

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3: TYONE LAKE

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 3 includes lands north and east of Lake Louise extending to the Talkeetna Mountains Subregion. Land cover consists largely of high shrubs and open forest which provide habitat used by the Nelchina caribou herd — the state's third largest herd — as well as moose and brown bear.

Most of this management unit is relatively flat and contains an abundance of lakes and streams of all sizes, including the Tyone River. The Tyone River provides boat access into the Susitna River and is often used for wilderness camping, hunting and fishing. The Tyone River also provides access to the Tyone Village site which is a unique historical and archaeological area dating back 3,000 — 6,000 years. The entire management unit will be retained in public ownership and managed for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat and historical sites, and protection and enhancement of hunting, fishing and boating opportunities.

Management Unit 3 contains three subunits: the broad, generally flat lands northeast of Lake Louise (3a), a similar area west of Lake Louise proposed to be designated as part of the Nelchina public use area (3b), and a corridor adjacent to Tyone Lake and River (3c). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses in each subunit.

Subunits 3a and 3b — the large subunits north and west of Lake Louise — will be retained in public ownership to protect and enhance wildlife habitat — particularly the habitat and migration corridors necessary to support the Nelchina caribou herd. Subunit 3b will be proposed for legislative designation as the "Nelchina Public Use Area." For specific management intent within the Nelchina Public Use Area, refer to the section of the plan on the Talkeetna Mountains Subregion.

Subunit 3c, Tyone River and Lake, will be managed to protect recreation and habitat values. This river and stream, in addition to hunting and fishing, provide access via an extended portage into the upper Gulkana River drainage. The Gulkana is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River. Among the management objectives for this area is the protection of the popular wilderness canoe trip from the Lake Louise area into the Gulkana River. The Tyone River and Lake subunit will be proposed for legislative or administrative designation, to be included with the proposal to protect recreation and habitat values in the adjacent Lake

Susitna area (subunit 1b). Both of these legislative or administrative designation proposals are lower priority than most other similar proposals in the plan. See Chapter 4 for details. The Tyone River area is a priority area for construction of public use cabins.

The area within the legal description specified in the management guidelines section that follows provides extremely important trumpeter swan habitat. It is the intent of the state and federal governments to protect swan populations in these areas. These lands and waters may be nominated for special legislative or administrative designation to protect swan habitat. The swan population in this area depends on lands and waters in both the Lake Louise Subregion and in the adjacent Copper River Basin. The determination of whether to propose Lake Louise Subregion swan habitat for special designation will be made at the time that proposals are developed for swan habitat designations within the Copper River Basin Area Plan. Any proposals developed at that time will be reviewed by the public. Proposals for special designations within the Susitna Area will require an amendment to this plan.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this plan. 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

Subunits 3b and 3c (Tyone River and Nelchina Public Use Area)

Management Planning and Remote Cabins

A management plan should be prepared for subunits

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Lake Louise

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 — Tyone Lake

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
3a Bell Lake	State/ Federal	Wildlife Habitat	Public Rec. Forestry (personal use and small commercial sales)	Open	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Land Disposals Grazing	—
3b Nelchina Public Use Area	State/ Federal	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry (personal use)	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Grazing	Proposed for legislative designation
3c Tyone River	State/ Federal Native	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry (personal use)	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Grazing	Proposed for legislative or administrative designation

*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.

3b and 3c. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether remote cabins will be permitted in these subunits. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are *designated* by a management plan.

Swan Nesting Habitat

Portions of these subunits may be recommended for legislative or administrative designation to protect swans. Until it is determined whether or not they will be included in proposals for special designation, the following guidelines are intended to provide sufficient protection and will be applied by the Department.

1. Restricted Activities. Activities that potentially will damage swan nesting habitat or cause visual or noise disturbance should be prohibited from April 1 through August 31 within at least one-quarter mile of current or potential swan nesting or staging ponds, marshes or lakes. Particular activities may be restricted in a wider area if their potential level of damage or disturbance warrants doing so. Activities that may be restricted include, but are not limited to, use of off-road vehicles, airplanes and motorboats. However, some traditional access routes and sites will be designated that will remain open to motorized access. This guideline will result in the restriction of the activities described above on most ponds, marshes and lakes other than those that have been identified as traditional access points.
2. At a minimum, permits should not be issued for those types of off-road vehicle use requiring permits in the areas and during the period described in 1. above.
3. Aircraft. At a minimum, landing of aircraft should be prohibited in the areas and during the period described in 1. above unless at designated access sites.

The area where swan guidelines apply is described below:

T5N R9W C.R.M.
 section 1-24; section 25-30 north half of each;
 T6N R9W C.R.M.
 T7N R9W C.R.M.
 T8N R10W C.R.M.
 section 1;
 T8N R9W C.R.M.
 section 1-6;
 T8N R7W C.R.M.
 section 1-6; section 9-16; section 21-28; section 33-36;
 T8N R6W C.R.M.

T8N R5W C.R.M.
 T9N R9W C.R.M.
 T9N R8W C.R.M.
 section 1-5; section 11-14; section 23-26;
 T9N R7W C.R.M.
 All except section 31;
 T9N R6W C.R.M.
 T9N R5W C.R.M.
 T10N R9W C.R.M.
 section 20-23; 26-29; 32-35;
 T10N R8W C.R.M.
 section 8-17; section 20-29; section 32-36;
 T10N R7W C.R.M.
 section 1-2; section 7-36;

Trails

Foot trail and canoe trail systems that may be developed in these subunits will be designed to minimize adverse impacts on trumpeter swan populations.