

5d. Talachulitna Creek Subunit

Background

MILES OF RIVER/RIVER CHARACTERISTICS, TALACHULITNA CREEK, RM 0 to RM 17

This subunit extends from the confluence of Talachulitna Creek and the Talachulitna River, up Talachulitna Creek to a point just below Judd Lake. Talachulitna Creek is clear and shallow, and about 20 to 30 feet wide. The corridor contains about 60 percent contiguous wetlands and 5 percent non-contiguous wetlands.

LAND OWNERSHIP

State	9,440	acres
1 Private Parcel	5	acres
Total	9,445	acres

WILDLIFE

Three trumpeter swan nests have been identified in ponds near RM 7, RM 8.5, and RM 14. Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

CAMPING

The following undeveloped campsites are spread out throughout the area:

Primary campsites	0
Secondary campsites	60
Marginal campsites	20

Management Intent

Class I. Because of its remote setting, this subunit receives only moderate use by floaters who start their trips at Judd Lake and by bank fishermen who walk downstream from Judd Lake. This subunit features high quality floating, fishing, and camping opportunities. The area is remote, undeveloped, and has high wilderness and wildlife values. Sweepers and other hazards present risk values associated with floating the river. The river contains important spawning habitat. The

DEVELOPMENT

There is an abandoned caterpillar on the south bank of the river at RM 7.0. This vehicle was being transported from upper Saturday or Friday Creek to upper Coal Creek when it broke down and was abandoned. There is one cabin on private land in this subunit on the north bank of the Creek at RM 6.8.

ACCESS

Primitive trails have developed from the Silver Tip Lodge to points downstream. The lodge has also cut a loop trail on the north side of the river. There is evidence of heavy off-road vehicle use between the cabin at RM 6.8 and the cabins on the east side of Trinity Lakes. Off-road vehicle trails between RM 6 and RM 9 also parallel the river on the north side. Winter access to Trinity Lakes and Judd Lake is limited to snowmachines. Winter use is low because Beluga Mountain is a major obstacle to recreation travel from Alexander Creek. Some winter trapping and spring bear hunting occurs in the area.

HERITAGE RESOURCES

The heritage site potential is high in this subunit.

subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, wilderness, fish, and wildlife qualities of the area. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management attention. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. Social interaction levels will also be managed for low levels to protect the quality of users' experiences. There are seasonal motorized restrictions in this unit to provide a non-motorized experience.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. See management guidelines for the Talachulitna River Management Unit described earlier in this section.

Standards for Interaction Impacts. See Subunit 5b, Talachulitna River Canyon.

Voluntary Trip Scheduling Program. See Subunit 5b, Talachulitna River Canyon.

Public Use Sites

See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

- PU 5d.1 Trinity Creek Junction (RM 4.5). This site is popular for fishing and camping.
- PU 5d.2 Unnamed Campsite (RM 14). This site is frequently used for fishing and camping.
- PU 5d.3 Unnamed site (RM 16.5). This site is a popular fishing area used by clients who walk down from the lodge on Judd Lake.

5e. Judd Lake Subunit

Background

MILES OF RIVER/RIVER CHARACTERISTICS, Talachulitna Creek RM 17 to RM 22

This subunit includes Judd and Talachulitna lakes. Less than 10 percent of the area around the lakes is contiguous wetland.

LAND OWNERSHIP

State	2,376 acres
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	900 acres
4 Private Parcels	19 acres
Total	3,295 acres

FISHERIES

The Talachulitna Creek inlet and outlet on Judd Lake are popular fishing areas.

WILDLIFE

Neither bald eagle nor trumpeter swan nests have been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

CAMPING

The most heavily used campsite is at the inlet to Judd Lake.

DEVELOPMENT

There are four cabins on the lake and the remnants of a burned cabin. Silvertip Lodge has a large dock and equipment storage shed at the creek outlet.

ACCESS

Judd Lake is accessible in summer only by floatplane. The lake is the primary put-in for float trips down the river. Silvertip Lodge has brushed