

MANAGEMENT UNIT 12 – ALPINE AREAS

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This is a large mountainous area which extends along much of the northern boundary of the subregion. The area is important for hunting of Dall sheep and to a lesser extent moose, bear, caribou and other species. Additionally, this area contains known and potential mineral resources. These include gold, silver, copper and other metallic minerals, and limestone.

The management unit will be retained entirely in public ownership and managed to protect fish and wildlife habitat, allow hunting and other public recreational activities and allow exploration and development of mineral resources. The major means of achieving these objectives will be retaining land in public ownership and protecting public access through and within the unit.

All public lands within this unit will remain open to mineral location except for several areas which will be open under leasehold location. All public land will be available for coal and oil and gas leasing. There are several large deposits of limestone under lease in this management unit in the vicinity of Kings River. A road from the Glenn Highway built by the lessees goes most of the way to these deposits.

The mineral licks identified within this management unit are used by significant numbers of wildlife primarily during the spring and early summer. No information currently exists on the biological function served by these licks; however, the regular use of these areas suggests that the licks play an important role in the life history of the animals that use them. These same areas also may have significant mineral values.

The management intent for the area around the licks is to protect their value for wildlife and also to allow exploration and development of mineral resources. This will be done through developing a general policy for management of all mineral licks in the Talkeetna Mountains. Although mineral development may result in disruption of a particular lick or animal access trail, this policy will ensure that at least some licks are open to wildlife use at all times.

In order to ensure these areas can be managed successfully for both wildlife protection and development of mineral values, mineral licks and the adjacent land (the nine sections surrounding each lick) will be open to mineral entry by leasehold location. Stipulations will be applied to individual leases to balance habitat values and mineral development. The general subjects and objectives of these stipulations are presented in

the management guideline section below. Existing mining claims within or adjacent to leasehold areas will not be converted to leasehold locations nor will holders of existing claims be required to get a lease from the state prior to production. However, explorations and mining on existing claims will be managed as outlined in the management guidelines through miscellaneous land use permits to afford protection to the mineral lick areas.

This management unit is divided into two subunits: the portion proposed to be legislatively designated to protect caribou (12b), and the remainder of the unit (12a). See the maps at the end of this section for boundary of this area and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses.

Subunit 12a will be retained in public ownership and managed to protect fish and wildlife habitat and to allow hunting and other public recreation activities.

Subunit 12b is recommended for legislative designation to protect caribou. This proposal, which is tentatively called the Nelchina Public Use Area, is discussed in detail in the management summary for the Talkeetna Mountains Subregion.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this plan. All of the guidelines potentially could apply to uses within this management unit; however, those that are most likely to be applicable are indicated with asterisks in the list below.

- Agriculture
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- *Forestry
- Recreation
- *Settlement
- Subsurface (Materials)
- *Transportation
- Instream Flow
- Lakeshore Management
- *Public Access
- Remote Cabin Permits
- *Stream Corridors
- Trail Management
- Wetlands Management
- Resource Management

Management guidelines that apply to this management unit only are presented below by subunit.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Glenn HighwayMANAGEMENT UNIT 12 — Alpine Area

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
12a Alpine Areas	State	Wildlife Habitat Public Recreation	—	Open except for specified sheep mineral licks which are open under leasehold location	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins Land Disposals Grazing	—
12b Nelchina Public Use Area	State	Wildlife Habitat Public Recreation	—	Open except for specified sheep mineral licks which are open under leasehold location	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Grazing	Proposed for Legislative or Administrative Designation

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

Subunit 12b (Nelchina Public Use Area)

Management Planning and Remote Cabins

It is recommended that a management plan be prepared for the lands in subunit 12b. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether remote cabins will be permitted in this subunit. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.

Subunits 12a and 12b (Anthracite Ridge-Castle Mt. and Nelchina Public Use Area)

Mineral Licks

Mineral exploration and development will be allowed in the nine sections surrounding specified mineral licks. Stipulations included as part of the mining lease and/or permit will include measures to minimize, to the extent feasible and prudent, the potential impacts of mining on wildlife use of these areas. The following guidelines will be followed in preparing stipulations for specific leases and permits.

1. Stipulations will be developed on a case-by-case basis for specific leases or permits considering the type and importance of wildlife use and of planned mining activities at a particular site. At the same time, the status of wildlife use and potential for mineral development of other mineral licks in the region will be taken into consideration. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, to the extent feasible and prudent, will ensure that a minimal number of licks are being intensely explored or developed at any one time.
2. Stipulations associated with the lease or permit must address the following concerns:
 - The avoidance of direct and indirect impact on the mineral licks, the animal trails leading to them and other areas of concentrated animal use that are associated with the mineral lick.
 - Methods for compensating for the destruction or loss of a lick. This could take the form of relocating or introducing new mineralized material.
 - The method and routing of mining-related access to these areas.

Areas open to mineral entry under leasehold location and subject to these guidelines are listed below.

- T20W R3E S.M.
section 13 E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$; section 24 E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$; section 25 E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$
T20N R4E S.M.
section 16 W $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$; sections 17-20; section 21 W $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$; section 28 W $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$; sections 29-30
- T20N R7E S.M.
section 1 E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$; section 12 E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$; section 13 E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$
T20N R8E S.M.
section 4 W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$; sections 5-8; section 9 W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$; section 16 W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$; section 17-18
- T21N R4E S.M.
section 12 SE $\frac{1}{4}$; section 13 E $\frac{1}{2}$; section 24 E $\frac{1}{2}$; section 25 NE $\frac{1}{4}$
T21N R5E S.M.
section 7 S $\frac{1}{2}$; section 8 S $\frac{1}{2}$; section 9 SW $\frac{1}{4}$; section 16 W $\frac{1}{2}$; sections 17-20; section 21 W $\frac{1}{2}$; section 28 NW $\frac{1}{4}$; section 29 N $\frac{1}{2}$; section 30 N $\frac{1}{2}$
- T21N R6E S.M.
section 1 S $\frac{1}{2}$; section 2 S $\frac{1}{2}$; section 3 S $\frac{1}{2}$; sections 10-15; section 22 N $\frac{1}{2}$; section 23 N $\frac{1}{2}$; section 24 N $\frac{1}{2}$
- T22N R9E S.M.
sections 4-6; section 7 N $\frac{1}{2}$; section 8 N $\frac{1}{2}$; section 9 N $\frac{1}{2}$
T23N R9E S.M.
section 28 S $\frac{1}{2}$; section 29 S $\frac{1}{2}$; section 30 S $\frac{1}{2}$; sections 31-33