

MANAGEMENT UNIT 11: Chugach Mountains

Background

This management unit consists primarily of state-owned land in the Chugach Mountains between Tazlina Lake and Tonsina Lake. Although most of the area is state owned, some of the land near Klutina Lake remains under conflicting selections between the state and Ahtna, Inc. The entire unit is used for hunting and trapping. Several cabins exist in the Kaina, Klutina, Manker, and Greyling valleys, some of which appear to be trespass cabins. Settlement opportunities are limited to locations suitable only for isolated cabins due to generally poor land quality and inaccessibility.

Management Intent

The entire area will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on fish and wildlife habitat and harvest, especially moose and bear. Forestry is also designated as a primary use of river valleys, although extensive harvest is not likely because the area is so remote. The management unit is open to mineral entry, except for designated portions of Mahlo River, Greyling Creek, Manker Creek, and the Klutina River, which are closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning and rearing areas. Dispersed public recreation is also a primary use of subunit 11E.

The state should initiate trespass action against any unauthorized cabins in this area. Some of these cabins could be converted to public use cabins (see management guideline below). This plan intends that no additional cabins be built in the Upper Kaina or Klutina drainages (in the area above the respective lakes). The number of human dwellings in the Manker and Greyling Creek drainages (subunit 11D) should also remain the same as the number that exist on the date when the plan is approved.

Management Guidelines

Mineral Closures. Land within 200 feet of designated portions of Mahlo River, Greyling Creek, Manker Creek, and the Klutina River and the streams themselves are closed to mineral location.

Cabins. The state should initiate trespass proceedings against any unauthorized cabins in Kaina Valley (subunit 11B) and Klutina Valley (subunit 11C). If one of the cabins in these subunits becomes state owned, it should be converted to a public use cabin. If an existing cabin is destroyed, the state may construct a new public use cabin in the area.

Two cabins, at least one a public use cabin, will be allowed in the Manker and Greyling Creek Valleys (subunit 11D). Public use cabins or private remote cabins may not be built until DNR has resolved the status of any unauthorized cabins now present in these valleys.

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

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Remote cabins
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 11 - Chugach Mountains
(Page 1 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
11A	State, State-Native selected	Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry except Mahlo River	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
11B	State	Forestry Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Public use cabins encouraged; see guidelines
11C	State	Forestry Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry except Klutina River	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Public use cabins encouraged; see guidelines

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

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**LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
 MANAGEMENT UNIT: 11 - Chugach Mountains
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SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
11D	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Remote cabins	Open to mineral entry except Greyling Creek, Manker Creek	Available for leasing	Land offerings	Remote cabins permitted, see guideline
11E	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

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

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RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

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RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	11A	11B	11C	11D
Fish	salmon-s/r steelhead-s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon-s/r/m steelhead	salmon-s/r/m steelhead
Forestry	moderate conif.	moderate conif.	high-moderate conif. and decid.	moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	outside of known mineral terraces	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high at Iceberg Lake & along Klutina River; other areas-low	low	high along Klutina River.	low
Settlement Suitability	unsuitable	low	low to moderate	low to moderate
Transportation	some aircraft landing areas	none ident.		none ident.
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	A-2 habitat	A-2 habitat - moose; B-2 habitat, some areas used for swan nesting	B-2 habitat

Important trails:

Subunit 11A: Trail from Stuart Creek (near Tiekel) on Richardson Hwy. west to Klutina Valley Trail

Trail up Mahlo River Valley

Subunit 11C: Historic trail from Valdez to Klutina Lake that follows Klutina River Valley

Subunit 11D: Trail up Manker Creek Valley

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

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

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RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	11E
Fish	none documented
Forestry	moderate coniferous
Historic-Cultural	unknown
Minerals	low
Oil and Gas	unknown
Recreation	high potential along Tonsina River; floating
Settlement Suitability	low
Transportation	none identified
Wildlife	B-2

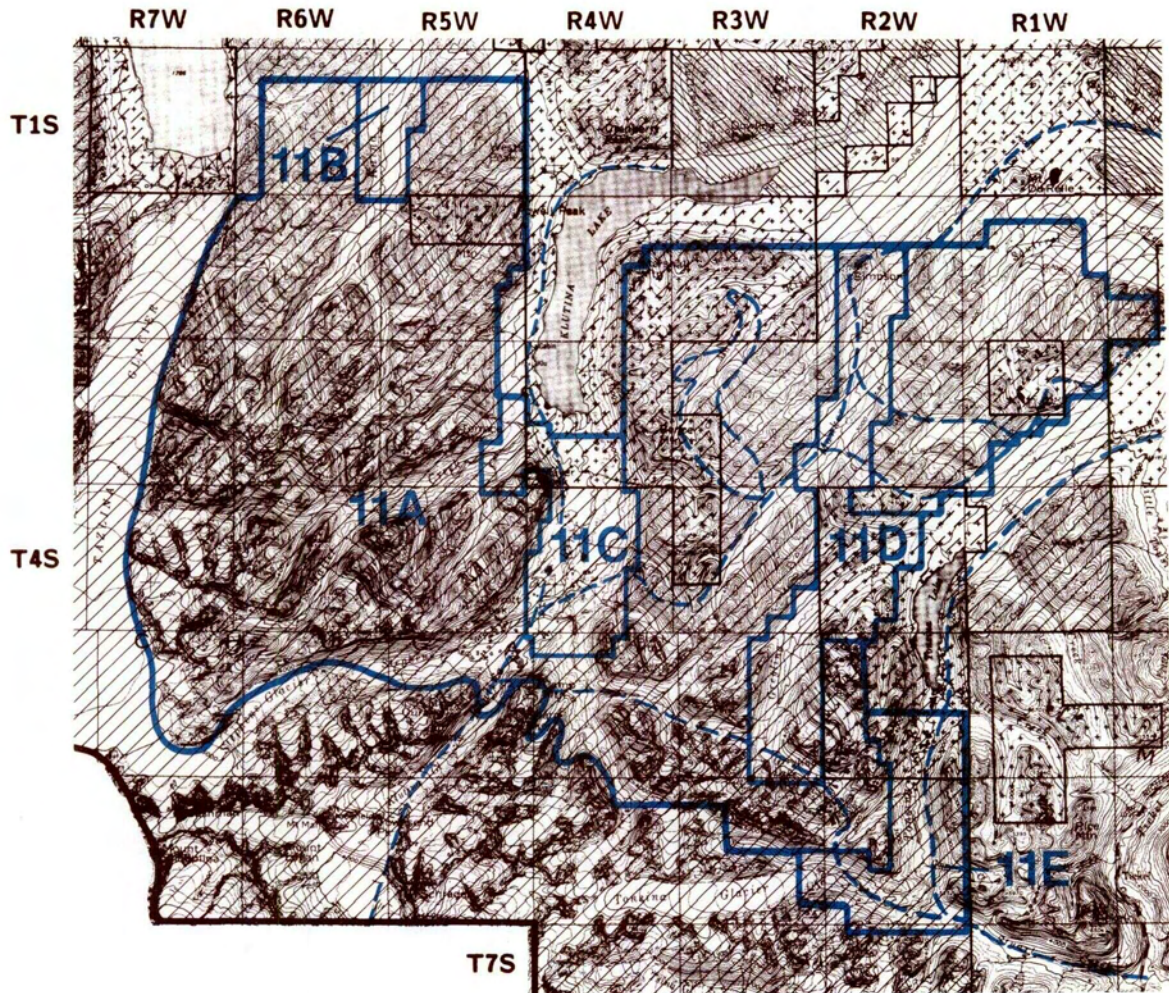
Important trails:

Subunit 11E: Trail from Stuart Creek on Richardson Hwy. (near Tiekel) to Klutina Valley.
Tonsina River Trail

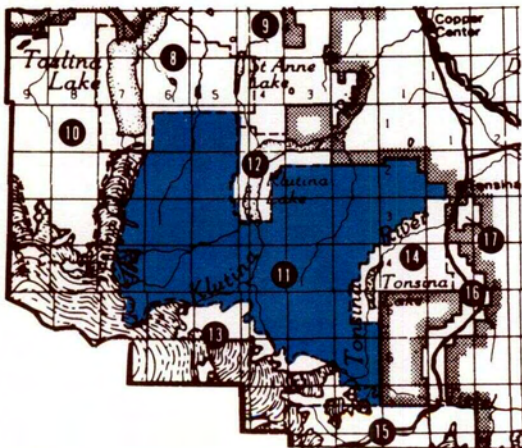
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 11

Chugach Mountains



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:500,000

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

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