

Chapter 3

Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

Introduction.....	1
Organization of Chapter.....	2
Land Use Designations	2
Map 3: Planning Regions and Generalized Land Status.....	3
Designations Used in This Plan	5
Explanation of Habitat Designations	9
Explanation of Oil and Gas Designation	10
Resources and Uses and Management Intent.....	10
Duration and Flexibility of Plan	12
Glossary	12
Plan Structure.....	12
Plan Regions	12
Management Units	13
Region Descriptions.....	13
Plan Maps.....	14
Land Status Depicted in Plan Maps.....	14
Resource Allocation Table.....	15
Arctic Tidelands Region (T)	17
Resource Allocation Table – Arctic Tidelands Region (T)	19
Map 3-1.1: Arctic Tidelands Region West Planning Units and Designations.....	29
Map 3-1.2: Arctic Tidelands Region Central Planning Units and Designations	31
Map 3-1.3: Arctic Tidelands Region East Planning Units and Designations	33
Arctic Coast Region (A)	35
Resource Allocation Table – Arctic Coast Region (A)	38
Map 3-2.1: Arctic Coast Region West Planning Units and Designations	55
Map 3-2.2: Arctic Coast Region Central Planning Units and Designations.....	57
Map 3-2.3: Arctic Coast Region East Planning Units and Designations.....	59
Central Slope Region (C).....	61
Resource Allocation Table – Central Slope Region (C).....	64
Map 3-3.1: Central Slope Region West Planning Units and Designations.....	77
Map 3-3.2: Central Slope Region East Planning Units and Designations.....	79
Brooks Foothills Region (B).....	81
Resource Allocation Table – Brooks Foothills Region (B).....	83
Map 3-4: Brooks Foothills Region Planning Units and Designations.....	93
Dalton Corridor Region (D).....	95
Resource Allocation Table – Dalton Corridor Region (D).....	98
Map 3-5.1: Dalton Corridor Region North Planning Units and Designations.....	111
Map 3-5.2: Dalton Corridor Region Central Planning Units and Designations	113
Map 3-5.3: Dalton Corridor Region South Planning Units and Designations.....	115

Chandalar Region (H)	117
Resource Allocation Table – Chandalar Region (H)	119
Map 3-6: Chandalar Region Planning Units and Designations	121
Anadromous Waterbodies.....	123
Table 3-1: Anadromous and Major Waterbodies Within Planning Area	123

Chapter 3

Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

Introduction

Within the planning area there are approximately 18,055,600 total acres, of which, 9,768,534 acres are state lands and 1,930,301 acres are state tidelands and submerged lands. Additionally, there are approximately 977,332 acres of lands that are state-selected or top filed. This chapter presents specific land management policy for all state lands within the planning area. The planning area is further organized into regions based on geographic similarities. There are six regions identified in this plan, they are: Arctic Tidelands, Arctic Coast, Central Slope, Brooks Foothills, Dalton Corridor, and Chandalar. Map 3 shows the planning regions and generalized land status.

Within the regions, lands are further subdivided into planning units. The units were developed based on similar land characteristics, resources, use patterns, topography, or other features. There are a total of 105 land management units, including 15 tideland planning units. The management requirements of this plan do not apply to non-state lands, or state-owned lands directly administered by the ADOT/PF, which are governed by separate regulations.

To date, there is no comprehensive land use plan for state lands on the North Slope. Several regional and site-specific plans exist in developed areas of the North Slope, including the Dalton Highway Master Plan, the North Slope Borough Comprehensive Plan, Nanushuk Site Specific Plan, and the Deadhorse Lease Tracts Site Specific Plan, among others. Outside of these areas, approximately 4 million acres of lands were previously classified without a comprehensive plan by the Department.

The North Slope planning area is extensive. Its northern boundary covers the coastline and state waters of the Arctic Ocean from Wainwright to Kaktovik and beyond to the Canadian border. The majority of the planning area is comprised of the state lands between the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) on the west and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) on the east, down to the central Brooks Range in the south.

The state has almost one million acres of high-priority, top filed, and selected lands within the planning boundary. Among these, top files and selections within the Dalton Highway corridor are the highest priority for conveyance from BLM. As with the goals and objectives of Chapter 2, unit-specific management intent provided in this chapter is provided for all top filed and state-selected lands.

The Dalton Highway, also known as the Haul Road, is the only major public road in the planning area. At over 400 miles, this highway originates south of the planning area at Livengood and extends north along the Dietrich River and Sagavanirktok River to its terminus in Deadhorse, approximately four miles from Prudhoe Bay. Though it opened to public automobile traffic in 1994, access within the corridor is restricted by Title 19 of Alaska Statute (AS 19.40). Furthermore, access in the corridor for hunting is restricted by state and federal agencies. These restrictions subsequently limit development and access to many lands in the planning area. While the Dalton provides public access to the North Slope, there are numerous privately developed industry roads.

Most development is related to oil and gas activity and is concentrated in Deadhorse and west along the Spine Road to Kuparuk. There is an estimated 768 miles of private industry road on the North Slope in support of oil and gas development. Access on the industry roads is primarily restricted. Currently there are no permanent roads linking communities on the North Slope. For more information on this, see the Public Access section in Chapter 2.

Organization of Chapter

The chapter is organized into the following sections:

- *Land Use Designations* which describe the general management direction for specific parcels (units) of state land.
- *Management Intent*, which consists of an explanation of how specific units of state land are to be managed. Management intent language gives additional specificity to the general management direction provided by the land use classifications.
- *Plan Duration and Flexibility*, which indicates the planning period and requirements for plan amendment.
- *Regional Setting* which describes the general landscape, uses, and character of the lands within the region.
- *Regional and parcel specific management* direction for state land.

Land Use Designations

A land use designation recognizes uses or resources that are of major importance within a management unit. Unit designations are based on readily available resource information; current and projected use patterns; and input from the public, organizations, agency staff, and other sources. The designations identified in this chapter convert to one of the sixteen classifications identified under Title 11 of the Alaska Administrative Code. The conversions are identified in Table 4-2, pg. 4 - 4 in Chapter 4. Multiple designations may be applied to a single unit. ADNR will manage activities in the unit to encourage, develop, or protect the

Map 3: Planning Regions and Generalized Land Status

uses or resources for which the unit is designated; however, all state land is intended for multiple use and should be managed in a manner that is consistent with this mission. ADNR will manage state land according to these designations and the equivalent land use classifications once the plan is adopted by the Commissioner of ADNR.

When the plan assigns a designation to a unit, the designation is accompanied by region-wide management guidelines and by management intent specific to that unit. These three pieces of information – designations, management guidelines, and statement of intent – must be taken into consideration in determining how a parcel of state land is to be managed and in making disposal and authorization decisions. Management guidelines are found in Chapter 2.

Designations Used in This Plan

Ha – Habitat. This designation applies to areas of varied size for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life-history stage where alteration of the habitat or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of a species. Lands classified Habitat will remain in state ownership except for areas where a tidelands conveyance to a municipality is allowed under AS 38.05.825. These lands are not available for selection or conveyance to a municipal entity unless specifically addressed in the management intent for a unit. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. The identified habitat values for which these lands are classified shall be maintained to the greatest extent practicable. If impacts to the habitat cannot be avoided, they should be minimized through stipulations contained in an authorization. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a classification of Wildlife Habitat Land.

Hv – Harvest. Fish and wildlife harvest areas are subsistence, recreational and/or community harvest areas of varied size where alteration of habitat could permanently limit sustained yield to traditional users; or are areas of intense harvest where the level of harvest has reached, or is projected to reach, the harvestable surplus for the resource. This land will remain in state ownership except for areas eligible for a tidelands conveyance to a municipality under AS 38.05.825 or is specifically addressed in the management intent for a unit. This designation applies to uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. The identified harvest values for which these lands are classified shall be maintained to the greatest extent practicable. If impacts to the habitat cannot be avoided, they should be minimized through stipulations contained in an authorization. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a classification of Wildlife Habitat Land.

Ma – Materials. Sites suitable for extraction of materials, which include common varieties of sand, gravel, rock, peat, pumice, pumicite, cinders, clay, and sod are designated Materials. Lands designated Materials are closed to new mineral entry and are available for selection by municipalities with the exception of lands that have materials necessary for development, maintenance, and operation of State infrastructure or are necessary for the development and maintenance of the oil and gas infrastructure on state lands. Where this occurs, the intent to retain in state ownership will be indicated in the management intent statement for the unit within the Resource Allocation Table found in Chapter 3. Permits, easements, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized if they do not impede the extraction of materials from the land. Consult the Resource Allocation Table for identification of potentially appropriate uses for a specific unit. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a classification of Material Land.

Og – Oil and Gas. Areas where known oil and gas resources exist and where development is occurring, or is reasonably likely to occur, or where there is a reason to believe that commercial quantities of oil and gas exist are designated Oil and Gas. Lands within this designation shall be retained in state ownership. These lands are not available for selection or conveyance to a municipal entity unless specifically addressed in the management intent for a unit. Permits, easements, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized if they do not impede the extraction of the hydrocarbon resources from the land. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a classification of Oil and Gas Land.

Pr – Public Facilities-Retain. These sites are reserved for specific infrastructure to serve state interests. This may include areas intended as open space or to function as riparian buffers. Units designated “Public Facilities-Retain” will be retained in state ownership. These lands are not available for selection or conveyance to a municipal entity unless specifically addressed in the management intent for a unit. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. If impacts to the identified resources cannot be avoided, they should be minimized through stipulations contained in an authorization. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a land use classification of Reserved Use Land.

Rd – Public Recreation-Dispersed. This designation applies to those areas that offer or have a high potential for dispersed recreation or tourism and where desirable recreation conditions are scattered or widespread rather than localized. Some level of development or activities that facilitate dispersed recreation is anticipated and may include remote airstrips,

trapping cabins, trails, and primitive campsites among other uses and activities. These lands are available for selection and may be conveyed to a municipal entity. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. If impacts to the identified resources cannot be avoided, they should be minimized through stipulations contained in an authorization. Developments on these lands typically facilitate public use and recreation. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation can also apply to tidelands. If used as a tideland designation, it applies to areas that are widely used for recreation by either commercial recreation operators or the public and are usually associated with the use of fisheries or the viewing of a unique or scenic area. Use patterns are dispersed over a fairly large area, and few public facilities are provided other than boat launches, docks, and mooring buoys. Tidelands can be conveyed to municipalities or individuals under certain conditions. This designation converts to a land use classification of Public Recreation Land.

Rp – Public Recreation-Public Use Site (Developed). Areas used by concentrations of recreationists or tourists relative to the rest of the planning area or areas with a high potential to attract concentrations of people who recreate and tourists. These areas offer localized marinas, cabins, lodges, anchorages, scenic overlooks, road-accessible shore locations that are used for picnicking, sports, fishing, etc. The recreation and tourism uses for which these units are designated may be either public or commercial. These lands are available for selection and may be conveyed to a municipal entity. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. If impacts to the identified resources cannot be avoided, they should be minimized through stipulations contained in an authorization. The primary management intent for these sites is to protect the opportunity of the public to use these sites, and their public values for recreation. Many of these sites require additional management attention because of the use they are receiving. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a classification of Public Recreation Land.

Rm – Resource Management. Land that contains one or more resource values, none of which is of sufficiently high value to merit designation as a primary use, or, because of the size of the parcel, a variety of uses can be accommodated with appropriate siting and design controls is designated Resource Management. This designation may also apply where there is a lack of resource, economic, or other information with which to assign a specific land use designation. Lands within this designation may be important for harvest activities by local residents seasonally. Consult the Resource Allocation Table for the management unit designated Resource Management in each region to determine the resources and uses present in these areas. These lands are available for selection and may be conveyed to a municipal entity. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose

or are in the interest of the state may be authorized on lands within this designation. This designation converts to a classification of Resource Management Land.

Se – Settlement. This designation applies to state lands suitable for sale into private ownership through one of the State’s land sale programs, and generally excludes shorelands, tidelands, and submerged lands. This designation will generally be used for areas appropriate for land offerings for residential uses. Unsold land in the unit will be managed for uses compatible with settlement including uses such as selling additional lots, expanding existing or laying out new subdivisions, identifying greenbelts or other parcels to be retained within subdivisions, reserving materials sites for subdivision roads and building lots, placing easements on access routes, or reserving lots for community facilities and open space. Areas designated Settlement should be closed to mineral entry prior to sale. These lands are available for selection and may be conveyed to a municipal entity with the exception of lands that have been identified to be retained in the State’s Land Disposal Bank (AS 38.04.020) to be sold by the State through its land disposal programs. Where this occurs, the intent for the lands to be retained for State disposal will be indicated in the management intent statement for the unit within the Resource Allocation Table found in Chapter 3. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized on lands within this designation. This designation converts to a classification of Settlement Land.

Sc – Settlement-Commercial. This designation applies to lands that have been identified as suitable for sale into private ownership for commercial or industrial purposes, generally excludes shorelands, tidelands, and submerged lands. This designation will generally be used for areas appropriate for land offerings for commercial or industrial uses; however, residential use may also be appropriate in portions of an area designated Settlement-Commercial. Unsettled or sold land in the management unit will be managed for uses compatible with eventual commercial or industrial activities. Areas designated Settlement-Commercial should be closed to mineral entry prior to sale. These lands are available for selection and may be conveyed to a municipal entity with the exception of lands that have been identified to be retained in the State’s Land Disposal Bank (AS 38.04.020) to be sold by the State through its land disposal programs. Where this occurs, the intent for the lands to be retained for State disposal will be indicated in the management intent statement for the unit within the Resource Allocation Table found in Chapter 3. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized on lands within this designation. This designation converts to a classification of Settlement Land.

Tc – Transportation Corridor. This designation applies to land identified for the location of easements and rights-of-way under AS 38.04.065(f), including transportation, pipeline, or utility corridors, or is under consideration for a right-of-way lease. The intent of this

designation is to provide a reserve of state land for the eventual development of easements and rights-of-way, including transportation, pipeline, or utility corridors or other linear transportation projects. These lands are not available for selection or conveyance to a municipal entity unless specifically addressed in the management intent for a unit. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a classification of Transportation Corridor Land.

Wd – Waterfront Development. This designation applies to areas of tidelands, submerged lands, or shorelands for water-dependent or water-related facilities, commercial or industrial purposes, or for community development. Less-than-fee disposals for such uses and activities as piers, wharves, harbors, mineral transfer facilities, seafood processing facilities, commercial recreation facilities, and other resource development support facilities may be authorized. Lands in this designation may only be conveyed to municipalities under AS 38.05.825 and can only be sold to private persons in rare circumstances. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a classification of Waterfront Development Land.

Wr – Water Resources. This designation applies to important watersheds, or portion thereof, that are suitable for water sources, watershed protection, or hydropower sites. In this plan, it also includes important wetland areas that may be immediately adjacent to a waterbody. These lands are not available for selection or conveyance to a municipal entity unless specifically addressed in the management intent for a unit. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. The identified values for which these lands are designated shall be maintained to the greatest extent practicable. If impacts to these values cannot be avoided, they should be minimized through stipulations contained in an authorization. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a classification of Water Resources Land.

Explanation of Habitat Designations

In this plan, the designation or co-designation of Habitat was applied to areas with a unique or rare assemblage of a single, or multiple species of regional, state, or national significance. Where these conditions exist, the unit is designated habitat. In some cases, there is only a single species resource but in other instances, several resources exist, with these resources sometimes occupying differing portions of the management unit. The type of habitat within a unit is identified in the “Resources and Uses” column for each management unit in the

Resource Allocation Tables. The spatial distribution of habitat resources is described in the management intent language, if known. When granting authorizations within areas designated Wildlife Habitat, ADNR adjudicators should consider the most current species and habitat information available from ADF&G.

Fish and wildlife species and habitats used, in part, to identify Habitat (Ha) in this plan include the following:

- Moose winter range,
- Dall sheep identified mineral licks,
- Caribou calving areas and insect relief areas,
- Musk ox concentration areas,
- Polar bear and brown bear denning areas,
- Walrus haulouts,
- Seal concentration areas,
- Whale migration and subsistence harvest areas,
- Shorebird habitat on tidelands and,
- Anadromous fish spawning, rearing, and overwintering areas in fresh water or estuarine and brackish intertidal waters.

Explanation of Oil and Gas Designation

In this plan, the designation of Oil and Gas (Og) is used extensively. This designation was applied to lands where known oil and gas resources exist and where development is occurring or is reasonably likely to occur, or where there is reason to believe that commercial quantities of oil and gas exist. When a co-designation of Oil and Gas/Habitat is applied, this implies that oil and gas development is an existing use, or may be an appropriate use within a unit with this co-designation, but the habitat values within the unit must be taken into careful consideration when adjudicating an authorization. Stipulations are to be imposed in the authorization in order to ensure the continuation of the habitat value or resource within the unit.

Resources and Uses and Management Intent

The Resource Allocation Tables (RAT) within this chapter of the Plan identify the resources and uses and the management intent for each planning unit. The intent is based on the existing resources and the types of authorizations that currently exist or may be expected to occur within the planning units. Management intent describes how the Department intends to manage a resource, use, or activity within a unit and may describe what is intended to occur,

and in some cases, what is not intended to occur. Management intent statements refer only to management of state lands.

Disposal or Retention in State Ownership. Certain land use classifications, by statute, allow land to be selected and potentially conveyed to municipalities under the Municipal Entitlement Program. Alaska Statute 29.65.130 identifies those land use classifications that are conveyable under the Municipal Entitlement Act. In this area plan, the classifications of Material Land, Resource Management Land, Settlement Land, and Waterfront Development Land are considered appropriate for the conveyance of lands out of state ownership. Another portion of statute (AS 38.04.015) identifies the general public interests in retaining areas of state land in public ownership. These principles were applied in developing the recommendations for retention of state land that is identified for specific parcels.

The Settlement Land classification identifies lands that may be conveyed into private ownership through one of the State land disposal programs. Within settlement areas, lands necessary for wildlife, public use and access, and for other uses associated with the disposal will be identified and retained in public ownership. An easement or right-of-way “to and along” appropriate waterbodies under AS 38.05.127 may be established to allow access to such waters. These easements or rights-of-way will be retained by the state for public use.

In this plan, the land use designation is the general indicator of whether land should be retained in state ownership or made available for disposal. However, some units have management intent that precludes disposal of all, or a portion of, the lands based on the interests of the State even though the designation and classification might otherwise allow disposal. When this occurs, this restriction is noted in the management intent statement specific to the management unit in the Resource Allocation Table. This includes units already under management by another state agency or that contain certain unique or sensitive uses or resources that merit retention by the state. In addition, units already under management agreements with other state agencies are usually not available for conveyance. In no case can ADNR convey the subsurface estate to municipalities or individuals. Submerged lands, tidelands, and shorelands must be retained in state ownership unless law requires conveyance, or the conveyance is to a political subdivision of the state. These conveyances are subject to the Public Trust Doctrine, described in the Appendices.

Tidelands, Submerged Lands and Shorelands. ADNR will provide reasonable access across state tidelands to upland owners. Upland access across state tidelands, including developed access facilities, may be allowed within all land use designations where ADNR determines the proposed facilities are consistent with the management intent and applicable guidelines of the plan. However, state tideland use designations do not in themselves give the public access rights to adjacent private uplands.

Duration and Flexibility of Plan

This plan guides land uses for the **next 20 years or until revised**. The Department should review the Plan periodically to determine if all or a portion of it should be revised. This document will guide the management of land within the plan area until the plan is formally revised. The Commissioner of ADNR may revise all or a portion of the plan where appropriate at any time. The land use designations are intended to be flexible and provide for multiple use. ADNR may permit uses not originally designated if ADNR determines they are consistent with the management intent for the unit and consistent with applicable management guidelines.

Glossary

Definitions of terms used frequently in the plan are found in the Glossary, Appendix A.

Plan Structure

Plan Regions

The planning area consists of approximately 11.6 million acres of state lands, including shorelands, tidelands, and submerged lands), north of Atigun Pass, encompassing the area between the eastern boundary of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and the western boundary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The plan boundary also includes offshore areas out to the 3-mile nautical limit. Major drainages within the NSAP boundary include the Colville, Kuparuk, Sagavanirktok and Canning rivers. The planning area is divided into six principal regions, one of which includes land within the James Dalton Highway Legislatively Designated Area (LDA). Regions are typically large geographic areas characterized by large blocks of state land, often contiguous to each other, and located within an area with distinctive characteristics. They are often demarcated by political boundaries or major topographic or hydrologic features. The six regions contain state-owned and state-selected land, which is the primary focus of area plans. The region containing the LDA does not provide management guidance other than to provide a plan designation for the LDA, which is required in the event that the Department needs to issue leases or other authorizations that constitute disposals of state land. Map 1-1 in Chapter 1 depicts the plan boundary and generalized land status. The six principal regions are: Brooks Foothills, Chandalar, Central Slope, Arctic Coast, Arctic Tidelands, and Dalton Corridor.

Management Units

Areas of state lands and waters have been separated into smaller geographic units called management units. State resource management is specific to this level. Management units range in size but usually have generally similar attributes; or they may be specific legal units like a tract within a residential subdivision; or they may be a discrete area of state land affected by a management agreement that is to be administered for a public purpose, such as a port, vehicle storage facility, or airport.

All units have a discrete identifying number (i.e., unit number). These are depicted on the plan maps and are included in the Resource Allocation Table. This number provides a cross-reference between the plan maps and the tables containing information about the parcel. The Table contains information on the resources found within the unit as well as plan designation, management intent, and, if required, management guidelines.

Unit numbers are preceded by an alpha character that represents a particular place or area, with the following convention being applied: ‘T’ represents the Arctic Tidelands Region; ‘A’, the Arctic Coast Region; ‘D’, the Dalton Corridor Region; ‘C’, the Central Slope Region; ‘B’, the Brooks Foothills Region; and ‘H’, the Chandalar Region.

A specific convention is used to identify units. These have a geographic identifier (a single alpha character that represents the region) followed by a two-to-three digit identifying number. For example, a parcel in the Brooks Foothills region has the identifying number “B-01.”

Region Descriptions

The regions are described in this section of the plan. These descriptions are necessarily generalized and indicate only the general features or characteristics of an area and only give an overview of how the region is to be managed by the Department. Because management intent for LDAs is established by legislation, information is necessarily limited and does not follow the following convention.

Included in these descriptions for the major regions are the following:

General: This component provides a description of the planning boundaries, overall acreage, number of communities in a region, and related geographic information.

Amount and Distribution of State Land: The distribution of state-owned and state-selected lands within the region is explained.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land: Access, resources and uses of state-owned and state-selected land are described in this component. Access is described in terms of major road access but also the type of access that exists more generally within a region, including

the types of access methods (e.g., snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, etc). Resources and uses include descriptions of recreation uses, settlement, habitats, water resources, and minerals, if present.

Management Planning Constraints and Considerations: Local, state, and federal land and resource plans affecting the management unit are identified, if applicable to state land management.

Management Summary: This section describes the general way that state land is to be managed within the region. This generalized description provides an indication of how the major resources and land uses are to be managed within the region and provides an indication of where this is to occur. Detailed land management is provided at the management unit level, described in the Resource Allocation Tables of this Chapter.

Plan Maps

There are 15 plan maps that cover the North Slope Area Plan. See Map 3 to locate the map(s) for a particular area. This map indicates the plan boundary (external boundary of the area plan), the boundaries of the six regions, and the generalized land status.

The plan maps show land ownership, unit numbers, and plan designations. It should be reemphasized that while the land use designations provide the general management intent for each unit, management intent and guidelines (both management unit and areawide) must be considered for a complete explanation of the management policy and requirements affecting each unit. This is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the management intent contained in the area plan as it pertains to a specific unit. The management intent and guidelines contained in Chapter 2 are particularly critical and must be consulted in adjudication decisions affecting individual parcels of state land.

Land Status Depicted in Plan Maps

The maps in this chapter are not intended to be detailed land ownership maps. Instead, they are a representation of state and federal land records current to the date of plan preparation (2020). Caution should be used when using these maps since there may be inaccuracies in the source data or constraints imposed through the Geographic Information System (GIS). Land status for parcels, including private, Native corporation, municipal, and federal land are derived from the Department's GIS land status coverage. This information is generalized and for this reason the land status can be misleading. For complete information, consult the land records of the Department of Natural Resources, federal Bureau of Land Management, Native corporations, and the North Slope Borough.

The plan maps show general patterns of land ownership by color; this includes the various types of state land (general state land, Legislatively Designated Areas, and lands under

management agreements with other state agencies) as well as borough and private lands. However, because of the way that GIS maps are created, which entails a decision hierarchy on what land status to represent in priority sequence, the colors that represent an ownership pattern may not accurately describe all of the land uses that may occur in a given area and may not coincide with the actual pattern of such ownership. The Department has tried to make general land status on the plan maps as accurate as possible, but the ownership patterns of other entities may be incorrect.

The location of state-owned or state-selected parcels is derived from information in the Department's land status records and the federal Master Title Plat. Both the status and spatial boundaries of these parcels are accurately represented at the time of plan preparation (2020). However, because state land status changes with time, the same caution exists for these areas as for areas of non-state land. Both color and a distinct external boundary line indicate areas of state-owned and state-selected land. If there is a conflict between the land status depicted by color and land status indicated by a boundary line, the boundary line is correct. This line supersedes the color representations of land ownership.

Resource Allocation Table

Resource Allocation Tables provide information on specific parcels and are related to the plan maps through the unit number. The Tables are meant to encapsulate the designation and management intent for each unit. Together, the Goals and Objectives from Chapter 2 and the Resource Allocation Tables found in this chapter provide a detailed description of state management guidelines and intent, as well as the resources and uses, for each unit.

More specifically, the information contained in the Tables includes:

Unit number: Each parcel of state land has a unit number. Units are preceded with a letter indicating the region that they are situated within; see previous "Management Units" section for an example.

Acreage: The approximate acreage in each unit is indicated.

Unit Location: The general location of a unit or geographic area is referenced to help the reader to locate a unit.

Plan Designation: Land use designations indicate the primary use and resource for each unit. Although most units are only affected by a single designation, two or three compatible plan designations are sometimes specified. Where co-designations have been used, the uses reflected in the designations are recognized to be compatible and complementary to each other.

Management Intent: This column indicates the management direction for a specific parcel. It is consistent with the recommended designation but includes more information on how

state land is to be managed. In some small-sized parcels, the management intent is likely to be brief since the designation itself is often sufficient to indicate the management intent. This is not usually the case with sensitive parcels or large parcels, and, in these instances, the management intent statement is critical to an understanding of how the various resources within the parcel are to be managed. This section may also indicate if the parcel is to be retained in state ownership or if it is appropriate for transfer to a city, borough, non-profit entity, or the public. It often also describes those parcel resources that must be taken into consideration in land disposals, coal or mineral development, forest management activities, or other forms of development or use. In some instances, the development of a parcel is not appropriate during the planning period and, when this occurs, this is also stated. This is usually associated with units affected by the Resource Management designation since these units are often located in remote, inaccessible locations and their development is not considered likely or appropriate during the planning period.

Resources and Uses: This column summarizes the resources and uses for which the unit is designated, and which are considered important in the unit. It also provides a generalized physical description of the unit and may indicate the presence (or absence) of certain other resources that are important to land management decisions. Typical among this type of information is whether the parcel contains a heritage or cultural site, a significant concentration of wildlife or habitat, vegetation and terrain features, the current use of the parcel, the presence of RS 2477 routes, adjacent land ownership, and whether a state or local land use plan affects the unit.