

## MANAGEMENT UNIT 6 – HAYES RIVER PASS

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### MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 6 includes the eastern portion of the Alaska Range south of the Hayes River and adjacent lowlands between the mountains and the Talachulitna River. The unit contains several anadromous fish streams that flow into the Talachulitna River which, in addition to their value for fish, provide valuable riparian habitat where hunting activities are concentrated. Habitat values and hunting decrease closer to the Alaska Range. The eastern portion of the management unit contains some moderate and high coal potential and an active coal lease held by Meadowlark Farms. The eastern half of Management Unit 6 will be retained in long term public ownership and managed for mining; public recreation (especially hunting, fishing, and boating); fish, moose and small game habitat; and water resources. Low resource value areas within the Alaska Range will be retained in public ownership at least for the near term and designated resource management-low value. Management Unit 6 will remain open to mineral location except along the lower reaches of Friday and Saturday Creeks and along an unnamed tributary to Talachulitna Creek from Trinity Lakes. All public lands in this unit are available for coal and oil and gas leasing.

Access into Management Unit 6 presently is limited to one privately owned landing strip at the northwest corner of the Meadowlark coal lease. The plan recommends extension of trail access along Friday and Saturday Creeks from the Talachulitna River.

There are three subunits in the Hayes River Management Unit: Friday and Saturday Creek drainages (6a), the Meadowlark coal lease (6b), and Trimble River (6c). 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.

**Subunit 6a**, the Friday and Saturday Creek drainages, support fish, moose, small game, and waterfowl; hunting and fishing; wilderness camping; and some rafting. The subunit will be retained in long term public ownership and managed for public recreation, mining, and water resources.

**Subunit 6b**, the Meadowlark coal lease, includes several miles of Friday and Saturday creeks and adjacent riparian corridors. This area will be retained in public ownership and managed for coal development, fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation (rafting, fishing, and hunting).

**Subunit 6c**, Trimble River, generally contains low sur-

face and subsurface values and will be classified resource management — low value. It will be retained in public ownership at least for the near term and managed for existing uses. Requests for other uses will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The area will be open to remote cabin permits. This subunit may be reevaluated in the future if new data is gathered that indicates higher resource values are present.

### MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

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

- Agriculture
- Fish and Wildlife
- 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 6a and 6b (Friday and Saturday Creeks and Meadowlark Coal Lease)**

##### **Grazing**

The riparian zone along Friday and Saturday creeks in T18N R13W and T19N R13W, SM, will be closed to grazing. Grazing is prohibited in order to avoid conflicts with bears, which concentrate seasonally in this zone.

##### **Mining**

Lands within 300' of the portion of Friday and Saturday Creeks east of R13W S.M., and lands within 200' of the unnamed tributary to the Talachulitna River from Trinity Lakes will be closed to mineral location. These closures are intended to protect water quality and wildlife habitat on these important tributaries of the Talachulitna River.

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Mt. Susitna

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6 — Hayes River Pass

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
6a Friday and Saturday Creeks	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry (personal use) Remote Cabins	Open except along Friday & Saturday Crks. & an unnamed creek from Trinity Lakes (see management guidelines)	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Closed to grazing along Friday & Saturday Creeks (see management guidelines)	
6b Meadowlark Coal Lease	State	Coal	Public Rec. Remote Cabins Wildlife Hab.	Open except along Friday & Saturday Creeks (see management guidelines)	Available for leasing	Land Disposals	
6c Trimble River	State Selected	Resource Management (Low) (open to remote cabin permits)		Open	Available for leasing	—	

\*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.