

MANAGEMENT UNIT 10 – MATANUSKA GLACIER

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit is located on either side of the Glenn Highway in the area of the Matanuska Glacier. The unit contains a mixture of public and private land, much of which is potentially suitable for settlement. It also contains the mouth of the Matanuska Glacier, a popular tourist destination. The area currently supports moderate numbers of existing cabins, most of which are occupied only on weekends or seasonally for recreational purposes.

The management intent for public land in this unit is to support a mixture of public and private uses. This area, which already has a school, several lodges, and other developments, should be one of several locations along the highway that serve as a focus for seasonal and some year-round settlement. Several areas are proposed for disposal on either side of the river. Much of the unit, mostly in the steeper, less accessible areas, will be retained in public ownership. All public lands within this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Public lands in this unit also will remain open to mineral location and be available for coal leasing except for settlement areas in subunits 10a, 10d and 10e. One small area is open under leasehold location to protect a sheep mineral lick.

The area is divided into seven subunits: the Monument and Lake creeks settlement areas south of the Matanuska River (10a), the areas planned for retention on the south side of the river (10b), the Matanuska River itself (10c), Bench Lake Subdivision (10d), the areas north of the river which are planned for land sales — Lions Head, Chugach View and Cascade (10e), retention areas on the north side of the river (10f), and the township of native land surrounding Hundred Mile Lake (10g). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these subunits and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses.

Land in **subunits 10a and 10b** (the Monument and Lake creeks settlement areas and adjacent retention lands) is lightly used for hunting and other types of recreation. Several trails lead through this area into sheep and goat hunting areas located up drainages of the adjacent Chugach Range. The state land within subunit 10b will be retained in public ownership to provide personal use timber and public recreation. As more land is sold and developed along the highway, recreation activities in this subunit, particularly winter recreation, are likely to grow in popularity. Settlement will be allowed in subunit 10a in the vicinity of Lake Creek and along the Matanuska River near Monument Creek. These sites were chosen to minimize impacts

of settlement on public uses and visual quality. Land should be offered either as large subdivision parcels (10-20 acres) or under the homestead program. More and higher density settlement would be allowed in this subunit if doing so would help improve public access into the recreation area at the mouth of the Matanuska Glacier.

Subunit 10c, the Matanuska River, should be managed to protect its recreational value, which is primarily associated with white water boating but may expand to include riverside hiking and winter recreation.

Subunit 10d, the previously offered Bench Lake subdivision, is located on the south side of the river, near subunits 10a and 10b. Public response to this offering has been typical of the response to most state lake front sales: all the parcels located on the lake have been sold and the majority of the parcels (approx. 25) away from the lake have not yet been sold. Land in this subdivision should remain available over-the-counter.

Subunit 10e contains three separate land sales proposed for the next two years. Each of these sale areas was selected for its relatively low impacts on views from the highway and on public recreation and wildlife habitat values. The sales are Cascade (FY85), Chugach View (FY87) and Lions Head (FY86).

Subunit 10f is comprised of the remaining public land on the north side of the river. Most of this area is steep or otherwise has poor capability for settlement and should be retained and managed for community open space, wildlife habitat, personal use forestry and public recreation.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this plan. All of the guidelines potentially could apply to uses within this management unit; however, those that are most likely to be applicable are indicated with asterisks in the list that follows.

- Agriculture
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- *Forestry
- Recreation
- *Settlement
- Subsurface (Materials)
- *Transportation
- Instream Flow
- Lakeshore Management

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Glenn Highway

MANAGEMENT UNIT 10 — Matanuska Glacier

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
10a Monument Creek, Lake Creek	State	Settlement	Public Rec. Wildlife Hab. Forestry (personal use)	Closed prior to land dis- posal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	—	Estimated net disposal area = 850 acres
10b Gravel Creek, Glacier Creek	State/ Borough	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals	—
10c Matanuska River	State	Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	—	Open	Available for leasing	Trapper Cabins Remote Cabins Land Disposal	—
10d Bench Lake	State/ Private	Settlement (existing subdivision)	Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	25 unsold, surveyed lots remain available over-the-counter
10e Cascade Creek, Lions Head, Chugach View	State/ Borough	Settlement	Public Rec. Forestry Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to land dis- posal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Trapper Cabins Remote Cabins	Estimated net disposal area = 1,430 acres

*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.

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SUBREGION Glenn HighwayMANAGEMENT UNIT 10 – Matanuska Glacier

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
10f Hicks Creek	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry (personal use)	Open	Available for leasing	Trapper Cabins Land Disposals	
10g Hundred Mile Lake	Private/ Native	Primarily Private Land— Recommended Uses: Settlement, Public Recreation, Wildlife Habitat, Forestry		—	—	—	

*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

- *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.

Subunits 10a & 10b (Monument, Lake, Gravel and Glacier creeks)

Tatondan Lake – Management of Adjacent Land

This small lake is one of the few lakes in the Matanuska Valley still primarily in public ownership. The borough owns the surrounding area and may consider land disposals here in the future. Any sales that do occur should be designed to retain much of the land surrounding the lake in public ownership and to protect the lake's recreation values.

Stream Buffers

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit public uses such as fishing, camping and other active uses and to protect water quality and riparian habitat. Consequently this land should remain in public ownership. Corridor widths should be set on a case-by-case basis using policies in Chapter 2. The standard minimum buffer width (200' on each side of the river) should be used on Monument, Glacier, Lake, and Gravel creeks. A buffer (at least 300' wide) should be retained on either side of the Matanuska River.

Protection of Visual Quality and Boundaries of Settlement Areas

Protection of views seen from the Glenn Highway and the Matanuska River will be an important goal in the design of land disposals. Shifting the boundaries of the areas designated for disposal and for retention to better achieve this goal is acceptable under this plan.

Subunit 10e & 10f (Cascade Cr., Lions Head and Purinton Creek north disposals, and Hicks Creek)

Cascade Land Sale – Access and Visual Quality Protection

A small portion of this approved FY85 state land sale should be eliminated from the sale. This area is in the eastern portion of the proposed project and includes the land east of a trail (and the trail itself) that runs from the Glenn Highway south towards the Matanuska River across from Gravel Creek. Land in this area is

visible from the Glenn Highway, is used by hunters and other recreationists heading south across the river, and will be attractive open space for current and future residents of the area.

Stream Buffers

The standard minimum buffer width (200' on each side of the river) should be used on both forks of Muddy Creek.

Lions Head Disposal Design and Access

Preliminary information on the Lions Head area suggests that this is an area underlain by bedrock with only thin soils. Site design should take this characteristic into account, especially as it relates to sewage disposal and provision of drinking water. The likely access into this area would follow an existing dirt road that leaves the Glenn Highway on the south side of this project. Any land use authorizations in this area should be located so they do not preclude the option to use this road.

In addition to access improvements internal to this unit, DOT/PF is considering upgrading the Glenn Highway in this vicinity including a possible realignment of the highway. No final decision on these proposed road improvements has been made. Information on alternative alignments under consideration is available from DOT/PF. Land use authorizations in this unit should be located so as to not preclude the option to reconstruct the Glenn Highway along a feasible and efficient route.

Protection of Sheep Mineral Licks

A small portion of this unit will be open to mineral location under a lease. This policy is intended to protect a sheep mineral lick. The exact boundaries of this area, and the stipulations associated with mineral leases or permits, are set out in the management intent statement and management guidelines of Management Unit 12, this subregion.

Protection of Trails

Several traditional trails cross through or near planned disposals en route to backcountry hunting and recreation areas. These trails include a fork of the Chickaloon Trail and trails up the drainage of Hicks and Pinochle Creeks. Public use of these trails will be protected when these disposals are designed. If disposal plans include construction of new roads crossing these trails, adequate parking should be designed at trailheads.