

6d. Sucker Creek Subunit

Background

MILES OF RIVER/RIVER CHARACTERISTICS, Sucker Creek, RM 0.0 to RM 5.5

Sucker Creek is a clear-running tributary about 20 feet wide near the mouth. The subunit contains a few contiguous wetlands, less than 20 percent of the area.

LAND STATUS

There are 1,046 acres of state land.

WILDLIFE

A bald eagle nest is situated near Sucker Creek (RM 5.5). Active trumpeter swan nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

FISHERIES

The mouth of Sucker Creek (just outside the subunit) is a popular fishing and camping area for boaters on Alexander Creek. The creek is also fished by floaters originating on Trail or Sucker lakes.

CAMPING

Three marginal campsites exist near the mouth of Sucker Creek (in adjacent subunits).

ACCESS

There is a foot trail from Trail Lake to Sucker Creek. This trail is used by floaters who carry their gear from the floatplane drop-off on Trail Lake to Sucker Creek. The trail is through wetlands, making it difficult to carry heavy gear including rafts. There is only limited winter use of this subunit. Small wheel planes land on a gravel bar at RM 20.6, and fishermen walk down to the mouth.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit is used primarily by powerboaters coming upriver, floaters descending Alexander and Sucker creeks and users who access the area by wheelplane. The subunit provides high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities. In winter the subunit receives some snowmachine use. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation

opportunities, a primitive setting, and fish and wildlife habitat. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be focus of management. Maintaining the public use site at the mouth of Sucker Creek will be a high priority. The subunit will be managed to provide both motorized and non-motorized opportunities. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. None.

Iditarod Race Trail. The Iditarod Race Trail passes through this subunit. See Chapter 2, *Trails, Iditarod Race Trail*.

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 6d.1 Sucker Creek Junction (RM 2.0). The area along both Alexander and Sucker creeks within one-quarter mile of the confluence is frequently used for fishing and camping.