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## 2. MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES BY MANAGEMENT UNIT

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### MANAGEMENT UNIT 1: UPPER YENTNA

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#### MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 1 is a remote area consisting of the floodplain of the Yentna River, adjacent wetlands and, in the northwestern part of the unit, upland terraces. The lowlands in this unit contain a large area of swan nesting habitat. The Yentna River is the main transportation route through the unit. The Yentna, Donkey Creek Slough, and Gagnan Creek also provide access for moose hunting and fishing. This management unit is virtually all state owned or state selected. These lands will be retained in public ownership to protect wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat, including swan nesting areas and moose winter range, and to provide for public recreation. Management Unit 1 will remain open to mineral location and available for coal leasing.

There are two subunits within Management Unit 1: the swan nesting area in the northwest half of the region (1b), and the lowlands and Yentna River floodplain that make up the southeast half of the area (1a). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses for each subunit.

**Subunit 1a** (Yentna Valley) will be retained in public ownership and managed for fish and wildlife habitat; water resources; and hunting, fishing and boating on the Yentna River and Donkey Creek slough.

**Subunit 1b** (Swan Habitat) will be retained in public ownership and proposed for legislative or administrative designation to protect swan nesting areas, salmon spawning streams, moose winter range, and public recreation opportunities.

#### 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 1a and 1b (Yentna Valley and Swan Habitat)**

##### **Grazing**

The lands within this area will be closed to grazing because of their importance as moose winter range.

##### **Subunit 1b (Swan Habitat)**

##### **Swan Nesting 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 have been identified as traditional access points.]

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Susitna Lowlands

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 — Upper Yentna

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
1a Yentna Valley	State	Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Forestry Public Rec.	Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Remote Cabins Land Disposals	—
1b Swan Habitat	State/ State Selected	Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Forestry Public Rec.	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.

2. 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 unless at designated access sites.

### **Management Planning and Remote Cabins**

A management plan should be prepared for subunit 1b. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether remote cabins will be a permitted use in this subunit. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.