

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6: ROCKY'S LAKES

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

This is an area of mixed wetlands, low ridges and abundant lakes south of Sawmill Creek between the Parks Highway and Ninemile Creek. It is intended that this varied landscape accommodate a range of public and private uses. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Management Unit 6 also will be open to mineral location and available for coal leasing except for the existing settlement area around Nine Mile Creek (subunit 6a). In addition, land along Ninemile Creek will be closed to mineral location to protect water quality and habitat.

The eastern portion of the area is accessible from the Parks Highway. Some additional road access may develop west of the highway, but the extent of wetland areas will make construction of year-round roads difficult. Numerous fly-in lakes currently provide access to the region so that road access is not critical for private or public recreational use.

There are five subunits in Management Unit 6: areas of lakes and wetlands available for land disposal (6a), borough lands (6b), lands retained for public use (6c), the Susitna River corridor (6d), and private lands just west of the Susitna River (6e). 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.

In **subunit 6a** (Ninemile Creek), settlement is the primary use. This state-owned area will provide opportunities for private ownership on a number of fly-in lakes that are two to five miles from the road system. The past Ninemile Creek remote parcel area is included within this subunit. A small amount of additional land may be made available for sale within the past disposal area.

Subunit 6b will be included in the borough land bank. It may be available for settlement in the long term, but there are no immediate plans for sale. In the interim, these lands will be managed for timber harvest, wildlife habitat, and public recreation.

Subunit 6c (Wetlands) will be retained in state ownership to protect the habitat and water resource values of the unit's lakes and wetlands. This area contains some sites that have been used for trumpeter swan nesting. Forestry and public recreation are secondary uses in this subunit; they will be allowed when consistent with the habitat objectives.

Subunit 6d: Borough lands in the Susitna River corridor form subunit 6d. This subunit will be retained in public ownership and managed for hunting, fishing, and other public recreation activities; forestry; visual quality and use of the river for transportation.

Subunit 6e, on the west bank of the Susitna River consists of primarily private lands which are unaffected by this plan. Any remaining public lands in this subunit within ¼ mile of the Susitna River will be retained in public ownership and managed for hunting, fishing and other public recreation consistent with management of the Susitna River corridor lands in subunit 6d.

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
- *Stream Corridors
- *Trail Management
- *Wetlands Management
- Resource Management

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

Subunit 6a (Ninemile Creek)

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 Queer Creek. Narrower buffers may be applied to the unnamed streams that appear on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic maps.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Petersville Road

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6 — Rocky's Lakes

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
6a Ninemile Creek	State	Settlement (partly past remote parcel offering)	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	Estimated net disposal area = 220 acres
6b Borough Lands	Borough	Borough Land Bank Values: Agriculture, Forestry, Public Recreation, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	—	—
6c Wetlands	State	Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Forestry Public Rec.	Open (Note: swan nesting areas may require special MLUP stipulations)	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Remote Cabins	—
6d Susitna River Corridor	Borough	Forestry Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	—		Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Remote Cabins
6e Private Lands	Private	Primarily private land	—	—	—	—	—

*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.

Mining

Public lands within 200' of Ninemile Creek will be closed to location. The closure is intended to protect water quality and wildlife habitat in one of the most important tributaries to Moose Creek.