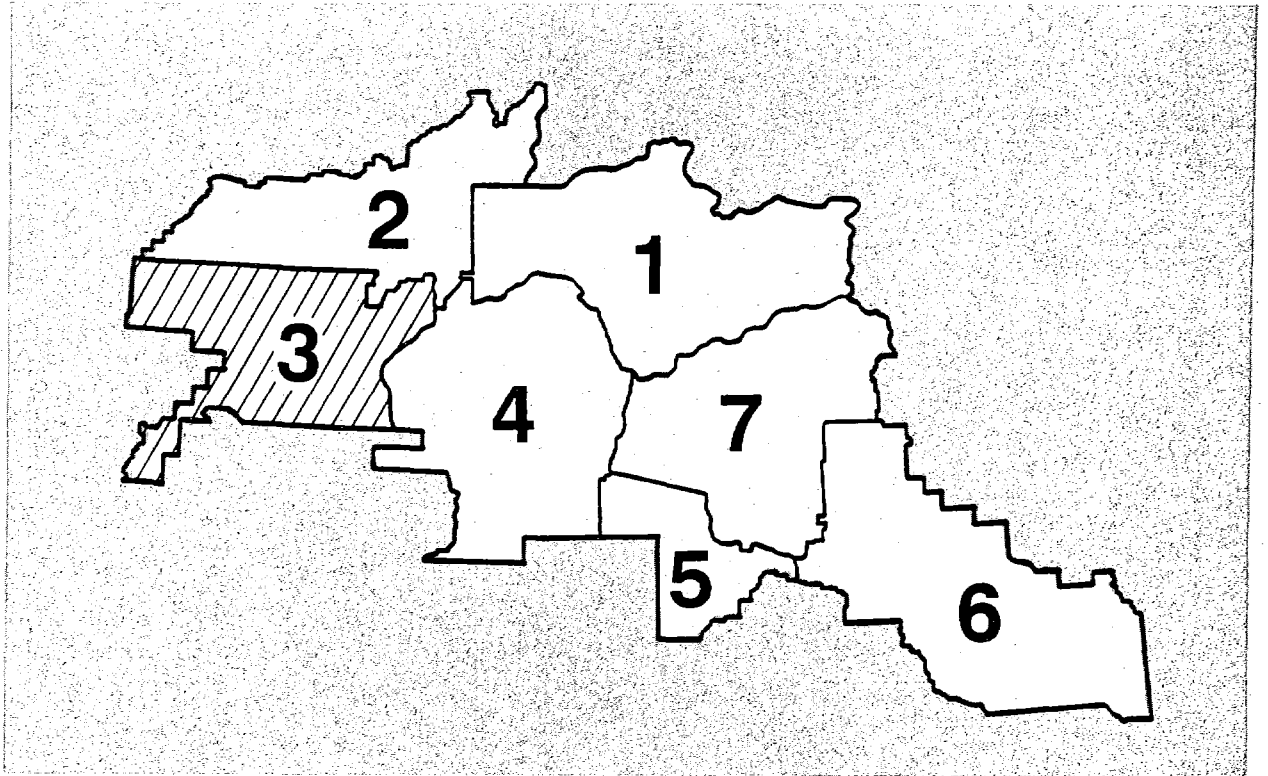


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# Subregion 3

## *Kantishna*



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# Subregion 3

## KANTISHNA

This subregion is accessible only by riverboats and airplanes. Despite its relatively remote location, it receives considerable use by trappers, hunters, and homesteaders.

The management intent for this region is basically to extend current uses of the area. There will be some homesteading and large recreational subdivisions, but the major emphasis is to protect the habitat and recreational resources of the area and also maintain the option to develop the agricultural lands if access and market conditions change. With the exception of Toklat Springs, the entire subregion is open to mineral entry. Land disposals will be closed to mineral entry prior to the time of sale.

### AGRICULTURE

Lack of road access to this subregion makes agricultural development unlikely in the near future. State lands with agricultural potential exist on the Kantishna River and near East Twin Lake. There are several additional areas of cultivable soils scattered throughout the subregion. Most of these lands should be given protection through resource management and reevaluated as development becomes more imminent.

There have been no previous sales of small agriculture parcels in this subregion. Because of the lack of access, the distance from markets, and the high cost of farming in this region, it will be difficult to meet the development schedules required on agricultural homesteads and small scale agriculture parcels. Therefore, none are recommended at this time. Meanwhile, lands in this subregion with agricultural potential will be placed in the resource management category with agriculture a primary value.

The exception in this subregion is an area previously addressed by the Nenana-Totchaket Management Plan. That management plan has been updated and incorporated into this plan. Approximately 147,000 acres of state land are designated agriculture and will be managed primarily to preserve agricultural potential. The majority of the designated agriculture lands lie within the Nenana-Totchaket Management Unit (3R1).

### STATE LAND RECOMMENDED FOR AGRICULTURE

Future Projects	Subunit	Acres
Nenana-Totchaket Agriculture	3R1	147,000

### FISH & WILDLIFE

The area near the junction of the Sushana and the Toklat Rivers is extremely important habitat requiring protection and recommended for legislative designation as a Critical Habitat Area. Waterfowl habitats south of Lake Minchumina and the habitat area south of the Bearpaw disposal are designated primary use habitat.

The balance of the lands surrounding Lake Minchumina and along the Kantishna, Toklat, and Teklanika river drainages, and the headwaters of the Cosna and Zitziana rivers will be retained in public ownership and managed primarily for multiple use, including habitat.

### FORESTRY

In this subregion, the most productive forests have been legislatively designated in the State Forest. However, there is also valuable timber on the north-east shore of Lake Minchumina which is needed for local use. This area will be held in public ownership and left open to timber harvesting.

The large area of good forest land between the Zit-ziana and the Kantishna rivers is too remote to be of use in meeting the overall goals for forestry. However, this area will be a source of wood products for local disposals and therefore the area will be left open to timber harvesting.

## MINERALS

The principal mineral potential in this subregion occurs near the Bitzshtini, Chitanatala, and Chitsia Mountains. Active mineral claims are located in the Bitzshtini Mountains, Clear Creek, and Cosna River areas. No coal bearing units or basins with potential hydrocarbon formations are known within the Kantishna Subregion. The state land in the area will generally be left open to mineral entry, coal prospecting and leasing, oil and gas leasing, and industrial leasing for mill sites.

## RECREATION

Recreational opportunities in this subregion are of low to moderate value overall because of the limited accessibility of the area. Recreational use is concentrated on rivers, including the Kantishna and Teklanika, and around lakes, including Lake Minchumina and some of the smaller lakes west of the Kantishna River. For residents of the region, winter trails are of high recreational value.

Areas around disposals and along navigable rivers will be protected by buffers. Twin Lakes and portions of Wien Lake away from the waterfront are recommended for private recreation.

## SETTLEMENT

In the Kantishna Subregion, 23,020 acres of state land may be offered for sale: 2,100 acres for subdivisions and homesites; and 20,920 acres for fee simple homesteads.

### Land for Community Expansion

The only community in the Kantishna Subregion is Lake Minchumina. Parcels of land in this area are used for both recreation and year-round residential use.

### Recreational Land and Land for Self-sufficient Living

The state owns most of the land in this region. However, the vast majority of it is inaccessible and of very poor quality. Popular land sale areas lie on fly-in lakes and along the navigable portions of the rivers of the region. Most of the lakes and a few of the rivers already have land sales on them. The remaining lakes and some of the remaining riverfront property are recommended

for sale. The total number of parcels in each fee simple 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
Lake Minchumina New Subdivision	3C1	100
Middle River Comm./Ind. Subdivision	3T3	200
Middle River Residential Subdivision	3T3	600
Snohomish Lake Subdivision/Homestead	3A2	200
Teklanika Channel Lake Subdivision	3S2b	300
Wien Lake Subdivision	3I2a	700
Cannon Homestead	3K2	1,700
Cosna Upper Homestead	3H1	6,000
Geskakmina Lake Homestead	3J2a	1,500
Kantishna Homestead	3J2b	1,000
Kindamina Lake Homestead	3J2c	1,500
Lake Minchumina Homestead	3C1	400
Mucha Lake II Homestead	3E1	1,500
Teklanika Channel Lake Homestead	3S2a	820
Wien Lake Homestead	3I2a	4,000
Zitziana Homestead	3I2b	2,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>23,020</b>
Existing Projects	Subunit	Acres
Dune Lake Subdivision	3S2	430
Geskakmina Lake Subdivision	3J2	205
Iksgiza Lake Subdivision	3J2	227
Kindamina Lake Subdivision	3J2	193
Lake Minchumina Subdivision	3C1	35
Totek Hills Subdivision	3S2	320
West Twin Lake Subdivision	3J2	119
Bearpaw Homestead	3L2	2,500
Mucha Lake I Homestead	3E1	1,000
Snowshoe Homestead	3J2	1,600
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,629</b>

## TRANSPORTATION

The following access corridors have been identified as possibly desirable by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. 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.

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

**Parks Highway - Kantishna - McGrath Highway Corridor:** A corridor for the construction of a possible highway to Kantishna and McGrath has been identified in this subregion. The primary near term purpose of the route would be to access Kantishna. Access to McGrath is recognized as a possible long term future need. Three identified alignment alternatives involve taking off from the Parks Highway

at Lignite, Rex or Nenana. The first several miles of the route originating at Lignite would generally follow the existing Stampede Road. The route originating at Rex would generally follow an existing winter road to the west before turning south toward Kantishna. The route originating at Nenana would route through the proposed Totchaket Agricultural project before turning south toward Kantishna.

**Nenana - Totchaket Area Access:** As part of planning for the possible development of the Nenana Totchaket Agriculture Project, access routes for roads and railroad spurs (or both) have been identified. These rights-of-way shall be protected. This route could be extended to the Kantishna River to provide access to any future forestry area.

**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.