

## MANAGEMENT UNIT 7 – PETERS HILLS

### MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit is comprised of the Peters Hills, Dutch Hills, Little Peters Hills and the area between the hills and the Kahiltna River floodplain. The management intent of this unit is to retain the area in public ownership emphasizing the existing mining, wildlife habitat and recreation values. This unit's large moose population and accessibility via the Petersville Road make it one of the most heavily used units in this subregion for hunting and fishing. Panoramic views of the Alaska Range also make the Peters Hills a popular hiking and skiing destination.

Nearly all of this area will be retained in public ownership and managed for wildlife habitat, public recreation and mining. The southeastern portion of this unit is proposed for legislative designation as a multiple use area along with the adjacent lands proposed for a similar designation in the Petersville Road Subregion to the east. The limited timber values in this area will be managed to enhance habitat values and recreational opportunities as well as to provide timber for personal use. Management Unit 7 is open to mineral location and available for coal and oil and gas leasing.

Numerous trails originate on the Petersville Road east of this unit and then honeycomb this area, providing access for uses such as fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and berry picking. The trail that connects Petersville Road to the lower Cache Creek mining area crosses this management unit. It is recommended for future consideration for upgrading to improve access into the Sunflower Basin Subregion. (For additional information, see Chapter 4.)

This unit is divided into two subunits: the Dutch Hills-Cache Creek area in the northern half of the management unit (7a), and the southern half including Peters Hills and Little Peters Hills (7b). 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 7a** comprises the Dutch Hills, the northwest side of the Peters Hills, and the upper reaches of Cache Creek and Peters Creek. Petersville Road extends into this area, and numerous airstrips and seasonal trails provide additional access. Most of this subunit is either state owned or state selected. However, there are approximately 4,200 acres of federal land along Petersville Road from Petersville to Cottonwood Creek. Within the federally-owned area there are strips of federal mining claims along Dutch Creek, Cache

Creek, Peters Creek, and a number of their major tributaries. Some of these claims have been transferred to private ownership under the federal claim laws, and others likely will receive private patents in the future. The surface estate on remaining public land in Subunit 7a will be retained in public ownership. Because of this area's high value for moose habitat and hunting, wildlife habitat and public recreation are primary designations. In recognition of the large amount of ongoing mining, minerals also is a primary designation.

**Subunit 7b** (Peters Hills) will be retained in public ownership and managed for wildlife habitat, especially moose range; hunting and other types of public recreation; and mining. The public lands in 7b merit additional protection and will be proposed for legislative designation as a multiple use area along with the lands in Subunits 1a and 1b in the Petersville Road Subregion. Of particular concern are the anadromous fish streams that are major tributaries to Peters Creek (Black, Sand, South Fork Peters, String, Big, Middle, and Martin creeks and Lunch Gulch). Moose range is also extremely important, since this area receives a great deal of hunting pressure. Other public recreation opportunities in the Peters Hills, including hiking and skiing, are among the major values of this area. Finally, forestry is one of the primary uses in 7b. Timber resources offer a little potential for commercial use and have some value for personal use as well. Remote cabins may be an allowed use in Subunit 7b, but cabin permits will be issued only when guidelines for siting and use of remote cabins have been adopted in a management plan for this area.

### 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 Permit
- \*Stream Corridors
- \*Trail Management

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Sunflower Basin

MANAGEMENT UNIT 7 - Peters Hills

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 Dutch Hills/ Cache Creek	State/ State Selected/ Federal/ Private	Minerals Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	—	Open	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins Land Disposals	—
7b Peters Hills	State/ State Selected	Forestry Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	—	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals	Recommended for legislative 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.

Wetlands Management  
Resource Management

Management guidelines that apply to this management unit only are presented below.

**Subunits 7a and 7b (Dutch Hills-Cache Creek and Peters Hills)**

**Subsurface Management**

Miners holding claims adjacent to the Petersville Road system (defined as the road plus one mile on either side) shall be notified by receipt of their miscellaneous land use permits that the road system is a public right-of-way which is to remain open to the public.

Land within these subunits will not be made available for coal leasing until such time as a market can be demonstrated for this low-grade coal. If a market can be demonstrated, every precaution should be taken during development to protect the high wildlife and recreation values.

**Grazing**

Those portions of these subunits within the following area will be closed to grazing. The closure is intended to avoid conflicts between livestock and the moose that depend on this area for winter range.

- T25N R8W S.M.
- T25N R9W S.M.
- T26N R8W S.M.
- T26N R9W S.M.
- T26N R10W S.M.
- T27N R9W S.M., sections 3-10 and sections 15-36
- T27N R10W S.M.
- T28N R9W S.M., S1/2
- T28N R10W S.M.
- T29N R10W S.M.

**Subunit 7b (Peters Hills)**

**Management Plans/Remote Cabins**

A management plan should be prepared for Subunit 7b in conjunction with management planning for Petersville Road Subunits 1a and 1b. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether remote cabins will be permitted in Subunit 7b. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.

**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.