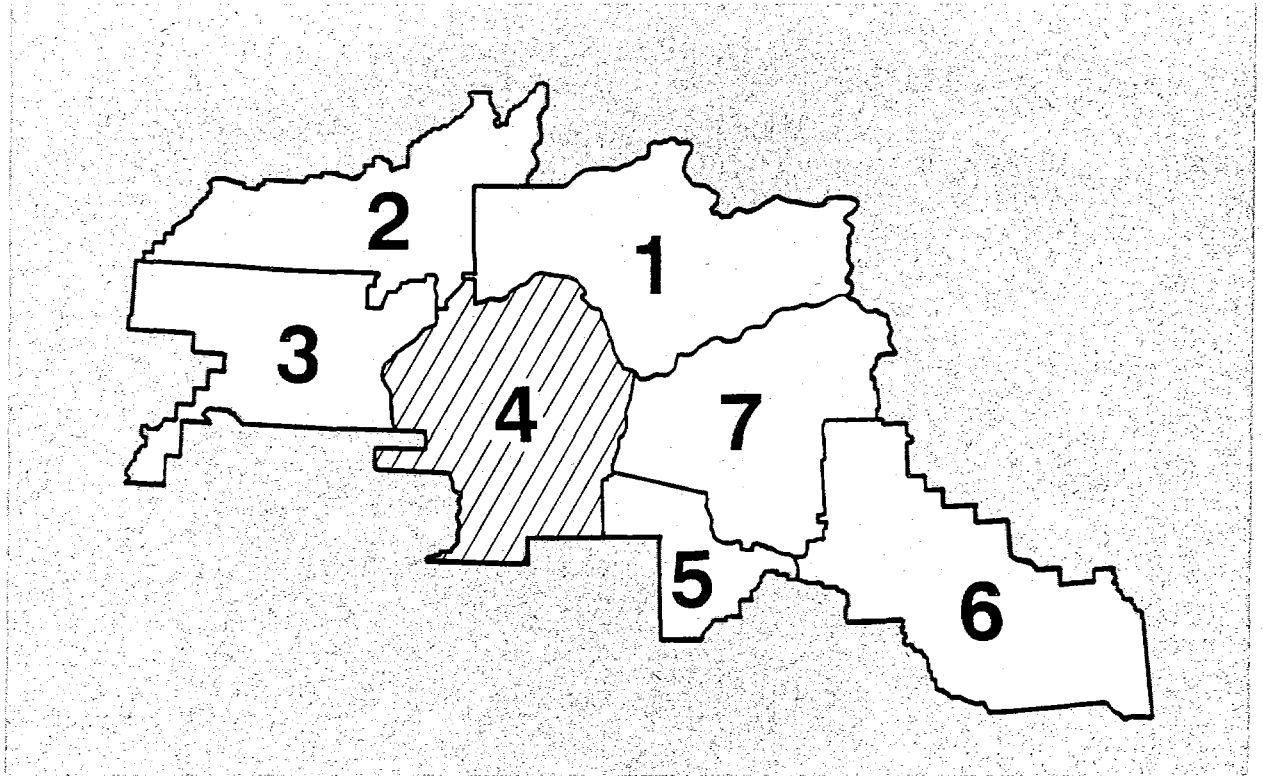

Subregion 4
Parks Highway & West Alaska
Range



Subregion 4

PARKS HIGHWAY & WEST ALASKA RANGE

This is one of the most accessible subregions in the Basin. The Parks Highway and West Alaska Range subregion is bisected by the highway and the railroad and there are many trails, roads and rivers which extend into the back country.

Commercial guiding, hunting, trapping, recreation, and coal mining are the major land uses in the area, along with some grazing. Settlements extend along the highway throughout the unit. This area has been the location of several state land disposals over the past four years.

The management intent for this heavily used region is to sell some land in the Anderson and Healy areas, retain some land for local wood products, place agricultural soils in a resource management category, leave the high value mineral land open to mineral entry, and protect the habitat and recreational resources of the area.

AGRICULTURE

This subregion contains several areas of accessible agricultural lands along the Nenana River/Parks Highway corridor. This land will be sold for small-scale agriculture. In the past four years, 100% of the acreage offered under this program (4,876 acres) has been sold in the Parks Highway Subregion. It is assumed that future sales will be equally popular.

Most of the accessible agriculture soils in this region may be offered for small-scale agriculture or agriculture homesteading. Within the Parks Highway and West Alaska Range Subregion, 11,830 acres will 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
Chump Agriculture	4F3a	1,000
Julius Creek Agriculture	4J3	1,000

Kobe II - VI Agriculture	4F3b	4,830
Windy Agriculture	4F3c	5,000
TOTAL		11,830

Existing Projects	Subunit	Acres
Kobe I Agriculture	4F3b	1,500

FISH & WILDLIFE

The Parks Highway and West Alaska Range subregion contains several areas of high value habitat. Near the highway and in accessible mountain valleys, human use of wildlife can be intensive. In this subregion, habitat is one of several designated uses on many retained lands. There is an area for caribou calving near the end of the Stampede Trail. This area will be protected through designation as habitat and through management guidelines.

FORESTRY

The Tanana Valley State Forest is expected to meet the demand for wood products for Nenana. However, Anderson is located too far from the State Forest to have its needs met. White spruce growing

along Seventeen Mile Slough between Anderson and Nenana can serve to supply both local and regional needs.

MINERALS

The area east of Healy is one of the most active mineral exploration and production areas in the state. There are large blocks of active claims and the entire area has very high potential for coal, gold, and other minerals.

In the area extending east of Ferry to the Little Delta River and south to Anderson Mountain, mineral development is a primary management objective. This area will be left open to mineral entry, coal prospecting, and oil and gas and coal leasing. In general, conflicts with the recreation and wildlife values in this area can be resolved through management guidelines. There are several peregrine falcon nests, mineral licks, and a caribou calving area which require certain restrictions to protect the habitat. These restrictions are specified in the management guidelines following this discussion.

RECREATION

River valleys, historic trails, and alpine country which is accessible to Fairbanks and local communities are significant recreational resources in this area.

Trails, historic sites, and access sites along the Parks Highway corridor will be protected by recreational designation. Kobe Summit and Slate Creek will be designated recreation sites with trails leading from the highway. Access sites along the Parks Highway and the Nenana River will be protected by recreation designation. Important recreation values in Reindeer Hills, Walker Dome, and Rex Dome will be protected. Open space close to communities will be retained for multiple use including recreation. The Nenana River from the Denali Highway to the Rex Bridge is proposed for a State Recreation River.

SETTLEMENT

Within this subregion, 10,050 acres of state land may be offered for sale: 2,350 acres for subdivisions and homesites; and 7,700 acres for fee simple homesites.

Land for Community Expansion

There are five communities in this region. Land sales are recommended in the vicinity of Nenana, Healy, McKinley Village, and Anderson, to meet community expansion needs.

In the Nenana area, land for community expansion is in both native and state ownership. Several areas of state land will be offered in the vicinity of Nenana. The amount of land offered will greatly exceed projected land conversion needs of the Nenana area, even if the Nenana-Totchaket area is developed.

In the Anderson area, people want more land sales adjacent to the city. To meet this need, several areas have been identified for sale. These sales would allow for a wide degree of consumer choice and provide abundant land in the Anderson area.

In Healy, the same situation exists. Although the state has sold large acreages of land in the vicinity of Healy, more land is desired. New areas identified for sale in the Healy area, along with land that was sold, should more than adequately meet residents' needs, even if coal operations in Healy greatly expand.

In McKinley Village, the limited amount of state land that could be used for community expansion is recommended for sale. This land includes the areas that were proposed to be acquired by a land trade with the National Park Service.

STATE LAND RECOMMENDED FOR COMMUNITY EXPANSION

Future Projects	Subunit	Acres
Anderson Subdivision	4J2	1,000
Land Swap Subdivision	4C	300
Nenana North Subdivision	4K2a	300
Otto Lake Subdivision	4Fla	300
Whoopie Subdivision	4K2b	450
TOTAL		2,350
Existing Projects	Subunit	Acres
Farmview Subdivision	4K2	319
Nenana South Subdivision	4K2	147
Panguingue Subdivision	4F1	827
Rex Subdivision	4F1	43
Village View Subdivision	4C1	200
Village View Ext. Subdivision	4C1	100
TOTAL		1,636

Recreational Land and Land for Self-sufficient Living

The state has already offered for sale the majority of accessible state-owned land in the sub-region. In addition to these past sale areas, the majority of the remaining accessible land along the Parks Highway will be sold. 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 HOMESTEAD

Future Projects	Subunit	Acres
Anderson New Homestead	4J2	2,000
Clear Sky II Homestead	4H1	2,500
Gold King II & III Homestead	4Q1a	300
Slate Creek Homestead	4F1b	1,000
Teklanika II - IV Homestead	4I1	1,250
Whitewater Homestead	4C	400
Wood River Homestead	4Q1b	250
TOTAL		7,700

Existing Projects	Subunit	Acres
Anderson Subdivision	4F1	1,200
June Creek Subdivision	4F1	1,115
Bear Creek Homestead	4F1	400
Clear Sky I Homestead	4H1	2,500
Gold King I Homestead	4Q1a	100
Healy Homestead	4F3	4,840
Ridge Rock Homestead	4F1	400
Southwind Homestead	4F1	1,000
Teklanika I Homestead	4I1	750
Windy Creek Homestead	4F1	4,000
TOTAL		16,305

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 at this time, but the option to develop access in these areas should not be precluded.

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 Nenana-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. Additionally, an extension south could form a loop to the Parks Highway at Rex which would provide access to previous state land disposals.

Upper Wood River (Bonnifield Mining District) Access: Any mineral development in this area would require road access. A corridor has been identified through this subregion that extends from the Parks Highway at Ferry easterly along the foothills of the Alaska Range.

Anderson Northeastern Access Road: The City of Anderson has requested additional access from the Parks Highway. A corridor has been proposed extending from the city, east-northeasterly to the Parks Highway in the southern portion of Township 6 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian. The road would be either a winter road or a year-round road, depending on needs.

Parks Highway Improvements: DOT/PF is examining possible improvements to the Parks Highway. Additional lanes, climbing lanes and shoulder widening are some proposed improvements.

Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline: One of the alternative routes for the gas pipeline would follow the Parks Highway - Alaska Railroad corridor from Fairbanks to Cook Inlet.

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.