

## **MANAGEMENT UNIT 24: Long Lake - Fireweed Mountain**

### **Background**

This management unit consists of state-owned land north of the Nizina River and west of McCarthy. The land is entirely within the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The area is used by local residents for hunting and firewood. A significant portion of the red salmon run in the Copper River spawns in Long Lake. The Chitina to McCarthy Road runs through this area and is used by many tourists. The road is not maintained in the winter. The plan assumes that DOT/PF will continue only seasonal maintenance of the road.

### **Management Intent**

This is a unique parcel of state land because of its location within the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Most state land in this unit will be retained in public ownership and be managed for multiple use. The emphasis will be on uses that complement the recreational values of the National Park. The state does not currently plan to develop recreation facilities (such as campgrounds) on state land. Leases and permits for commercial and noncommercial recreation activities may be allowed (consistent with other guidelines in this plan and applicable regulations). Leases for nonrecreation or nonpark related activities are prohibited. In addition, up to 900 acres of land will be made available for private use through settlement land offerings. The unit is open to mineral entry, except for Long Lake and Long Lake's outlet (the portions that are state owned), which are closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning habitat. Forest resources will be managed primarily for personal use harvest.

More specific management intent for each subunit follows.

**Management Subunit 24A - Long Lake Area.** Uses of state lands at Long Lake will be consistent with maintenance of the fish habitat and important habitat for grizzly bears. No facilities or structures will be built along the north shore of the lake adjacent to salmon spawning areas. Timber harvest will be conducted with consideration for protecting the view from Long Lake. Maintenance and construction activities on the Chitina-McCarthy Road will retain a buffer of trees between the road and the lakeshore to protect water quality from runoff and erosion. Material extraction within this area will occur only after design consultation with ADF&G and DEC.

**Management Subunit 24B - Chitina-Nizina Rivers Corridor.** The Nizina, Kennicott, and Chitina Rivers are of increasing importance for recreational river rafting. These rivers attract people from across the nation as well as Alaska residents. Money spent on transportation and river-based recreation is a growing source of regional income. State lands within 1/2 mile of the Nizina and Chitina Rivers will be managed primarily to maintain the natural setting and the scenic quality of the recreation values on the river. Much of the area consists of steep bluffs.

Some of the best timber in the McCarthy area grows in this subunit, which includes sites with good regeneration rates. This timber will continue to be available for personal use. A buffer of uncut trees will be left between the river and harvest areas. Gravel borrow pits will be located out of sight of river channels and of areas used by river rafters.

**Management Subunit 24C - Western Benchlands.** These lands will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use, particularly wildlife habitat, hunting, recreation, and personal-use forestry.

**Management Subunit 24D - Fireweed Mountain Land Offering.** A state land disposal was held in 1984 along the McCarthy Road. Up to 900 additional acres of land in this subunit can be made available for private ownership. Only half (450 acres) of this offering may occur during the first 10 years of the plan (before 1996) in order to minimize the impact on local residents and resources. A buffer of land should be retained in public ownership between the land offering and existing private lands to the east. Lands not offered for settlement will be retained in public ownership for multiple use including forestry and recreation.

**Management Unit 24E - Strelna School Section.** This single section of state land along the McCarthy Road will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with recreation and wildlife habitat as the primary uses.

## **Management Guidelines**

**Public Notification - McCarthy Residents.** DNR will notify residents in the McCarthy area and provide for their input before issuing any leases or as part of the land offering design process (LADS). Notification should include notice via radio or posting at prominent places in the community or both.

**Land within Wrangell - St. Elias National Park.** DNR will notify the Superintendent of the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve of any requests for permits, leases, or other authorizations for use of state lands that may significantly impact the national park and preserve.

**McCarthy Road - Visual Impacts.** Land uses will be set back from the McCarthy Road or a buffer of natural vegetation will be retained along the road right-of-way to protect scenic views from the road and the rustic character of the road. The report Denali to Wrangell-St. Elias, Assessment and Management of Scenic Resources Along the Highways Between Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks, (1982), prepared for DNR, should be consulted during planning for land use and management activities that are likely to result in significant visual changes along this road.

**Land Offering - Phasing.** The proposed land offering at Fireweed Mountain will be phased to minimize impacts on local residents and resources; 450 acres will be offered in the next 10 years and an additional 450 acres can be offered after 1996.

**Land Offering - Subdividing.** The contract for land sales should prohibit subdividing of lots until the lot is paid off to the state.

**Trail Reservation.** The trail that leaves the McCarthy Road in T. 6 S., R. 13 E., Section 29 and runs towards the Lakina River should be retained in public ownership through areas offered for private ownership. The trail historically provided access to the Lakina drainage.

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  
Forestry  
Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources  
Settlement  
Stream corridors and instream flow  
Public access  
Transportation

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

## MANAGEMENT UNIT: 24 - Long Lake/Fireweed Mountain

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
24A	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Public recreation	Open to mineral entry except Long Lake and outlet	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	Long Lake area
24B	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	River corridors
24C	State	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	Western Benchlands
24D	State	Settlement	Forestry Public recreation	Open to mineral entry; disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins, Trapping cabins in land offering	Eastern Benchland, estimated net land offering - 900 acres
24E	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	Single section near Strelna

\* 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

## Management Unit 24 - Long Lake - Fireweed Mountain (page 1 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	24A	24B	24C	24D
Fish	salmon-s/r steelhead-s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s
Forestry	moderate conif.	moderate conif. and decid.	moderate conif. and decid.	moderate conif. and decid.
Historic-Cultural	prehistoric remains possible	prehistoric remains possible	prehistoric remains possible	prehistoric remains possible
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high along McCarthy Rd. & Long Lake; scenic; inside national park	high for river floating; scenic; inside national park	high along McCarthy Rd.; scenic; inside national park	high along McCarthy Rd.; scenic; inside national park
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.	existing site	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	low to moderate	low	low	variable
Transportation	McCarthy Rd.	near McCarthy Rd.	McCarthy Rd.	McCarthy Rd.
Wildlife	A-1 habitat (Long Lake), B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat

Minerals: Most mineralized lands are north and east of state lands

### Important trails:

Subunit 24A: Trail along Lakina River, mostly across private and National Park land.

Subunit 24D: Trail to Lakina River, joins McCarthy Rd. in Sec. 29, T6S, R13E.

McCarthy Rd. - state right-of-way and potential RS 2477 trail.

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

# RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

## Management Unit 24 - Long Lake - Fireweed Mountain (page 2 of 2)

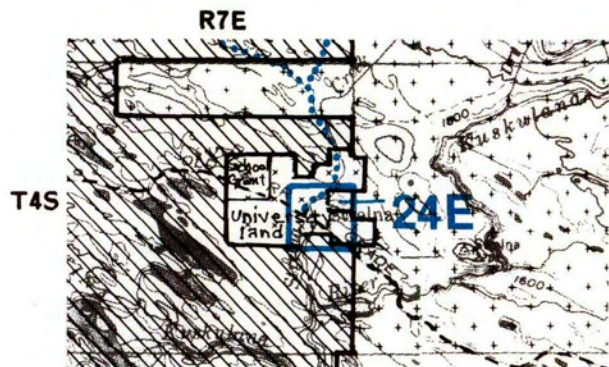
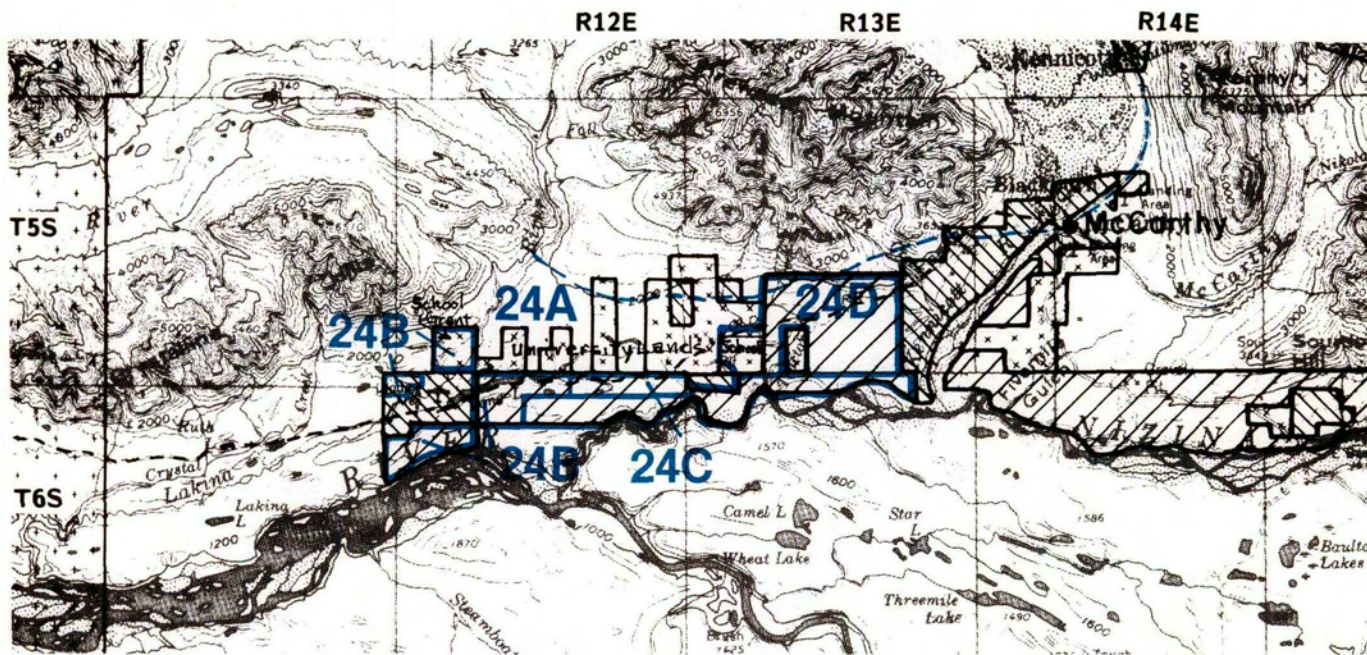
RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	24E
Fish	none docum.
Forestry	unsuitable
Historic-Cultural	prehistoric remains possible
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	unknown
Recreation	high along McCarthy Rd.
Sand and Gravel	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	moderate
Transportation	McCarthy Rd.
Wildlife	not rated

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



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







Location Map



Map scale:  
1:250,000

U.S.G.S. Quad:  
McCarthy

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands
-  Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

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.