

MANAGEMENT UNIT 8 – PURINTON

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This management unit is located north of the Matanuska River on the southern edge of the Talkeetna Mountains in the vicinity of Purinton and Cascade Creeks.

Public lands in this area will be retained in public ownership and managed to provide public recreation opportunities and personal use timber products. A second objective is to retain lands in public ownership to reduce the costs to coal operators of possible coal development. Most of the management unit is underlain by land rated high or moderate for potential coal development. Due to its elevation (approximately 2500') and inland location, the area is particularly suited for winter recreation, including snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. This area often has adequate snow when areas closer to Palmer and Anchorage do not. A branch of the Chickaloon Trail runs through this area, leaving the Glenn Highway at Purinton Creek. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Public lands in this unit will remain open to mineral location and be available for coal leasing except for the Long Lake State Recreation Area. One small area is open under leasehold location to protect a sheep mineral lick.

The area is divided into three subunits: a large area north and south of the Glenn Highway (8a), the Long Lake State recreation area and adjacent land (8b), and the Matanuska River (8c). Long Lake State Recreation Area will be proposed for legislatively or administratively approved expansion to include land to the south and east as shown in the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's Southcentral Recreation Plan. See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these subunits and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses.

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 below.

- Agriculture
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- *Forestry
- *Recreation
- *Settlement

- *Subsurface (Materials)
- *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 8a (Purinton Creek)

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.

Glenn Highway Realignment

DOT/PF is currently conducting preliminary engineering and environmental evaluations to reconstruct the Glenn Highway from mile 35 to mile 135. Portions of the highway, including the segment in this unit, may require realignment. The plan policy to establish and/or expand public recreation uses in this unit is not intended to preclude this possible realignment. A final decision on this issue should be made, however, with the consultation of ADNR after a thorough consideration of the impacts of realignment on this unit's public recreational values.

Protection of Transportation Routes

The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is proposing development of a system of trails and construction of a road from the Long Lake Wayside parking lot south to the Matanuska River. Any land use authorizations in this unit should be located so they do not preclude the construction of these roads and trails along efficient and feasible routes.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Glenn Highway

MANAGEMENT UNIT 8 - Purinton

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
8a Purinton Creek	State/ Borough	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry (personal use)	Open	Available for leasing	Trapper Cabins Land Disposal	—
8b Long Lake Recreation Area	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	—	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Trapper Cabins Remote Cabins Land Disposals Gravel Extrac- tion	Expansion of Long Lake Recreation Area is proposed for legislative or administrative designation
8c Matanuska River	State	Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat	Gravel Extraction	Open	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins Land Disposals Trapper 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.