

# MANAGEMENT UNIT 1T

## *Upper Chena River Highlands*

### MANAGEMENT INTENT

**General.** State land in this unit is retained in public ownership for multiple use management. The emphasis is on subsurface resource development and maintaining fish and wildlife habitat.

**Fish and Wildlife.** Fish and wildlife habitat is designated a primary use in Subunit 1T1. This subunit is an extensive prime-rated habitat for grizzly bear and caribou. It also contains prime-rated sheep habitat near West Point (B-1 and B-2 habitat; see Appendix A, *Glossary*).

**Minerals.** Mineral values are moderate to very high. A primary designation of minerals may be considered for certain sections of this subunit if mineral development becomes imminent. All state land in this unit is open to mineral entry.

Possible routes to the mineral deposits along the Salcha tributaries (Butte and Caribou Creeks) should be investigated.

**Recreation.** Currently there is little use of the area for recreation because of lack of access. West Point, representative of an alpine environment, should be further investigated by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation for possible special natural landmark status.

Although this management unit has other important trails, the trails listed below have unique recreational values and historical significance:

- The Chena Hot Springs Winter Trail is the original winter sled route between Chena Hot Springs and Fairbanks. The trail originated in the early 1900's and has been used extensively since that time. Current uses of this 50 mile trail include dog mushing, snow machining, horseback riding, and moving farm equipment.
- The North Fork Valley Trail extends northeast from Chena Hot Springs Road towards the Borough and Tanana Basin Boundaries. The trail is an extension of the Chena Hot Springs Winter Trail and was used in the 1983 Yukon Quest dogsled race. This 13-mile trail is used mainly by cross country skiers, dog mushers, and snow machiners.

### MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management guidelines that apply to all state land are listed in Chapter 2. Some or all of those guidelines may apply to uses in this unit.

**Old Nike Range Proposed Selection.** The plan recommends selecting blocks of land within Subunit 1T1. For further description, see Chapter 4, *Proposed State Selections*.

**Trails.** A minimum 200 foot buffer (100 feet either side of centerline) will be retained in public ownership to protect the recreational use of the Chena Hot Springs Winter Trail and the North Fork Valley Trail.

#### LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

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Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>2</sup> Surface Use	Comments
1T1	Wildlife habitat		Open	Remote cabins	Recommend investigation of the possible routes to the mineral deposits along the Salcha tributaries (Butte and Caribou Creeks)

<sup>1</sup> Subsurface designations refer to locatable minerals. All areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals, except as noted for coal.

<sup>2</sup> Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management-intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.