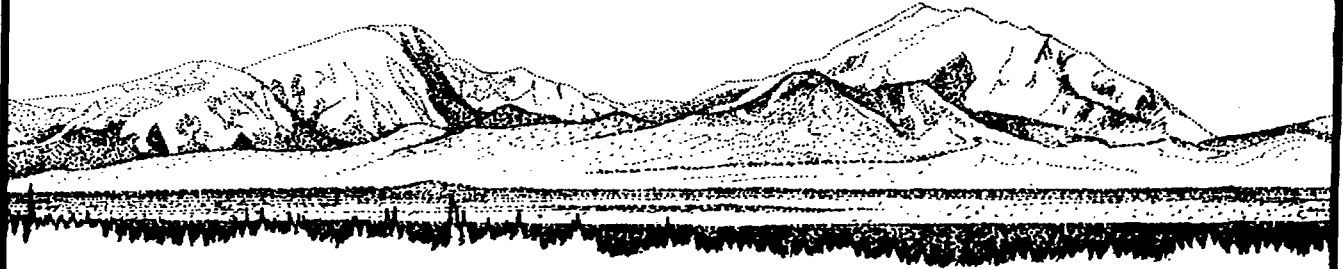


## Chapter 3



# Land Management Policies for each Management Unit

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# Land Management Policies for each Management Unit

### Introduction

In this chapter, land management policy is presented for specific sites within the planning area. The area is divided into management units, that is, an area that is generally homogeneous with respect to resources, topography, and land ownership.

The land management information presented for each management unit is described below:

- A. **Statement of Management Intent** - A statement of management intent is provided for each unit. The statement defines near and long-term management objectives for the management unit and the methods to achieve these objectives.
- B. **Management Guidelines** - Management guidelines that apply to specific management units are listed. The area-wide management guidelines in Chapter 2 that will most likely apply to each unit also are identified.
- C. **Resource Information Summary** - A chart is provided that summarizes resource values in each unit. If no value has been identified for a particular resource within a unit, the resource is not included in the summary.
- D. **Land Use Designation Summary** - Charts are included that list primary and secondary surface land use designations, prohibited uses, subsurface resource management policy and land ownership. These land use designations provide a quick picture of planned uses within a unit, but they must be used with the statement of management intent for the complete explanation of management policy.
- E. **Maps of Land Ownership and Management Unit and Subunit Boundaries** - A map of each management unit and the subunits that are within it is provided.

### Surface and Subsurface Land Use Designations

The plan presents separate land use designations for surface and subsurface resources; it also designates the primary and secondary surface land uses for which an area is to be managed. A primary surface use is one that is of major importance in a management unit or subunit. The unit will be managed to encourage this use and its conservation or development. A secondary surface use is permitted within a management unit or subunit when its occurrence will not adversely affect achieving the objectives for the primary uses. A secondary use may be the main use for a limited area of the management unit. For example, within a management unit where the primary uses are forestry and public recreation, a small area may be identified for land disposal and private recreational development. The plan also identifies prohibited surface uses within each unit. These are uses that will not be permitted anywhere in the unit without a plan amendment. In an area identified as critical

habitat, for example, construction of cabins may be prohibited. Uses that are not specifically prohibited may be permitted on an individual basis if the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) determines that the proposed uses are consistent with the statement of management intent for the unit in question and applicable management guidelines.

Resource designations such as 'minerals' or 'oil and gas' generally are not applied as primary or secondary surface land use designations. The problems in locating and measuring subsurface resources make it difficult and potentially misleading to apply primary and secondary designations in the same way they can be applied to surface resources like timber. A surface designation for primary use minerals is made in certain cases where intensive subsurface resource exploration or development exists. Most state land in the Copper River Basin is open to location and available for leasing. Where a management unit is open to mineral location and has a primary surface designation such as wildlife habitat, this surface designation will not be construed to prevent mineral development.

## **Resource Management Areas**

In some remote areas, lands are designated for resource management rather than a more specific designation such as settlement or forestry. The resource management designation means that the land will be retained in public ownership until the plan is revised (approximately every years) or until new roads, new information, or development proposals make it necessary to review the resource management designation. At that time, a permanent classification such as agriculture or forestry can be assigned. Until the resource management designation is reviewed, the land will be managed for existing public uses. Changes in the resource management designation are amendments to the plan and must be reviewed by an interagency planning team and the public.

There are two types of resource management areas. 'Resource Management - High' applies to lands that could support a variety of uses or to lands where fish and wildlife values are unknown. Existing information is inadequate to determine the best long range use of these lands. In addition, the long distance from road access makes it unlikely that the lands will be developed in the near term. The second category is 'Resource Management - Low.' This designation applies to remote lands where no highly valuable resources have been identified. Mountainous areas and glaciers are the types of lands that might be placed in the 'Resource Management - Low' category.

## **Management Guidelines**

Most public lands will be managed for multiple use. For this reason, the plan establishes management guidelines that will allow various uses to occur without serious conflicts. Management guidelines can direct the timing, amount, or specific location of different activities to make the permitted uses compatible. For example, timber harvests along anadromous streams will be designed to protect habitat values in the stream corridors.

## **Areas Proposed for Legislative Designations**

A few areas in this plan are recommended for legislative designation for recreation. The areas recommended for these special designations are lands and waters with outstanding public values that should remain in public ownership permanently. Legislative designations must be established by the Alaska Legislature. For more information on specific proposals for special designations see page 4-11.

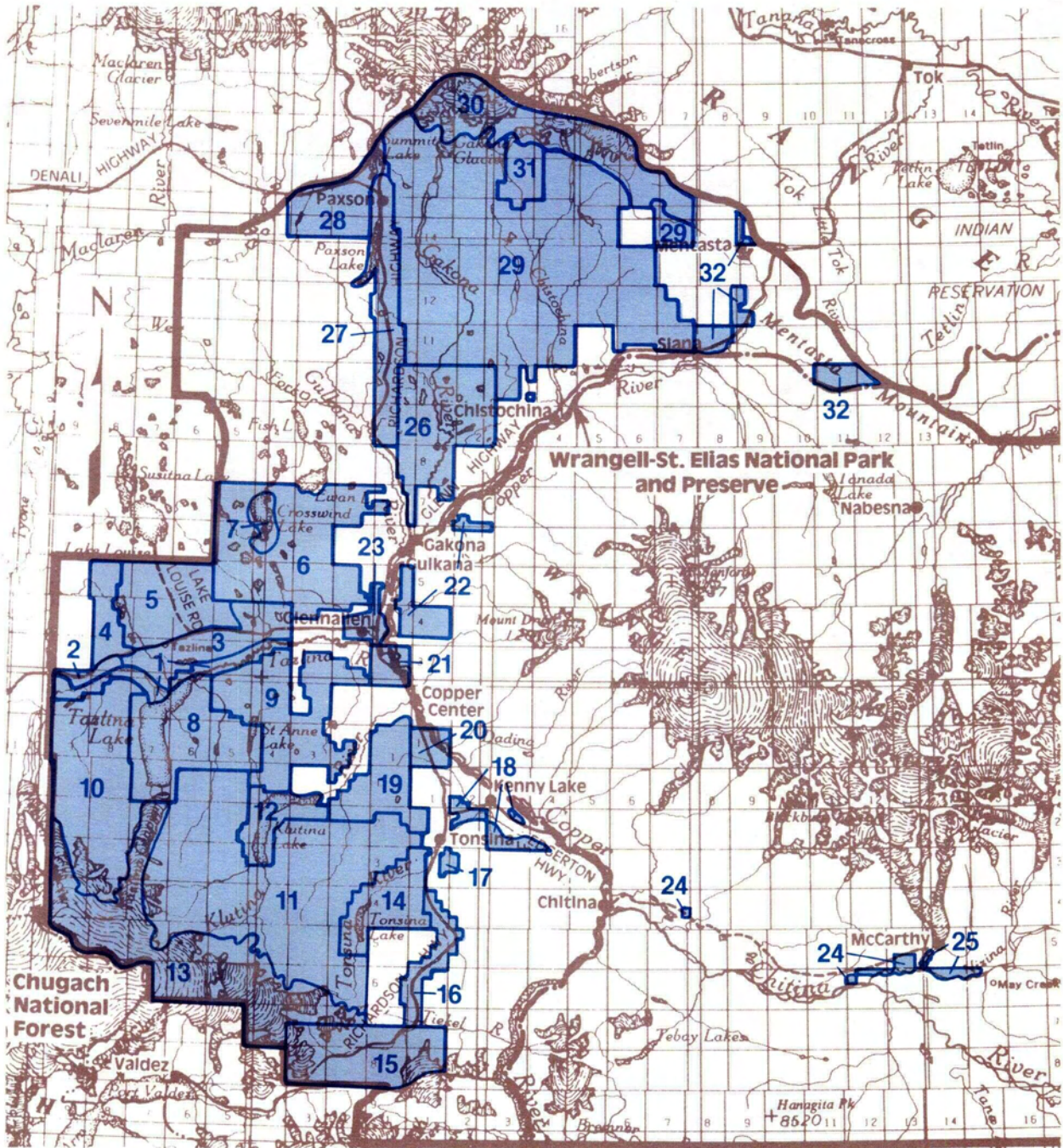
## **Flexibility of the Plan**

Almost all state land addressed by this plan will be managed for multiple use. Exceptions are lands that will be offered for private ownership and recreation sites that are less than 640 acres. The land use designations shown on the maps and charts in this chapter are intended to be flexible. Uses not shown may be permitted on an individual basis if DNR determines they are consistent with the statement of management intent for the management unit in question and consistent with applicable management guidelines. Boundaries of land use designations shown on the following maps may be modified through on-the-ground implementation activities such as site planning or disposal, as long as modifications adhere to the intent of the plan. In addition, through implementation of the plan, uses not originally designated may be permitted if they are consistent with the management intent for a particular management unit. This plan should not be construed to preclude site decisions that comply with the management intent and guidelines. This plan will not provide direct answers to many of the site-specific issues frequently encountered by state land managers. A plan that deals with a region the size of the Copper River Basin cannot provide a predetermined answer to all questions. The plan can, however, clarify the general management objectives for the area and thereby provide the basis for a more informed decision.

## **Definitions**

Definitions of terms used frequently in this chapter are given in Appendix B.

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| 17. Tonsina Plateau - p.115                      |  |