

MANAGEMENT UNIT 2: TOKOSHA

MANAGEMENT INTENT

The Tokosha region is an area of interspersed wetlands, low ridges and lakes occupying the northern part of the subregion and extending south along Kenny Creek. The landscape, the view of the Alaska Range and the access from the Parks Highway and Petersville Road, have attracted scattered settlement throughout much of the region. There is also a considerable amount of hunting and other forms of public recreation. Several waterways are important for riparian habitat and salmon spawning. These include Bunco Creek, Kenny Creek, and the Tokositna River. The Trapper Creek corridor also is a focus for local and regional travel and recreational activities. Under this plan, the Tokosha area will continue to provide a mix of opportunities for private and public recreational use.

All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Management Unit 2 also will remain open to mineral location and available for coal leasing except for the areas to be offered for sale. Sale areas (subunits 2c and 2d) will be closed to mining and leasing prior to their sale.

Existing access into Management Unit 2 includes fly-in access to numerous lakes and use of snowmachines, 3-wheelers and skis on trails throughout the area, in addition to the road access in the southwestern and northeastern corners of the unit. Possible access improvements identified in Chapter 4 include formal identification and recording of the trails, providing parking at major trailheads along the Parks Highway and constructing the platted road in the Kenny Creek Subdivision. For more information, see the Transportation Section of Chapter 4.

This management unit has eight subunits — the Bunco Creek-Tokositna River area (2a), open space lands connecting the Parks Highway and Trapper Creek (2b), lands available for settlement in several blocks throughout the region (2c), existing subdivisions and past remote parcel areas (2d), borough lands south and east of Bunco Lake (“Bunco Bump”) and along the Parks Highway (2e), university selected lands south of Kroto Lake (2f), state lands around Swan Lake (2g), and the upper Trapper Creek area proposed for sale (2h). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses in each subunit.

Subunit 2a (Bunco Creek-Tokositna River) will be retained in public ownership and managed for fish and wildlife habitat, public recreation, water resources and forestry. This state-owned subunit includes large

wetlands, Bunco Lake, a portion of the Tokositna River, and upland areas that are transitional between forested and alpine areas. The Bunco Lake and Bunco Creek areas are important moose winter range and bear habitat. The Tokositna River is used for boating and provides access to a portion of Denali State Park and Denali National Park. Twentyfive Mile Lake is relatively undeveloped compared to most of the lakes in the subregion and offers opportunities for public recreation.

Subunit 2b (Open Space) will be retained in public ownership. These state and borough lands are intended to create an open space system that will provide recreation opportunities for both the general public and local residents. This unit retains an east-west corridor of public lands that connects a number of the lakes and muskegs in the area, and includes one of the area’s major trails. It also retains a north-south corridor along Trapper Creek with a total width of approximately 1/4 mile. Forestry and wildlife habitat are secondary uses in this subunit. Timber harvesting for personal use will be allowed when consistent with the public recreation objectives for the subunit.

In **subunit 2c** (Tokosha land disposals), settlement will be the primary use of these state lands. These lands will provide opportunities for recreational and some year-round settlement with recreational amenities. Parts of the area are relatively close to road access. Within this area it is important that public recreational values be maintained as well. Sections of lakeshores will be retained in public ownership around water bodies with values for public recreation. Publicly owned corridors will be retained along major trails. Major trailheads on the Parks Highway also will be retained in public ownership. Before additional disposals are offered in the Tokosha area (the eastern portion of Management Unit 2 for which primary access is from the Parks Highway), DNR should investigate means of providing adequate parking for existing and future area residents. This shall include, but not be limited to, study of sites on the east side of the Parks Highway in existing gravel pits at miles 126 and 128.

Subunit 2d includes the past Kenny Creek, Safari Lake, Peters Creek South, Denali View and Swan Lake Subdivisions and the Denali View remote parcel area. Settlement is the primary use of this area. Remaining, unsold, surveyed parcels in the subdivisions will be offered for sale, but no new parcels will be designed or sold. A maximum of 290 acres may be offered for sale within the past Denali View remote parcel area. The feasibility of offering this much land will be determined if and when an additional land offering is considered for this site and the project goes through the Land Availability Determination System (LADS).

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Petersville Road

MANAGEMENT UNIT 2 - Tokosha

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 Bunco Creek/ Tokositna River	State	Forestry Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	—	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Remote Cabins	
2b Open space	State/ Borough	Public Recreation	Forestry Wildlife Hab.	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	
2c Tokosha land disposals	State	Settlement	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins	Estimated net disposal area = 2,230 acres

*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.

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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 Peters Creek Creek South/ Kenny Creek/ Safari Lake/ Denali View/ Swan Lake Disposals	State/ Private	Settlement (past remote parcel offerings & existing subdivisions)	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	Estimated net disposal area 290 acres plus approximately 80 unsold surveyed lots remain available over-the-counter
2e Bunco Bump and Parks Hwy.	Borough	Borough Land Bank Values: Settlement, Public Recreation, Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	---	---
2f University Land	University	---	---	---	---	---	---
2g Swan Lake	State	Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	---

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		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
2h Upper Trapper Creek	State	Settlement	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	Estimated net disposal area =1,890 acres

*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 2e (Bunco Bump and Parks Highway) will be included in the borough land bank. Although parcels may be available for disposal in the long term, there are no plans for immediate sale. In the near term, these lands will be managed for public recreation, wildlife habitat, and timber harvest for personal and commercial use. Evaluation to determine the best long term use of the land will consider agricultural, forestry, habitat (including trumpeter swan habitat), recreation and settlement values.

Subunit 2f is university land southeast of Kroto Lake. This plan does not designate uses on university lands. However, it is recommended that lands in T27N R7W S.M. section 8 NW ¼ and SE ¼ and section 17 S ½ NW ¼, S ½ SE ¼ be included in the Kroto Creek corridor proposed for legislative designation. These lands are close to the creek and are an integral part of the corridor. If and when any of the selections in 2f, other than the lands in the Kroto Creek corridor, are relinquished by the university and returned to ADNR management, decisions on appropriate management should be made through an interagency planning process.

Subunit 2g, the state land immediately adjacent to Swan Lake and the wetland north of Swan Lake, is designated for wildlife habitat, water resources and public recreation. This area includes important trumpeter swan habitat. Therefore, the swan guidelines in the fish and wildlife section of Chapter 2 will apply to this subunit. (See the management guidelines section that follows.)

Subunit 2h is state land on both sides of the Trapper Creek corridor proposed for disposal in FY 86 under the fee simple homestead program. These lands offer opportunities for both private and public recreational use of the lakes and streams within and adjacent to subunit 2h. There is likely to be some year-round settlement use of this area because of its proximity to road access. Public recreation values will be protected by retaining major trail corridors, stream corridors, and portions of lakeshores in public ownership.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES:

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this plan. All of the 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 & Wildlife Habitat
- *Forestry
- *Recreation
- *Settlement

- Subsurface
- *Transportation
- Instream Flow
- *Lakeshore Management
- *Public Access
- Remote Cabin Permits
- *Trail Management
- *Wetlands Management
- Resource Management

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

Subunits 2b, 2c and 2h (Open Space, Tokosha Land Disposals and Upper Trapper Creek)

Trail Corridors

Prior to additional sales, a publicly owned corridor of at least 200' wide should be retained along the north-south ridge running through the portion of subunit 2c located just east of Swan Lake. The exact width and location of this corridor should be defined after field work to determine the best way to protect opportunities for public use along this ridge.

Subunits 2b and 2g (Open Space and Swan Lake)

Forestry

In subunits 2b and 2g, only personal use harvesting and/or limited commercial sales for firewood and houselog harvesting will be permitted.

Subunits 2c, 2d & 2e (Tokosha Land, Kenny Creek-Safari Lake-Denali View-Swan Lake, and Bunco Bump East-Parks Highway Disposals)

Stream Corridors

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit 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 unnamed streams that appear on the 1:63,360 scale U.S.G.S. topographic map. The corridor on the Chulitna River should be at least 300' on each side of the river in order to provide opportunities for camping in a natural setting and protect visual quality for river users. The corridor along the stream connecting Life Lake and Swan Lake should be at least 200' wide on each side of the creek. At the

time sales are designed for this area, consideration should be given to establishing a corridor wider than the standard 200' buffer, since this corridor also serves as a skiing and dog mushing route, and provides important habitat, including trumpeter swan habitat.

Subunits 2c and 2e (Tokosha Land Disposals and Parks Highway)

Public Recreation Sites and Parking

Public recreation sites will be identified and retained in public ownership at major trailheads along the Parks Highway (e.g., Mile 126 and Mile 131). Parking areas will be provided at these sites where possible. Camping facilities may be provided at one or more of the sites.

Scenic Highways

The study *Scenic Resources along the Parks Highway* (ADNR, 1981) should be consulted for additional information on scenic resources whenever planning occurs for management activities which are likely to result in significant changes to visual quality along the Parks Highway.

Subunit 2d (Denali View-Swan Lake Disposals)

Trail Corridors

Publicly owned north-south corridors coinciding with existing trails in the Denali View-Swan Lake area should be retained before additional land is sold. The exact routes should be determined after on-site inspection of the area. The most important of these corridors should be at least 200' wide. In areas with poor land capability, the flexibility exists to widen the corridor.

Subunit 2g (Swan Lake)

Trumpeter Swans

All land use activities in or near trumpeter swan nesting habitat, including sales or the granting of leases or permits, should be conducted so as to avoid disturbance to swans or detrimental alteration to the habitat. Leases or permits may include seasonal restrictions on activities to avoid disturbance to swans. Consultation with the ADF&G should be used to identify current or potential nesting habitat and to determine guidelines to follow and activities to avoid.

Construction of transmission lines in trumpeter swan habitat should be avoided. If transmission lines are constructed they should be sited in forested areas and kept close to treetop level, and wires should be strung in one horizontal plane rather than in multiple, vertical stacks. Where wires cross rivers, marshes and

other open spaces, they should be marked in a fashion to try to make them visible to swans.

Subunit 2h (Upper Trapper Creek)

Stream Corridors

The Moose Creek (subunit 4a) and Trapper Creek corridors and the corridor along the main east-west trail to the Parks Highway at approximately mile 126 are intended to be the foundation of a permanent public open space system within this portion of the subregion. Therefore, there will be a 660' (one-eighth mile) staking setback on Trapper Creek (see subunit 2b). Corridor widths on other streams will be set on a case-by-case basis using the policies in Chapter 2.

Lakeshore Management

The larger lakes in this subunit have been staked heavily in the past. Wherever possible (e.g., on the lake in section 34, T27N R6W) at least 50% of the shorelines and adjacent lands should be retained in public ownership.

Trail Management

Site planning for the disposal must designate trail access to and through the sale area. Extensive wetlands make this area, including existing foot trails, susceptible to damage, particularly by off-road vehicles. Trail corridors should be retained in public ownership with a corridor identified at least 50' wide on each side of the centerline (see the Trail Management Section in Chapter 2).

Forestry

Public woodlots should be identified in the site plan for the Upper Trapper Creek disposal.