

MANAGEMENT UNIT 9 – TALKEETNA

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit extends from the Susitna River east to Bartlett Hills and from Talkeetna south to approximately five miles north of the junction of the Parks Highway and the Talkeetna Spur Road. This unit includes a large block of mostly Native land in the eastern half of the unit, mixed ownership in the area south of Talkeetna along portions of the Talkeetna Spur Road, and one isolated parcel of public land. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Public lands in this unit also will remain open to mineral location and be available for coal leasing.

This management unit has been divided into four subunits: the borough and private land in the west along the Susitna River and the Talkeetna Road (9a), mostly Native land in the eastern portion of the management unit (9b), public land along Birch Slough (9c), and primarily private land surrounding the community of Talkeetna (9d). 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 9a encompasses mostly private land, but includes approximately 2,300 acres of borough land along the Talkeetna Road up to about three miles south of Talkeetna. Borough land in this subunit has values for agriculture, settlement, forestry, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation. This land will be designated land bank. An important goal for the area is to maintain and improve public access to lakes, rivers and other amenities. Recreation and habitat values should be protected by following the guidelines for lakeshores and rivers, by retaining at least 50% of the Talkeetna Lakes area in public ownership, and possibly by developing additional recreation facilities in the area. It is likely that the northern block of borough land around Talkeetna Lakes will be classified public recreation by the borough.

Subunit 9b, in the eastern portion of the management unit, is primarily Native land. Recommended uses for this area include forestry, recreation, settlement and fish and wildlife habitat.

Subunit 9c is public land between the Talkeetna Road and the Susitna River. It will be retained in public ownership for its habitat and recreation values. The land between the Susitna River and Birch Creek Slough is in borough ownership. It will be designated for long term retention in public ownership. This area has exceptional fish and wildlife and recreation values — Birch Creek and Birch Creek Slough are anadromous

fish streams, and the area is important winter moose habitat.

Subunit 9d is approximately 3,300 acres of land around the community of Talkeetna which are primarily in private ownership but which include some state and borough land. The state land in the area is classified "reserved use" for the Talkeetna airfield. Recommended uses for the remainder of the subunit are recreation and limited settlement. It is also recommended that the existing boat launch and associated facilities on state land be upgraded.

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 referenced below by subunit.

Subunit 9a (Talkeetna Spur Road)

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 if land in this subunit is conveyed to private 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 Question Creek and Birch Creek. A 400' corridor on the east side of the Susitna River should be retained in public ownership.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION South Parks HighwayMANAGEMENT UNIT 9 – Talkeetna

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
9a Talkeetna Spur Road	Borough/ Private	Borough Land Bank Values: Agriculture, Forestry, Public Recreation, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	---	
9b Birch Creek	Native	Primarily Private Ownership—Recommended Uses: Forestry, Public Recreation, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat		---	---	---	
9c Birch Slough	State/ Borough	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Open	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins Land Disposals Grazing	
9d Talkeetna	Private/ Borough/ State	Primarily Private Ownership—Recommended Uses: Community Facilities (airport, parking facilities), Limited Settlement, Public Recreation		---	---	---	

*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.

Recreation and Public Access

Access or public use sites along the Talkeetna Spur Road should be retained in public ownership.

Alaska Range View Site

There is a small hill located just south of Talkeetna off the Talkeetna Spur Road that provides one of the only road-accessible views of the Alaska Range in the South Parks Highway Subregion. This site is used in part as an FAA electronics and communications facility. The state, working with the FAA, should utilize the existing road to develop a parking and viewing area. The view from this site is truly spectacular and would please both tourists and local people.

Subunits 9b and 9d (Birch Creek and Talkeetna)

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 these subunits. 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 these units 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.

Subunit 9c (Birch Slough)

Forestry

Timber cutting may be allowed in this subunit on a site by site basis to enhance habitat values.

Subunit 9d (Talkeetna)

Community Facilities

State or borough land in the community of Talkeetna should be reserved as a parking area for those people who live outside of Talkeetna along the railroad.