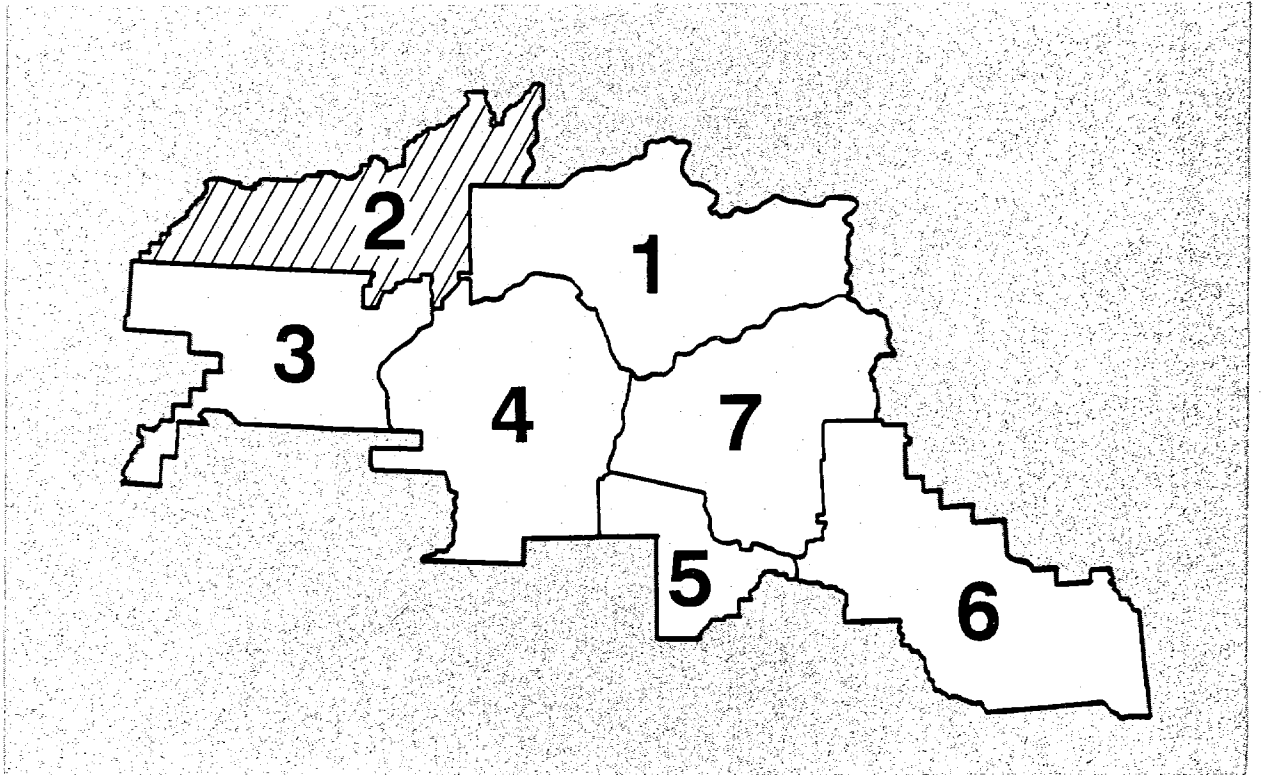

Subregion 2

Lower Tanana



Subregion 2

LOWER TANANA

This subregion extends from the City of Tanana on the west to the borough on the east, and from the Serpentine and Cascade ridges on the north to the Tanana River on the south. It includes Minto Flats (a major waterfowl nesting area) and the Livengood and Tofty mining districts, which are very active.

The state has selected or owns approximately 185,000 acres, or 70% of the area in this subregion. The unit is very accessible and can be reached via the Elliott Highway, the Tanana River, or via many trails and mining roads which pass through it.

The major uses of the area include mining, subsistence, and sport hunting and fishing. The trails in the area receive both recreational and mining use.

The resources which will be emphasized in this subregion are mining, habitat, and timber. Activities in this subunit should avoid or minimize conflicts with wildlife, fish and other resources, and the traditional use of these resources by residents. Protection of trails, water quality, and the option to develop the agricultural soils in the area will also be emphasized.

AGRICULTURE

Several areas of potential agricultural land are scattered along the Elliott Highway between Livengood and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Currently it is inappropriate to sell much land in this area for commercial agriculture because of the distance to markets. However, the following projects will be offered to meet the need for small agriculture parcels and agriculture homesteads.

Within the Lower Tanana Subregion, 6,100 acres may be offered for agriculture. In Subunits with co-primary designations of agriculture and settlement, land may be sold fee simple (for settlement) if soils are not suitable for agriculture.

STATE LAND RECOMMENDED FOR AGRICULTURE

Future Projects	Subunit	Acres
Globe Creek Agriculture	2L1a	500
Snoshoe Pass Agriculture	2L1b	2,500
Tatalina Agriculture	2L1c	2,100
Wilbur Agriculture	2K2	1,000
TOTAL		6,100

Existing Projects	Subunit	Acres
Two Mile Lake II Agriculture	2I3	2,500

FISH & WILDLIFE

The Minto Flats area is of extremely high value as habitat. The Minto Flats State Game Refuge has been designated by the Alaska State Legislature to protect and enhance these values. Lowlands surrounding Minto Flats, uplands along the northern ridges bordering the Basin, and the corridors along the Cosna, Chitanana and Zitziana rivers all require habitat protection, but are compatible with other resource uses.

Several areas are recommended for joint habitat and recreation management.

FORESTRY

The uplands and terraces between Tanana and Manley Hot Springs along the Tanana River contain the greatest concentration of highly productive commercial timberland in the basin outside the State Forest. When combined with private timberlands, the area has the potential to be one of Interior Alaska's major timber supply resources. Forestry is a primary use where major concentrations of State timber occur.

MINERALS

Development of subsurface resources is a high priority in this subregion. The subregion contains the core areas of the Hot Springs and Tolovana mining districts. These districts have had a combined production of one million ounces of gold, over 600 thousand pounds of tin, and minor amounts of antimony, mercury, and tungsten. Blocks of active claims are concentrated around Livengood, Manley Hot Springs, Tofty, and Eureka (see Mineral Element Map available at DNR, Fairbanks).

The largest placer gold reserves in North America are located within this subregion. There were about 40 active placer mines in the subregion during 1983. The lode potential for gold, mercury, tin, base metals, tungsten, and antimony deposits is quite high, particularly from the headwaters of Applegate Creek west to Fish Lake and to the north of Cascaden Ridge east to the headwaters of the Tolovana.

There are no known coal, oil, or gas resources in this area; however, the Lower Tanana Basin may have hydrocarbon potential. The region will be left open to coal prospecting, and oil and gas and coal leasing.

RECREATION

The many historic trails and the Manley and Tolovana hot springs are the most important recreational resources in the area. The Tanana River corridor is a major feature of this region. These values are protected through multiple use designations and management guidelines.

As land is disposed of along the Elliott Highway, areas for access to the back country and to natural features, such as domes and hot springs, will be preserved.

SETTLEMENT

Within the Lower Tanana Subregion, 13,350 acres of state land may be offered for sale: 800 acres for community expansion; and 12,550 acres for recreational use and self-sufficient living.

Land for Community Expansion

The state owns land for community expansion near the communities of Tofty, Livengood, and Eureka. Because of the small population in these communities, very limited land sales are recommended in these areas.

STATE LAND RECOMMENDED FOR COMMUNITY EXPANSION

Future Projects	Subunit	Acres
Cascaden II Subdivision/ Westridge Homestead	2J6	400
Eureka Community Subdivision	2D3a	200
Tofty Subdivision	2D3b	200
TOTAL		800
Existing Projects	Subunit	Acres
Cascaden I Subdivision	2J6	100

Land for Recreational Use and Self-sufficient Living

The state owns large amounts of land between Livengood and Manley that could be sold for recreational use. Most of the land is not high quality and there are few recreational amenities that would draw people to the area. Consequently, only a few disposals are being offered between Livengood and Manley.

The state land between Fairbanks and Livengood is generally more desirable for settlement. This area is closer to Fairbanks, and is adjacent to the Steese-White Mountain Recreation Area. In this area, several homestead areas and subdivisions will be offered for sale. The total number of parcels in each homestead area should not exceed the net acres divided by forty.

STATE LAND RECOMMENDED FOR RECREATIONAL SUBDIVISIONS OR FEE SIMPLE HOMESTEADS

Future Projects	Subunit	Acres
Hutlitakwa Subdivision	2E2	1,400
Tatalina Subdivision	2L6d	300
Chitanana Homestead	2B3a	850
Cosna Lower Homestead	2B3b	6,000
Globe Creek Homestead	2L6a	1,000
Lost Homestead	2J1	1,000
Snoshoe Pass Homestead	2L6b	1,500
Tatalina Homestead	2L6c	500
TOTAL		12,550

Existing Projects	Subunit	Acres
Berg Subdivision	2I1	329
Deadman Lake Subdivision	2B3	533
Kentucky Creek Subdivision	2D3	543
Dugan Hills Homestead	2B3	7,000
TOTAL		8,405

TRADITIONAL RESOURCE USES

This subregion includes the communities of Manley Hot Springs, Minto, and Livengood, although uses within this subregion may affect or influence the communities of Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, and Allakaket, which are located outside the planning area. Access to resources vary by season and location. Year-round access or traditional-use methods include foot and dog transportation, airline services, and all-terrain and mechanized travel. The Dalton Highway is open year-round and facilitates access to areas used by both subsistence and sports users. Many areas of this subregion are claimed as Native allotments, particularly along the Tanana River and near Fish Lake.

TRANSPORTATION

The following access corridors have been identified by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF). There are no proposals for actual construction of access within these corridors, but the option to develop access in these areas should not be precluded.

Elliott and Dalton Highways Realignment: DOT&PF has plans to reconstruct and realign much of the Elliott and Dalton highways. DOT&PF will work with the planning team to choose the routing that best meets the land use objectives described in this plan and complies with appropriate highway standards and project costs.

Western Access Railroad Corridor: A construction corridor through this subregion for a possible railroad extension to the western area of the state has been identified. The corridor in this area runs from Nenana to the vicinity of Tanana south of the Tanana River.

Trails and Revised Statute (RS) 2477 Roads: Many trails and minor roads exist in this subregion. See Chapter 2, Public Access and Trails Management for additional information.