

## MANAGEMENT UNIT 6 – KAHILTNA RIVER

### MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit is dominated by the Kahiltna River and its floodplains. Two tributaries, Wetbutt Creek and Treasure Creek, also are included in this unit. Much of this area contains concentrations of trumpeter swan nesting sites. The majority of this area will be retained in public ownership to protect the habitat and water resources. One area between Lake Creek and Treasure Creek is recommended for recreational settlement. This management unit will remain open to mineral location and available for mineral leasing except for Subunit 6b, which will be closed prior to offering it for sale. All public lands in Management Unit 6 are available for oil & gas leasing.

Access into this unit is provided by the winter trail that connects Petersville Road to the lower Cache Creek mining area as shown on the USGS topographic maps, and via floatplanes to Shovel Lake located just to the west of this unit. The trail to the Cache Creek area is recommended for future consideration for upgrading to improve access to the Sunflower Basin Subregion. (For additional information, see the Transportation section of Chapter 4.)

The area has been divided into three subunits. Wetlands along the Kahiltna River are subunit 6a. Subunit 6b is a settlement area between Lake Creek and Treasure Creek. The Kahiltna floodplain with concentrations of trumpeter swan nesting sites is 6c. See the map at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses.

**Subunit 6a** (Kahiltna West) is a wetland area along the Kahiltna River that is under state selection. It will be retained in public ownership and managed to protect the wetlands and lowland habitat, including important moose winter range.

**Subunit 6b** will be designated for recreational and seasonal settlement use. It consists of a strip of land approximately 2 to 3 miles wide on the west side of Treasure Creek.

**Subunit 6c** encompasses the Kahiltna floodplain and contains one of the largest concentrations of trumpeter swan nesting sites in the study area. Wildlife habitat and water resources are the primary designations in 6c. Protection of swan nesting areas is the major objective for this subunit. It will be proposed for legislative or administrative designation in order to protect swan habitat. Subunit 6c also provides important moose winter range.

### 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 & 6b (Kahiltna West & Treasure 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 6a, 6b, and 6c (Kahiltna West, Treasure Creek, and Kahiltna River)**

##### **Grazing**

Lands within these management units will be closed to grazing because of their importance as moose winter range.

##### **Subunit 6b (Settlement Area)**

##### **Stream Corridors**

The management intent for land adjacent to the

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Sunflower BasinMANAGEMENT UNIT 6 – Kahiltna River

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 Kahiltna West	State/ State Selected	Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Remote Cabins Land Disposals	---
6b Treasure Creek	State/ State Selected	Settlement	Forestry Wildlife Habitat	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Grazing	Estimated net disposal area = 1,300 acres
6c Kahiltna River	State/ State Selected	Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Public Rec. Forestry	Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Land Disposals	Recommended for legislative or administrative designation

\*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.

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 Shovel Creek and the unnamed streams that appear on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic maps.

### **Subunit 6c (Kahiltna River)**

#### **Swan Habitat**

This subunit is recommended for legislative or administrative designation to protect swans. Until designation takes place, the following guidelines are intended to provide sufficient protection and will be applied by the Department.

- 1. Restricted Activities.** Activities that potentially will damage swan nesting habitat or cause visual or noise disturbance should be prohibited from April 1 through August 31 within at least one-quarter mile of current or potential swan nesting or staging ponds, marshes or lakes. Particular activities may be restricted in a wider area if their potential level of damage or disturbance warrants doing so. Activities that may be restricted include, but are not limited to, use of off-road vehicles, airplanes and motorboats. However, some traditional access routes and sites will be designated that will remain open to motorized access. [Note: This guideline will result in the restriction of the activities described above on most ponds, marshes and lakes other than those that are identified as traditional access points.]
- 2. Off-road vehicles.** At a minimum, permits should not be issued for those types of off-road vehicle use requiring permits in the areas and during the period described in 1. above.
- 3. Aircraft.** At a minimum, landing of aircraft should be prohibited in the areas and during the period described in 1. above except at designated access sites.

#### **Management Plans and Remote Cabins**

A management plan should be prepared for Subunit 6c. The management plan will determine, among other things whether or not remote cabins will be permitted in this subunit. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.