
3 does not prevent the disposition of lands as provided in secs. 300 - 348
4 of this chapter.

5 * Sec. 7. AS 38.07.010 is amended to read:

6 Sec. 38.07.010. SELECTION AND LEASE. (a) The director [COMMIS-
7 SIONER] may select areas of state land classified as agricultural and
8 contract for the land to be cleared or drained or both at state expense.
9 In this selection and contracting, the commissioner shall be guided by
10 the recommendations of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

11 (b) The land thus cleared or drained shall be put up for competi-
12 tive lease in lots that are determined to be economical farm units by
13 the director [OF NOT LESS THAN 320 ACRES EACH].

14 * Sec. 8. AS 38.07.020(a) is amended to read:

15 (a) Except as provided in (e) of this section, the [THE] lease in
16 sec. 10(b) of this chapter shall be for 10 years with an option for a
17 five-year renewal.

18 * Sec. 9. AS 38.07.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19 (e) This section does not apply to the clearing or draining of
20 lands within an agricultural development project under ch. 8 of this
21 title. The provisions for sale of agricultural rights under that chap-
22 ter will control.

23 * Sec. 10. AS 38.07.060 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

24 (4) "director" means the director of the division of agricul-
25 ture.

26 * Sec. 11. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
27 10.070(c).
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P.O. Box 929
Delta Junction, AK 99737

April 1, 1977

Leslie E. "Red" Swanson
Representative, District 19
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Red:

The absence of any comment in your news releases regarding lands south of the Alaska Highway or of the bison management proposal items about which I testified publicly at your workshop prompts this letter. (No word yet from ADL on Delta Land Management Study, Volume IV -- Implementation which was scheduled for publication in mail-out March 21.)

I wish to re-emphasize that the ADL Delta Study is the product of a lot of local input. That input recommended a bison management area on agricultural lands south of the Alaska Highway in place of inclusion of those lands in any ag development project. Even though I personally, as a member of the Delta Study Planning Team, favored ag lands for agriculture, I feel the compromise recommendation reached in this instance can be ignored only at the peril of significant negative reaction and lack of support for H.B. 353. (At the very least it must be made clear that the Director of Agriculture, using his own discretion, may exclude this area from the development project.)

Best wishes for the passage of H.B. 353.

Sincerely,



CHARLES G. FORCK

cc: Steve Cowper
Charles Parr
Fred Brown
Sally Smith
Larry Carpenter
Don Bennett
John Sackett
Glenn Hackney
John Dunker
Allan Linn

March 31, 1977

Steve Cowper
Representative, District 20
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Cowper:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a speech by Dr. James Drew of the agriculture experiment stations.

We in Delta Junction felt that it was most informative.

I, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Farmers Cooperative speaking as an individual homesteader and farmer in the Tanana Valley near Big Delta, feel the facts and figures noted in this speech will be of immense value to you. These facts presented indicate clearly the importance of the implementation of the agricultural program provided for in House Bill 353.

This bill is the first step in providing more than just five percent of the food and fiber that we are presently producing in our Great State for our own consumption.

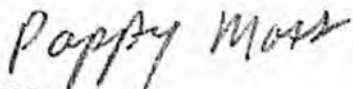
It is time we in the farming community were given the chance to prove we are capable of producing our food on a large scale that will benefit the entire state. We know we are capable of producing these renewable resources as years of crop experimentation has proven the agricultural potential in Alaska.

The time has arrived to quit experimenting and start producing. We are not asking for a free ride, just the chance to get going -- and then the rest of the State can ride along with us.

Give us your support for H.B. 353 this session so we can get going.

I would like to hear from you as to your feelings about agricultural development in our state.

Sincerely,



H. PAPPY MOSS
P. O. Box 182
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

HPM/pd

On March 5, 1977, a Farm Forum was held at the Delta Junction School. We had a very good turn-out and I found it most informative. Dr. James V. Drew, Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Alaska was one of the speakers. He presented a talk on Alaska's agricultural research challenge. This talk was filled with facts and figures. I asked him if he had a copy of his talk. He said he only had notes but would be glad to have copies made up and sent down to us. I realize that a number of us have received these copies but a large majority of the folks in our area I'm sure haven't. So I would like to present this talk to you in its entirety because I feel that it will give you some insight into the reasons some of us have been working so hard for the expansion of agricultural production in the State of Alaska. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Farmers Cooperative and speaking as an individual, I felt this presentation would answer a lot of questions as to why I feel a massive agricultural development in the Delta area is imperative.

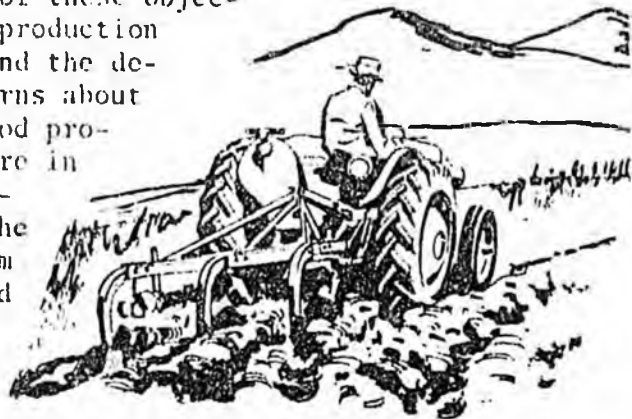
Pappy Moss

ALASKA'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CHALLENGE

The major research goal of the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station is to increase the production of food and wood products in conjunction with wise land use for agriculture, forestry and outdoor recreation. The following research objectives are designed to establish direction toward this goal:

1. To increase the efficiency of production systems for food and wood products, including energy conservation and the development of new lands.
2. To improve processing, transportation and marketing of food and wood products in Alaska for markets within the state and for export.
3. To improve resources inventories and develop land use planning for agriculture and forestry that will enhance environmental quality.
4. To develop resource management for improving the quality of life, including re-vegetation techniques, landscaping and home gardening, and outdoor recreation.

Today, I would like to talk about the first of these objectives, the need for increasing the efficiency of production systems for food, including energy conservation and the development of new lands in Alaska. Worldwide concerns about increasing populations and potentially limited food production have created a new awareness of agriculture in Alaska as well as across the nation. More specifically, the recent news of drought conditions in the western states and energy shortages resulting from the severe winter in the lower 48 have highlighted our need for expanded agricultural production as well as the close relationship between dwindling energy supplies and increasing food costs.



We are now living in an era of unprecedented increases in population in the United States and throughout most of the world. For thousands of years before the introduction of agriculture about 10,000 years ago, the world population remained relatively stable at less than a few million people. Following the introduction of agriculture, the world population increased modestly. Then, about 200 years ago, major improvements in human health and medicine began to influence human survival and to lengthen human life span to the extent that dramatic increases in world population began. World population increased from about three-quarters of a billion people in 1750 to 2 billion by 1930 and to 4 billion by 1975. Conservation projections indicate an increase in world population to 6.5 billion by the year 2000 and to an astounding 12 billion by 2050. Our lack of experience in planning for and dealing with this kind of population increase is evident in the fact that the major increase from 1750 to the present has occurred during only .02 percent of man's history.

In order to feed an expanded population in the United States by the year 2000, a nearly twofold increase in crop production will be needed. More rapidly expanding populations overseas will require a fourfold increase in crop production at the world level. Within the United States, the populations will increase about 24% during the next 25 years despite relatively low birth rates. If the U.S. fails to increase agricultural production during this same period, the increase in population would result in the U.S. consuming all food produced at home, practically eliminating current agricultural exports of 22 billion dollars.

At the present time, the U.S. exports agricultural products from one out of every three acres of U.S. farmland. Innovative technology and the application of agricultural research associated with this production have kept food costs relatively low for the American consumer. Consequently, American consumers spend only 17% of their disposable income for food. In Europe, consumers spend 26% of their disposable income for food. In

(Continued on next page)

(Publication sponsored by Pappy Moss)

ALASKA'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CHALLENGE (Continued from Page 19)

Russia, consumers spend 30% of their disposable income for food. In underdeveloped countries, consumers spend 65% of their disposable income for food. That is why Americans have money for TV's, stereos, automobiles, boats, camping equipment, sport fishing, hunting and other kinds of recreational pursuits as well as to pay for our educational, cultural and scientific endeavors. And it is why the industries that provide these various activities flourish.



Nevertheless, food prices in the U.S. have risen continuously since 1930 along with our increasing population, and have increased dramatically since the Russian wheat sale in 1972. More recently, rapidly increasing energy costs for food production, processing and transportation have also caused food prices to increase. Total energy use for the production, processing, distribution and use of food in the United States amounts to about 15% of all energy consumed in the U.S. Of this, only about 3% is used on the farm as tractor fuels, electricity and the energy used to produce fertilizers, animal feeds, machinery and other tools of production used on the farm. The remaining 12% is used in processing, transporting and preparing food.

Recent estimates indicate that the multiplier for price increases in fuel to ultimate price increases in food in the U.S. is about 1.1 to 1.3. In other words, for each unit increase in fuel cost, food cost increases 1.1 to 1.3 units. In England, where much of the food consumed is imported, the multiplier is 1.5.

Alaskans frequently perceive themselves as rugged, individualistic, self-reliant and self-sufficient. Yet we import over long supply lines from the Lower 48 or from foreign countries more than 95% of the food we consume. Until we produce more food in Alaska, our food costs will increase faster than the energy costs necessary to transport food to us from current centers of production. It came as a surprise to many Americans to discover during the current drought in the western states that 25% of their food requirements, including more than 50% of their vegetables, were produced in California. Significantly, increasing energy costs for transportation may be forcing food production in the Lower 48 to regional production where possible and away from centralized production. In view of our long distances from major food production centers, Alaskans must give substantial attention to means of increasing food production within the state.

Increases in food costs during the last three years have caused changes in food consumption in the U.S. For example, meat consumption increased continuously since World War II, but turned down during the last three years because of increasing meat prices.

Home gardening in the U.S. has increased dramatically since the round of food price increases following the Russian wheat sale in 1972. In 1972, about 20% of all households in the U.S. grew some food in home gardens. The most recent figures indicate that about 50% of all households raised food in home gardens in 1976. Estimates indicate that casual gardeners grow 5% to 10% of their vegetable requirements. Serious gardeners grow more than 50% of their annual vegetable requirements.



Moreover, the production of cereal grains for consumption by humans and livestock to meet food demands by increasing populations will require increased acreages of farmland. According to a recent report from the National Academy of Sciences, an additional 25 million tons of grain must be provided each year to feed the current annual increase in world population.

Dr. Norman Borlaug, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1970, illustrated dramatically the enormous requirements for cereal grains to feed our increasing world population. Annual cereal grain consumption alone, he said, would make a highway 55 feet wide and 6 feet deep all the way around the world at the equator. And, he added, to just stand still in the per-capita consumption of grain, that highway of grain will have to be produced every year -- plus 600 additional miles of grain highway each year.



From the standpoint of U.S. farmland, if we divide the total acreage of U.S. farms by the current population of the United States, we find that there is an average of 5 acres per person. Of this, approximately 2 acres are in cropland; crops for the U.S. market are produced on about 1.5 acres and crops for export are produced on about 0.5 acres. The remaining 3 acres are in pasture, woodland, farmsteads and roads. Fifty years ago there was an average of more than 10 acres of farmland per person in the U.S. Thirty years ago it had declined to 8 acres, 15 years ago to 6½ acres and now to 5 acres.

(Continued on next page)
(Publication sponsored by Pappy Moss)

ALASKA'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CHALLENGE (Continued from Page 20)

It should not surprise us, therefore, that American agriculture has become more intensive and more efficient. It has become more intensive and efficient because there are more of us to feed. We cannot return to less intensive production unless we initiate a positive program to reduce the total number of those of us who eat. Increasing the intensity of crop production and expanding production on potential agricultural land would appear to be more desirable alternatives.

Recent studies by the Soil Conservation Service, USDA, indicate that Alaska has approximately 20 million acres of farmland suitable for the production of cultivated crops. The history of crop and livestock production in Alaska has numerous examples of individual successes, but no extensive commercial agriculture has developed within the state. Individual successes in Western Alaska, Southeastern Alaska, the Tanana Valley, the Matanuska Valley, the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island and elsewhere in Alaska provide clear evidence that climate and biology are not limiting factors when adapted crops and livestock are used. In fact, repeated experience indicates that the yield and quality of certain cereal grains, vegetables and forages grown in Alaska are superior to comparable crops grown in the Lower 48.

Nevertheless, Alaska has only 17,000 acres of land in cultivation and had cash receipts from farming in 1974 of only 6 million dollars. Rhode Island, the smallest state in the U.S., has 23,000 acres in production and had cash receipts from farming in 1974 of 26 million dollars. In contrast, California has approximately 9 million acres of cropland in production and had cash receipts from farming in 1974 of 8.6 billion dollars.

In spite of the meager status of agriculture in Alaska, the state has substantial advantages for agricultural production:

1. Alaska has 20 million acres of land suitable for the cultivation of adapted crops. This is the largest area of undeveloped agricultural land in the United States, and is approximately equivalent in size to the total land acres of South Carolina.

2. Alaska has energy resources for production and processing.

3. Alaska has surplus industrial heat from power plants and pipeline pumping stations that can be used in crop production and processing.

4. Alaska has an enormous protein source in the form of by-products from its fishing industry that can be used as protein supplements in livestock feed.

5. Alaska has new technological, financial and organizational capabilities to expand its agricultural production.

In general, the expansion of commercial agriculture in Alaska requires (1) clearing, breaking, and making available land for agricultural production, and (2) developing a total agricultural system including production, processing and marketing. However, the requirement for land to expand agriculture is likely to conflict with other competing uses for the millions of acres of land in Alaska. Major blocks of latent agricultural land have been identified in accessible areas and could be developed for the production of agricultural crops. On the other hand, if a total integrity of habitat for migratory wildlife species must be maintained in all of these areas, then the land obviously cannot be made available for agricultural production. The ability of these potential agricultural lands to support a human population if left in their present condition is indicated by the fact that the wildlife and other resources associated with these lands sustained a local aboriginal population of about 5,000 Natives.

With the exception of federal and Native corporation holdings, however, the state owns the means of production in Alaska, the latent agricultural land. Thus, major involvement by the state is necessary to expand commercial agriculture in Alaska if latent agricultural land owned by the state is to be brought into production. If agriculture is to expand in Alaska, land must be made available for farming and put into production.

If agricultural production totaling 1 million acres could be developed in Alaska, the resulting cash receipts would constitute a noticeable part of the economy of the state. New Mexico and Utah each have approximately 1 million acres of cropland



ALASKA'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CHALLENGE (Continued from Page 21)

in production. Because of the biological and technical factors involved, however, it would probably take 40 to 50 years or more to convert 1 million acres of latent agricultural land to full agricultural production in Interior Alaska. Unlike petroleum development, the development of a viable commercial agriculture cannot be accomplished on a short term crash basis.

In addition, agricultural and ecological research is essential if errors in agricultural development are to be avoided. In terms of agronomic crops alone, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has estimated that research should optimally require 2% to 10% of the total cost to bring presently untilled lands into crop production.



If agricultural production is to expand in Alaska, the Agricultural Experiment Station must increase research on improved crop varieties, innovative cultural practices, and improved range productivity. It must expand research in animal nutrition for improved milk and red meat production. We must meet the research needs of an expanding greenhouse and landscaping industry. We need to develop the enormous potential of Alaska's surplus industrial heat for use in agricultural production and processing. We must develop economic research necessary for the profitable management of Alaska's agricultural land.

We need the results of this work for home gardeners, subsistence farmers, part-time farmers, large-scale commercial farmers, land managers and consumers. With continuing support we look forward to an improved capability to serve the citizens of Alaska.

(Publication sponsored by Pappy Moss)

De'ta Don
by Hy Jilguth © 3-1-77



Hippie Strip
by Hy Jilguth © 3-1-77



Pot Luck
by Hy Jilguth © 3-1-77





**Salcha - Big Delta
Soil Conservation Subdistrict**

April 5, 1977

Leslie E. "Red" Swanson
Representative, District 19
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Red:

RE: H.B. 353

The Supervisors of this Subdistrict - three of whom have been very active in the ADL Delta Land Study and were present at your Delta workshop on H.B. 353 on March 26 - wish to comment on two constructive suggestions made at your workshop.

- 1) Lands of ag potential south of the Alaska Highway were, in the ADL Study, recommended for designation as a Bison Management area, not for inclusion in any ag development projects. Some mention of the Bison management area - part of the Department of Fish and Game's new comprehensive management plan - should perhaps be made in H.B. 353. The recommendations of the ADL Delta Study should not be ignored.
- 2) It was suggested that the restricted mandate with regard to lands of agricultural potential ONLY to be given to the Director of Agriculture and his community consultants precludes the need for compulsory review by the Commissioner of Natural Resources. It seems to us that since the areas eligible for ag development will have been predetermined with the concurrence of the Commissioner further review by him is both redundant and at a level of lesser expertise. Under these circumstances review by the Commissioner should not be a part of the process.

We look forward to responsible agricultural development in Alaska soon.

Sincerely,

CHARLES G. FORCK
Secretary

cc: All District 19 & 20 Representatives
All District N & O Senators
Allan Linn



Soil Conservation Subdistrict

P. O. Box 929
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

✶ May 18, 1977

Senators Butrovich, Hackney, Huber, Kerttula and Sackett
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senators:

RE: SSCSHB353 - Ag Development

Our latest information is that further revision of HB353 has incorporated the Agricultural Authority of SB291 and some aspects of the Feed Grain Project SB337. We still favor the Small Grain Research concept of SB279 (\$281,500) over what we consider the duplication and excess expense (\$400,000, 2000A) of SB337. However, it should be clearly understood - and apparently our previous letters have been ambiguous - that the Supervisors consider further research essential on such topics as water quality (a topic in which DEC should participate financially), windbreak orientation and spacing, and shearing and burning techniques (= hot topic). We do feel that SB337 as originally conceived is a wasteful approach, and it is our understanding that use of the funding (under SSCSHB353) would be a nice bonus by the Authority, and consequently such research as is essential should be considered as an integral part of developing a plan that is a separate research project.

These alterations, as we have outlined and understood them, are acceptable to us and we would urge passage of such legislation.

Sincerely,

CHARLES G. FORCK
Secretary

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| cc: K. Allan Linn | Rep. Red Swanson |
| Weymeth Long | Rep. Don Bennett |
| James Drew | Rep. Fred Brown |
| Robert LeResche | Rep. Larry Carpenter |
| Bob Palmer | Rep. Steve Cowper |
| Roger Rayburn | Rep. Charlie Parr |
| William Wood | Rep. Sally Smith |
| Frank Geiger | |

CGF/pd

(s) R...
H...

dal Prog / ACS
HB 353

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

Volume IV Recommendations for Implementation

Prepared by the

Alaska Division of Lands

Northcentral District
4420 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

April 1977

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April 1977

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

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THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY Vol. IV

PART I: INTRODUCTION

The Delta Land Management Planning Study (DLMPS) was initiated in November, 1974, to plan for state land management in a 2,338,000-acre area centered on Delta Junction and stretching from Eielson Air Force Base to the crest of the Alaska Range. The study is coordinated by the Alaska Division of Lands, the State's land management authority, and involves 20 additional public and private agencies that are responsible for managing resources important to the Delta region. Each of these agencies is represented on the Delta Planning Team, a body of resource specialists charged with weighing possible land uses and recommending to the Alaska Division of Lands which ones should have priority in each portion of the study area.

This is the fourth volume published as part of the Delta Land Management Planning Study. Vol. I (no longer in print) is an inventory of the study area's resources: its minerals, soils, water, forests, wildlife and fish, and recreational opportunities. Vol. II, Preliminary Resource Recommendations, presents the Planning Team's initial recommendations for priority resource uses in specific geographical areas. However, during the preparation of Vol. II, each use was addressed separately, without considering its effect on other land uses or on the region as a whole. Vol. III, A Regional Analysis, is a socioeconomic examination of the relationships among those resource uses; it portrays four possible land use patterns and levels of resource utilization during the next 25 years. The current volume sets forth the Planning Team's final recommendations to Division of Lands, its suggestions regarding management actions that should be taken to allow certain land uses to occur. Some are similar to preliminary recommendations from Vol. II, modified and refined in light of the regional analysis. Others cover issues for which no preliminary recommendation was made previously.

PLANNING TEAM - CITIZEN COUNCIL RELATIONSHIP

The Planning Team was aided, starting in the fall of 1975, by the Delta Citizen Council: an advisory committee of 45 people, two-thirds of whom reside within the study area (some have lived there for more than twenty-five years). With the Planning Team providing technical expertise, it is the Citizen Council's role to express local opinion on how land in the Delta area should be used. The Citizen Council's "Statement of Goals and Objectives" (printed in Vol. I and reprinted in Vol. II) assisted the Planning Team in formulating its preliminary recommendations; since that stage there has been much useful feedback between the two groups, with each being aware of the other's actions, reacting to them and sometimes being swayed by them. However, the two bodies operated independently. The Planning Team was under no compulsion to accede to the Citizen Council's judgments in arriving at its final recommendations for implementation, just as the Citizen Council had no obligation to accept those recommendations as being the best possible solution to land use problems.

THE NEXT STEP

Division of Lands will carefully review the Planning Team's recommendations. It will weigh these recommendations against the Citizen Council's opinions and the general public's reactions to the recommendations. It will also take into account the wider state interest in the management of its lands. Based on all of these factors, the Division of Lands will develop a final land management

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

plan that will be available to the public. It is hoped that the plan will be printed by the summer of 1977. Public notice and the opportunity for public hearings will precede specific actions taken as a result of the plan.

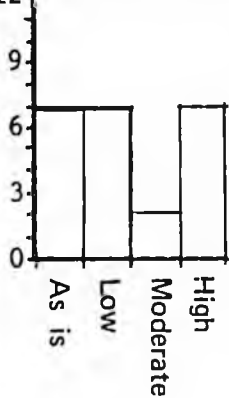
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation recommendations were formulated by the Planning Team, working largely from specific resource guidelines set by the Citizen Council. But first it was necessary to determine what general level of growth the Citizen Council preferred for the area, to insure that the final recommendations would fit together as a coherent and desirable pattern of land management actions. In late January, 1977, members of the Citizen Council were asked their opinion on the following issues as part of a questionnaire on the draft of Vol. III, A Regional Analysis. Responses are shown in the graphs below.

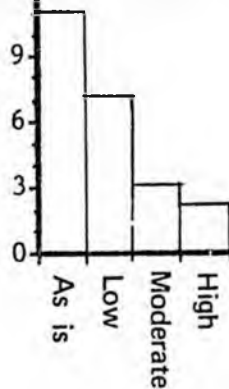
CITIZEN COUNCIL GROWTH PREFERENCES

Which of the four development alternatives--as is, low, moderate, or high (see Part IV of Vol. III, "Land Use Alternatives")--best describes the level of resource development you would like to see for each resource?

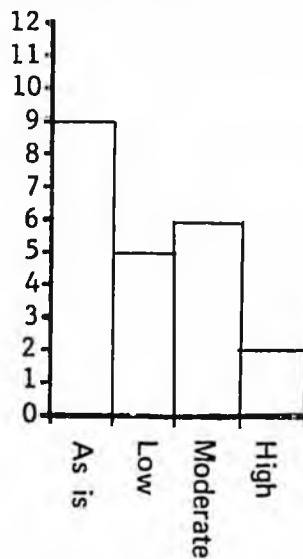
12 AGRICULTURE



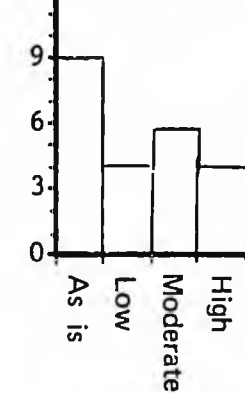
12 TIMBER



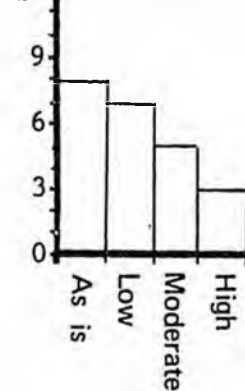
OVERALL DEVELOPMENT



12 RECREATION



12 MINING



THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

The Citizen Council was next asked to rate a list of 15 local issues according to which ones were most in need of discussion. At an evening meeting on February 4, 1977, and an all-day session on February 12, the Citizen Council proceeded to address its specific areas of concern, including agricultural development, transportation and utility corridors, greenbelts, bison habitat management, rural homesites, a roadless recreation area between the Alaska and Richardson Highways, and other issues. In addition to discussing each question in small groups, Citizen Council members presented their opinions in writing. The results of the two meetings are analyzed in detail in an appendix to this volume (see p. 39).

On some issues the Citizen Council reached no consensus, leaving the Planning Team without definite guidance and forcing it to proceed largely on the basis of its technical judgment, without benefit of local opinion. Agriculture is the clearest example. In other cases--for instance back-country cabin sites--the Planning Team was simply unable, for lack of time and adequate information, to take action in the direction desired by the Citizen Council.

There were minor changes in some of the implementation recommendations as a result of comment at the combined Citizen Council-general public meeting in Delta Junction on March 4, but the Planning Team made only one major alteration, involving the Shaw Creek greenbelt.

In the resource area sections that follow, the Citizen Council's conclusions from the February meetings are briefly summarized. The Planning Team's recommendation is then presented, followed by the Citizen Council's and general public's reaction to it.

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

PART II: GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Planning Team's recommendations in this section are not confined to the management of any specific resource. They are general in scope and should be applied area-wide. Except for the issue of baseline studies and development planning, these recommendations have not previously been presented to the Citizen Council nor to the general public.

GRANT LANDS. Where grant land designations (for university, school, or mental health purposes) fall within areas recommended in this volume for uses that will not produce revenue, the possibility of a trade should be investigated, allowing the grant lands designation to be transferred to lands of equal value elsewhere.

STATE SELECTIONS. It is recommended that the State seek to select Federal lands that lie within the priority resource designations of this volume.

CLASSIFICATION. It is recommended that if the Alaska Division of Lands' classification system is revised, a category should be added for wildlife habitat. The Planning Team feels that other new categories are also needed and that their titles should be descriptive terms indicating their priority uses.

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL. It is recommended that each agency whose responsibilities would be increased by the implementation of recommendations made in this volume should set forth what additional personnel and budget it would require to meet those new responsibilities. Fire management is a particular concern. Several of the Planning Team's recommendations entail the expanded use of fire as a management tool (both for agriculture and for wildlife habitat manipulation). The result could be many new obligations for the Division of Lands' forestry section, which is responsible for fire management. Coincidentally, this would occur at about the same time (spring, 1978) that the forestry section is expected to assume full responsibility for fighting fires in the Delta area. (In the past, actual suppression of fires has been contracted to the U. S. Bureau of Land Management, but the BLM is gradually phasing out of fire control on state lands.)

RELATIONSHIP OF DLMPS TO MUNICIPAL PLANNING. It is recommended that, within the corporate limits of the City of Delta Junction, the DLMPS should defer to Delta Junction's Community Development Plan; within that portion of the study area inside the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the DLMPS should defer to the Borough's Comprehensive Development Plan.

PUBLIC NOTICE. It is recommended that the Division of Lands give full public notice prior to any classification or other significant land action arising out of the DLMPS and that it give such notice without regard to whether the lands affected lie within an organized borough or city. (This recommendation goes beyond existing law, which does not require public notice for actions involving lands within an organized borough or city; notice to the local government body itself is considered sufficient.)

BASELINE STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. (This recommendation was reviewed at the public meeting in March. It was approved by all Citizen Council members expressing an opinion--there was one abstention--and by 93 percent of the general public.) It is recommended that there be baseline studies of key components of the environment such as water quality, air quality, and habitat condition in areas where development or other environmental alteration might occur. Developments involving complex, large-area environmental alterations should be preceded by comprehensive development planning in sufficient detail to assure minimal environmental degradation and reduction of other resource values, and maximum harmony with the region's social and economic situation.

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

PART III: AGRICULTURE

CITIZEN COUNCIL OPINION

More than 60 percent of the Citizen Council members present at the February meetings agreed that the Delta Clearwater and Tanana Loop area should be made available for agricultural use. Two-thirds felt that agricultural use should not extend south of the Alaska Highway. They felt that most agricultural development should take place near Delta, with only a small amount in the Salcha region.

There was no consensus on the total acreage that should be put into agricultural production over the next twenty-five years. A segment of the Citizen Council desiring very little agricultural development was balanced by another segment that wanted a great deal; responses ranged all the way from zero to 100,000 acres. However, the majority opinion on the pace of agricultural development was clearly to go slow. In the short run--the next five years--the majority preferred to see no more than 20,000 acres put into production; the largest single group (39 percent) wanted the figure held to 5,000 acres or less.

PLANNING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

1) Whenever and wherever agricultural lands are developed, other uses that are compatible with agriculture should be protected.

2) Detailed soil surveys should be extended to probable areas of high agricultural potential.

3) Wherever agricultural development occurs, approved soil conservation practices should be followed. These also have application to other situations in which large areas of land are disturbed, such as mining, road building, residential development, and wildlife habitat manipulation.

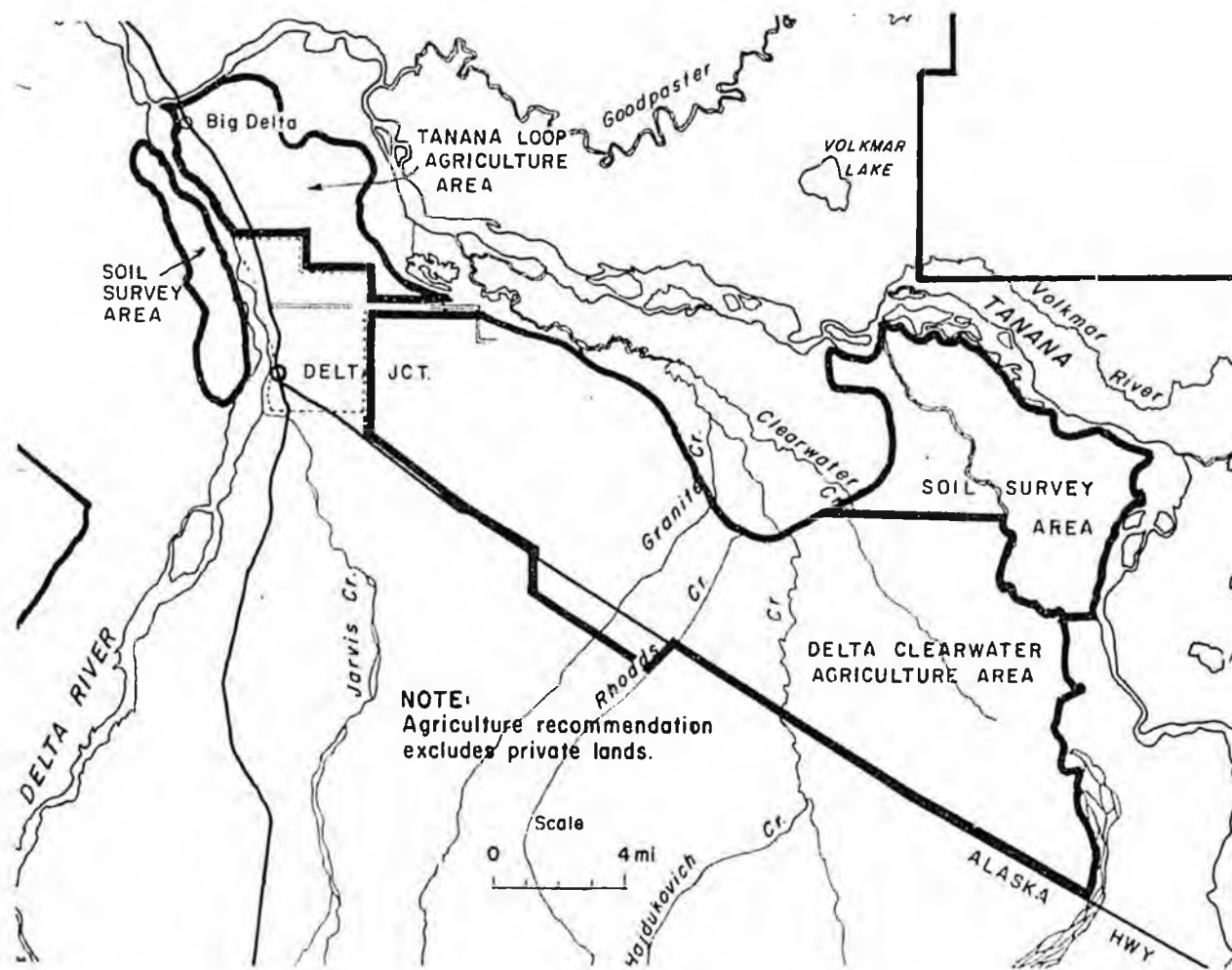
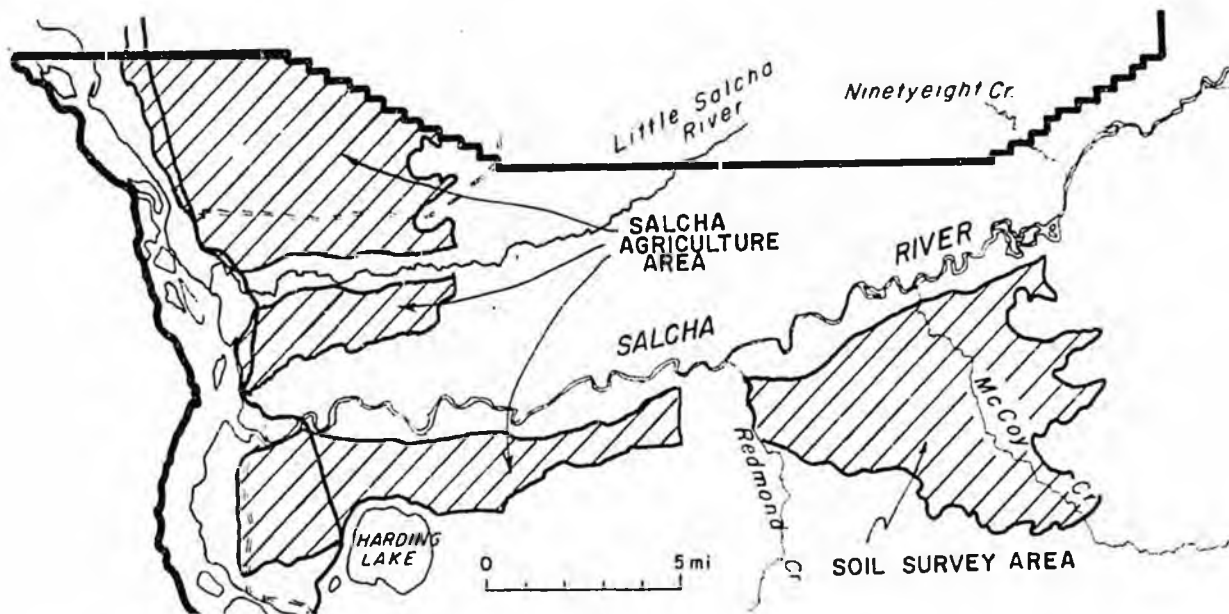
4) Review of the farm plans required under the Tanana Loop, Salcha, and Delta Clearwater recommendations (below) should be carried out by the Division of Lands in consultation with other appropriate agencies, including the Division of Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION. All state lands of Class II and III soils within the areas covered by the Tanana Loop, Salcha, and Delta Clearwater recommendations (see maps below) should immediately be classified agricultural.

TANANA LOOP. Within the area shown on the map, it is recommended that Division of Lands convey, within the next three to five years, the agricultural rights to approximately one-third (about 5,000 acres) of the available state lands of Class II and III soils, in parcel sizes ranging from 20 to 320 acres. The pace of conveying the remaining two-thirds of those lands should be determined in a review of the DLMPS after three years. Conveyance should be made only upon acceptance of the prospective owner's agricultural development plan, and should be revertible to the State if satisfactory progress by that owner toward this plan is not made. Farm buildings and dwellings must not occupy more than five acres, including the area around and between them that is thereby made unillable.

This recommendation is intended to fulfill the social goal of providing for an agrarian way of life on small family farms. It is accepted that some of the parcel sizes and agricultural practices might be considered "uneconomic." However, maximum efficiency is not the overriding concern

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for this type of farming. The agricultural development plan should allow as much individual freedom as possible within a basically agrarian life style, while still encouraging eventual optimum use of the agricultural resource.

SALCHA. (See map.) It is recommended that the agricultural rights to a third of the state lands of Class II and III soils in the areas shown (south of the Salcha River and on both sides of the Little Salcha River) be conveyed within three to five years. Division of Lands should choose the lands to be conveyed on the basis of minimizing conflict with other resource uses, especially recreation. The pace of disposal, parcel size, performance requirement, and building area restriction should be the same as for the Tanana Loop recommendation (above).

***DELTA CLEARWATER.** (See map.) If further study with public discussion of alternative locations and methods indicates that this is the appropriate course of action for the Delta Clearwater area, it is recommended that Division of Lands make a commitment to rapid disposal of the agricultural rights to approximately 64,000 acres (gross; the net amount to be put into production would be about 53,000 acres, after roads, windbreaks, poor soils, etc. are deducted). Parcel size should be 900 to 3,000 acres. Conveyance should be made only upon acceptance of the prospective owner's economically feasible plan for the farm's development, and should be subject to reversion to the State for non-performance.

The intent of this recommendation is to recognize the concept that a large, quickly-developed base of agricultural production is essential to support the necessary storing, processing, shipping, and marketing facilities. Some Planning Team members feel that large-scale development cannot occur on a gradual timetable. However, if this project has not commenced within three years, it is recommended that Division of Lands begin gradual disposal of agricultural rights to this same area, with a farm plan requirement, performance clause and building area restriction as above, but with parcel sizes of 80 to 3,000 acres.

SOIL SURVEY AREAS. It is recommended that soil surveys be carried out in the following areas, as indicated on the map: the area just north of the Delta Clearwater agricultural area, south and west of the Tanana River, and east of the Clearwater greenbelt; the area immediately west of the Delta River between Big Delta and Delta Junction; and, south of the Salcha River greenbelt, the area that includes the probable better soils of the McCoy Creek drainage, extending west to Redmond Creek.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH. A 640-acre tract that is representative of the area's agricultural soils should be retained for possible research purposes.

*This recommendation, which leaves open the possibility for rapid, large-scale agricultural development, caused a certain amount of resentment among some Citizen Council members at the March 4 meeting. They felt that their advice had been misinterpreted or ignored by the Planning Team. In actuality the Planning Team had considered the Citizen Council's opinions, recognized that there was a split in the community, and decided not to foreclose an option that the people of the Delta region may later wish to exercise.

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CITIZEN COUNCIL RESPONSE

Except for the Delta Clearwater recommendation, which was opposed by 50 percent, all of the Planning Team's agricultural recommendations were approved by the Citizen Council at the March meeting. The table below summarizes members' responses, expressed in percentages.

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
Management guidelines	94	6	0
Agricultural classification	56	33	11
Tanana Loop	83	11	6
Salcha	50	28	22
Delta Clearwater	50	50	0
Soil surveys	67	33	0
Agricultural research	94	6	0

GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONSE

To a greater or lesser extent, members of the general public at the March meeting approved of all the agricultural recommendations.

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
Management guidelines	93	3	3
Agricultural classification	77	10	13
Tanana Loop	78	20	2
Salcha	77	12	12
Delta Clearwater	72	18	10
Soil surveys	83	8	8
Agricultural research	77	15	8

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

PART IV: GREENBELTS

CITIZEN COUNCIL OPINION

The Citizen Council's support for greenbelts was very strong at the February meetings. More than 91 percent felt there ought to be greenbelts along all rivers and streams in the study area, not only those mentioned in Vol. II; 96 percent felt there should be greenbelts along all lakes. A majority thought that the width of each greenbelt should depend on the particular site--its soil conditions, terrain, flood hazards, recreational access needs, wildlife habitat value, etc., but suggested an average minimum width of .23 mile and an average maximum of .7 mile.

As for uses permitted within greenbelts, a large majority favored hunting, trapping, pedestrian access, dog mushing, and logging of dead and down timber for personal use. Commercial logging was rejected by a small margin. Snowmobile use was acceptable, especially if restricted; the use of other all-terrain vehicles was not. Half the Citizen Council felt that it would be all right to permit some widely-scattered private residences in greenbelts, as long as there were scenic covenants and the lots were set back from the water's edge.

PLANNING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- 1) Land along watercourses and water bodies should be managed so as to maintain natural bank stability, stabilize water temperatures, moderate runoff, and filter suspended solids.
- 2) Recreational waters should be protected both physically and visually.

GREENBELT CLASSIFICATION. It is recommended that Division of Lands begin immediately to put all the greenbelts described in Vol. II (listed below) into a classification that will protect their water, wildlife habitat, and recreation values. Boundaries should be based on flood hazard, wildlife habitat, recreation values, terrain, soil types, water quality, and scenic considerations, but for administrative purposes may have to follow aliquot part lines approximating these factors. (Aliquot part lines follow section lines, half-sections, etc.) As is the case throughout this volume, this recommendation refers only to state lands, not to existing private lands.

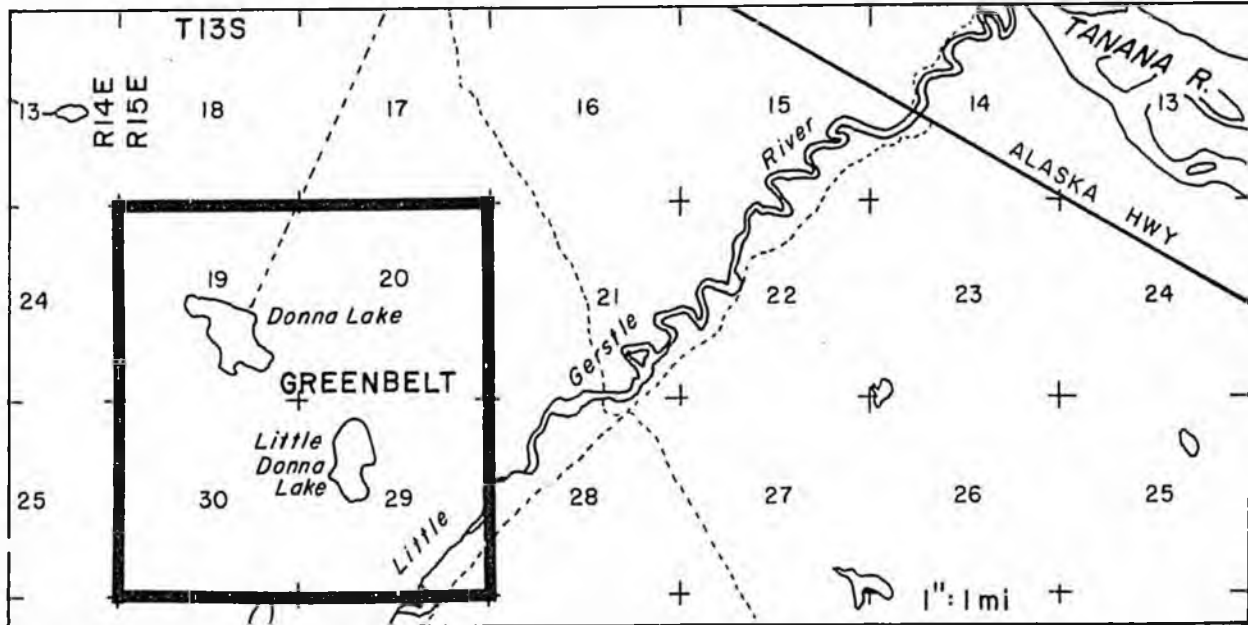
Once these greenbelts are classified, it is recommended that Division of Lands inventory the remaining watercourses and waterbodies in the study area for inclusion in the greenbelt system, with this inventory to be considered at the next regular review of the Delta Land Management Planning Study.* Greenbelts should also be considered along roads and highways.

USES IN GREENBELTS. In the initially-designated greenbelts listed below, commercial timber cutting is not recommended. Personal use timber sales may be made, with due regard for other greenbelt values. All-terrain motor vehicles should be allowed only in winter on established trails, or by permit. At this time the Planning Team has made no recommendation for private residences

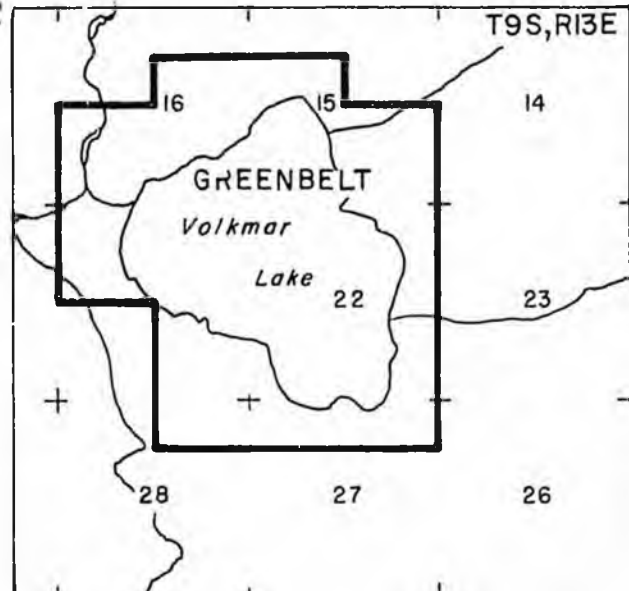
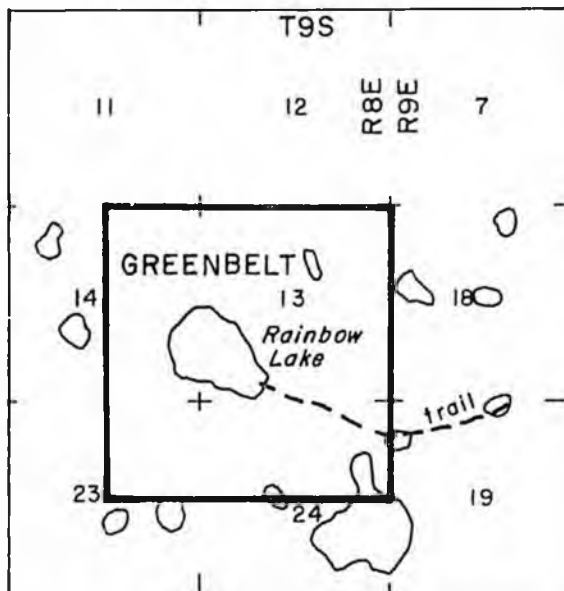
*Despite the Citizen Council's desire for greenbelts along all waters in the study area, the Planning Team did not have sufficient time or information available to make detailed greenbelt recommendations for rivers and lakes that had not been considered earlier. It therefore proposed a timely study of these other rivers and lakes in the Delta area so that additional greenbelts can be established for them at the plan's next review.

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

Donna and Little Donna Lakes. Fishery, recreation, and water quality values. Retain in public ownership. (See map below.)



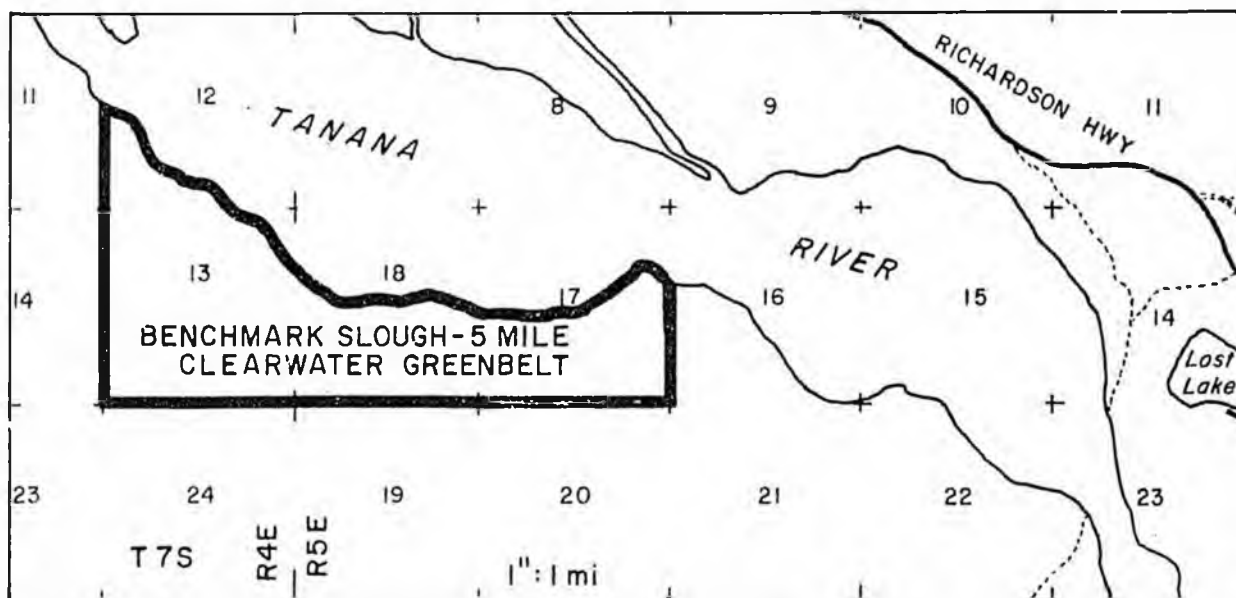
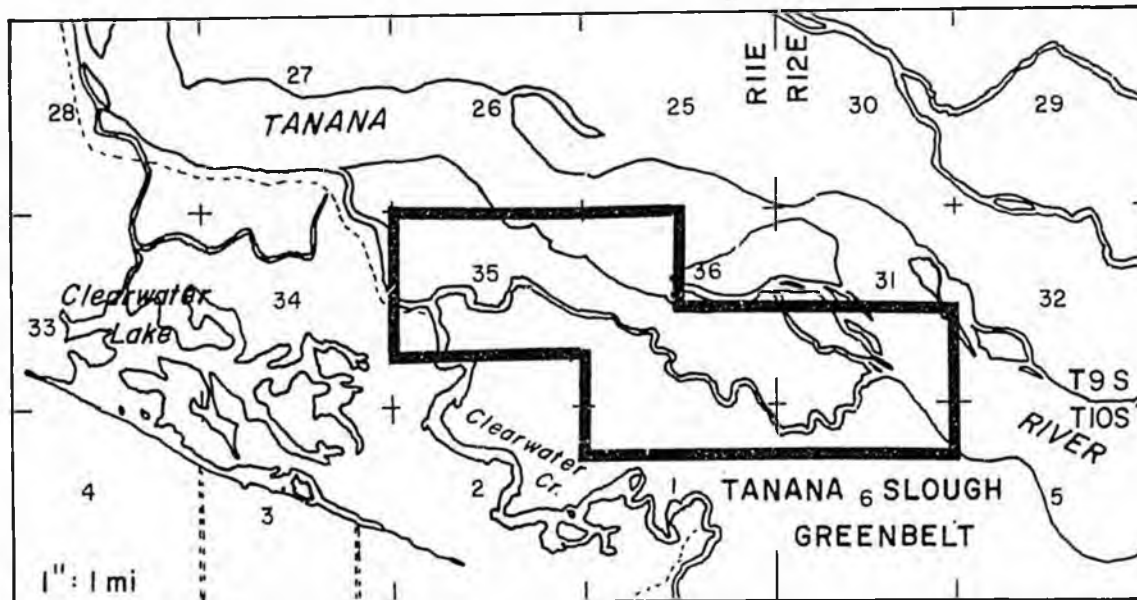
Rainbow Lake. Reserve public right-of-way for existing trail. (As indicated above, vehicular use should be allowed only in wintertime.) Retain in public ownership. (See map below left.)



Volkmar Lake. Fishery, recreation, and water quality values. Retain remaining state land in public ownership. (See map above right.)

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Portions of the Tanana River and its tributaries, including the mouth of the Delta; from Blue Creek to the mouth of the Delta; Blue Creek itself; Bluff Cabin Slough; the Tanana slough at the mouth of the Delta Clearwater; Benchmark Slough; and 5-Mile Clearwater. Salmon spawning and water quality values. (See maps below and at right.)



CORRECTION

THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY

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PART IV: GREENBELTS

CITIZEN COUNCIL OPINION

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As for uses permitted within greenbelts, a large majority favored hunting, trapping, pedestrian access, dog mushing, and logging of dead and down timber for personal use. Commercial logging was rejected by a small margin. Snowmobile use was acceptable, especially if restricted; the use of other all-terrain vehicles was not. Half the Citizen Council felt that it would be all right to permit some widely-scattered private residences in greenbelts, as long as there were scenic covenants and the lots were set back from the water's edge.

PLANNING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- 1) Land along watercourses and water bodies should be managed so as to maintain natural bank stability, stabilize water temperatures, moderate runoff, and filter suspended solids.
- 2) Recreational waters should be protected both physically and visually.

GREENBELT CLASSIFICATION. It is recommended that Division of Lands begin immediately to put all the greenbelts described in Vol. II (listed below) into a classification that will protect their water, wildlife habitat, and recreation values. Boundaries should be based on flood hazard, wildlife habitat, recreation values, terrain, soil types, water quality, and scenic considerations, but for administrative purposes may have to follow aliquot part lines approximating these factors. (Aliquot part lines follow section lines, half-sections, etc.) As is the case throughout this volume, this recommendation refers only to state lands, not to existing private lands.

Once these greenbelts are classified, it is recommended that Division of Lands inventory the remaining watercourses and waterbodies in the study area for inclusion in the greenbelt system, with this inventory to be considered at the next regular review of the Delta Land Management Planning Study.* Greenbelts should also be considered along roads and highways.

USES IN GREENBELTS. In the initially-designated greenbelts listed below, commercial timber cutting is not recommended. Personal use timber sales may be made, with due regard for other greenbelt values. All-terrain motor vehicles should be allowed only in winter on established trails, or by permit. At this time the Planning Team has made no recommendation for private residences

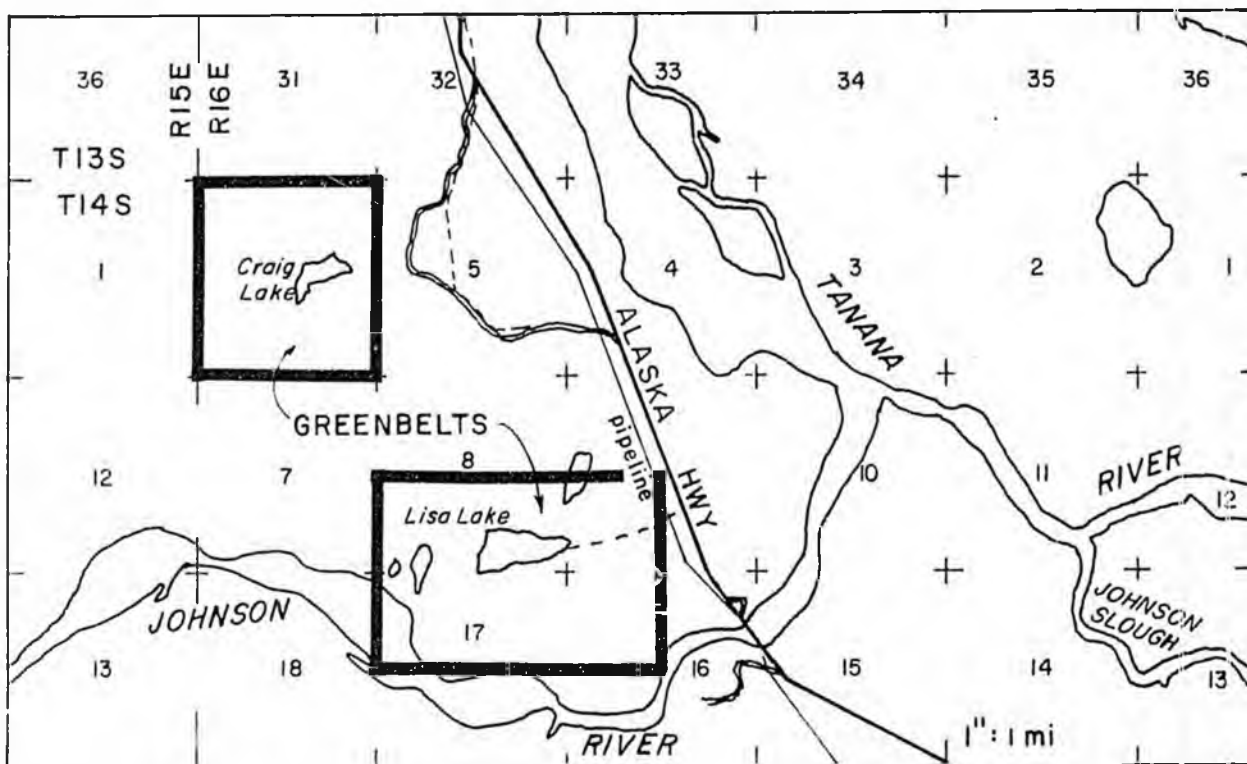
*Despite the Citizen Council's desire for greenbelts along all waters in the study area, the Planning Team did not have sufficient time or information available to make detailed greenbelt recommendations for rivers and lakes that had not been considered earlier. It therefore proposed a timely study of these other rivers and lakes in the Delta area so that additional greenbelts can be established for them at the plan's next review.

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in greenbelts. But where there is to be residential use in the future, lots should be set back from the watercourse.

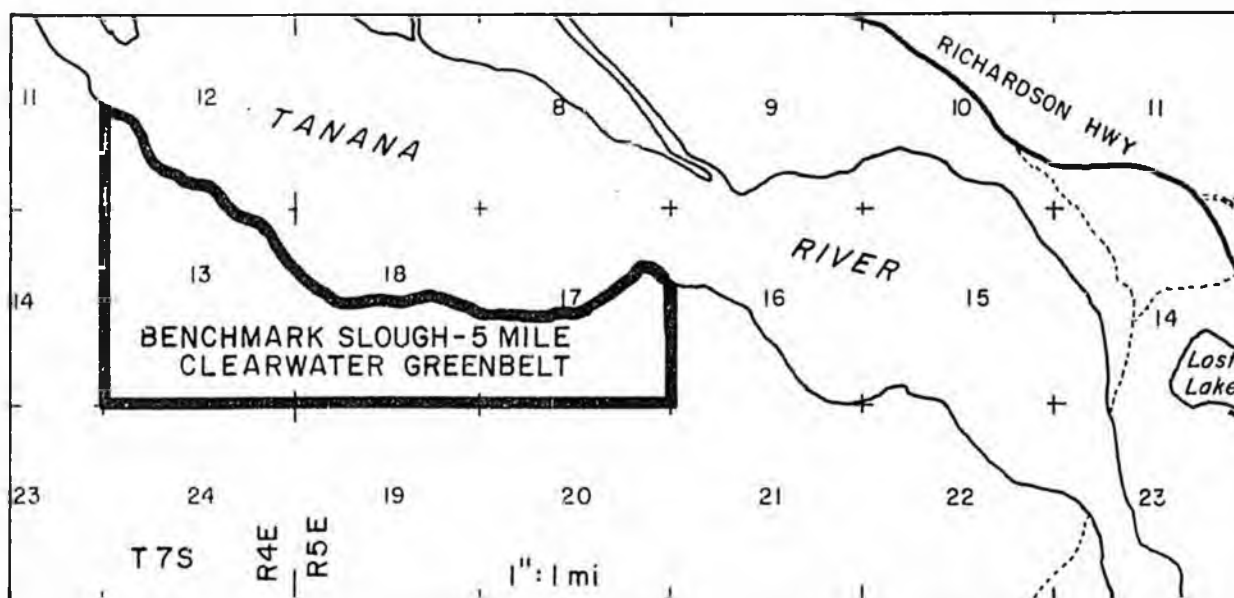
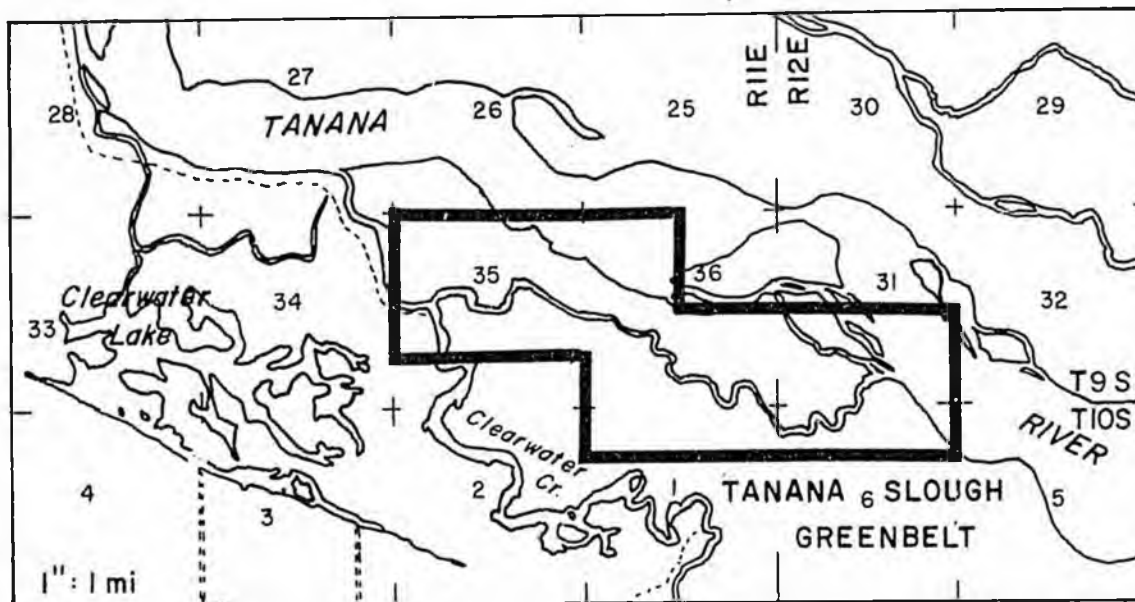
INITIALLY-DESIGNATED GREENBELTS. The following lakes and streams (from Vol. II) are to be included in the initial classification of greenbelts by Division of Lands. Their special values to be protected and other specific considerations are listed below.

Craig and Lisa Lakes. Fishery, recreation, and water quality values. Reserve public right-of-way for existing trail. (As indicated above, vehicular use should be permitted only in wintertime.) Retain in public ownership. (See map below.)



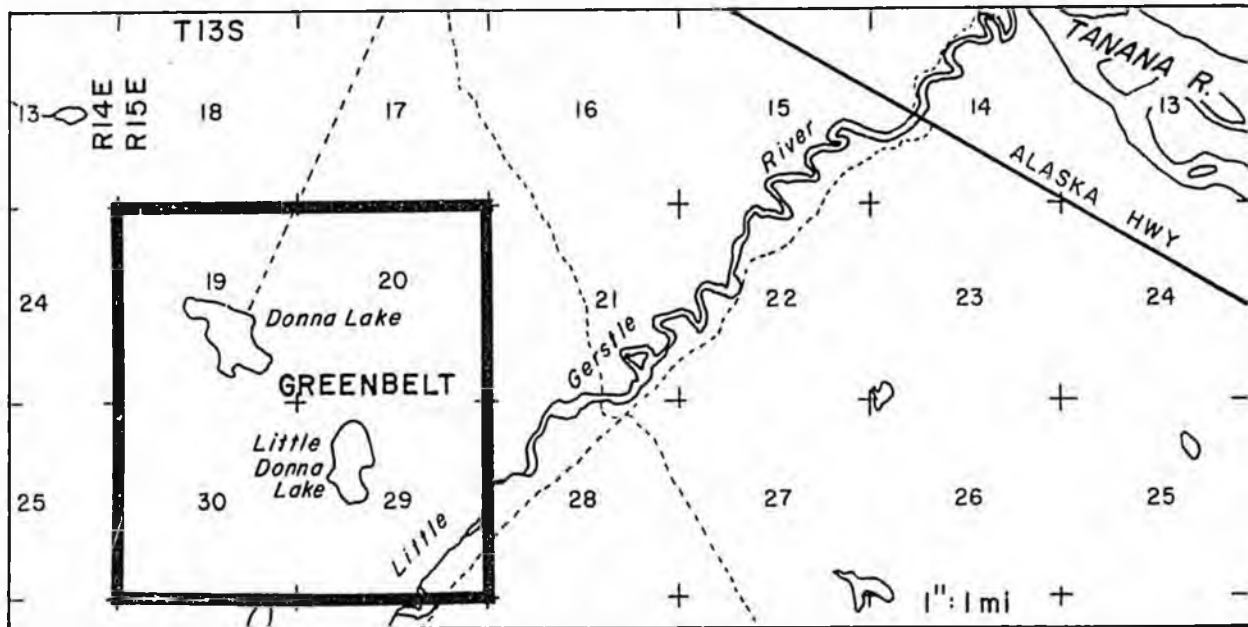
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Portions of the Tanana River and its tributaries, including the mouth of the Delta; from Blue Creek to the mouth of the Delta; Blue Creek itself; Bluff Cabin Slough; the Tanana slough at the mouth of the Delta Clearwater; Benchmark Slough; and 5-Mile Clearwater. Salmon spawning and water quality values. (See maps below and at right.)

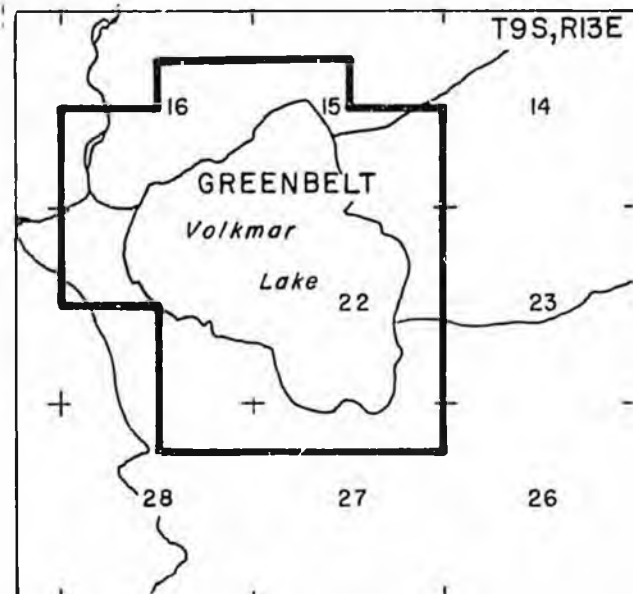
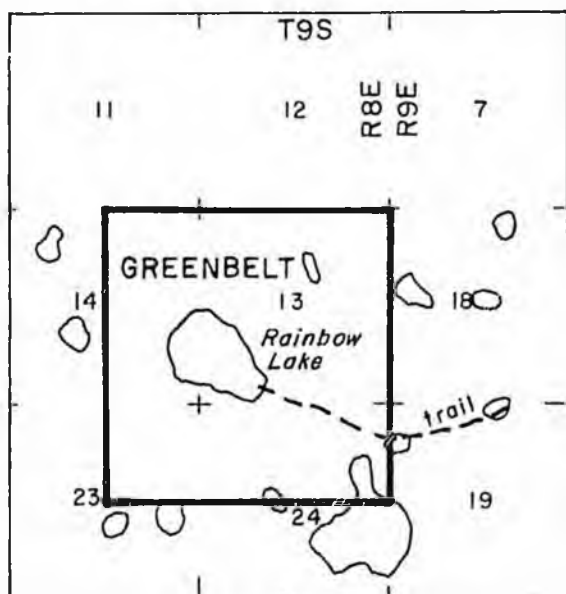


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Donna and Little Donna Lakes. Fishery, recreation, and water quality values. Retain in public ownership. (See map below.)



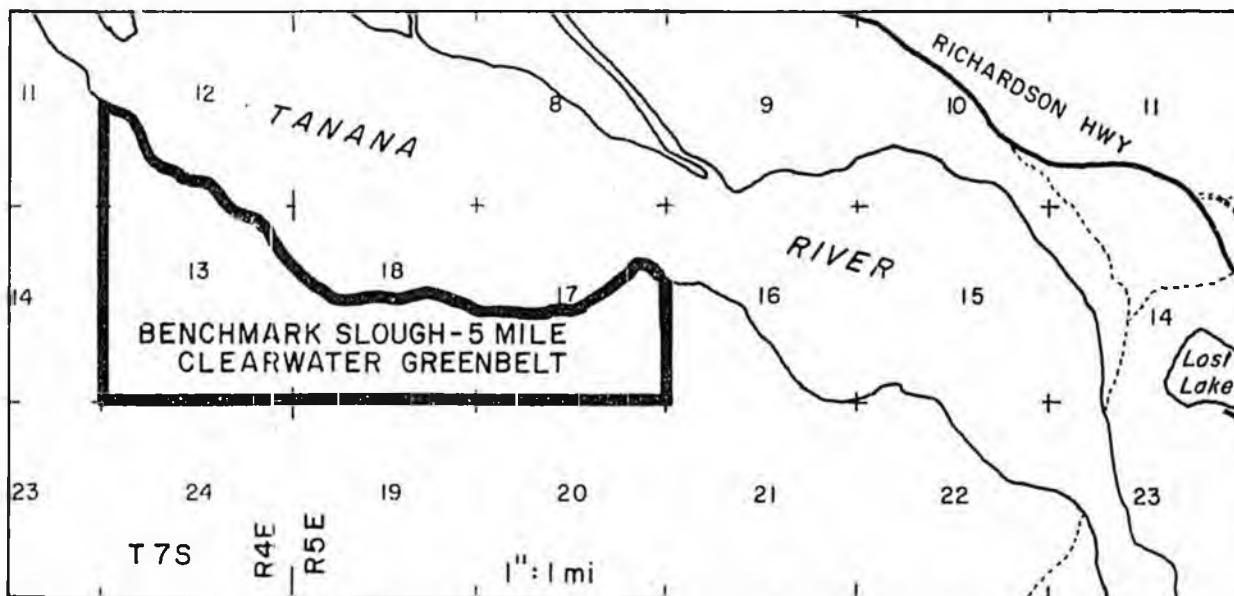
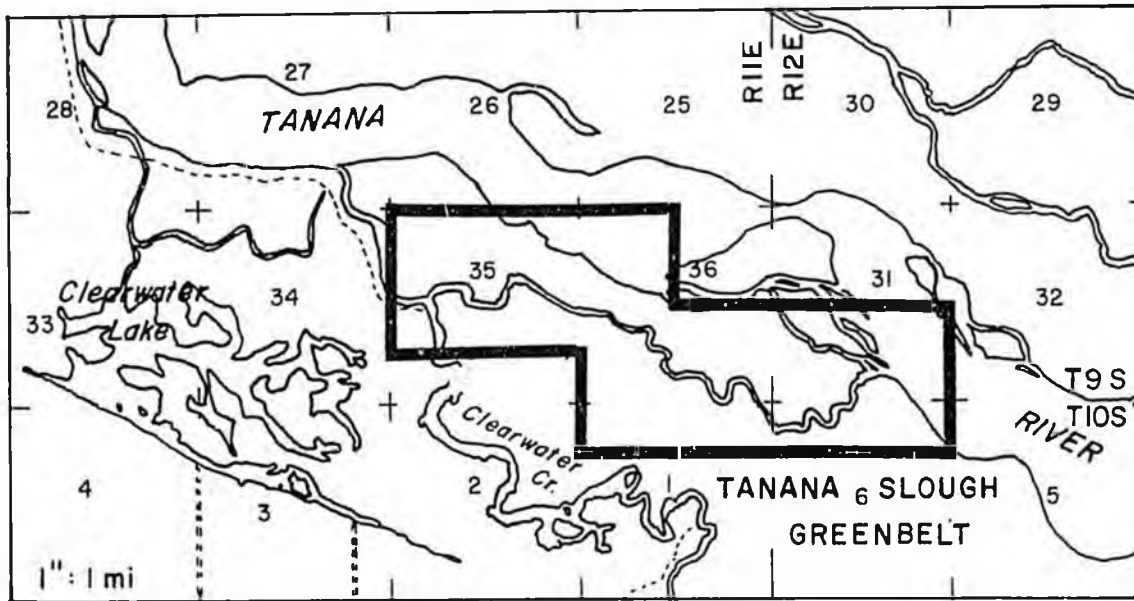
Rainbow Lake. Reserve public right-of-way for existing trail. (As indicated above, vehicular use should be allowed only in wintertime.) Retain in public ownership. (See map below left.)

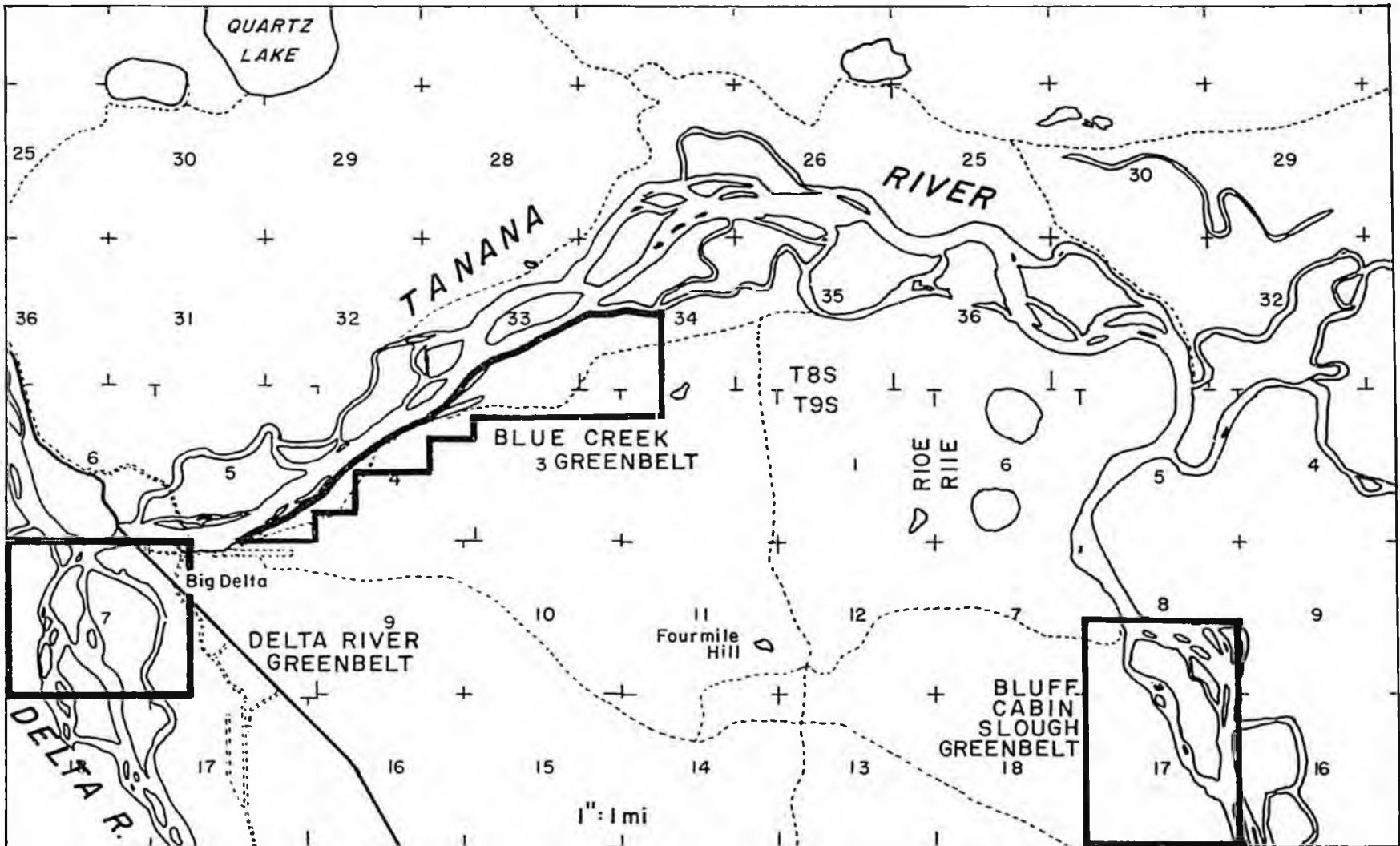


Volkmar Lake. Fishery, recreation, and water quality values. Retain remaining state land in public ownership. (See map above right.)

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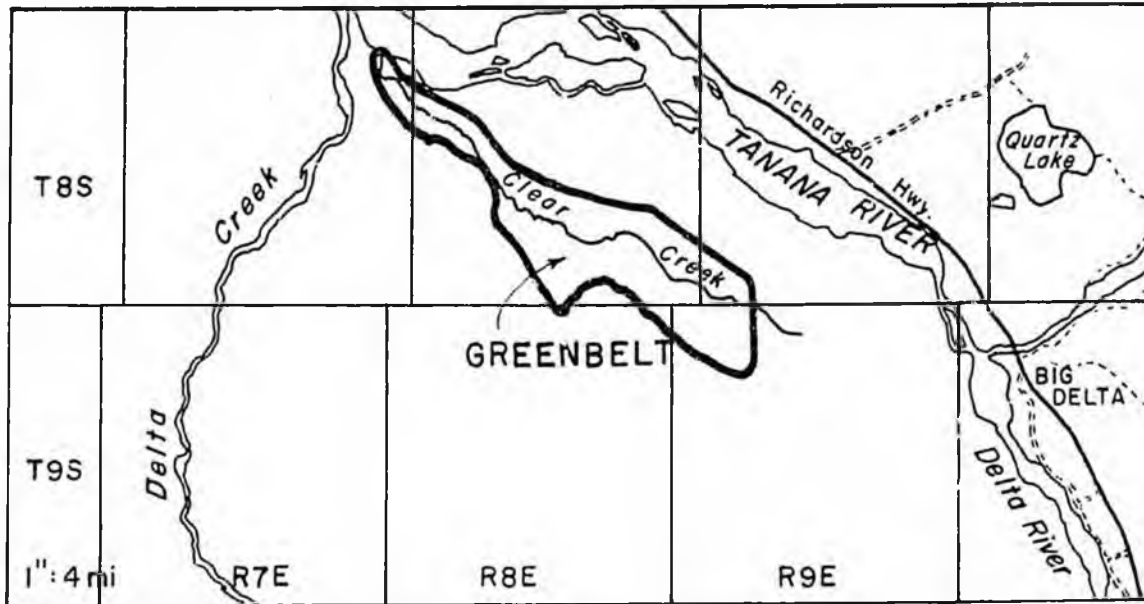
Portions of the Tanana River and its tributaries, including the mouth of the Delta; from Blue Creek to the mouth of the Delta; Blue Creek itself; Bluff Cabin Slough; the Tanana slough at the mouth of the Delta Clearwater; Benchmark Slough; and 5-Mile Clearwater. Salmon spawning and water quality values. (See maps below and at right.)



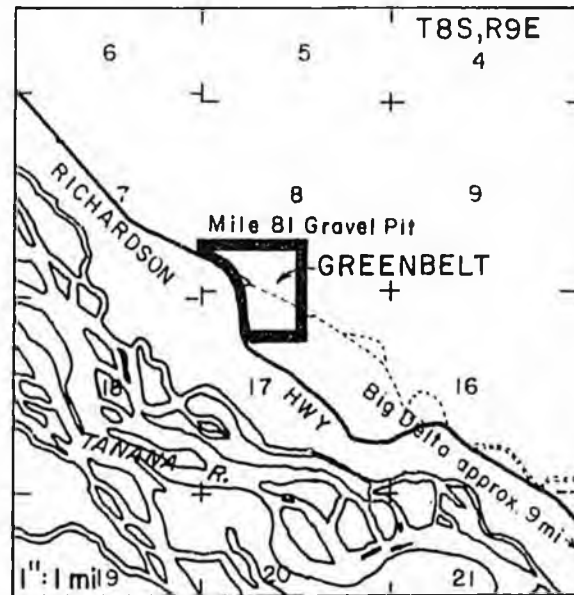
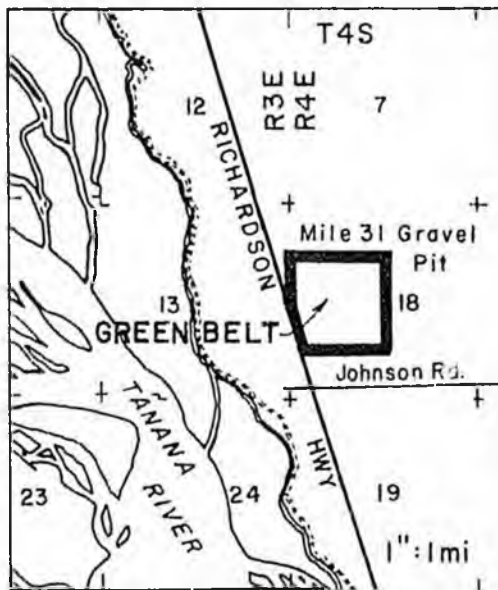


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Richardson Clearwater Creek (Clear Creek). Fishery, silver and chum salmon spawning, water quality, and recreation values. Retain in public ownership. (See map below.)



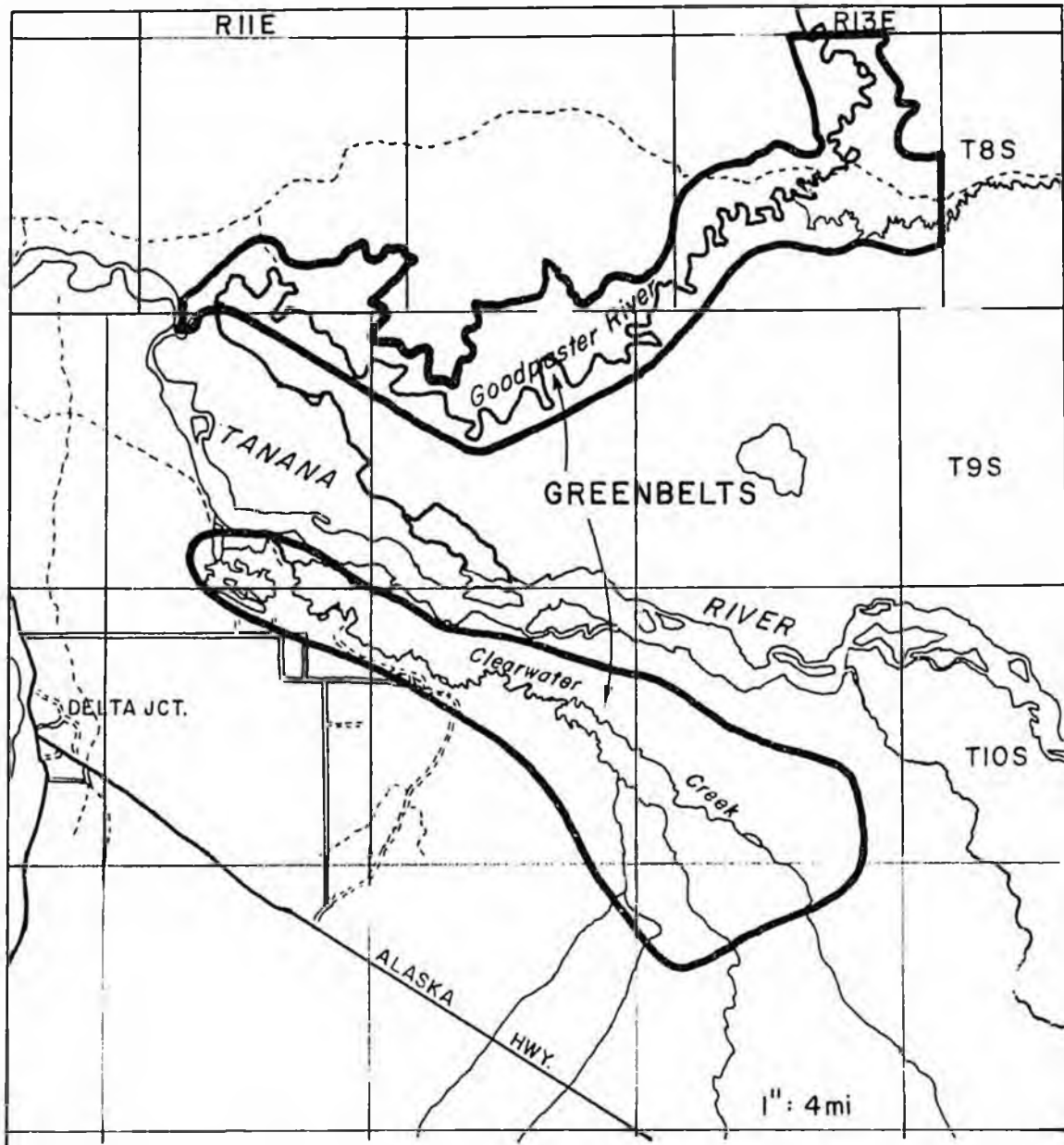
Mile 31 gravel pit. Fishery and water quality values. Retain in public ownership. (See map below left.)



Mile 81 gravel pit. Fishery and water quality values. Retain in public ownership. (See map above right.)

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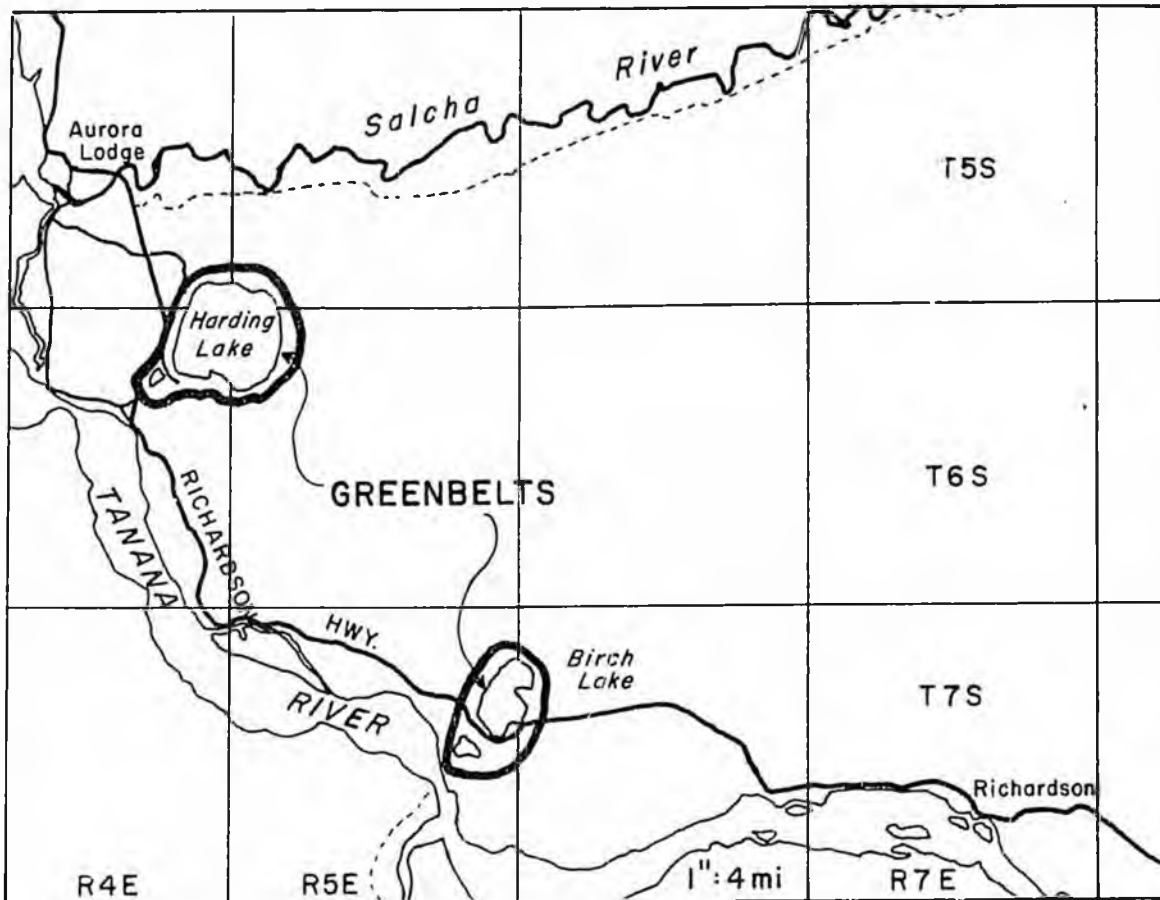
Goodpaster River. Recreation, fishery, king salmon spawning, water quality, and wildlife habitat values. Gravel extraction is not compatible with these values, and placer mining should be carefully regulated on the Goodpaster and its tributaries to maintain water quality. Retain remaining state lands in public ownership. Upstream reaches of this river should be similarly managed, although outside the study area. (See map below.)



Delta Clearwater River (Clearwater Creek). Fishery, silver salmon spawning, recreation, water quality, and wildlife habitat values. Gravel extraction is not compatible with these values. Retain remaining state lands in public ownership. (See map above.)

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Harding and Little Lakes. Recreation, fishery, and water quality values. Retain remaining state lands in public ownership. (See map below.)

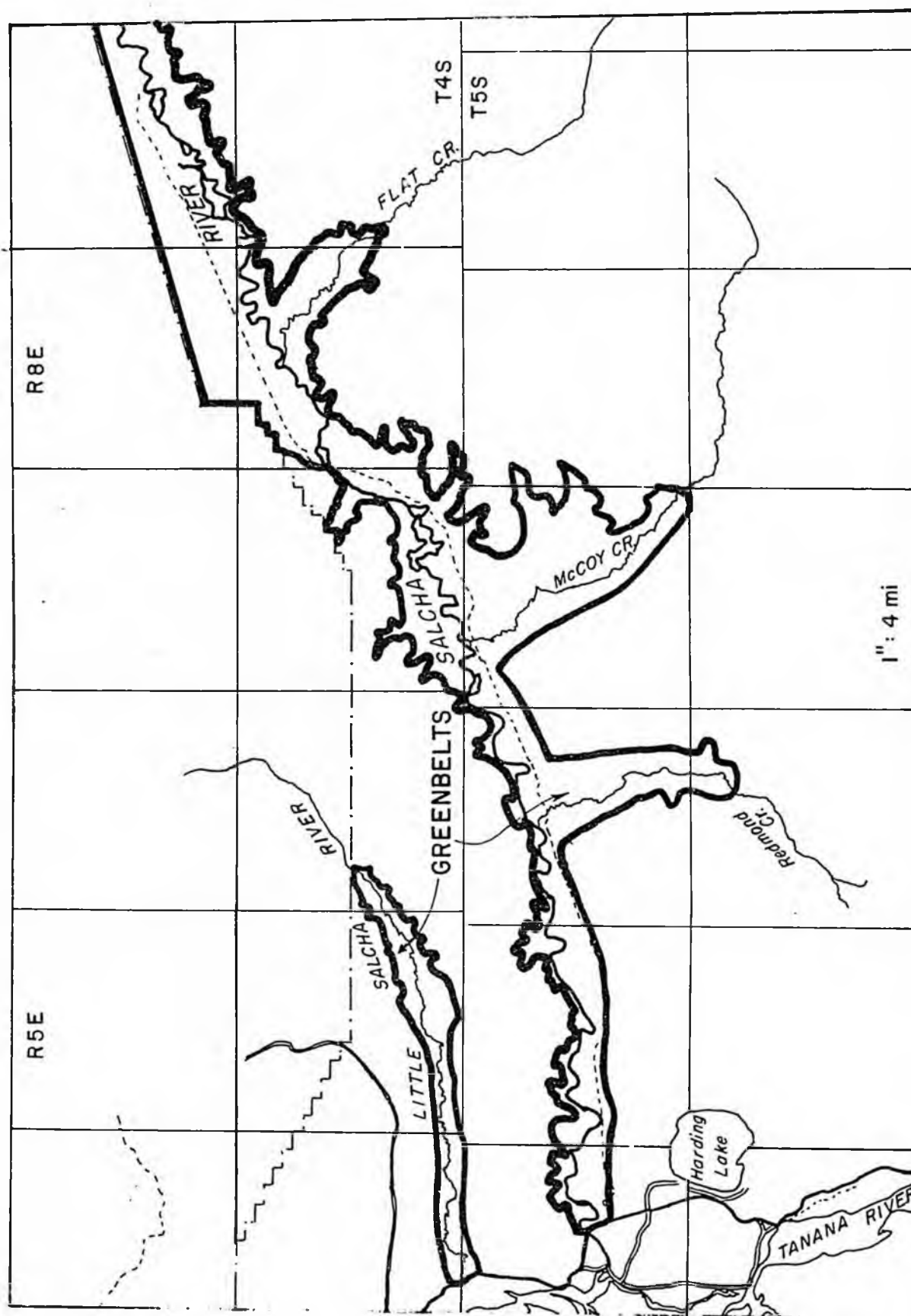


Birch and Lost (Chisholm) Lakes. Recreation, fishery, and water quality values. Retain remaining state lands in public ownership. (See map above.)

Little Salcha River. Fishery and wildlife habitat values. Retain remaining state lands in public ownership. Upstream reaches should be similarly managed, although outside the study area. (See map at right.)

Salcha River. Recreation, king salmon spawning, wildlife habitat, and water quality values. Gravel extraction is not compatible with these values, and placer mining on this river and its tributaries should be carefully regulated to maintain water quality. A sufficient portion of tributaries Redmond Creek, McCoy Creek, Flat Creek, and Ninetyeight Creek should be included in this greenbelt to protect spawning and water quality values (the lower five miles of each creek has initially been recommended for inclusion). Classify and reserve public right-of-way for the existing trail to Caribou. (As indicated above, vehicular use should be permitted only in wintertime.) Retain all remaining state lands in public ownership. Upstream reaches of the Salcha and its tributaries should be similarly managed, although they are outside the study area. (See map at right.)

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Shaw Creek. Recreation, fishery, wildlife habitat, and water quality values. Retain remaining state lands in public ownership.* (See map below.)



CITIZEN COUNCIL RESPONSE

In this and the following table, reaction to the recommendations is expressed in percentages.

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
Management guidelines	94	6	0
Greenbelt classification	83	17	0
Uses in greenbelts	78	17	6
Initially-designated greenbelts	89	11	0

GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONSE

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
Management guidelines	91	4	5
Greenbelt classification	86	7	7
Uses in greenbelts	82	9	9
Initially-designated greenbelts	80	2	18

*The draft version of the Shaw Creek greenbelt recommendation had proposed that use of the stream above the Alyeska pipeline crossing be limited to boat motors of 10 horsepower or less. This suggestion had originally been made by a Citizen Council member and it seemed to have the Council's support. By the March 4 meeting, however, a majority of the Citizen Council had turned against any such restriction, and the general public was overwhelmingly opposed to the idea by a six-to-one margin. The Planning Team consequently dropped the horsepower provision from the Shaw Creek recommendation.

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PART V: RURAL HOMESITES

CITIZEN COUNCIL OPINION

Almost all the Citizen Council members at the February meetings felt that more lots should be made available that would have room for a house and large garden, and perhaps a pasture. A majority thought these homesites should be located near roads and existing services and utilities. In addition, 64 percent recommended making small lots available for recreational cabins and felt that there should be a few widely-scattered back-country sites for "living off the land."

PLANNING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

HOMESITES WITH SERVICES. The Planning Team feels that the greatest demand for rural homesites is for those with access and the opportunity for some services. It therefore recommends making single-family homesites available to meet this demand. Lots conveyed under this recommendation should be 2 1/2 to 5 acres in size, depending on local zoning and on site conditions (the soil's suitability for large gardens and for on-site sewage disposal, the need for vegetative screening to provide privacy, etc.). Parcels should be pre-located or surveyed, with provision made for access, utility rights-of-way, road greenbelts, and scenic setbacks for a secluded effect. They should be leased or sold in fee at auction (only one parcel per household). Construction of a habitable dwelling must be commenced within three years and the residence must be occupied within five years.

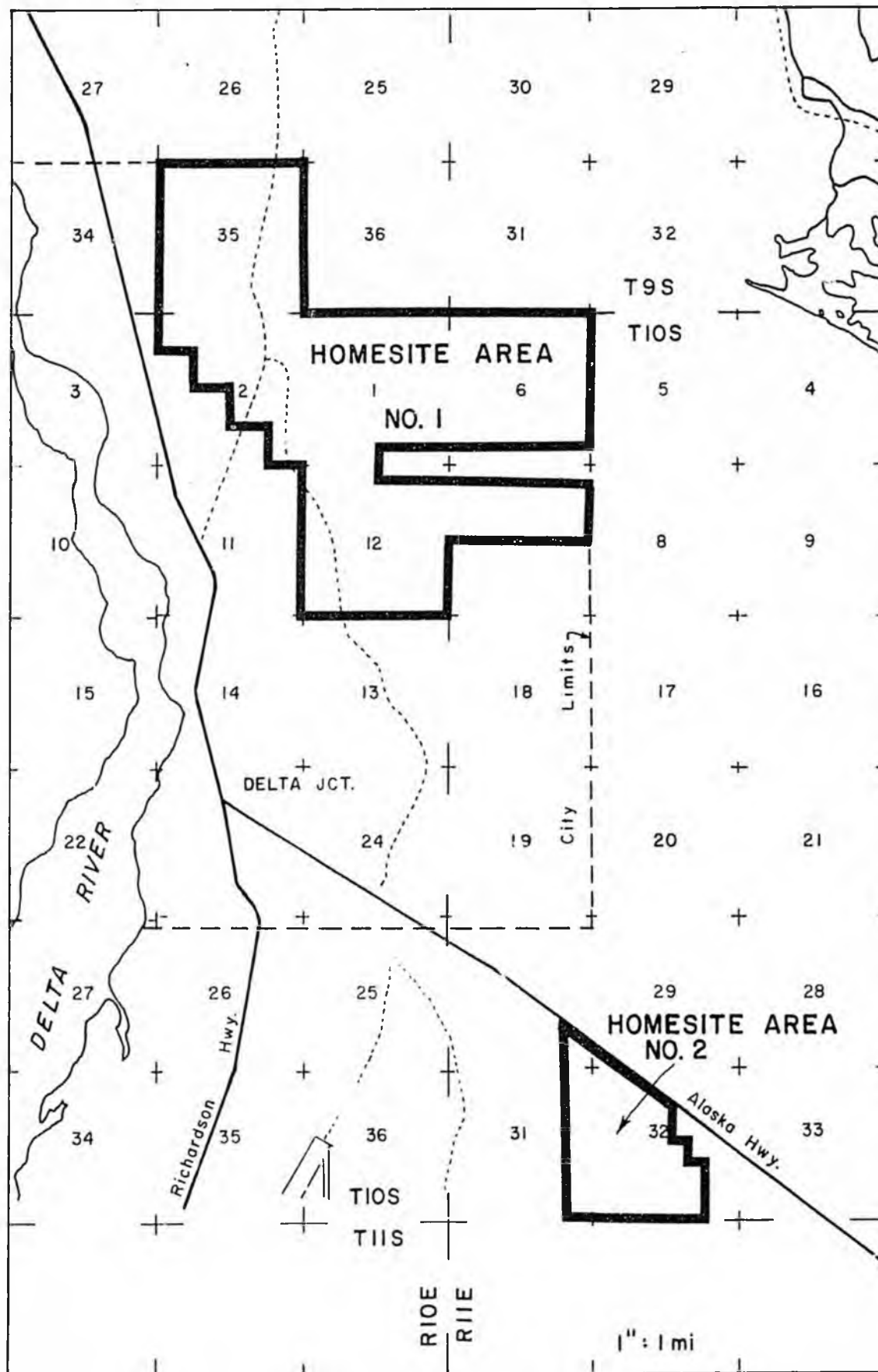
The Planning Team recommends three general areas for homesites, in the following priority order:

1) Within the city of Delta Junction. (See map.) Considerable areas of state land lie within Delta Junction's city limits. Delta Junction's Community Development Plan deems much of this land suitable for 2 1/2-acre and 5-acre homesites. Conveyances should be planned with the City's approval and participation. Some of this area is university grant lands; if the University of Alaska wishes to pursue this course, the land might be available for lease at auction.

2) On state lands south of the Alaska Highway, approximately three miles southeast of the junction with the Richardson Highway, outside the city limits. (See map.)

3) On Class IVs soils crossed by agricultural service roads within the Delta Clearwater, Tanana Loop, and Salcha agricultural development areas recommended in Part III of this volume. (Class IVs soils are shallow and dry; they have severe limitations for general agriculture, but are not necessarily unsuitable for gardening.) These homesites should be planned along with the agricultural developments, allowing for a more rural way of life than in the first two homesite areas above, and helping to spread the cost of agricultural access roads and services among more recipients. Since these parcels would not be on prime soils, they would be conveyed in fee (rather than selling only the agricultural rights), and of course no farm development plan would be required. Belts of Class IVs soils have value for wildlife habitat, windbreaks, and scenic contrast to cultivated land; therefore it is important that these areas not be entirely or substantially used up for homesites.

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THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

BACK-COUNTRY HOMESITES. At this time, the Planning Team has made no recommendation for other kinds of rural homesites-back-country residences or weekend cabins-because it feels that the major demand will be satisfied by the homesites proposed above; because the recommended disposals are expected to occupy Division of Lands' resources for the time being; and because real problems remain with regard to back-country homesites. These include the difficulty of assessing the land's carrying capacities for various recreational and "subsistence" activities, the public's expressed desire for widely-separated parcels versus the extreme administrative costs of surveying and disposal in dispersed patterns, resource use conflicts, the shrinking area available to the general public in the face of desires for exclusive use on the part of those wanting the homesites, and the problem of coping with the demand if the Delta region were the only area where state lands became available for weekend cabins or "living off the land."

It is recommended that this type of homesite receive further study by Division of Lands for consideration at later reviews of DLMPS, and that if such disposals are undertaken they be by non-transferable lease of pre-located, dispersed parcels, in numbers limited by the land's carrying capacity for subsistence activities. Lease could be for a limited time or renewable during the life of the lessee, and should eventually revert to the State for re-release by lottery or other equitable system.

CITIZEN COUNCIL RESPONSE

The Citizen Council's reactions to the Planning Team's recommendations are presented below, expressed in percentages.

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
Homesites with services	83	11	6
Back-country homesites	78	11	11

GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONSE

Homesites with services	75	18	7
Back-country homesites	82	5	13

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PART VI: RECREATION

CITIZEN COUNCIL OPINION

Citizen Council members discussed two recreational issues at the February meetings. The first concerned the management of a roadless area in the foothills and mountain country south of the Alaska Highway. Two approaches were under consideration: one for "wildlands" management with restrictions on motorized access, the other for a recreation area without restrictions. Some members (14 percent) felt that further study was required before a decision could be made as to which management concept was better. But of those who did have a preference, a small majority favored the wildlands concept or would tend to choose it if there could be further study.

The other issue involved a recreation area at Quartz Lake. The Citizen Council felt that there were already serious problems with crowding, litter and lack of sanitation at Quartz Lake. The majority believed that use of the lake should not be increased, but that existing difficulties needed to be resolved. It was felt that Division of Parks ought to come up with a plan for the area and present it to the public; as part of this plan, Division of Parks should consider limiting boat horsepower and managing the lake more for fishing than for water skiing and speed-boating.

PLANNING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

1) Both visual and physical access to scenic or other recreational resources should be protected.

2) New highway construction or improvement should be planned to incorporate, where practical, an adjacent trail for skiers, bikes, dogsleds, horses, snowmachines, etc., bearing in mind its greater cost if built separately later.

3) During their planning stages, other resource developments should be systematically reviewed for recreation possibilities, at which time these developments' negative effects on the recreation resource can be anticipated and mitigated.

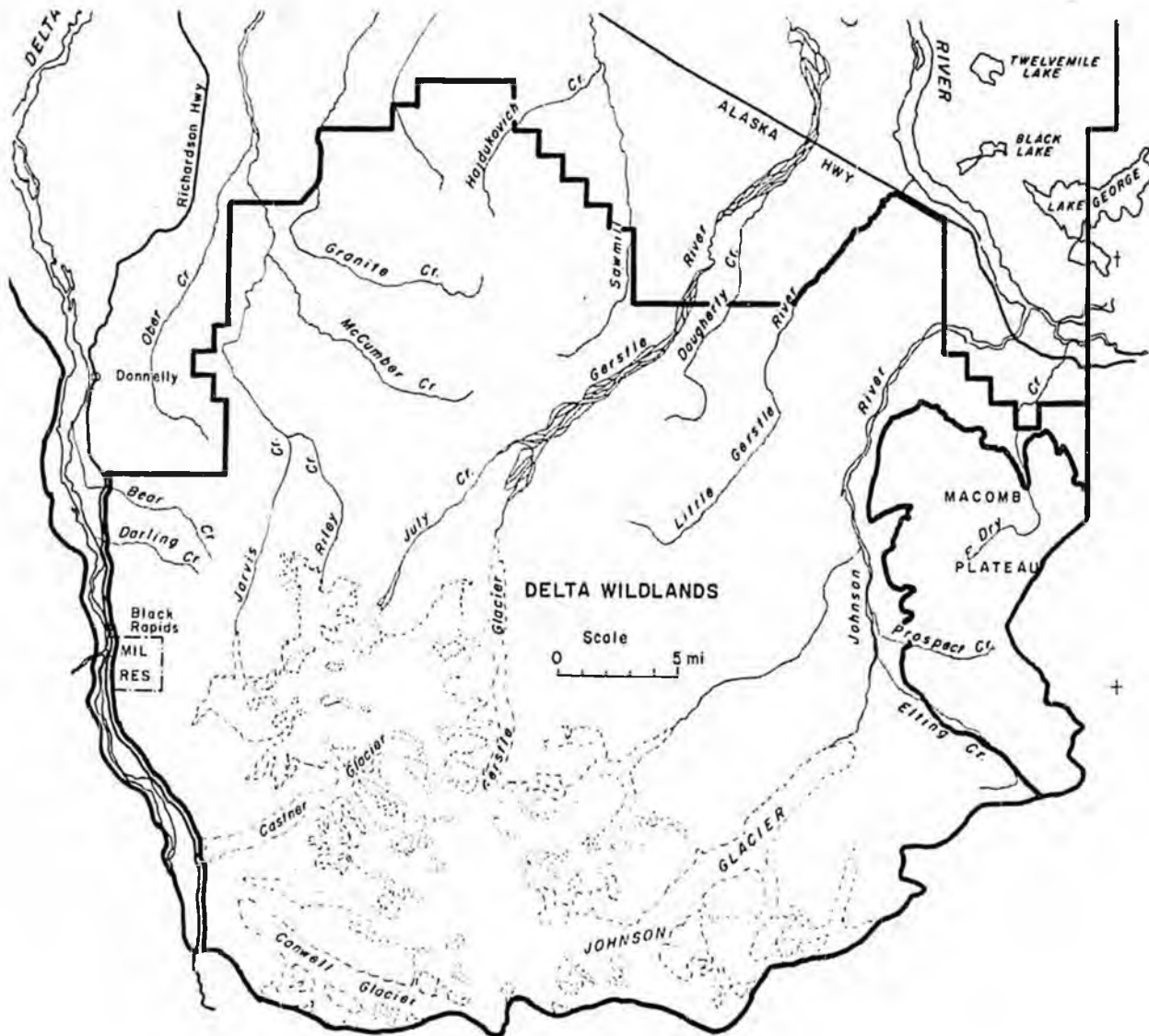
4) Archeological, paleontological, and historic sites should be preserved if they offer opportunities for public education and enjoyment or if they have scientific value. An archeological reconnaissance should be made if existing information suggests the probability of new discoveries in an area where development is planned.

5) Opportunities for viewing scenery, fish and wildlife should be enhanced.

6) Consideration should be given to ways to retain public recreational use of lands, regardless of their future ownership status.

DELTA WILDLANDS. (See map at right.) The foothills and mountain country between the Alaska and Richardson Highways (south of the bison habitat area recommended in Part VII of this volume) is a roadless area of undeveloped land with a rugged, primitive character. It is large enough to retain this character regardless of developments on adjacent lands. It is recommended that it be managed as a wildlands area, a place where visitors can encounter an unaltered environment

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without modern technology and enjoy a high-quality, natural outdoor experience. Wilderness hunting, fishing, trapping, and prospecting are important uses of the area and should be encouraged to continue, along with other activities that are compatible with the wildlands management philosophy. Mineral location and extraction should be permitted if conducted so as to maintain the wild values of the area.

It is recommended that the wildlands be put into a land classification that will protect its present unspoiled character. Because it is important wildlife habitat, the Planning Team also recommends that the Department of Fish and Game manage the area jointly with the Department of Natural Resources. The two departments should develop a management plan for the wildlands and periodically review the plan, with public involvement, to insure that it continues to meet the area's needs.

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To enable the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game to place restrictions on land uses permitted in the wildlands, the Division of Lands should designate it a "special use area." Division of Lands can also set up permit systems to control activities in the special use area, if necessary.

Before restrictions are placed on activities permitted in the wildlands, the departments responsible for the area's management should hold public meetings in Delta Junction. Until a management plan is developed, all existing activities should be allowed to continue at current levels. Construction of new roads, airstrips, and buildings should not be permitted in the wildlands; grazing of ruminant domestic animals (sheep and cows) should also be prohibited.

It is recommended that the State attempt to select Federal lands within the wildlands area. If this is not possible, the State should take steps to develop a cooperative management agreement with the U. S. Bureau of Land Management.

It is also recommended that further consideration be given the idea of managing state lands east of the study area (to the West Fork of the Robertson River) and south of it (to include the College and Gulkana Glaciers) as part of the wildlands.

QUARTZ LAKE. (See map--boundaries shown are for preliminary planning purposes and are subject to change.) It is recommended that the remaining state lands within the Quartz Lake proposal be retained in public ownership, and that the area be classified so as to allow the Division of Parks to manage it. The Division of Parks should immediately begin to develop a facility design and management plan. The public should be involved from the beginning phases of developing this plan, and no major facilities should be constructed until the plan is completed. In the meantime, Division of Parks should continue the efforts begun in the summer of 1977 to control litter and sewage disposal problems. Quartz Lake should be managed more for fishing than for water skiing or speed-boating; the management plan should address the question of limiting or zoning the use of large motors on the lake so as to reduce noise. Provision should be made for access to timber that lies beyond the Quartz Lake area.

CITIZEN COUNCIL RESPONSE

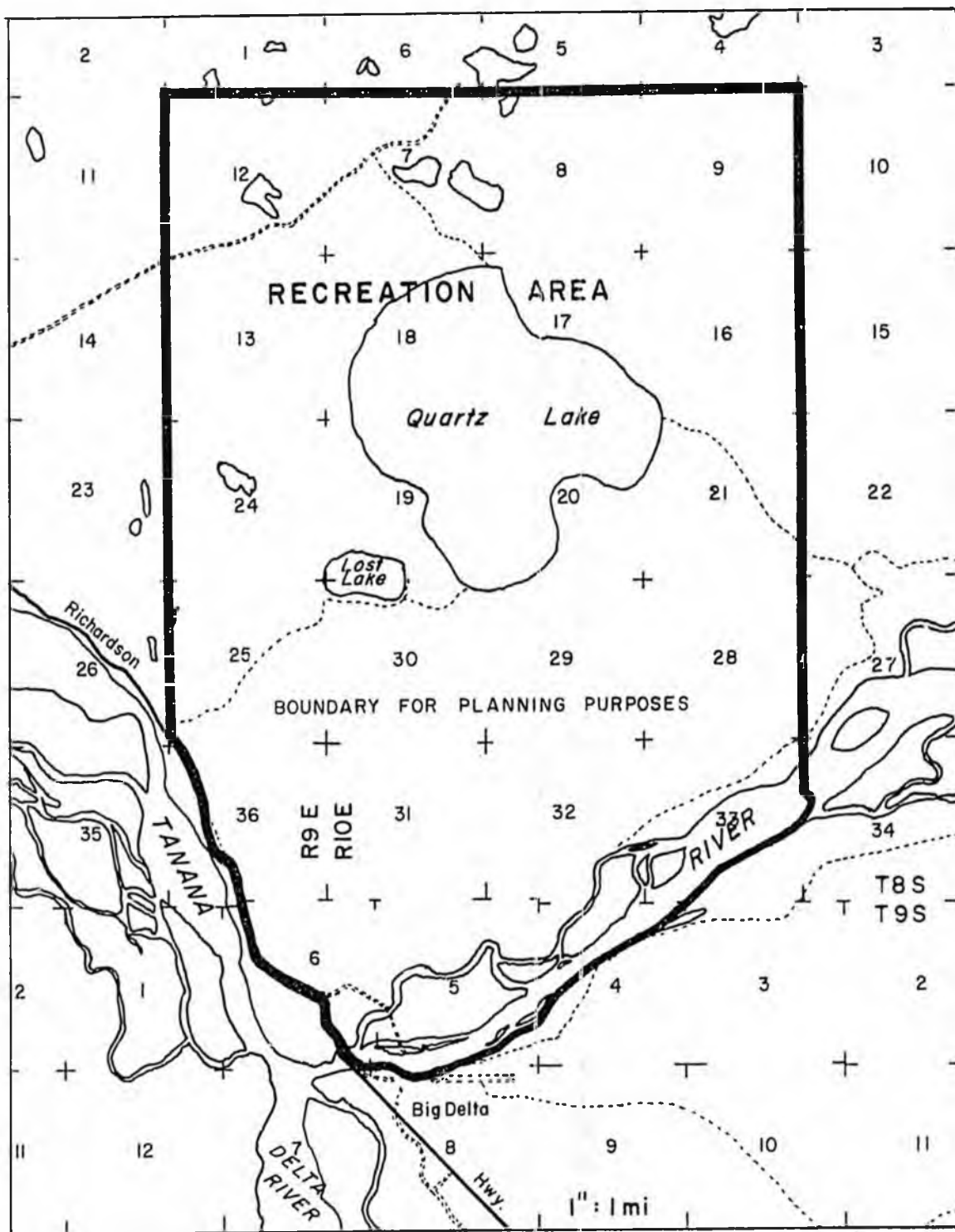
The reaction to the Planning Team's recommendations is shown below, expressed in percentages.

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
Management guidelines	18	0	0
Delta wildlands	83	17	6
Quartz Lake	67	22	11

GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONSE

Management guidelines	84	8	8
Delta wildlands	76	18	6
Quartz Lake	67	29	4

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PART VII: WILDLIFE

CITIZEN COUNCIL OPINION

Several wildlife issues were discussed at the Citizen Council's February meetings. Regarding bison, most Citizen Council members wanted special areas set aside for bison habitat management, and a majority of these people agreed with proposals for three management areas: one south of the Alaska Highway and two along the Delta River. Citizen Council members thought these areas ought to be managed by the Department of Fish and Game, but wanted to hear specific plans.

A majority also approved proposals for habitat manipulation on three old burns: at Jarvis Creek, Ninetyeight Creek and Flat Creek. (Habitat manipulation is intervention in natural processes to favor a particular species. For instance, an old burn starting to grow back in black spruce might be re-burned to encourage new growth of willows, a preferred browse for moose.)

A majority of the Citizen Council also agreed that the Goodpaster Flats, Shaw Creek Flats, and the entire Macomb Plateau (not just the part that lies within the study area) should be managed for wildlife habitat.

PLANNING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

BISON. The Delta bison herd is the largest and most viable in Alaska. It is felt that the herd should be maintained as wild and free-ranging, with its numbers being controlled by annual public hunting.

It is recommended that three bison habitat management areas--south of the Alaska Highway, gravel bars and lowlands of the Delta River north of Black Rapids, and the west side of the Delta near Rainbow Lake--be established. (See map.) The Division of Lands should classify these areas immediately to facilitate their management by the Department of Fish and Game.

One of the areas--grassy bars and adjacent lowlands on the west bank of the Delta River near Black Rapids--is on Fort Greely military lands. Essentially all bison calving occurs in this area, and it serves as summer habitat for most of the herd. Because it is so important, the Planning Team recommends that the State attempt to acquire the area. If this is not possible, the State should seek a cooperative management agreement with the military. To insure that this bison calving and summering grounds receives adequate protection, it is recommended that the state legislature designate it as critical habitat.

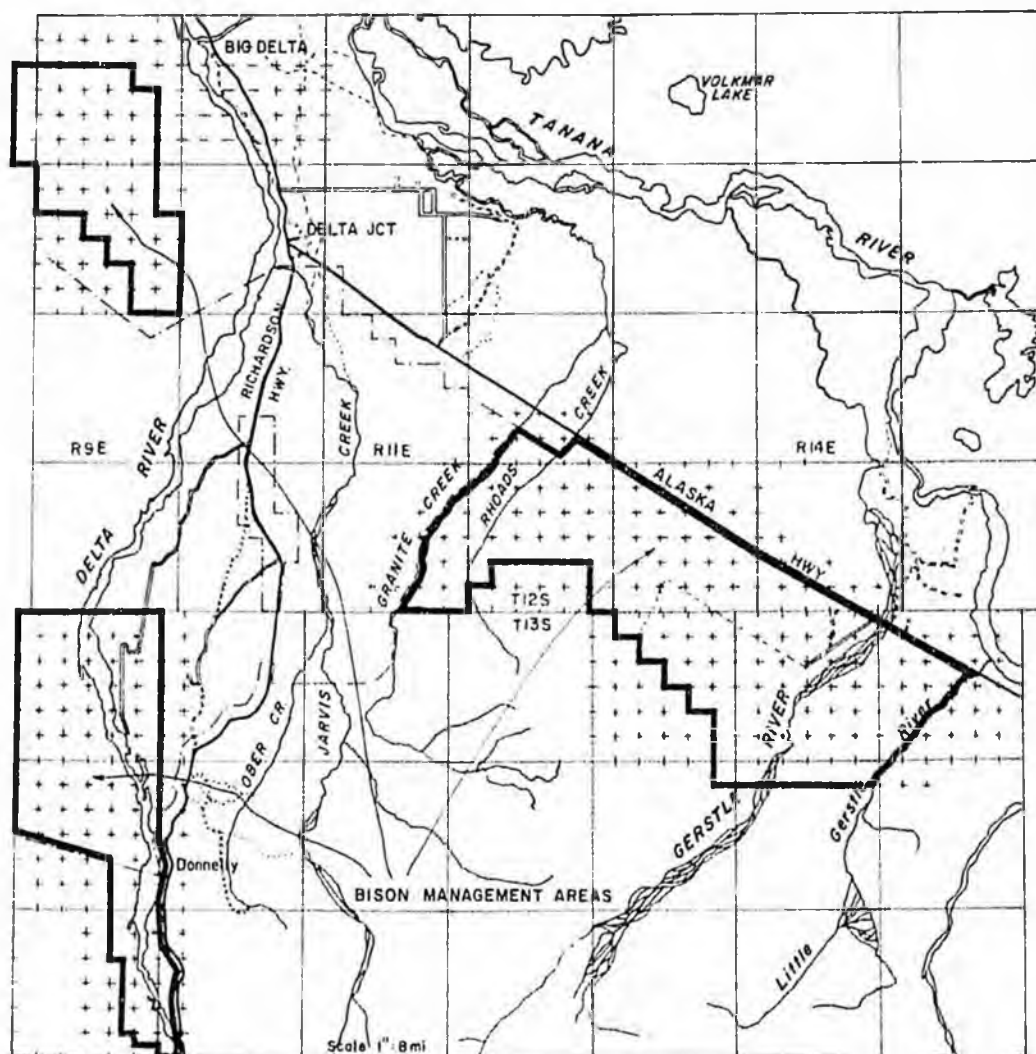
From early September through February, the bison herd is in or near the Clearwater farming district. To assure that the bison continue to have adequate winter range and in an attempt to keep the bison out of fields that have not yet been harvested, it is recommended that the legislature establish a wildlife management area on state lands south of the Alaska Highway to the foothills of the Granite Mountains, from Granite Creek on the west to the Little Gerstle River on the east. This area should be administered for the benefit of all its wildlife, not only bison, and with due consideration given to timber, recreation, and other resources found there. The Department of Fish and Game should develop a management plan for the area and present it to the public before any habitat manipulation is undertaken. (Tentative plans call for a total of 5,000 acres to be planted in grains for wildlife forage; in addition, each year some 2,000

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to 5,000 acres--possibly up to 10,000--would be burned. However, the pace and scale of habitat manipulation depend to some extent on the pace and scale of agricultural development in the Clearwater farming area.) It is further recommended that the military be encouraged to return lands it has disturbed within this area to their original condition.

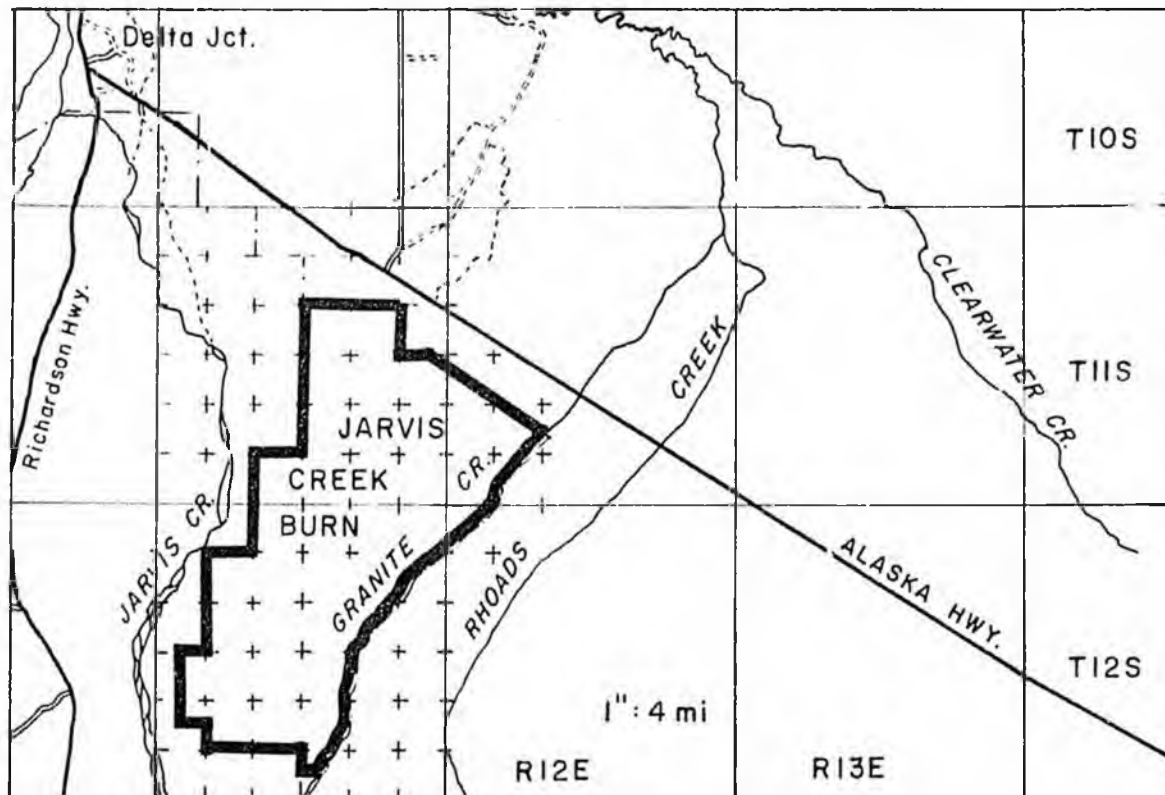
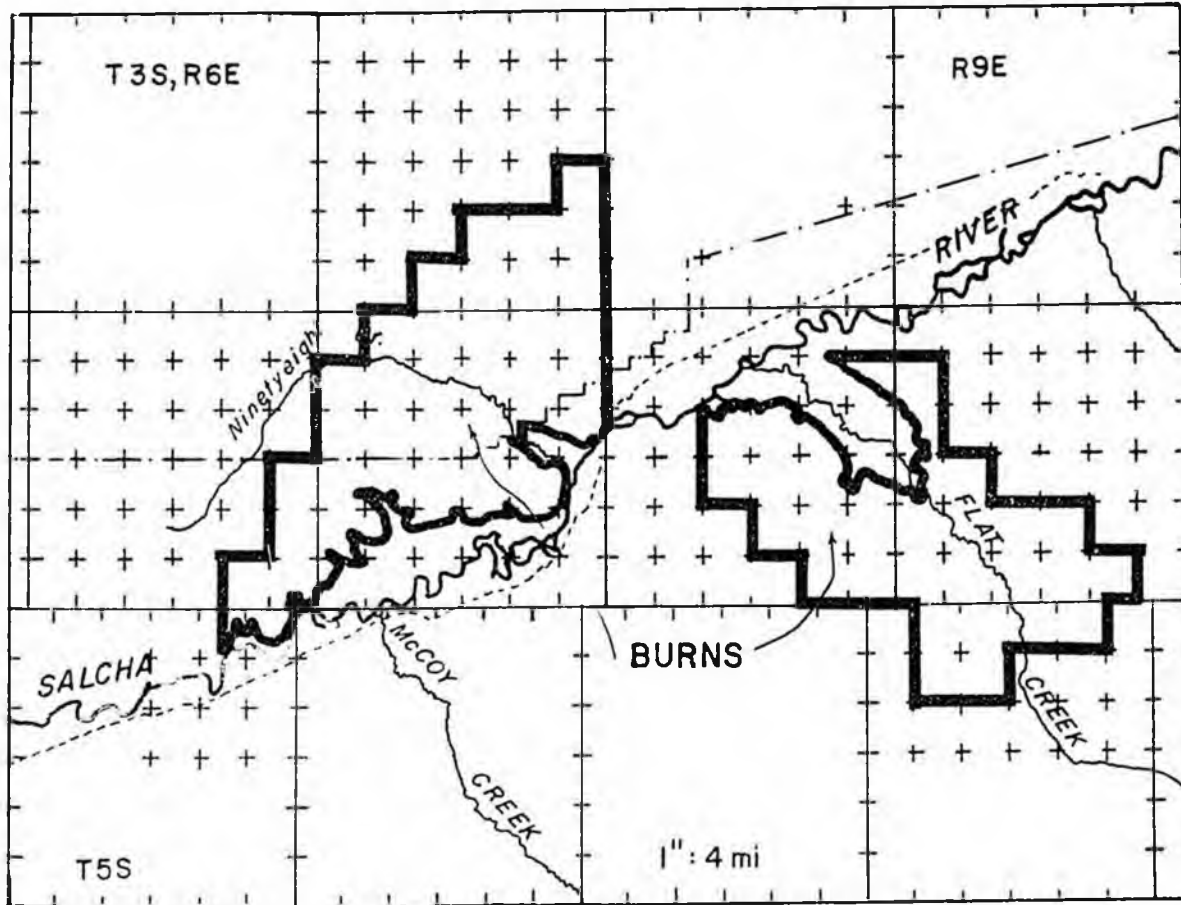
As an aid to habitat management, it is recommended that the existing soil survey along the Alaska Highway be extended south to the limit of the Class II and III soils.

In all three bison areas, hunting, fishing, and trapping should be allowed to continue, along with any other use that does not interfere with the maintenance of the habitat's productivity. Intensive development would not be consistent with the purposes for which these bison areas are recommended.



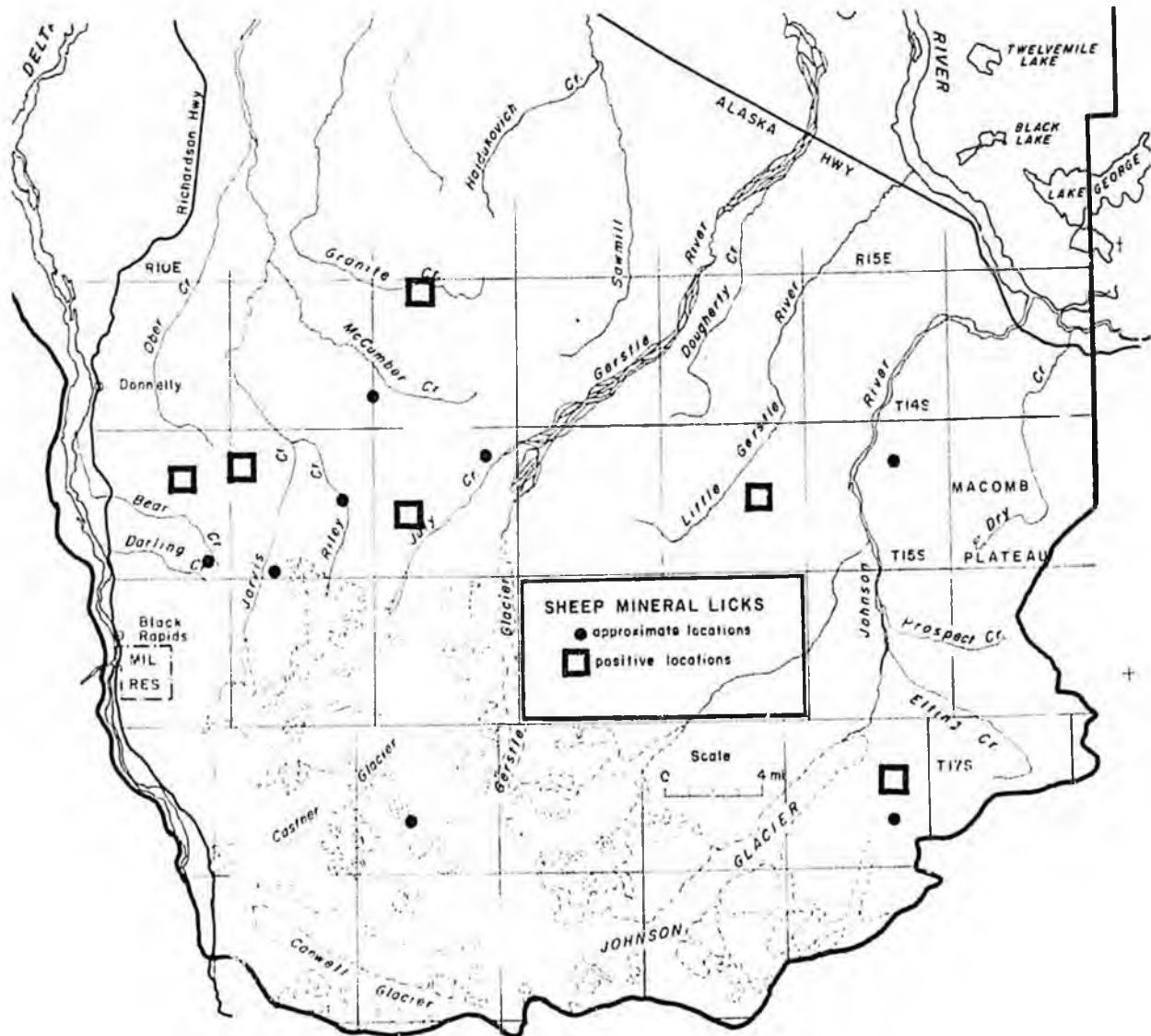
BURNS. (See maps.) It is recommended that the Jarvis Creek, Ninetyeight Creek, and Fla' Creek burns be classified to protect wildlife habitat and to allow the Department of Fish and Game to undertake habitat manipulation. Hunting, fishing, and trapping would be compatible uses of these areas.

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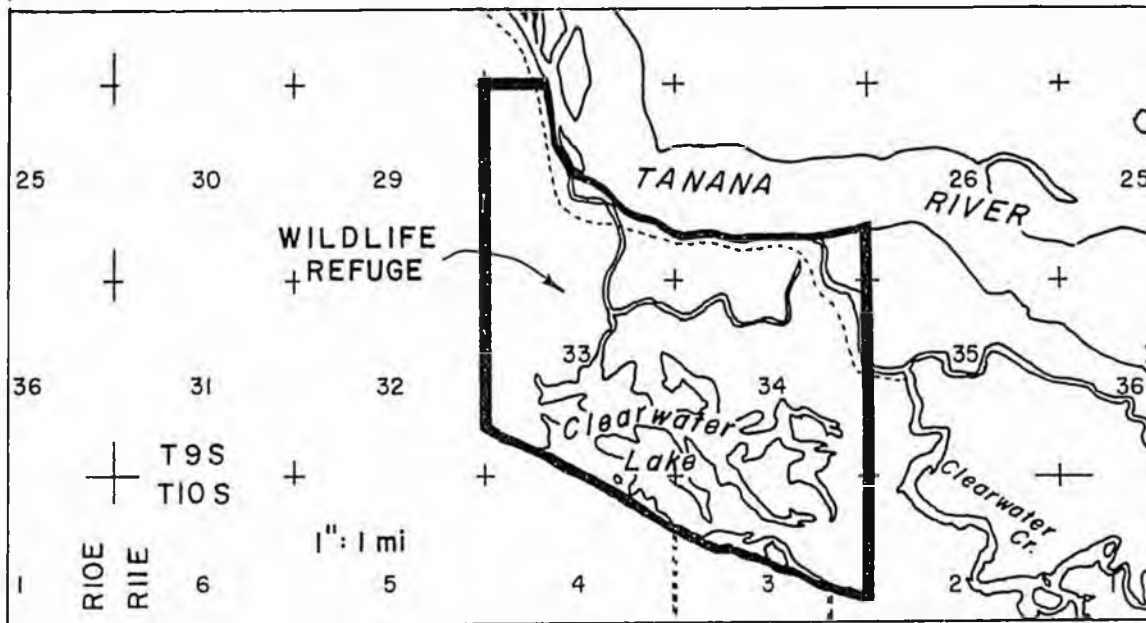
MINERAL LICKS. (See map.) Fourteen sheep licks have been identified within the Delta wildlands proposal. These mineral licks should be designated by the legislature as critical habitat, with a minimum size of 640 acres around each site to protect not only the lick itself but also the nearby Dall sheep resting areas and heavily-used converging trails. Industrial development, mining activity, and intensive recreation (developed trails, cabins, etc.) would not be compatible uses within the critical habitat zones.



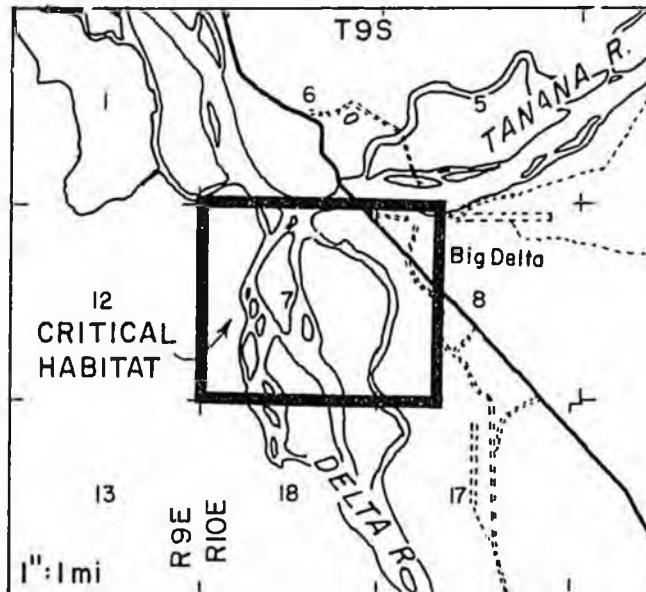
CLEARWATER LAKE WILDLIFE REFUGE. It is recommended that state lands in the Clearwater Lake area (see map) be established by the legislature as a state wildlife refuge for migratory waterfowl and spawning salmon. It is recommended that the State not dispose of or lease any additional land within the delineated area. To prevent disturbance to wildlife, access to the lake might have to be limited during periods of waterfowl nesting and spring migration or salmon spawning. Sport hunting, fishing and trapping would be compatible and complementary uses of the area. Non-compatible uses would include any extensive disturbance during periods of fish

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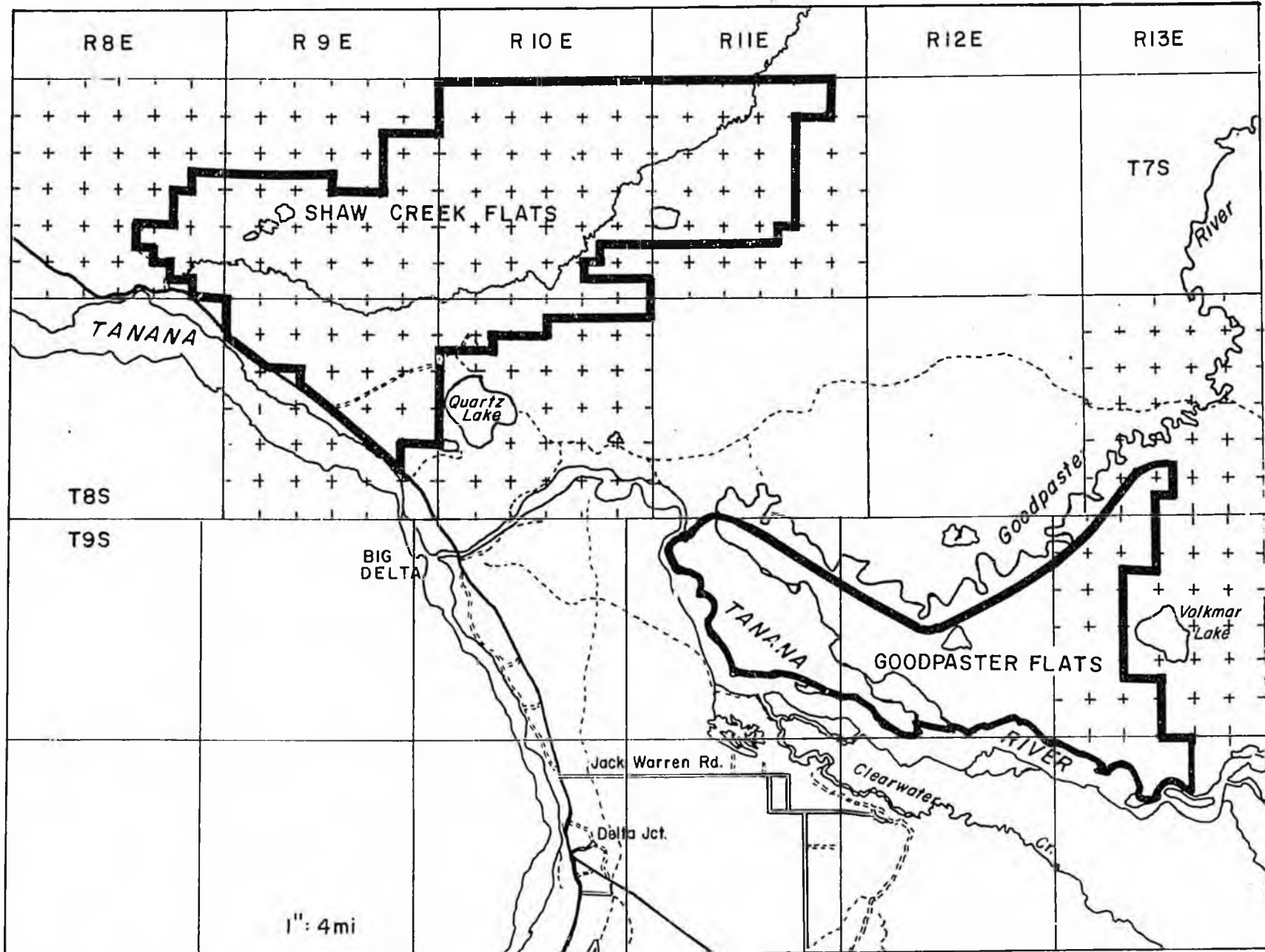
and game concentrations or any development that would decrease or degrade water quality within the lake. Timber harvest, intensive recreational development, or gravel and mineral extraction are examples of non-compatible uses.



DELTA RIVER. (See map.) The lower mile of the Delta River where it empties into the Tanana should immediately be designated by the legislature as critical fishery habitat. Non-compatible uses in the area would include gravel removal or any intensive development that would disrupt the spring water flow or gravel beds.

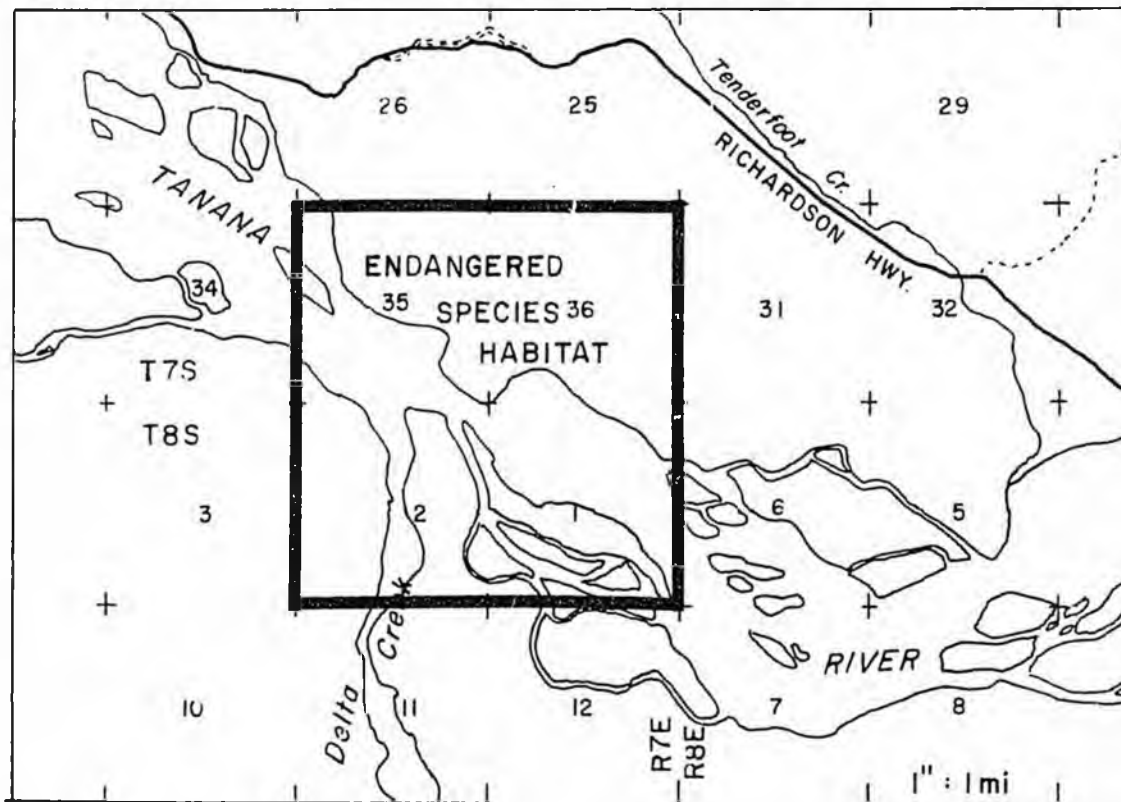
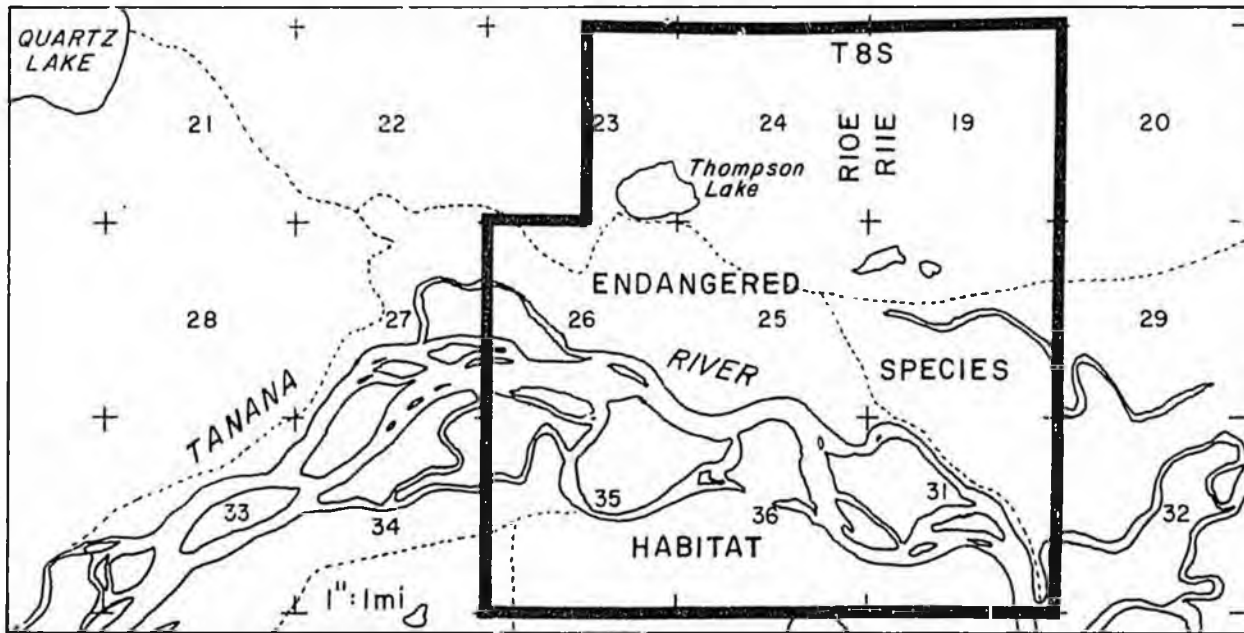


GOODPASTER AND SHAW CREEK FLATS. (See map.) It is recommended that the Goodpaster and Shaw Creek Flats be classified to protect wildlife habitat and to allow the Department of Fish and Game to undertake habitat manipulation. Management plans for these areas should be developed before any large-scale manipulation is begun. Hunting, fishing, and trapping would be compatible and complementary uses in these areas. Non-compatible uses would include any large-scale intensive development. Off-road vehicle use might be incompatible at times.

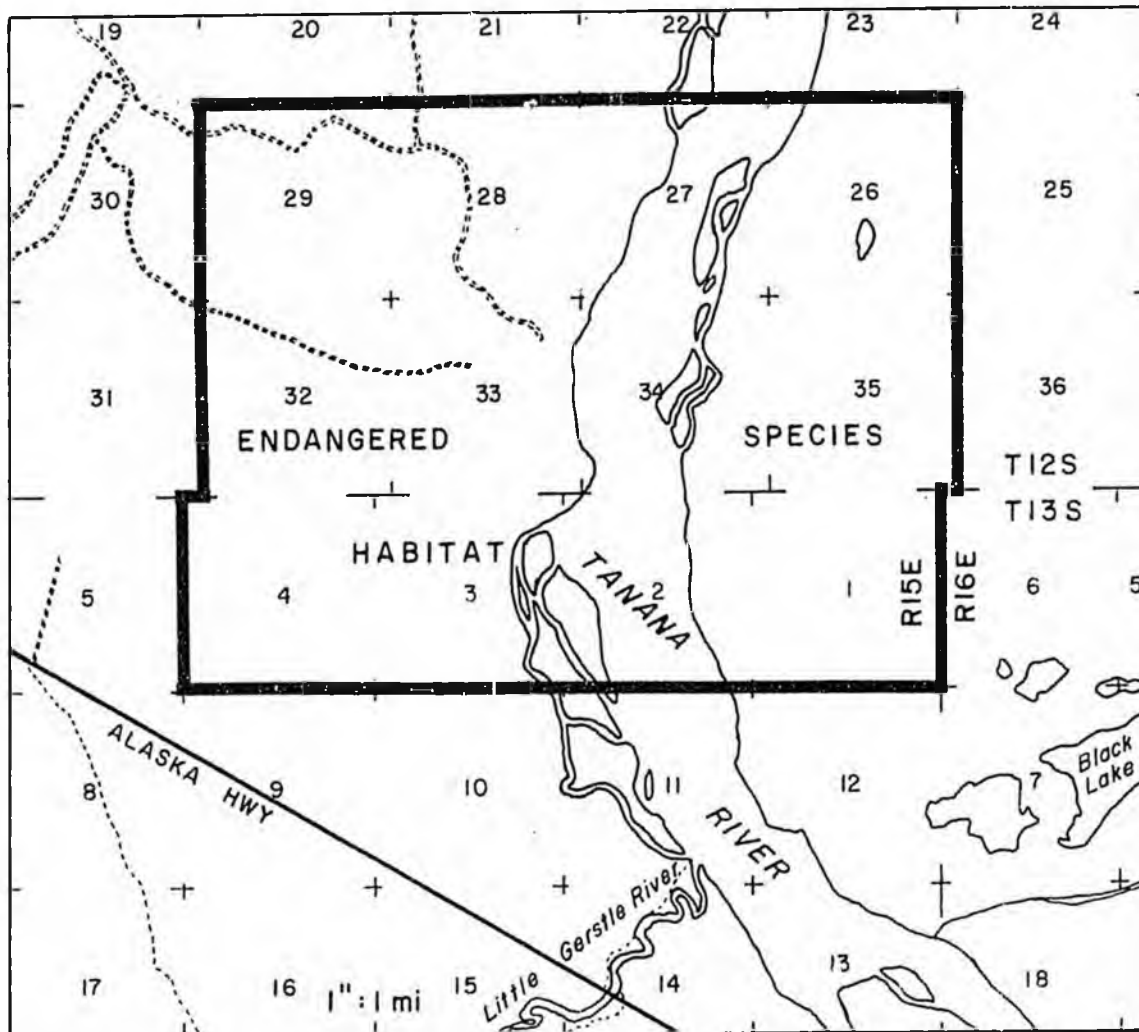


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PEREGRINE FALCON ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT. (See maps.) The area up to two miles from each peregrine falcon eyrie identified along the Tanana River should be designated by the legislature as endangered species habitat. Uses allowed in the area would have to be compatible with the maintenance of this habitat's productivity. Travel through the area would be allowed, but non-compatible uses such as timber harvest, intensive recreational development (campgrounds, developed trails) and mineral or gravel extraction would be prohibited.



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MACOMB PLATEAU. The Macomb Plateau lies within the Delta wildlands proposal. It should be classified to protect wildlife habitat. Fire suppression is of critical importance in this area in order to maintain it as suitable caribou habitat. Sport hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and camping would be compatible uses. High-intensity recreation (campgrounds and developed trails) or large-scale mineral extraction would be incompatible. As in the rest of the wildlands area, grazing of ruminant domestic livestock (sheep and cattle) should be prohibited from the plateau. (See map on p. 23.)

All the management guidelines outlined above should also apply to the eastern part of the plateau outside the study area boundary.

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CITIZEN COUNCIL RESPONSE

The reaction to the Planning Team's recommendations is presented below, expressed in percentages.

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
Bison	83	11	6
Burns	83	0	17
Goodpaster and Shaw Creek Flats	94	0	6
Delta River	100	0	0
Mineral licks	100	0	0
Clearwater Lake	94	6	0
Peregrine falcon endangered species habitat	72	17	11
Macomb Plateau	94	0	6

GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONSE

Bison	86	4	10
Burns	92	4	4
Goodpaster and Shaw Creek Flats	78	16	6
Delta River	90	6	4
Mineral licks	86	8	6
Clearwater Lake	88	6	6
Peregrine falcon endangered species habitat	84	8	8
Macomb Plateau	88	4	8

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PART VIII: FORESTS, MINERALS, AND OTHER RESOURCES

CITIZEN COUNCIL OPINION

Of the issues presented in this section, water resources were not considered at the February meetings; forests and minerals were dealt with briefly and approved by the majority of the Citizen Council. Transportation and utility corridors were discussed in detail. There was near-unanimous sentiment for keeping the military products pipeline right-of-way in public ownership. Some 60 percent felt that Delta should be served by a railroad, either a spur from the Alaska Railroad or a connection through Delta from the Alaska Railroad to Canada. Whether they supported the idea of a railroad or not, almost all the Citizen Council members wanted to be involved in any decision on the location of the railroad corridor or any other corridor or right-of-way through the Delta area.

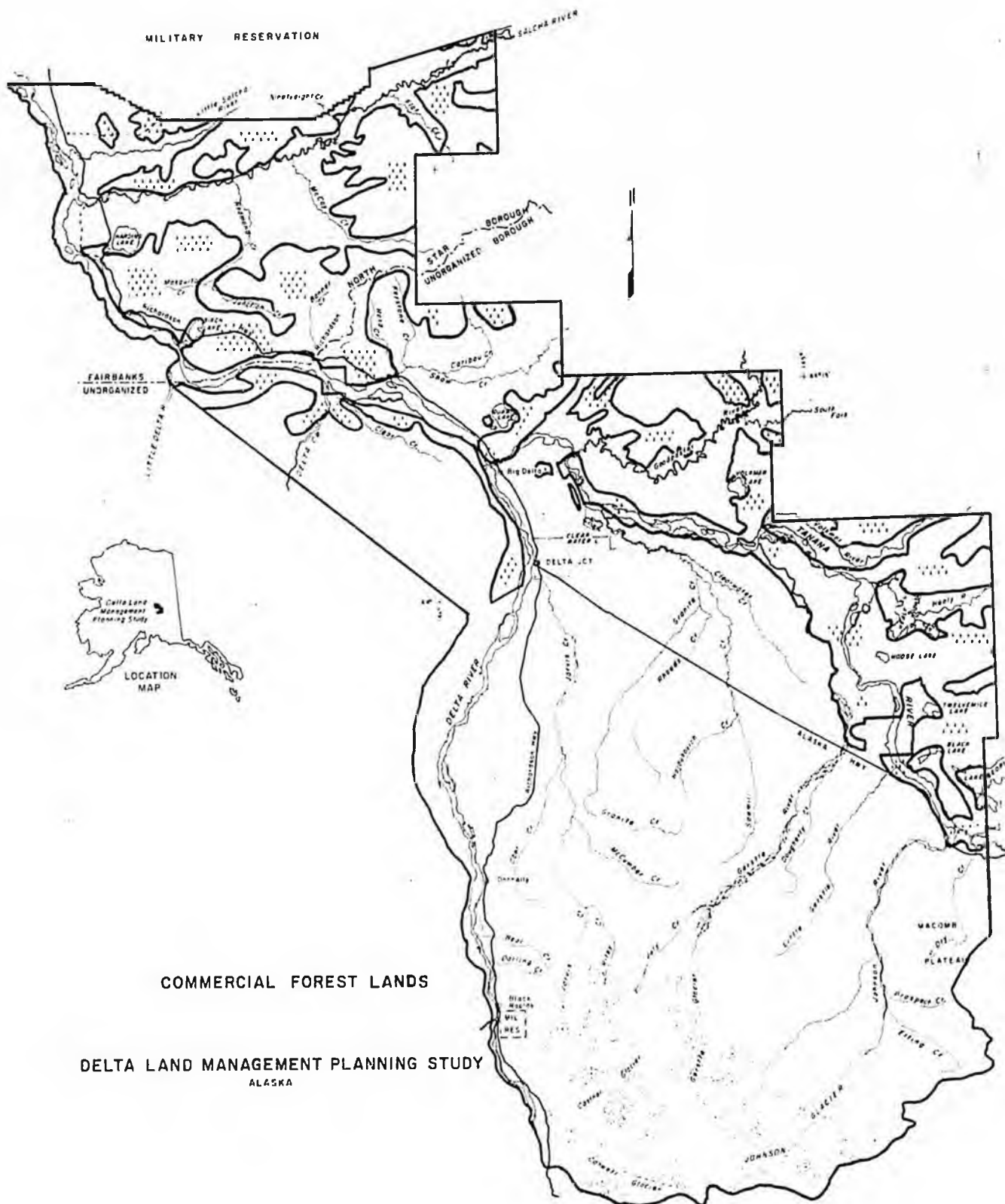
PLANNING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CLASSIFICATION

- 1) Commercial forest land should not be cleared without a valid reason or on an unplanned basis.
- 2) Once other short-term uses are ended, commercial forest lands should be rehabilitated and reforested.
- 3) Timber that must be cleared from forested land to make way for another use should be utilized whenever practical, whether as sawlogs, pulpwood, cabin logs, or fuel.
- 4) When plans are made to clear forest land in stages to make way for another use, yet no market exists for the timber at that time, the portion with the lowest timber values should be cleared first (all other factors being equal). If there is a market, the timber should be sold and utilized.
- 5) Access alternatives to forest development areas within or outside the unit should be evaluated, and access planned to reduce adverse effects on other resources.
- 6) Timber harvesting practices must respect visual quality, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality, and soil conservation.
- 7) Greenbelt considerations for other resource uses shall be respected.
- 8) Fire is recognized as a management tool.
- 9) Forest lands should remain accessible for all forest management needs.

It is recommended that the major blocks of commercial forest land be classified as timber (see map). A more detailed inventory of these forest resources should be undertaken as an aid in determining the exact nature of the study area's timber resource. If logging is to be done, it should take place first in blocks of commercial timber that are near existing access and where minimal conflicts with other resources would result.

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COMMERCIAL FOREST LANDS

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ALASKA

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MINERAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- 1) Geological investigations to expand the data base should be undertaken.
- 2) Except for small areas whose resource values require permanent protection from mining, the entire study area should remain available and accessible for mineral exploration, development, and extraction.
- 3) Land uses that commit land to large or extensive development of permanent improvements or structures should be subject to a timely consideration of their adverse effects on future mineral activities.
- 4) Access alternatives to mineral development areas within or outside the study area should be evaluated, and access planned to reduce adverse effects on other resources.
- 5) Mineral activity should be regulated to enhance its compatibility with other resource values and environmental limitations on and around the site.
- 6) This plan and/or its resultant implementation recommendations may require revision if large-scale or widespread mineral activity should appear likely in the future.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- 1) Resource development should be regulated so as to maintain existing water quality and availability.
- 2) The development of an overall water resource plan is recommended, including the gathering of sufficient hydrologic information to protect and manage water resources effectively.
- 3) Wetland areas should be protected from uncontrolled all-terrain vehicle use, since vehicle trails can act as water collection systems, concentrating flows and defeating the sponge and filter effect of the organic blanket, endangering the open part of the watercourse downstream.
- 4) Further research is recommended to predict and control the effect on water quality of resource developments that can become "non-point" pollution sources (including construction activities, farming, mining, logging operations, etc., the runoff from which can carry pollutants).

TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY CORRIDORS

It is recommended that the portion of the Haines-to-Eielson military products pipeline that lies within the study area be retained in public ownership for transportation and utility corridor purposes, whether or not the pipeline itself is demobilized and removed. It is further recommended that the portion of the right-of-way within Federal ownership be made available for selection by the State.

The Division of Lands should begin analyzing possible corridors within the study area for rail, highway, pipeline, and electric transmission systems, using existing facilities to determine corridor locations where possible. Through meetings, the public should be involved in the process of establishing such corridors. Following their delineation and establishment, corridors should remain in public management for various resource uses that would not conflict with their future use for transportation and utility systems. Where corridors pass through designated agricultural areas

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(see Part III of this volume), they may be farmed, provided this use does not include permanent improvements. The owners of agricultural rights should, of course, be compensated only for the value of those agricultural rights when a right-of-way is established across land they farm.

CITIZEN COUNCIL RESPONSE

The reaction to the Planning Team's recommendations is presented below, expressed in percentages.

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
Forest management and classification	94	0	6
Mineral resource management guidelines	94	6	0
Water resource management guidelines	100	0	0
Transportation and utility corridors	100	0	0

GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONSE

Forest management and classification	91	4	4
Mineral resource management guidelines	83	9	9
Water resource management guidelines	85	6	9
Transportation and utility corridors	85	6	9

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APPENDIX

CITIZEN COUNCIL COMMENT AT FEBRUARY MEETINGS

This first section covers, in detailed fashion, the opinions presented at meetings of the Citizen Council on February 4 and 12, 1977. The meeting was a preliminary discussion on agriculture. At the second meeting, participants answered a series of questions on various resource issues. Their responses are tallied below if they represent a majority opinion or at least a substantial portion of the group. For many questions, however, views varied over such a large range that there has been no attempt to quantify them.

Remarks that elaborated on the questions or that occurred during group discussions are also noted, again provided that they represent a large body of opinion. Individual comments not echoed by other Citizen Council members are not presented.

A total of twenty-three Citizen Council members attended the February 12 meeting, although some were unable to spend the entire day. A few expressed no opinion on certain issues because they felt that they could not render an informed judgment.

AGRICULTURE

Out of nineteen people present (one of whom had no opinion on agricultural issues), eleven agreed with Preliminary Recommendation A-1 (Vol. II, P. 9) that state lands northwest of Jack Warren Road and northwest from the Gerstle River to Delta Junction be made available for agricultural use. Seven disagreed. Twelve felt that such agricultural use should not extend south of the Alaska Highway; six thought that it should under certain circumstances (if other agricultural lands were used up first or if it were developed for small family farms or wildlife habitat).

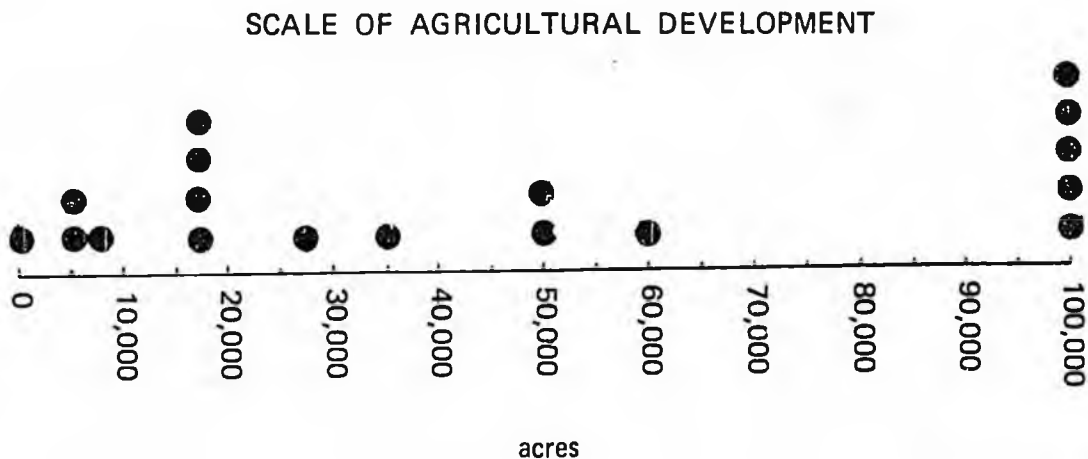
Five people agreed with Preliminary Recommendations A-4 and A-5 (Vol. II, pp. 28-33) that lands south of the Salcha River and on both sides of the Little Salcha be made available for agricultural use. Six people rejected these recommendations and fully eight could not decide. Asked how conflict could be resolved between agriculture and recreational or residential use of the Salcha River Valley, seven had no answer; six felt that agricultural development should not take place or should be delayed until other lands were used up; two felt that greenbelts along the river could solve the problem.

The following table shows the level of agricultural development desired within the next 25 years by Citizen Council members present at the February 12 meeting. Each circle represents one opinion. If a range was specified, its midpoint is indicated. These responses varied from zero to 100,000 acres; the average is about 45,000 acres. However, a simple average is not particularly revealing in cases where there is this great a difference of opinion.

After the figures were published in the draft of Vol. IV, four Citizen Council members wrote to the Division of Lands declaring that they would have specified zero acres had they known that all the answers would be averaged, rather than only averaging the majority's opinion. They felt that they had given "reasonable" responses, but that the average had been unfairly skewed by the five "unreasonable" votes at the top of the scale. It is probable, however, that every Citizen Council member felt his or her chosen level of development was reasonable and desirable, whether it was zero or 100,000 acres. Furthermore, while the average is an interesting figure,

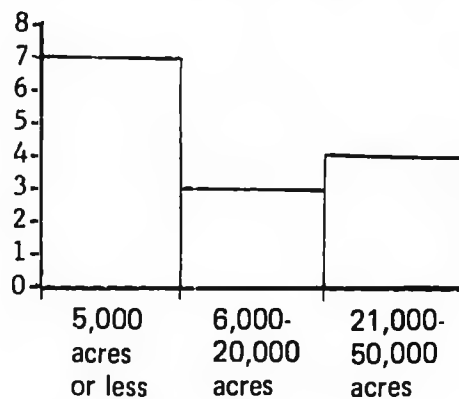
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it had no significant role in the Planning Team's final recommendations on agriculture (see Part III).



A complex question on the pace of agricultural development brought a wide range of answers, an analysis of which shows that seven people wanted 5,000 acres or less to be developed within the next five years; three wanted 6,000 to 20,000 acres to be developed within the five-year period; and four wanted 21,000 to 50,000 acres to be developed. Four others felt that agricultural lands should be utilized "as needed."

PACE OF DEVELOPMENT OVER FIVE YEARS



As for the pattern of agricultural development, with fourteen people expressing a preference, an average of 86 percent of the total agricultural development was recommended to occur near Delta Junction, with the remaining 14 percent in the Salcha area. Eight of the fourteen felt that all agricultural development should be near Delta.

Other important comments (as noted above, each comment reflects the views of several Citizen Council members, not merely one individual):

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Small family farmsteads and truck farms are just as important as big agricultural projects--let's have small farms in the Tanana Loop, bigger ones in the Clearwater district.

No subsidies!

Agricultural land should be protected against subdividing and other developments that would destroy its potential. Only agricultural rights should be sold, not development rights; if not put into farming within a certain time period, the land should revert to the State.

Agricultural lands should be opened for farming only as needed, with the remainder set aside in a "soil bank" and held for the future.

Delta shouldn't automatically be the site of a big agricultural project--what about the Nenana area? Development should be spread more evenly throughout the state, not concentrated here.

It's especially important to leave greenbelts along streams in agricultural development areas to protect water quality, prevent siltation, filter out fertilizer and pesticides, etc.

GREENBELTS

Twenty-one out of the twenty-three people present during the greenbelt discussion at the February 12 meeting felt that greenbelts should be established along all rivers and streams in the study area; twenty-two believed there should be greenbelts around all lakes. A minority felt that the greenbelts should be a set width (ranging from fifty feet to a mile, with an average of half a mile). The majority (fifteen people) thought that the width should depend on the particular case, taking into consideration flood hazards, terrain, wildlife habitat, recreational access needs, water quality, etc., and bearing in mind that the stream channel could change from year to year, especially on glacial rivers. They suggested minimum and maximum widths of from fifty feet to 1.5 miles, with an average minimum of .23 miles and an average maximum of .7 miles.

Twenty-two Citizen Council members felt that timber cutting for personal use (especially the cutting of dead and down timber, not green trees) should be allowed in greenbelts; there was only one disagreement. Ten thought commercial logging should be permitted; twelve did not. Fourteen considered snowmobile use acceptable (perhaps with restrictions), while eight disagreed; the vote was reversed for ATV use. Almost everyone favored hunting, trapping, pedestrian access, dogsleds, etc., and almost everyone thought greenbelts should be reviewed periodically to make sure they were doing the job; some might be found to be too small, others too large. Eleven people would allow widely-scattered residences in greenbelts, with a setback and scenic covenants; ten would permit recreational cabins, under the same restrictions; seven wanted neither.

Other important comments:

ADF&G should help set greenbelt sizes.

Noise from boats is a big problem and should be controlled.

If commercial logging is allowed, it should be selective cutting only.

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If residences and recreational cabins are allowed, the number should be kept under strict control--not like the Salcha; trash and sewage disposal would have to be carefully regulated. Some streams should have no houses.

There should be greenbelts along roads and utility corridors, too.

RURAL HOMESITES

Nineteen of the twenty-two Citizen Council members present during the February 12 discussion of rural homesites felt that land should be made available for very small family farms (considered to be a homesite with room for a large garden and perhaps a cow or chickens); only one disagreed. Nine people suggested sizes ranging up to 10 acres; seven thought the size should be from 10 to 160 acres. Fifteen people agreed that such farms should be along roads, not in the back country, so that utilities and services could be provided economically.

Fourteen people thought there should be cabin sites of five acres or less for a "subsistence" lifestyle ("living off the land"). There was no agreement on where they should be located or how many there should be. Six people did not believe that land should be released for such use.

Fourteen people also thought the State should make land available for weekend recreational cabins in the Delta area (eight did not). Suggested lot sizes ranged from half an acre to five acres and averaged 1.8 acres.

Fourteen people felt more land was needed along roads and near town for rural residences (two disagreed); twelve of them felt that the lots should be from one to ten acres.

Recognizing that the demand for very small farmsteads, "subsistence" cabins and recreational cabins could very easily exceed the supply of suitable land, eight people suggested a residency requirement to limit the number of applicants; ten felt that there should be preference rights based on years of residency; four thought the land should be sold to the highest bidder; eight preferred a lottery at the appraised value. One person had the innovative solution of "a lottery with poor publicity."

Other important comments:

There's not room enough or game enough around here for "living off the land" anymore; it's unrealistic. The carrying capacity of the land must be the determining factor.

Maybe the State could lease out a few "subsistence" sites and see how it works.

Don't encroach on the wildlands south of the Alaska Highway or on any other resource priority area; maybe the ridges between Shaw Creek and Mile 66 would be suitable.

How about Forest Service-style cabins that could be rented for the weekend?

Recreational cabins should be leased or sold at the market price, but with a requirement that a structure must be built within a certain number of years--this would eliminate land speculation.

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RECREATION

The Delta wildlands issue was analyzed in detail at the February 12 meeting. Out of twenty-one Citizen Council members present during the discussion, eight approved of wildlands management for the area, and two more were leaning in that direction but wanted further study. Five preferred the alternative of a recreation area with fewer restrictions on access; two others were inclined to favor such a recreation area but desired further study. One wanted a combination of the two management concepts and three people felt that additional study was needed before any decision could be made.

Other important comments:

The number of airstrips on the Johnson River should be cut down--six is too many.
No new strips.

It's not fair to restrict snowmobilers more than you restrict pilots.

ATV use should be strictly controlled or eliminated.

No domestic livestock grazing.

The main management goal should be the retention of the area's wild character and good wildlife habitat.

Wait until the issue of the d-2 (national interest) lands is resolved before any final decision is made--it may take care of all our recreational needs.

The boundary should be extended out of the study area to the West Fork of the Robertson River and maybe to the south flank of the Alaska Range.

Keep an eye on the number of hikers and skiers--they can get out of control too.

WILDLIFE

Only one wildlife issue--bison habitat management--was discussed in depth at the February 12 meeting. Of the twenty-three Citizen Council members present during the discussion, nineteen felt that there should be special areas set aside for the management of bison habitat; four disagreed. A plurality (ten people) thought that such areas should be managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), while eight felt joint management by ADF&G and the state Department of Natural Resources would be better. Ten people approved of the bison habitat management areas recommended in Vol. II (W-19, W-20, and W-21 on pp. 21-22); three did not; and five approved only in part. A majority wanted public meetings to hear specific plans for the areas.

Other important comments:

Bison must not be fenced in on the proposed habitat management areas--let them roam free.

ADF&G must tell us in detail what it plans to do.

Farmers should be expected to fence their own fields if they want to keep the

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

bison out.

The bison herd has gotten too small--increase it to allow more hunting, more transplants, perhaps even domestication of part of the surplus.

Consider increasing the cost of a bison permit, or else building up the herd enough that there could be an open season without permits.

In managing bison habitat, remember that habitat for moose, furbearers, and other animals is involved too.

The State should select the calving grounds on the west side of the Delta River, now part of Fort Greely.

TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY CORRIDORS

Transportation and utility corridors scored high on the list of the Citizen Council's priorities for discussion at the February 12 meeting. Of twenty-three people present, twenty-one felt that the State should take steps to insure that the military products pipeline right-of-way remains in public ownership. No one disagreed. Thirteen thought that there should be a railroad spur from the Alaska Railroad to Delta; nine did not. Fourteen felt there should be a rail connection from the Alaska Railroad to Canada that passed through Delta; again, nine disagreed. Whether they supported the idea of a railroad or not, twenty wanted to be involved in the decision on the railroad corridor's location, as well as in decisions on other corridors or rights-of-way; only one did not.

Other important comments:

New utilities should follow existing corridors if at all possible.

If new corridors are needed, they should be set aside now so private land doesn't need to be condemned later. The Planning Team should have reserved such new corridors as part of the Delta Land Management Planning Study.

Corridors should remain in public ownership--no giveaways of land to private corporations.

A railroad should be built only if the economics make sense, and the need for it must be established first.

CITIZEN COUNCIL AND PUBLIC COMMENT AT MARCH MEETING

The percentage figures on the degree to which the Citizen Council and the general public agreed with the Planning Team's recommendations have already been presented in the resource sections to which they refer. However, people attending the March meeting at which the recommendations were reviewed were not asked simply to agree or disagree. Both in the discussion and on their ballots, they were encouraged to explain their position and to indicate any modifications they felt the recommendations needed. The resultant comments are summarized below. Unless otherwise indicated, each remark represents a single individual's opinion.

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

BASELINE STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENTAL PLANNING

Citizen Council:

The wording isn't strong enough--change should to shall (four people).

It's very important to start baseline studies immediately.

We need Division of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and Division of Lands field offices in Delta.

General public:

Change should to shall (two people).

Add a provision that environmental impact statements have to be filed for large-scale activities.

AGRICULTURE

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

You should add another guideline saying that all implementation and management of agricultural development should be the sole responsibility of the Division of Agriculture.

Division of Agriculture should judge how well the farm plans are being carried out.

The State must make a profit on all land disposals.

Require a reasonable farm development plan.

Division of Agriculture should regulate agricultural development.

Your first guideline fails to protect uses that are not compatible with agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION

Classification is all right provided it doesn't preclude other uses of the land before it is farmed.

Just because it's soil-surveyed doesn't mean it should be in private hands and under production.

No agricultural classification south of the Alaska Highway.

I'm against large-scale development.

I'm against agriculture along the Alcan and the Tanana.

Leave it as it is--get grain from the Lower 48.

Go slow.

TANANA LOOP

Keep it low key.

The spread of the farm buildings should be proportional to the total acreage--five acres maximum.

Some farmers might need more than five acres for buildings--a greenhouse operation, for example.

Make sure it's agricultural rights only.

If the owner only has the agricultural rights, what happens if he farms for 15 years and then decides to retire? Does he lose his 15-year investment?

One parcel per family; this recommendation needs teeth. Make sure you protect the farmer's investment.

You should get these rights conveyed within one to three years, not three to five.

This area requires much more intensive planning.

All agricultural land should be made available immediately--economics should be considered.

You need more than five acres for buildings.

Leave the area as it is (two people).

Go slow.

I need more time to study this.

Not enough thought went into this recommendation.

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

Citizen Council:

I don't like the performance clause.

As a Citizen Council member, I never agreed to the terms of this recommendation. This is a bureaucratic cover-up, just lip-service to local desires.

SALCHA

Agricultural rights only.

I'm against large-scale development.

Any agricultural development should be near Delta, not Salcha.

DELTA CLEARWATER

The Planning Team is ignoring the Citizen Council. There's no way the Citizen Council came up with that much agricultural development. We said "go slow" (five people).

If agriculture is to succeed, it must have a certain minimum volume. "Going slow" would doom it to failure.

Development must clearly be economically viable--don't create a net cost to Alaska.

Prior baseline studies are most important.

I don't like the performance clause.

Move more gradually--as demand warrants.

Use the area for wildlife and grazing until it is farmed.

Large-scale agricultural development is a growth issue. There should be a referendum on it and maybe on the wildlands too.

For this recommendation and any others involving land sales, disposals here should be coordinated with disposals elsewhere in the state or we'll be deluged.

SOIL SURVEYS

I agree, with some reservations; this area needn't be in private ownership and producing just because it has agricultural soils.

General public:

I agree with the recommendation up to a point--after a while, if the farm fails, other rights should be sold to the farmer, with the price taking into consideration how long he's been on the land.

Plans don't always come to pass--a man shouldn't lose his investment just because unforeseen problems have arisen (two people).

The scale is too large; there may be no market. Preference should be given to local farmers.

Protect the recreational areas before any agricultural development starts.

Leave it as is (two people).

Parcel size should be 320, 640, 900, and 3,000 acres.

Large size and rapid disposal are necessary to make any agricultural operation economical.

The performance requirement should be more specific.

The parcel sizes are too large.

This is too much land going to a few people.

Delineate specific area or you won't get agreement.

Leave it as it is.

The idea is not one bit acceptable--there's a grain surplus in the Lower 48.

Slow down.

Let's talk it over some more!

More knowledge can't hurt.

Leave it as it is--we don't need farming here (two people).

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

Citizen Council:

General public:

The previous soil surveys should be used, not new ones.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

This is needed right away, plus a local office for an SCS technician and baseline studies.

Much foresight here!

Too big (two people)--160 acres is enough.

Leave it as it is.

Use this land for wildlife tests.

GREENBELTS

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

How do you maintain bank stability on a river like the Tanana--with rip-rap?

Specify your management approach--make sure it doesn't mean artificial manipulation of the streambanks.

GREENBELT CLASSIFICATION

No greenbelts along roads (two people).

Why aren't there any greenbelts on the other water bodies?

There should be roadway greenbelts for sure.

USES IN GREENBELTS

Some trails should be closed to all-terrain vehicles (ATV's); the Fish and Game advisory committee can help decide this. A 25-foot easement is needed along streams.

There may be problems with permits for ATV use.

ATV's should be allowed anytime, anyplace.

Horses should be permitted to use the greenbelts too.

No trapping (two people).

Logging should be by permit only.

Controlled commercial logging should be permitted so the greenbelt doesn't turn into black spruce and lichen.

No trapping (three people).

No logging.

All logging should be by permit only (four people).

Cabins shouldn't be allowed (four people)--they become eyesores.

Cabins are okay if the owners aren't permitted to "clearcut" around them.

Residential lots should be set back, but not too far--the river is their access.

Division of Lands should protect greenbelts, but not retain them in public ownership.

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

Citizen Council:

Residences shouldn't be allowed in greenbelts (two people).

INITIALLY-DESIGNATED GREENBELTS

Leave out the two gravel pits.

Leave out the Salcha and Shaw Creek.

Omit Volkmar Lake--I think it's all private lands around there.

SHAW CREEK HORSEPOWER LIMITATION

Large motors aren't necessary; they're oilier and noisier than small ones.

Large motors are necessary to get up the creek at high water.

I would agree with a restriction, but 10 horsepower is too small.

I disagree with the limitation; it would be hard to enforce and better canoe streams can be found elsewhere.

General public:

What about motorbikes in summer? You should allow some summertime use of small ATV's (three people).

Forget the permit clause for ATV's.

I object to restrictions on ATV's.

Add George Creek, Bery (?) Creek, and Johnson Slough.

Many other streams need protection--take note of Sawmill Creek between Mile 1403 and 1404 on the Alaska Highway.

What about agricultural pollutants flowing into the Blue Creek salmon area?

Maybe having baseline studies first will eliminate any problem of agricultural pollution into Blue Creek.

Find out what people are using there before you put on any restriction. They might need large motors to get an injured person out in a hurry.

RURAL HOMESITES

HOMESITES WITH SERVICES

Sale should be by lottery or another method, not auction; that invites speculation (two people).

Disposal should be on a bid basis only--don't give it away.

I think the city planners have zoned your first area for five- to ten-acre lots.

There should be a fourth-priority area where Division of Lands sets guidelines but lets individuals select land anywhere within it in accordance with those guidelines.

Forget the first and second priority areas.

Add "and west of Remington Road" to the second area (two people).

Forget the third priority area (seven people).

Some good land should be included in the third priority area, not just poor soils.

Three years is too long to get started building. It should be within one or two years and occupied within one to four years (eleven people). And what does "occupied" mean--a single night?

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

Citizen Council:

Sale only--don't fool around with leases on university lands.

Three years is too long to start building! The house should be started within one or two years and occupied within two to four (six people).

The three years' grace period is a good idea.

Don't restrict the time during which the house must be built; it can take a long time to get up enough money for a house. Control speculation some other way.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough tried this type of "performance clause" in the Spinach Creek subdivision and found enforcement very difficult--check this out!

You'll have to carefully define "occupancy" to prevent abuses (two people).

There should be a restriction on how soon the owner can re-sell, or you'll still have a problem with speculation (two people); the house should be occupied seven months per year for three years before it can be sold.

What if somebody has already gotten several hundred acres from the State? He shouldn't be entitled to buy a homesite.

What about those of us who homesteaded on Federal land? Would we be barred from getting a homesite?

BACK-COUNTRY HOMESITES

Back-country homesites are needed now.

No further study is required--Division of Lands has made a mess of bush land in the past.

I'm opposed to isolated back-country homesites (two people)--have Forest Service-type cabins available to rent (but not in wildlands).

Try to use the d-2 (national interest) lands.

"Living off the land" usually means trapping. Don't introduce new subsistence users into areas trapped by long-established residents.

There's no need to clutter up more areas with Goodpasture and Dry Creek-type developments; if it's done, there should be a five-year residency requirement; it should be on the basis of sale to the highest bidder; and the number should be very limited.

Maybe the Shaw Creek-Mile 66 area could be used--certainly not the wildlands.

Define "back country."

General public:

The three-year provision is good; don't shorten it.

There shouldn't be any time limit on building--it infringes on peoples' rights.

To control speculation, limit how soon the land can be re-sold (four people)--five years is a good length of time, and they should occupy it eight months per year during that time.

Don't put any restrictions on how soon the land can be re-sold.

Restrict speculation.

Disposal should be by sale only, not lease (four people).

How can you be sure you'll get the site you want at auction?

Keep a certain percentage of the homesite areas for wildlife survival belts.

This homesite program is not needed. There's enough private land for sale.

Forget homesites for five to eight years; agriculture should take top priority.

Back-country sites should be made available as fast as the other kind is--the need for more land in the bush should be met right away. Let's get on the ball! (five people)

Make some land available for subsistence living.

Bush cabin sites should be made available as soon as possible, but not for "living off the land"--that's not possible any longer.

Back-country homesites should be made available for state residents.

More study is needed.

You must address this issue, no matter how painful.

Come up with a small area in the next ten years.

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

RECREATION

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Citizen Council:

Fire protection roads are needed.

I agree with the recommendation, except for the idea of trails along highways.

I disagree with the idea of letting people have access across land after it has been sold into private ownership.

The guidelines say recreational use "should" be protected, yet your agricultural guidelines say other uses will be protected only if they're compatible with agriculture. That's a serious conflict.

DELTA WILDLANDS

I agree, but don't select Federal lands.

The area should be managed by the Department of Natural Resources with the Fish and Game Department's advice, not by joint management.

Phase out all-terrain vehicles and planes--why shouldn't there be areas where people can enjoy a horseback ride in peace and quiet?

This just makes another park area, and with the d-2 proposals we'll already have too many of them.

General public:

The wording is weak. Other resource activities shouldn't be allowed to take precedence over wildlife.

No selection of Federal lands and no boundary extension.

No management beyond the current type.

Will dual management work? We have enough trouble with single-agency management.

Extend the boundary to the Robertson River and designate it a recreation area, not a wildlife area.

No trapping (two people).

No mining.

It's okay to limit the seasons ATV's can be used, or keep them on trails, but don't prohibit them entirely (two people). They're necessary to get large game out.

Don't restrict ATV use (four people).

Restrictions on ATV's and planes would hold use to a very limited group.

You'd be crazy to try to hike out with meat from any large animal--it would spoil before you could get it out. So what you're really recommending is horses only in the wildlands.

What's wrong with an area that's just for horses and hikers? People who own ATV's sure have plenty of places all to themselves.

You should do a study on whether grazing cows and sheep really would lead to diseases in wildlife here. Are you sure there's a problem? (three people).

Guiding should be included in the permitted uses.

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY

QUARTZ LAKE

Citizen Council:

Facilities are needed right now at Quartz Lake (two people)--a drinking water supply, pit toilets, fish-cleaning tables, etc.

A full-time custodian and some fire roads are needed.

Allow fuelwood cutting.

I don't like the provision for access to timber.

Rental boats should be available. Let the concessionaire and Division of Parks have big motors for emergency purposes.

Limit noise of motorcycles and snowmachines, not just boat motors.

Don't limit boat horsepower (four people). Large motors are needed for safety when the lake is stormy.

It's a big lake--manage it mainly for water-skiing and speed-boating and reduce the stocking of fish.

Manage for fishing and for water sports (two people); if the lake were zoned property, fishing could go on unhindered.

Regulate use of the lake by how many fish are stocked.

The area is too big (two people). A half-mile belt around the lake is enough. Why take the boundary all the way to the Tanana? Local people get all their timber there.

Too bad the State already sold off such a big chunk of frontage; maybe now it should just go ahead and sell the rest, except for a few campsites.

General public:

Fishing is hard when a motor-boat goes past; use small motors.

Small gasoline "fishing" motors should be permitted.

Don't limit boat horsepower; there's no biological reason to do so. This is the only road-accessible non-military lake in the Delta Junction area; opportunities for water sports should be increased, not limited. Give equal weight to fishing and water-skiing (eleven people).

Emphasize water-skiing. We don't bother the fishermen--they bother us.

No timber access.

Don't wait until the plan is done to build facilities. They're needed now.

Let some land into private ownership with setbacks.

Whose idea was it not to recommend any more land sales at Quartz Lake? Look at Harding Lake--it has private land all around it.

Another Harding Lake is exactly what we don't need. There are 'way too many cabins there.

WILDLIFE

BISON AREAS

What about the cost? And carefully balance management so the herd doesn't increase so much it overuses the other areas where you haven't done any habitat manipulation.

The areas should be larger; bison are unique here. Let them farm someplace else.

I don't like the area proposed south of the highway.

The plan must be approved by the public--no controlled burning!

Don't move the bison south of the highway unless you are forced to do so by agricultural development.

Don't fence the bison. Let them roam free (three people).

Why restrict their natural range?

Allow burns when the benefits to wildlife outweigh the detrimental effect.

Go easy on the burns (two people).

No burning or planting.

How could you plant 500 acres a year in a wildlife area?