

MANAGEMENT UNIT 5: TRAPPER CREEK

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 5 is an area of interspersed low ridges, lakes, and wetlands that lies between Moose Creek and the Parks Highway. Most of the lands in this unit are near road access via the highway, Petersville Road or Oilwell Road. Because of this accessibility, the degree of existing development, and the demand for additional land for year-round as well as seasonal recreational settlement, a large percentage of the land in this unit will be available for future settlement. The major purpose of land disposal in the region is to allow for community expansion and year-round settlement. In order to allow for orderly growth within the area and to ensure that there will be opportunities for individuals to purchase land in this area for a number of years to come, not all the land will be disposed of in the next few years. It is intended that sales be spread over a 20 year period. In determining the appropriate rate and type of disposals, the location of woodlots near settlement areas, and the design of individual sales, disposal plans for this unit should be coordinated with those in the rest of the subregion. Where borough lands in the subunit have agricultural potential they may be disposed of for agricultural use. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Most of this management unit will be closed to mineral location and unavailable for coal leasing. Subunits 5a, 5c, and 5d will be closed to location and coal leasing due to past or proposed land disposals. Land along Ninemile Creek will be closed to location to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

Several possible access improvements have been identified in this management unit. They include upgrading the Petersville Road, formally identifying and recording existing trails, providing parking along the Parks Highway at major trailheads, and constructing a road to the region north of the Parks Highway between Trapper Creek and Moose Creek. For a more detailed description of these possibilities, see the transportation section of Chapter 4.

There are five subunits in Management Unit 5: a small area of borough land along the Parks Highway (5b), the existing Ninemile and Trapper Creek/Glen Subdivisions (5c), Scotty Lake agricultural disposal (5d), university selections (5e), and the remaining state and borough lands (5a). 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 5a (Trapper Creek) is state land that will be available for settlement. Within this area, important public values will be protected by retaining corridors along major streams (e.g., Trapper, Ninemile and Sawmill Creeks) in public ownership and keeping a large portion of the shoreline on the larger lakes in the area in public ownership (see Lakeshore Management and Stream Corridor policies in Chapter 2). Provision of road access will be a major factor in the timing of land sales in subunit 5a. Most of these areas will not be sold until roads are funded or built. Borough lands in this subunit will be sold only when there is a demonstrated need for additional land to support community expansion around Trapper Creek.

Subunit 5b is a parcel of borough land on the Parks Highway. It will be retained in public ownership to help protect scenic vistas along this major route. A public campsite is within this unit at mile 121.6 on the Parks Highway. Forestry is a secondary use in this subunit. Timber harvesting for personal use will be allowed when consistent with the recreation and scenic quality objectives for the subunit.

Subunit 5c contains the existing Ninemile Lake and Trapper Creek/Glen Subdivisions. Settlement is the primary use in this subunit. A number of the subdivided parcels in Trapper Creek/Glen have not been sold yet. They will remain available for sale over-the-counter.

Subunit 5d is the past Scotty Lake agricultural disposal. This subunit is primarily private land and therefore unaffected by this plan.

Subunit 5e is land with development potential that has been selected by the university as part of their entitlement. If some of these selections are relinquished, decisions on appropriate management of these lands should be made through an interagency planning process. It is recommended that lands within T25N R6W S.M. sections 20 and 29 be included in the Moose Creek corridor proposed for legislative designation. These lands are close to the creek and would be a valuable addition to the corridor.

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.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Petersville RoadMANAGEMENT UNIT 5 — Trapper Creek

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
5a Trapper Creek	State/ Borough/ Private	Settlement	Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed along Ninemile Cr., rest of unit closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	Estimated net disposal area = 1,370 acres of state land; 2,210 acres of borough land
5b Parks High- way	Borough	Public Recreation	Forestry Wildlife Hab.	Open	Available for leasing	---	---
5c Ninemile & Trapper Creek/Glen	State/ Private	Settlement (existing subdi- visions)	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	Approximately 10 unsold surveyed lots remain available over- the-counter
5d Scotty Lake	Private	Primarily private land (past ag. disposal)	---	---	---	---	---
5e University	Private/ Univer- sity	Primarily private land (university selections)	---	Any public land along Ninemile Creek is closed (see guidelines)	---	---	---

*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.

- Agriculture
- *Fish & 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 5a (Trapper Creek)

Stream corridors

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit fishing, camping and other active uses, and to protect water quality and riparian habitat. Consequently, this land should be retained in public ownership. Corridor widths will 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 Ninemile Creek, Sawmill Creek and the unnamed streams that appear on the USGS 1:63,360 scale topographic maps. Wider buffers should be retained on the Chulitna River (at least 300' each side) and Trapper Creek (at least 400' each side). The wider buffer on the Chulitna River is intended to protect visual quality along the river and provide additional camping opportunities. The Trapper Creek corridor will serve as the main open space corridor in an area that is likely to become densely settled. It is contiguous with the wider publicly retained corridor in subunit 2b.

Forestry

Only personal use harvesting and/or limited commercial sales for firewood and/or houselog harvesting will be permitted in the portions of subunit 5a in T27N R6W S.M.

Subunits 5a and 5b (Trapper Creek and Parks Highway)

Scenic Highways

The study *Scenic Resources along the Parks Highway* (ADNR, 1981) should be consulted for additional information on scenic resources whenever planning occurs for management activities which are likely to

result in significant changes to visual quality along the Parks Highway.

Subunits 5a, 5c and 5d (Trapper Creek, Trapper Creek/Glen and Scotty Lake)

Protection of Transportation Routes

Chapter 4 of this plan identifies a system of possible improvements to the regional and local transportation system. One route passes through this subunit. The precise location of this route has not been determined, although a general location is shown on the maps in Chapter 4. Land use authorizations in this unit such as land sales, leases, or other actions should be located so as not to preclude the option to build this road along a feasible and efficient route.

Subunits 5a and 5e (Trapper Creek and University Lands)

Mining

Public lands within 200' of Ninemile Creek will be closed to mineral location. The closure is intended to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in one of the most important tributaries to Moose Creek.