

## MANAGEMENT UNIT 13 – CASWELL CREEK

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### MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit, which is approximately two miles east of the Parks Highway, extends from near Goose Creek south to near Little Willow Creek and includes a large amount of private land. The area has high values for a variety of uses — recreation, fish and wildlife, forestry, settlement, and agriculture. It will be managed to allow for private ownership through agricultural homesteads while retaining important recreation and fish and wildlife areas in public ownership. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. The majority of this unit will be closed to mineral location and will not be available for coal leasing due to a proposed disposal.

The management unit has been divided into two subunits: most of the private land in the management unit, including areas surrounding Sheep Creek, Caswell Lake and portions of Caswell Creek (13a), and a block of land in the eastern portion of the management unit proposed for agricultural homesteads (13b). 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 13a** is almost entirely in private or Native ownership. Recommended uses for the area include agriculture, personal use forestry, recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. There are approximately 320 acres of state land in the southwest part of the subunit which will be retained in public ownership and managed for fish and wildlife habitat and recreation.

**Subunit 13b** is approximately 6,080 acres of state land between Caswell Lake and the North Fork of the Kashwitna River which is proposed for agricultural homesteads. There are 320 acres of borough land in the northwest portion of this unit which will be designated land bank.

### 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.

#### **Subunit 13a (Caswell Creek)**

##### **Mining**

Public lands within 300' of Sheep Creek will be closed to mineral entry. The closure is intended to protect the water quality and fish and wildlife habitat of the Sheep Creek corridor.

#### **Subunit 13b (North Fork Kashwitna Agricultural Area)**

##### **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 most unnamed streams that appear on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic map. A corridor of 300' on both sides of Caswell Creek should be retained in public ownership.

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION South Parks Highway

MANAGEMENT UNIT 13 — Caswell 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		
13a Caswell Lake	Private/ Native	Primarily Private Ownership— Recommended Uses: Agriculture, Forestry (personal use), Public Recreation, Wildlife Habitat		Any public land along Sheep Creek is closed (see mgmt. guidelines)	---	---	
13b North Fork Kashwitna Ag. Area	State	Agriculture (homesteads)	Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	Estimated net disposal area =3,620 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.