

## MANAGEMENT UNIT 5: MIDDLE YENTNA

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### MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 5 includes the Yentna River floodplain, Twentymile Slough, and the Fish Lake-Bulchitna Lake country. The Yentna River serves as an important transportation route through this management unit. Twentymile Slough, Fish Creek and the Yentna are important waterways for salmon, and the land along these streams provides black bear habitat, moose winter range and timber for local use. There is a concentration of mining claims along the Kahiltna River where it joins the Yentna. The numerous lakes north of the Yentna provide attractive sites for private recreation, and there is some potential for agricultural development in a small area southwest of Bulchitna River. The corridor of the Yentna River will be retained in public ownership to protect opportunities for public recreation, fish and wildlife habitat management, and timber management, and to maintain visual quality along the river banks. Private land uses will be supported on other lands in the unit. The population in this management unit is likely to grow as a result of past and proposed land sales. State and/or borough land should be set aside for community facilities near Skwentna (see guidelines for subunit 5a) and, if it becomes necessary, near other growing settlements in this area (e.g., Lake Creek). All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Management Unit 5 will be open to mineral location and available for coal leasing except for the existing and proposed disposal areas (subunits 5c, 5d, 5e).

The six subunits in Management Unit 5 are: the northern part of the Yentna River floodplain from Bottle Creek west (5a); lands with agricultural potential (5b); the existing Alder View disposal (5c); Bulchitna Lake (5d); a proposed addition to Alder View Subdivision (5e), and the southern floodplain area (5f) See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses for each subunit.

**Subunit 5a** consists of riparian lands in state ownership along the Yentna and lower Skwentna Rivers. These lands will be retained in public ownership and managed for public recreation, wildlife habitat, forestry, scenic quality, and transportation. In addition, a portion of this subunit may be used for community facilities for the town of Skwentna.

**Subunit 5b:** The state lands in this subunit will be designated resource management-high value. For the near term (approximately 5 years), subunit 5b will be retained in public ownership and managed for public recreation, habitat, forestry, transportation and scenic

quality. When these lands are reevaluated to determine their the best long term use, major values to be considered are wildlife habitat, water resources, public recreation, forestry, settlement, and transportation.

**Subunit 5c:** Settlement is the primary use of this subunit, the existing Alder View Subdivision. Unsold surveyed lots in the subdivision will remain available for sale over-the-counter.

**Subunit 5d:** The borough land surrounding Bulchitna Lake generally will be retained in public ownership for public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Commercial development to support recreation activities is designated a primary use of this subunit. Most of the large lakes within this management unit are surrounded by private lands, increasing the importance of retaining some lakeshore for public use. Forestry is a secondary use in the subunit. Timber harvesting is an allowed use when consistent with the recreation and habitat objectives for the subunit.

**Subunit 5e** is a proposed state disposal area adjacent to the northern edge of Alder View Subdivision.

**Subunit 5f** is the Yentna floodplain south of Alder View Subdivision. This land will be retained in public ownership and managed to protect riparian habitat and water resources and to provide opportunities for public recreation and timber management. Because of the high public values present, and particularly because of the unit's importance as moose winter range, this area is recommended for legislative designation as a multiple use forestry and habitat area.

### 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 & Wildlife Habitat
- \*Forestry
- \*Recreation
- \*Settlement
- Subsurface
- Transportation
- Instream Flow
- \*Lakeshore Management
- \*Public Access
- Remote Cabin Permits
- \*Stream Corridors

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Susitna LowlandsMANAGEMENT UNIT 5 — Middle Yentna

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 Yentna floodplain- (north half)	State	Forestry Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Land Disposals Remote Cabins	---
5b Southwest Bulchitna	State	Resource Management (high)  Values: Agriculture, Forestry, Settlement, Public Recreation, Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Land Disposals	---
5c Alder View	State/ Private	Settlement (existing sub- division)	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Grazing Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	Approximately 60 unsold surveyed lots remain available over-the-counter
5d Bulchitna L.	Borough	Commercial Development Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Grazing Land Disposals	---
5e Alder View Addition	State	Settlement	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	Estimated net disposal area = 375 acres

\*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

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Susitna Lowlands

MANAGEMENT UNIT 5 -- Middle Yentna

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
5f Yentna Floodplain (south half)	State	Forestry Public Recreation Water Resources Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Land Disposals	Recommended for legislative 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.

\*Trail Management  
\*Wetlands Management  
Resource Management

Management guidelines that apply to this management unit only are presented below by subunit.

**Subunit 5a (Yentna Floodplain – north half)**

**Community Facilities**

A portion of subunit 5a between the Skwentna and Yentna Rivers may be needed in the future as a site for a school or other necessary community facilities. Actions that would preclude the option to designate land for this purpose will be prohibited until a determination of the need for community facility land has been made.

**Subunit 5c (Alder View)**

**Lakeshore Management**

Where more than 50% of the land within 500' of the lakes in subunit 5c is already in private ownership, remaining public land should be kept in public ownership because of the lakes' value for public recreation.

**Subunit 5c and 5e (Alder View and Alder View Addition)**

**Stream Corridors**

The management intent for land adjacent to Fish Creek is to permit fishing, camping and other active uses, to protect water quality and riparian habitat and to minimize conflicts with bear concentration areas. Consequently, this land should be retained in public ownership. The corridor on Fish Creek should be at least 300' wide on each side of the creek to achieve these purposes.

**Woodlots**

Woodlots for personal use should be designated and retained prior to design of additional sales in subunit 5c and 5e. Subunit 5f (Yentna Floodplain – south half)

**Subunit 5f (Yentna Floodplain – south half)**

**Management Planning and Remote Cabins**

A management plan should be prepared for subunit 5f. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether remote cabins will be a permitted use in this subunit. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.