

# MANAGEMENT UNIT 2H

## *Minto*

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### MANAGEMENT INTENT

**General.** State land in this unit is retained in public ownership for multiple use management. The emphasis is on maintaining fish and wildlife habitat. Part of the Minto Flats State Game Refuge is closed to new mineral entry. The remainder of state land is open to mineral entry.

**Fish and Wildlife/Recreation.** Fish and wildlife habitat and recreation are designated primary uses in subunits 2H1, 2H2, and 2H3. Subunits 2H1 and 2H2 are habitat for a wide diversity and abundance of wildlife species (A-1 and A-2 habitat; see Appendix A, *Glossary*). Subunit 2H3 is described below under *Minto Flats State Game Refuge*.

In addition to being important-rated habitat for many wildlife species, Minto Flats is prime-rated habitat for black bear, furbearers, and raptors, critical-rated winter habitat for moose, and critical-rated habitat for waterfowl. This area is the largest shallow lake and wetland in the Tanana Basin, and serves as prime-rated habitat for resident fish and a migration route for salmon.

There is heavy subsistence and sport hunting, trapping, and fishing activities.

**Forestry.** Forestry has been designated a primary use in Subunit 2H2. This subunit is suitable for providing local firewood.

**Minto Flats State Game Refuge.** Subunit 2H3 has been designated by the Alaska Legislature as the Minto Flats State Game Refuge (AS 16.20.037). The refuge was established to 1) ensure the protection and enhancement of habitat; 2) ensure the conservation of fish and wildlife; and 3) guarantee the continuation of hunting, fishing, trapping and other

uses by the public compatible with the first two purposes. As a state game refuge, the area remains a multiple use area to the extent that activities must be compatible with the refuge's purposes. Both DNR and ADF&G regulate activities within the refuge under their respective authorities.

A management plan for the Minto Flats State Game Refuge (required in the enacting legislation) is presently underway, with January 1992 as a target date for completion. This plan, prepared by ADF&G in consultation with DNR, will guide management activities on the refuge in the future. TBAP management guidelines for the area will remain in effect until the management plan is completed. Land sales, grazing, remote cabins, utility corridors, and roads are prohibited uses within the refuge. The majority of the refuge was closed to mineral entry by the 1985 Tanana Basin Area Plan (Mineral Order #510).

### 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.

**Cultural Resources.** Grave sites in Minto Flats are cultural resources and should be protected.

**Traditional Uses.** Traditional fishing, hunting, and harvest of other resources for personal use is one of the principal uses of state land in this unit. Decisions to authorize land use activities will consider the effect on and minimize significant conflicts with traditional uses of fish and wildlife resources.

**LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY**  
**MANAGEMENT UNIT 2H: *Minto***

Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>2</sup> Surface Use	Comments
2H1	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals Remote cabins	
2H2	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals Remote cabins	
2H3	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Portion closed to location	Grazing Land disposals Remote cabins Roads Utility corridors	Legislatively designated as Minto Flats State Game Refuge

<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.