
2. MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES BY MANAGEMENT UNIT

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 – COOK INLET REGION, INCORPORATED

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This management unit occupies approximately the west half of the Beluga Subregion. Upper and Lower Beluga lakes, the terminus of the Capps Glacier and the Chakachatna River are key geographic features. Nikolai Creek and several other streams which flow through this unit are anadromous fish streams. Public land within the area is limited to the narrow strip of federal land along the Chakachatna River; the remaining lands, surface and subsurface, are in Native ownership. The primary values in this unit are, wildlife habitat, coal and, in the south half, forestry. Recreation activity is generally limited to hunting. The plan commends and supports Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated's decision to allow public recreational use of this area and encourages opportunities for cooperative management between the state and the Native corporation in timber harvesting and coal development.

This management unit has been divided into two subunits on the basis of land ownership. Subunit 1a is comprised of Native lands; subunit 1b is the federal land along the Chakachatna River. See the map at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for designations in each subunit.

Subunit 1a has valuable forest and habitat resources. Cooperative management is encouraged to allow public access for hunting and other recreational activities and joint timber harvests.

Subunit 1b is under a federal power site withdrawal for the Chakachatna hydroelectric project. This land will remain in federal ownership until the power site application is withdrawn.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this report. 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 and 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 (Native Land)

Areas of particular value or environmental sensitivity within this management unit include Beluga Lake (this area receives the seventh highest number of hunting days in the study area), the Chuitna River and Nikolai and Bishop creeks.

Two portions of this unit (T15N R13W, Sections 29-36; T15N R14W, Sections 25, 36; T14N R14W, Section 1; T14N R13W, Sections 1-6, 9-12; T12N R14W, Sections 5-9, 13-18, 20-22, 27, 28, 34, 35, S.M.) contain concentrations of trumpeter swan nesting sites that have been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Similar areas on state lands will be proposed as trumpeter swan reserves to be protected through legislative or administrative designation. In recognition of the scarcity and vulnerability to disturbance of these sites, the state recommends that special caution be used in the development of coal or other resources in these areas. It also is recommended that these areas be excluded from future residential or commercial development.

If coal or other resource development occurs, state and Native land owners should develop a cooperative access plan for the subregion. Access across Native lands is important for timber harvesting, coal mining, and possible power transmission lines if the Chakachatna hydroelectric project becomes a reality.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Beluga

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 - Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

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 Native Land	Native	Primarily Private Land - Recommended Uses: Wildlife Habitat, Public Recreation, Coal Mining		—	—	—	
1b Chakachatna River	Federal	Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	—	Open	Available for Leasing	Land Disposals Remote Cabins	

*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.