

# MANAGEMENT UNIT 4D

## *Usibelli*

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### MANAGEMENT INTENT

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

**Fish and Wildlife.** Fish and wildlife habitat is designated a primary use in Subunit 4D1 and 4D3. The high mountain areas of these subunits are valuable habitat for most species and prime-rated habitat for grizzly bears, raptors, furbearers, and caribou, and critical-rated habitat for dall sheep, moose, and peregrine falcon. The surrounding areas have dense sheep populations. Sheep winter range, lambing cliffs, and mineral licks are found in small areas. There is much hunting activity within this management unit. Moody Creek is a critical-rated fall moose habitat.

**Forestry.** There is moderate value timber within Subunit 4D1. Forestry is designated a secondary use in this subunit. Timber will be managed for local use.

**Minerals.** Minerals is designated a primary use in subunits 4D1 and 4D3. There are many active claims in this region, particularly in the vicinity of

the Usibelli Coal Mine. All state land in this unit is open to mineral entry.

In addition to coal resources, this area has scattered occurrences of placer gold along Lignite, Alaska, Gagnon, and Healy creeks, and lode deposits around Sugar Loaf Mountain.

**Recreation.** Prime recreation areas are the Alaska Range, Healy Access Site and Healy Campground, Walker Dome, and the Nenana River. Recreation is designated a secondary use in Subunit 4D1.

**Settlement.** In response to public comment, the 1990 TBAP Update redesignated the Lignite Homestead (1,000 acres) from settlement to high value resource management, with habitat, minerals, and settlement values.

### 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.

**Trails.** The Rex-Dome Trail that runs through Subunit 4D2 (the previous Lignite Homestead) will be protected.

**LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY**  
**MANAGEMENT UNIT 4D: *Usibelli***

Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>2</sup> Surface Use	Comments
4D1	Minerals Wildlife habitat	Forestry Public recreation	Open	Land disposals Remote cabins	
4D2	High value resource mgmt. -habitat -minerals -settlement		Open		
4D3	Minerals Wildlife habitat		Open	Remote cabins	

<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.