

MANAGEMENT UNIT 2 – LITTLE MT. SUSITNA

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 2 lies southwest of Alexander Creek and north of the Susitna Game Flats. The unit includes Little Mt. Susitna and Mt. Susitna which contain important habitat for moose and bear. It also has potential for grazing for domestic livestock and provides opportunities for sport and subsistence hunting. The alpine areas have potential for public recreation, especially skiing and hiking. Adjacent lowlands support high value hardwood and mixed timber stands. There are significant fishing and mining values on Wolverine Creek and Theodore River. The lowland areas east of Mt. Susitna also offer some potential for settlement and agricultural homesteads. Because of the importance of its public values, nearly all the management unit is designated for long term retention and will be managed primarily for forestry, wildlife habitat, and public recreation. The area's exceptionally high value timber, large moose populations, important riparian habitat, and hunting activity make most of the area a priority proposal for legislative designation as a multiple use area. Management Unit 2 is open to mineral entry and available for coal leasing except for the existing and proposed settlement and agricultural areas in subunits 2d, 2e, and 2f. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing.

Management Unit 2 is divided into seven subunits: the area above timberline on Little Mt. Susitna and Mt. Susitna (2a), the corridors along Lewis and Theodore rivers and Wolverine Creek (2b), the lowlands which contain high value timber stands (2c), the existing Alexander Creek West Subdivision (2d), lands north of the subdivision designated for agriculture (2e), lands south of the subdivision that will be offered for additional settlement (2f), and borough land bank lands along Olson Creek (2g). See the maps at the end of this section for the boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses for each subunit.

As stated above, most of the area (subunits 2a, 2b and 2c) is recommended for legislative designation to provide for long term management of timber and habitat resources and development of recreation areas. A management plan will be developed for subunits 2a, 2b and 2c by an interagency planning team. The management plan should, among other things, design additional access to public lands, e.g., logging roads, recreational trails and airstrips, and determine whether remote cabins will be a permitted use in this area.

Subunit 2a includes the alpine areas of Mt. Susitna and Little Mt. Susitna. This unit will be managed for

the protection and enhancement of moose and bear habitat, hunting, skiing, hiking and other types of recreation, and will be open to trapping and mining. If it becomes economically feasible, domestic livestock grazing may be permitted in subunit 2a.

Subunit 2b, riparian habitat adjacent to Wolverine Creek and the Theodore and Lewis rivers, will be retained in public ownership. The existing uses within these subunits are hunting, trapping, fishing, and mining. Management of subunit 2b will encourage public recreation, emphasizing fishing, hunting and camping, as well as the preservation of riparian habitat and timber harvesting.

Subunit 2c contains the lands with the best potential for commercial timber production in the subregion. This subunit will be managed primarily for long term, sustained yield commercial timber production and harvest. Personal use timber cutting also will be allowed, and will be particularly important in proximity to the existing Alexander Creek West Subdivision and the adjacent agricultural and settlement areas (subunits 2d, 2e and 2f).

Subunit 2d is the existing Alexander Creek West Subdivision. Settlement is the primary designation for this subunit. There are approximately 100 surveyed parcels remaining available over-the-counter within the subdivision.

Subunit 2e abuts the north side of Alexander Creek West Subdivision. It contains soils with good potential for agricultural use and is designated for use as agricultural homesteads.

In **subunit 2f**, settlement is the primary use. It is adjacent to the south side of Alexander Creek West Subdivision along Trail Creek. This subunit is presently accessible by floatplane.

Subunit 2g, borough lands along Olson Creek will be included in the borough land bank. These are lands with commercial forestry, agriculture and settlement potential, and they currently provide wildlife habitat. There are no immediate plans for sale, but this land may be available for disposal in the future. The subunit will be reevaluated in the future to determine its best long term use.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this plan. All of the

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Mt. Susitna

MANAGEMENT UNIT 2 - Little Mt. Susitna

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
2a Little Mt. Susitna/Mt. Susitna	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Grazing	Open	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapper cabins Land Disposals	Recommended for legislative designation
2b Wolverine Creek/Theodore River	State	Forestry Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Land Disposals	Recommended for legislative designation
2c Forested Lowlands	State	Forestry Wildlife Habitat	Grazing (except on Trail Creek.: see mgmt. guidelines) Public Recreation	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals	Recommended for legislative 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.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Mt. Susitna

MANAGEMENT UNIT 2 — Little Mt. Susitna

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
2d Alexander Creek West Subdivision	State/ Private	Settlement (existing sub- division)	Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Trapper Cabins Remote Cabins	Approximately 100 unsold surveyed lots remain available over-the-counter
2e Lower Sucker Creek South	State	Agriculture (homesteads)	Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Trapper Cabins Remote Cabins	Estimated net disposal area = 800 acres
2f Trail Creek	State	Settlement	Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Trapper Cabins Remote Cabins Closed to grazing along Trail Creek (see mgmt. guidelines)	Estimated net disposal area = 800 acres
2g Olson Creek	Borough	Borough Land Bank - Values: Agriculture, Forestry, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	—	

*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.

guidelines potentially 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 and Wildlife Habitat
- *Forestry
- *Recreation
- Settlement
- *Subsurface
- *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.

Subunits 2a, 2b and 2c (Mt. Susitna-Little Mt. Susitna, Wolverine Creek-Theodore River, Forested Lowlands)

Management Planning and Remote Cabins

It is recommended that a management plan be prepared for subunits 2a, 2b, and 2c. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether or not remote cabins will be permitted in the subunits. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.

Subunit 2b (Wolverine Creek and Theodore River Corridors)

Transportation

Road crossings in the Wolverine Creek and Theodore River corridors should be minimized. All crossings and roads within the corridor should be designed in consultation with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Department of Fish and Game.

Subunits 2c and 2f (Forested Lowlands and Trail Creek)

Grazing

The riparian zone along Trail Creek will be closed to grazing. Grazing is prohibited in order to avoid conflicts with bears, which concentrate seasonally in this zone.

Subunits 2e and 2f (Lower Sucker Creek South and Trail Creek)

Stream Corridors

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit uses such as fishing, camping and other active uses, and to protect water quality and riparian habitat. Consequently, this land should be retained in public ownership. Corridor widths will be set on a case-by-case basis using policies in Chapter 2. The standard minimum buffer width (200' on each side of the river) should be used on Trail Creek and the unnamed creeks that appear on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic maps.