

MANAGEMENT UNIT 8 – ANSWER CREEK

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 8 is a large block of private and Native land and past sale areas. It encompasses portions of Answer Creek and the North, Middle and South Forks of Montana Creek. The general management intent for this area is to retain in public ownership any remaining blocks of public land, and to preserve trail corridors and public access to rivers and streams. Montana Creek and its three forks are anadromous fish streams which support a high level of sport fishing. The area also provides year-round habitat for moose and black bear. Because of these values and the limited amount of remaining public land in this general area, public land should be retained. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. This unit is not open to mineral location or coal leasing due to past disposals.

This unit is divided into three subunits: past state and borough agricultural sale areas including the Bartlett Hills area (8a), the Answer Creek area which is in Native ownership (8b), and past state and borough land sales, including part of the Bartlett Hills subdivision (8c). The plan does not affect private lands. See the maps at the end of this section for management unit boundaries and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses in each subunit.

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 the management unit; however, those that are most likely to be applicable in this unit are indicated with asterisks in the list below.

- 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.

Subunit 8a, 8b, and 8c (Bartlett Hills, Answer Creek and Emil Lake)

Retention of Land in Public Ownership

Unsold parcels of public land in this unit will be retained in public ownership. Where possible, publicly owned corridors of 200' either side of the ordinary high water mark on Answer Creek, and the North, Middle and South Forks of Montana Creek will be retained in public ownership. Public access points to these amenities will be maintained.

Subunit 8a and 8b (Bartlett Hills, Answer Creek)

Mining

Public lands within 300' of Goose Creek or the North, Middle or South Fork of Montana Creek or the mainstream of Montana Creek will be closed to mineral location. The closure is intended to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in some of the most important tributaries to the Susitna River.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION South Parks HighwayMANAGEMENT UNIT 8 — Answer 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		
8a Bartlett Hills	Private/ State/ Borough	Agriculture (past state and borough sales)	Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins	
8b Answer Creek	Native	Primarily Private Ownership— Recommended uses: Forestry, Public Recreation, Settlement (limited), Wildlife Habitat		Any public land along the North, Middle or South Fork of Montana Creek is closed (see mgmt. guidelines)	—	—	
8c Emil Lake	Private/ State/ Borough	Settlement (existing state subdivision & past borough sales)	Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote 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.