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Central Region (C)

General

The Central Region encompasses an area of more than 960,000 acres, of which approximately 700,000 acres are state-owned or state-selected. The region's western boundary is shared with the western border of the planning area and is adjacent to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's border. The northern and eastern boundary of the Central Region borders the Glenn Highway and Richardson Highway branches of the Glenn/Richardson Region respectively. The region's southern boundary is defined by the Chugach Mountains Region.

There are numerous lakes, creeks, and rivers in this region. The two largest lakes are Tazlina Lake and Klutina Lake. Other smaller lakes include Kaina Lake, Saint Anne Lake, Tonsina Lake, and Hudson Lake. Creeks and rivers include Bottley Creek, Tokiana Creek, Kaina Creek, Saint Anne Creek, Nickel Creek, Manker Creek, Willow Creek, Squirrel Creek, Dust Creek, and Tazlina River, Tonsina River, Mahlo River, Klutina River, Hallet River, and Nelchina River. Most of the region is remote with limited access. In the summer all-terrain vehicles are used on local trails. Boats and fixed-winged aircraft are used to access lakes and rivers. In the winter snowmachines are used for travel on frozen riverbeds, lakes, and tundra. There are RS 2477 trails in the region, but their physical existence or condition cannot be confirmed.

Amount and Distribution of State Land

General state lands are public domain lands that are managed consistent with Title 38 of the Alaska Statutes and Title 11 of the Alaska Administrative Code. Consistent with the Constitution of the State of Alaska these lands are managed for multiple use consistent with the public interest. Within this region the state of Alaska has approximately 630,862 acres of patented or tentatively approved land and 71,740 acres of selected land. State-owned land within the region is localized along the major lakes of the region, namely Klutina and Tazlina Lake. State-selected land is primarily located in the northeast corner of the region. The plan also applies to 72,217 acres of state-owned shorelands within this region. There are no tidelands in the region.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to and within the Central Region is limited. Current access includes motorized vehicles, ORV/ATVs, snowmachines, and watercraft. Despite the proximity of the region to the Glenn and Richardson Highways, there are few established roads that provide access to

- 1 the region. The Klutina Lake Road is a 17(b) easement that runs approximately 23 miles
- 2 along the Klutina River from the community of Copper Center to the banks of Klutina River. 3 The Klutina Lake Road is often muddy and requires vehicles with high clearance and/or
- 4 4-wheel drive. Traversal via floatplane and watercraft is common, with both Tazlina and
- 5 Klutina Lakes supporting air and boat traffic.

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Numerous RS 2477 routes provide overland access throughout the region. See Table 3-8 for a list of RS 2477 trails within the region. Winter travel within the region can be easier than in summer as frozen creeks and rivers offer easy access via snowmachine, dog team, snowshoes, cross-country skis, and ski-equipped aircraft.

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Considerable forestry resources and opportunities exist within the region, especially near the northern and eastern boundaries. Species present with pole timber harvest potential include Black and White Spruce, Aspen, Balsam Poplar, and Birch. Those forestry resources present may be limited by access.

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Recreation occurs at different levels and densities throughout the region; however, some areas are more heavily utilized by the public due to accessibility. People recreate on the region's rivers and lakes throughout the year, especially Klutina, Tazlina, and Twin Lakes. Current uses include hunting, sportfishing, backpacking, sightseeing, pack trips, mountaineering, and river running. The numerous trails within the region provide opportunities for day and extended recreational trips. All Generally Allowed Uses under 11 AAC 96.020 are allowed within the region.

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Existing and planned areas of settlement are generally located on or near the major lakes within the region, especially Klutina, Tazlina, and Twin Lakes. Limited access to developable land restricts the kinds of feasible land development. Those lands available within the region are generally available for remote recreational cabin staking.

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30 Extensive areas of habitat exist within this region. Brown bear frequent the area and 31 concentrate during the springtime along the banks of the Tazlina and Klutina Rivers. 32 Caribou activity is limited to calving and wintering habitats and to those portions of the 33 region closest to the Glenn Highway. Dall sheep and mountain goat are commonly found 34 throughout the mountainous portions of the region, concentrated around the peaks of the 35 Chugach Mountain Range. Moose habitats are varied within the region, with rutting and 36 wintering habitat occurring primarily around the banks of Tazlina and Klutina lakes and 37 along Manker Creek, Mahlo River, Chultikana Creek, and Cache Creek. Conversely, moose 38 calving habitat is found primarily around Tonsina River and north of Sucker Lake. 39 Trumpeter swan also frequent the region, with breeding territory concentrated around the 40 northern portions of the Tazlina River and Tazlina Lake and along the northeast portion of the region. Trumpeter swan can also be found summering along Tazlina Lake, Kaina and

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- 42 St. Anne Lake, and along the valleys formed around the Klutina River and Manker Creek.
- 43 Numerous rivers and streams throughout the region are known to be anadromous, and
- 44 include the Klutina, Tazlina, and Mahlo Rivers as well as Kaina, Saint Anne, Manker,
- 45 Durham, and Nickle Creeks.

A variety of fish populations are found throughout the region. Klutina Lake and its associated waterbodies house Dolly Varden and Sockeye salmon, while the Tazlina watershed contains Dolly Varden, Sockeye salmon, various trout, arctic grayling, burbot, slimy sculpin, and various whitefish species. Chinook salmon notably populate Kaina Lake and its contributing waterways.

Management Planning Constraints

There is one state land use plan that affects this region: the 1986 Copper River Basin Area Plan, which is being revised with this update. Many of the land uses recommended in the 1986 Copper River Basin Area Plan are still applicable.

Management Summary

The overall management intent for this region emphasizes the development of conveyable land offerings while consolidating the boundaries of areas reserved for forestry, habitat, and recreation when compared to the 1986 Copper River Basin Area Plan. This revision maintains the balance of land that should be available for settlement and the preservation of habitat, recreation, and other values on other lands. Some land throughout this unit will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat, forestry, and dispersed recreation. The focus of management is the continuation of the present patterns of land development, multiple and sustained yield of state land resources, and the protection of key habitats and wildlife populations. The entire region, except for those areas specifically affected by mineral closing orders such as select rivers and streams, is open to mineral entry, and mining is recognized as an allowed use.

The areas of state land that are designated Settlement are available for conveyance out of state ownership and should experience some level of use and development during the planning period. The amount of use will depend on cost, demand levels, and the availability of similar resources at lower cost. The use of areas designated Settlement will, similarly, be affected by access, the proximity of infrastructure, and the level of demand for such types of land. The development of these areas will also be a function of the availability of similar types of land that are better situated and are closer to infrastructure. Such settlement activity that does occur on state land is likely to be focused on areas with good access, the presence of suitable soils and terrain, and the presence of attractive features such as access to streams and lakes or that have excellent views, especially those areas immediately adjacent to the Tazlina and Klutina Lakes.

The remaining lands in this region are designated Habitat, Public Recreation-Dispersed, Forestry, and Resource Management, and are to be managed for their habitat, wildlife, and forestry values, or are to be managed for multiple uses. Areas designated Habitat are to be managed to protect their important wildlife and habitat resources. Areas designated Habitat are to be retained by the state and generally coincide with the principal hydrologic features

within the region and with the distribution of moose and caribou rutting, wintering and calving areas in those parts of the region. Areas designated Public Recreation-Dispersed are important for recreation and tend to coincide with areas important for habitat. Areas designated Public Recreation-Dispersed are to be retained by the state. Areas designated Forestry are to be retained by the state and contain important forestry values for potential timber harvest and sale. These areas tend to coincide with areas of habitat values and potential use of these areas are contingent upon access to, cost of, and demand for merchantable timber resources. Areas designated Resource Management do not have a dominant resource value and are considered multiple use. Nonetheless, these areas are usually remote (in comparison to the other units in the region), lack access, and often contain terrain and soils that are not conducive to development. These areas are to be retained in state ownership with only limited public or utility improvements considered appropriate. Other forms of development may be appropriate if in the best interest of the state, but widespread development of areas designated Resource Management is not intended.

State land will be managed consistent with its designation(s); as specifically articulated through management intent found in the Resource Allocation Table in Chapter 3 and the applicable goals and management guidelines found in Chapter 2. Some lands have one designation while other lands are co-designated for a variety of uses. Table 3-7 provides a quick reference of the designations and co-designations used in this region, and the acreages of designation(s).

Table 3-7: Unit Designations and Acreages - Central Region

Designation or Co-Designations	Acreage
Forestry	69,923
Forestry, Habitat	153,405
Public Recreation-Dispersed	24,220
Resource Management	399,499
Settlement	109,681

Resource Allocation Table - Central Region (C)

Unit #	Unit # Designation(s) Acres Map(s		Map(s)	Management Intent	Resources and Uses		
C-1	C-1 Se		3-4	Unit is to be managed for Remote Settlement consistent with prior land offerings. New development must ensure public access, recreational opportunities, and sensitive habitats are not compromised. Lots identified through the sale process as open space, buffers, or access routes should be retained.	This unit contains several scenic rivers and lakes, most prominently the glacier fed Tazlina lake. The area includes various terrains such as lowland floodplains near the highway towards the north and steep slopes towards the south. The regions surrounding Twin Lakes and Heavenly Ridge are popular hiking and hunting destinations.		
			Staking areas or land offerings shall exclude wetland areas and a riparian buffer of at least 100' landward from the ordinary high-water line shall be maintained along Tazlina Lake. Development along Tazlina Lake should include a public use site of at least six contiguous acres reserved for public access. Buffers along anadromous lakes and rivers shall conform to the management guidelines in the provided Shorelands and Stream Corridors section in Chapter 2.	Brown bears are found throughout the unit, with spring concentrations around lake shores. Caribou calving and wintering habitat are found in the northmost regions. Dall sheep and goat are found in the mountainous regions. Moose are found throughout the unit, with wintering, rutting, calving habitat dispersed. Trumpeter swan breeding and summering habitat occur throughout. Subsistence use of berries and moose occur. There are three anadromous streams within the unit: Tazlina River, Mendeltna Creek, and Kaina Creek.			
	p w co F			Staking areas or land offerings shall also avoid sensitive habitats, particularly, calving, and breeding areas. Adjudicators shall consult with ADF&G to identify sensitive habitat areas. Development is to conform to the management guidelines provided in the Settlement and Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest sections.	The Copper Center-Nelchina RST 565 trail runs adjacent to Mendeltna Creek southward and follows the north bank of Tazlina Lake. One 17(b) easement lies within the unit running toward the north shore of Tazlina Lake.		
				Protect known heritage sites and cultural resources.	The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) indicates cultural resources within the unit.		
				RS 2477 routes are to be retained.	This unit is partly affected by MCO 511 and MCO 198.		
				Portions of this unit are in selected status and include priority selections; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.	This unit is partly affected by MeO 311 and MeO 176.		
C-2	F, Ha	153,405	3-4	Unit is to be managed to for its forest resources and values, and to protect habitat values. Management emphasis will be focused on providing opportunities for personal harvest and forest management while maintaining habitat, and recreational values. Forest land use plans must adhere to the requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2. Retain in state ownership.	The region is framed by the Tazlina River in the north and Cranberry Marsh in the south. The northern portions are flatlands and floodplains, and the southern portions are hilly and mountainous. Significant stands of pole and saw timber of quality White Spruce, Black Spruce, Aspen, Birch, and Balsam Poplar occur throughout. Multiple RS 2477s and a 17(b) easement provide access to and throughout the unit.		
				Because of the presence of important habitat and species scattered throughout portions of this unit, it is also to be managed for the maintenance of wildlife species, fisheries, and habitats consistent with Management Guideline B in the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section in Chapter 2 and other management guidelines in this section associated with waterfowl concentrations and moose wintering areas. Consult with ADF&G on sensitive habitats and wildlife locations prior to or	Brown bears occur throughout the unit, with spring concentrations near Tazlina River. Caribou calving and winter habitats are localized north of the Tazlina River. Dall sheep are found in the southern mountains. Moose are found throughout the unit, with wintering habitat near Tazlina River and calving and rutting habitat dispersed. Trumpeter Swan breeding and summering habitat occur throughout the unit. There are four anadromous streams within the unit: Tazlina River, Durham Creek,		

Unit #	Designation(s)	Acres	Map(s)	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
				concurrent with FLUP preparation. See the Forestry, Shorelands and Stream Corridors, and Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest sections in Chapter 2 for specific management guidelines. Protect anadromous streams and wetlands. Forestry riparian standards apply (AS 41.17.115 and AS 41.17.118) for riparian areas adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Consult with ADF&G to determine the location of high value resident fish streams. Protect known heritage sites and cultural resources. RS 2477 routes are to be retained. Portions of this unit are in selected status and include priority selections; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.	Kaina Creek, and Saint Anne Creek. Subsistence hunting for moose occurs in the northern and southeast portions of the unit. Hunting for small game occurs in the northern portion of the unit along the Tazlina river. Fishing for Arctic Grayling, Burbot, Trout, Longnose Sucker, and Slimy Sculpin in Kaina Lake. Firewood collection occurs in the far northeast corner of the unit. The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) indicates cultural resources within the unit. Portions of this unit are affected by Mineral Closing Orders 511 and 416.
C-3	Rd	24,220	3-4	Unit is to be managed for its dispersed recreation values. Retain in state ownership. Intensive development is not intended during the planning period except occasionally and at specific locations. Authorizations related to public facilities, commercial recreation, access, utilities, communication sites, and other projects providing a public benefit may be appropriate subject to the requirements of Chapter 2, and consistent with the management intent for this unit. See the Recreation and Scenic Resources section in Chapter 2 for additional information. Portions of this unit are in selected status and include priority selections; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.	terrain from east to west. The slopes in the west have stands of trees while the lowlands in the east of the unit are dotted with small lakes. Multiple 17(b) easements provide access to the unit.
C-4	Rm	263,820	3-4	This unit is to be managed for multiple uses. Retain in state ownership. Development is not anticipated in this unit and is inappropriate except for certain types of utilities, communication facilities, roads, and similar types of projects that provide a general public benefit. Other types of projects may be authorized if in the best interest of the state and if consistent with the management intent of this unit. RS 2477 routes are to be retained. Portions of this unit are in selected status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.	This unit contains the land surrounding Tazlina Lake. Steep alpine slopes are split by glaciers, valleys, and marshes. Eureka-Nelchina-Barnette Trail RST 1431 runs along Barnette Creek in the southwest corner. St. Anne Lake Trail RST 1712 runs through Cranberry Marsh in the eastern region. Brown bears occur throughout the unit, with spring concentrations near Tazlina Lake. Dall sheep are found throughout the mountainous regions and goats localized along the southern edge of the unit boundary. Moose are generally distributed along the river valleys, with winter concentration areas along the banks of the Tazlina Lake, and rutting areas concentrated along the norther boundary of the unit. Trumpeter swan

Unit #	Designation(s)	Acres	Map(s)	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
					summering habitat is found in the north. There are two anadromous streams: Saint Anne Creek and Kaina Creek. Subsistence use of moose, and non-salmon fish occurs along the cranberry marsh area, and berries along the northern portions of Tazlina lake.
C-5	Rm	10,106	3-4	The entire unit is in top filed status. If these lands are conveyed by the Federal government, they are to be managed for multiple use. Management emphasis is to be on maintaining the natural character of the unit, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Retain in state ownership.	This unit is comprised of mountainous land south of Hudson Lake between Mount Carter and the Klutina River. Hudson Lake Trail RST 1716 runs through the northeast corner of the unit. Three 17(b) easements provide access to the unit.
				Development is not anticipated during the planning period. RS 2477 routes are to be retained.	Brown Bear are found throughout the unit, with spring concentrations near Klutina River. Dall sheep are found in the south. Moose are found in the unit, with rutting habitat throughout. Trumpeter swan summering habitat occur throughout.
					Subsistence firewood collection occurs in the valley on the eastern side of the unit. Hunting for moose occurs throughout the unit. Fishing for salmon, white fish, burbot, and arctic grayling also occurs here.
C-6	Rm	1	3-4	Unit is to be managed for multiple use. Management is to focus on maintaining the natural characteristics of the emerged islands, hydrological resources, and recreational opportunities. Retain in state ownership.	This unit comprises the two emerging islands present along the Klutina River within the Central region. Several mixed species of trees are present on the islands, with sand and gravel bars along the shores.
				Lands in this unit are undergoing an Emerged Island Determination with BLM; check land status prior to issuing an authorization.	
C-7	Se	28,943	3-4	Unit is to be managed for disposal of state lands for settlement purposes. Lands within the unit are considered appropriate for disposal for Remote Settlement provided that recreational values and public access are not compromised. Development is to conform to the management guidelines provided in the Settlement, Public Access, and the Shoreland and Stream Corridors sections of Chapter 2.	This unit is comprised of the uplands surrounding Klutina Lake. Terrain includes flat lakefront regions and hills and slopes. Dense deciduous and evergreen tree stands are broken up by shallow lakes and marshes on the west banks of Klutina Lake. The Saint Anne Lake Trail RST 1712 runs from the northwest border of
				Staking areas or land offerings shall exclude wetland areas and a riparian buffer of at least 150' landward from the ordinary high-water line shall be maintained along Tazlina Lake. Development along	the unit and terminates at Tazlina Lake. Copper Center-Valdez RST 633 runs adjacent to the entire western shore of Tazlina Lake. There are two 17(b) easements within the unit.
				Tazlina Lake should include a public use site of at least six contiguous acres reserved for public access. Buffers along anadromous lakes and rivers shall conform to the management guidelines in the provided Shorelands and Stream Corridors section in Chapter 2.	Brown Bear are found throughout the unit, with spring concentrations near Klutina Lake. Dall Sheep are found within the mountainous regions east and west of Klutina Lake. Moose are found throughout the unit, with rutting habitat interspersed. Subsistence use of moose and non-salmon fish occur here. There are four anadromous streams: Saint Anne
				Protect known heritage sites and cultural resources.	Creek, Mahlo River, Curtis Gulch, and Klutina River.
				RS 2477 routes are to be retained.	The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) indicates cultural resources within the unit.

Unit#	Designation(s)	Acres	Map(s)	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
				Portions of this unit are in selected status and include priority selections as well as a native allotment; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.	
C-8	F	52,726	3-4	Unit is to be managed for its forest resources and values. Management emphasis will be focused on maintaining the natural character of the unit, while providing opportunities for personal harvest and forest management. Forest land use plans must adhere to the requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2. Retain in state ownership.	Stands of pole and saw quality timber can be found in the western half of the unit. White and black spruce, aspen, birch, and balsam poplar make up the majority of tree species in the area. RST 1676 Manker Creek Trail, and RST 1398 Mt. Simpson Loop Trail traverse provide access across the unit.
				Protect anadromous streams and wetlands. Forestry riparian standards apply (AS 41.17.115 and AS 41.17.118) for riparian areas adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Consult with ADF&G to determine the location of high value resident fish streams.	Brown bears are distributed throughout with spring concentrations localized in the western part of the unit. Moose are found throughout, and the unit is a known trumpeter swan summering area.
				Protect known heritage sites and cultural resources.	Subsistence fishing for sockeye salmon, burbot, and Dolly Varden occurs on the Mahlo River and Manker creek, both of which are anadromous streams.
				RS 2477 routes are to be retained.	
				Portions of this unit are in selected status and include priority selections; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.	
C-9	Rm	125,573	3-4	Unit is to be managed for multiple use. Management is to focus on maintaining the natural characteristics of the unit, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Retain in state ownership.	This unit is comprised of rugged, mountainous land situated between Klutina Lake and the community of Tonsina. The Mahlo River and Manker Creek cut through the mountains, forming shrub and tree-rich valleys. Multiple RS 2477 routes provide access throughout the unit.
				Development is not anticipated in this unit and is inappropriate except for certain types of utilities, communication facilities, roads, and similar types of projects that provide a general public benefit. Other types of projects may be authorized if they are in the best interest of the state. Retain in state ownership. Protect known heritage sites and cultural resources.	
				RS 2477 routes are to be retained.	Subsistence use of black bear, caribou, and moose occur within the unit.
				Portions of this unit are in selected status and include priority selections; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.	The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) indicates cultural resources within the unit.
					Portions of this unit are affected by Mineral Closing Order 511 and Mineral Order 1036.

Unit#	Designation(s)	Acres	Map(s)	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
C-10	F	17,197	3-4	Unit is to be managed for its forest values and resources. Management emphasis will be focused on maintaining the natural character of the unit, providing opportunities for commercial use, personal harvest, and forest management. Forest land use plans must adhere to the	This unit is located in the Tonsina River valley and has stands of Aspen, White and Black Spruce, Birch, and Balsam Poplar. RS 2477 trails provide access throughout the unit.
				requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2. Retain in state ownership.	Moose are distributed throughout, with known moose rutting and calving habitat. Brown bears are distributed throughout with spring concentrations along the Tonsina river. Dall sheep can be found on the
				Timber harvest is considered appropriate and forest management	mountains slope at the north side of the unit. The unit is also a
				activities are to avoid or minimize impacts to the fishery, wildlife, or	Trumpeter swan summering area.
				habitat resources in such areas. Adjudicators shall consult with	
				ADF&G where timber harvests are to occur as part of the forest land use plan (or similar pre-decisional process). Site-specific guidelines for forestry management activities will be addressed through the Forest	Black and brown bear, caribou, moose, and upland game bird subsistence hunting occurs in the unit.
				Land Use Plan prior to any commercial timber sale or harvest. See Chapter 2 for specific management guidelines, especially those related	The Tonsina River is an anadromous stream.
				to Forestry.	A reservation of water exists for the Tonsina River within this unit.
				Protect anadromous streams and wetlands. Forestry riparian standards apply (AS 41.17.115 and AS 41.17.118) for riparian areas adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Consult with ADF&G to determine the location of high value resident fish streams.	Important anadromous stream beds and adjacent state-owned riparian uplands are closed to mineral entry as prescribed in MCO 511.
				RS 2477 routes are to be retained.	

1 Table 3-8: RS 2477 Trails - Central Region

RST File Number	Name
565	Copper Center-Nelchina
633	Copper Center-Valdez
746	Tonsina Trail (Tonsina L-Richardson Hwy)
1380	Hudson Lake Trail
1396	Bence Mountain Loop Trail
1397	Tonsina River-Klutina River Trail
1398	Mt. Simpson Loop Trail
1431	Eureka-Nelchina-Barnette Trail
1676	Manker Creek Trail
1712	St. Anne Lake Trail

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Table 3-9: Central Region Reservations of Water

Region/Unit	Waterbody	LAS	Plan Map No.	Customer/ Cert holding/ applying agency	Description
C-6	Klutina River	22408	3-4	ADF&G	Certificate Issued The Klutina River and its associated sloughs and floodplain at river mile (rm) 0 at its confluence with the Copper River to rm 20 at the outlet of Klutina Lake.
C-10	Tonsina River	27843	3-4	ADF&G	Certificate Issued Tonsina River, from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of the outer bank (of the outside braid, where braided) of the left bank up to the OHWM of the outer bank (of the braid of the right bank, where braided), including all sloughs, braids, or channels which carry water and are an integral part of Tonsina River, from its mouth at the confluence with Copper River, upstream approximately 42 river miles to the outlet of Tonsina Lake.

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Map 3-4: Central Region Boundary and Unit Boundaries

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