

5f. Upper Talachulitna River Subunit

Background

MILES OF RIVER/RIVER CHARACTERISTICS, RM 32.5 to RM 64.5

The river in this subunit is shallow, meandering, and less than 20 feet wide. There are several beaver dams across the main channel. There is a narrow, steep gorge with a waterfall and RM 38. The terrain is flat to rolling except at its headwaters on the shoulder of Beluga Mountain. Thirty to 50 percent of the area is contiguous wetland.

LAND OWNERSHIP

State	17,631 acres
Total	17,631 acres

WILDLIFE

Two trumpeter swan nests have been identified in this subunit, near RM 43 and RM 45. Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

CAMPING

The use of this subunit is limited with little access to the area. Moose hunters are known to camp at Wolf Lakes.

DEVELOPMENT

There are at least three unauthorized cabins on the upper Talachulitna River. These are located at approximately RM 36, RM 47, and RM 56. They are primarily used in winter for trapping.

ACCESS

There are off-road vehicle trails between RM 46 and RM 54, on the east and south sides of the river. The largest of the Wolf Lakes, at the headwaters of the river, is used by floatplanes during hunting season. This subunit is used for snowmachining by a local trapper and residents along the Talachulitna River. To the east is Beluga Mountain which prevents access from Alexander Creek.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit receives minimal summer public use because of its distance from the railbelt and has minimal boat or plane access. It is used infrequently by airplane-based hunters in fall and powerboat-based hunters during periods of high

water. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Little active management is expected in this subunit. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Unauthorized Cabins. There are three known unauthorized cabins along the river in this subunit. They are in a low use area, receive little use

even in winter, and do not present any known conflicts. Until these cabins present significant conflicts as identified in Chapter 2 guidelines on *Unauthorized Cabins*, their removal is a low priority.

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 5f.1 Wolf Lakes (RM 64).** There are only a few campsites adjacent to the lakes. These are used during the moose hunting season.