

MANAGEMENT UNIT 12 – KASHWITNA STATE FOREST

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This large unit is in state ownership except for 8,300 acres of borough land and encompasses portions of the Kashwitna and the North Fork of the Kashwitna River, Sheep Creek, and the South Fork of Montana Creek. This area has high values for forestry, hunting, fishing, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. This unit is among the most valuable in the planning area for commercial forest management, encompassing high or moderate capability stands of cottonwood or white spruce. The area provides year-round moose habitat and also contains concentrations of brown bear on the North Fork of the Kashwitna River. Both rivers support anadromous fish and a great deal of sport fishing. The management unit is recommended for legislative designation as a state forest to protect these public values. The borough land is included in the legislative designation but the borough will retain management authority over its lands. Public use cabins are encouraged in this area. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. This unit will remain open to mineral location and be available for coal leasing.

The area has been divided into three subunits: the bulk of the area excluding the river corridors and borough selected land (12a), Sheep Creek, the North Fork of the Kashwitna and Kashwitna River corridors (12b), and the 8,300 acres of borough land (12c). 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.

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 the management unit; however, those that are most likely to be applicable in this unit 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.

Subunits 12a & 12b (Forest Area & River Corridors)

Grazing

Portions of these subunits are closed to grazing to protect fish and wildlife values associated with the river corridors. The portions that are closed are: one mile either side of the South Fork of Montana Creek and those portions of subunit 12b which encompass the Kashwitna and the North Fork of the Kashwitna Rivers.

Management Planning and Remote Cabins

A management plan should be prepared for subunits 12a and 12b. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether remote cabins will be a permitted use in these subunits. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.

Subunit 12a (Forest Area)

Trails Access

Trails that provide access through this subunit to more remote lands to the east should be maintained and improved during forestry operations.

Subunit 12b (River Corridors)

Forestry

The major objective within the river corridors is to protect fish and wildlife and recreation values. Timber management and harvest will be an allowed use where it does not conflict with or where it enhances these values.

Recreation

Public use cabins are an appropriate use in this area.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION South Parks Highway

MANAGEMENT UNIT 12 – Kashwitna State Forest

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 State Forest Area	State	Forestry Wildlife Habitat	Public Rec.	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Portions closed to grazing—see guidelines	Recommended for legislative designation
12b River Corridors	State	Forestry Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Portions closed to grazing—see guidelines	Recommended for legislative designation
12c Borough Forest Area	Borough	Forestry Wildlife Habitat	Public Rec.	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals	

*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.