

## MANAGEMENT UNIT 7: RABIDEUX CREEK

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### MANAGEMENT INTENT:

This unit contains a mixture of wetlands and uplands that follow the Parks Highway and extend east to the Susitna River. Parts of the area have class II and III soils capable of supporting agriculture. These and other areas are also valuable for settlement, particularly because of their proximity to year-round access. The Susitna River corridor, Rabideux Creek, and the wetland areas are important for recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, the Susitna River serves as a transportation corridor along the eastern edge of the unit. A variety of public and private uses are intended for these lands. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Management Unit 7 also will be open to mineral location and available for coal leasing except for the existing and proposed settlement areas (subunits 7a and 7b).

Much of Management Unit 7 is accessible via the Parks Highway and unpaved spur roads running east from the highway. Additional access will be provided by roads constructed to agricultural and residential developments in subunits 7a and 7b.

Management Unit 7 is divided into six subunits: State and borough lands available for disposal near Sawmill Creek and the Susitna River (7a), Rabideux agricultural sale (7b), the Rabideux Creek corridor and wetlands (7c), the Susitna River corridor (7d), borough lands (7e), and private lands along the Petersville Road and between the Parks Highway and Susitna River (7f). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of this area, and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses in each subunit.

**Subunit 7a:** Settlement will be the primary use in subunit 7a. These are relatively accessible state and borough lands between Sawmill Creek and Petersville Road, and adjacent to the Susitna River corridor.

**Subunit 7b** (Rabideux agricultural sale) will be used primarily for agriculture. Subunit 7b consists of state lands within the Rabideux agricultural disposal that were offered for sale in 1984.

**Subunit 7c** (Rabideux Creek) consists of state and borough-owned wetlands along the Parks Highway. This area will be retained in public ownership to protect scenic quality along the highway, protect water resources, and provide road accessible public recreation opportunities.

**Subunit 7d,** state and borough lands in the Susitna River corridor, 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 7e** will be included in the borough land bank. These lands may be available for settlement or agriculture in the long term but there are no immediate plans for disposal. In the interim, these lands will be managed for timber harvest, wildlife habitat, and public recreation.

**Subunit 7f** consists primarily of private lands near the junction of the Petersville Road and Parks Highway, and between the highway and the Susitna River. Private lands are not affected by this plan. Any remaining public lands in this subunit that are within ¼ mile of the Susitna River will be retained in public ownership and managed for hunting, fishing and other public recreation activities consistent with the management of the Susitna River corridor lands in subunit 7d.

### 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 that follows.

- \*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 7a and 7b (Sawmill Creek-Susitna River Sales and Rabideux Agricultural Project)**

##### **Stream corridors**

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit fishing, camping and active uses, and to protect water quality and

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Petersville RoadMANAGEMENT UNIT 7 — Rabideux Creek

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
7a Sawmill Creek/ Susitna River Sales	State/ Borough	Settlement	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins Grazing (in portions of subunit adjacent to Susitna River)	Estimated net disposal area = 130 acres of state land; 1,110 acres of borough land
7b Rabideux Agricultural Project	Primarily Private land	Agriculture (past agricultural disposals)	—	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	—
7c Rabideux Creek	State/ Borough	Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Open	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins Land Disposals Grazing	—
7d Susitna River Corridor	State/ Borough	Forestry Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	—	Open	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins Land Disposals Grazing	—

\*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 Petersville Road

MANAGEMENT UNIT 7 – Rabideux Creek

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
7e Borough Lands	Borough	Borough Land Bank  Values: Agriculture, Forestry, Public Recreation, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	—	
7f 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.

riparian habitat. Consequently, this land should be retained in public ownership. Corridor widths will be set on a case-by-case basis using the policies in Chapter 2. The standard minimum buffer width (200' on each side of the river) should be used on Rabideux, Sawmill and Trapper Creeks [Note: This is a different stream than the Trapper Creek discussed in Susitna Lowlands Management Unit 14]. Narrower buffers may be retained on unnamed streams that appear on the USGS 1:63,360 scale topographic map.

**Subunits 7a, 7b and 7c (Sawmill Creek-Susitna River Sales, Rabideux Agricultural Project and Rabideux Creek)**

**Protection of Transportation Routes**

Chapter 4 of this plan identifies a system of possible improvements to the regional and local transportation system. One route passes through this subunit. The precise location of this route has not been determined, although a general location is shown on the maps in Chapter 4. Land use authorizations in this unit such as land sales, leases, or other actions should be located so as not to preclude the option to build this road along a feasible and efficient route.

**Subunits 7c, 7d and 7e (Rabideux Creek, Susitna River Corridor, Borough lands)**

**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.