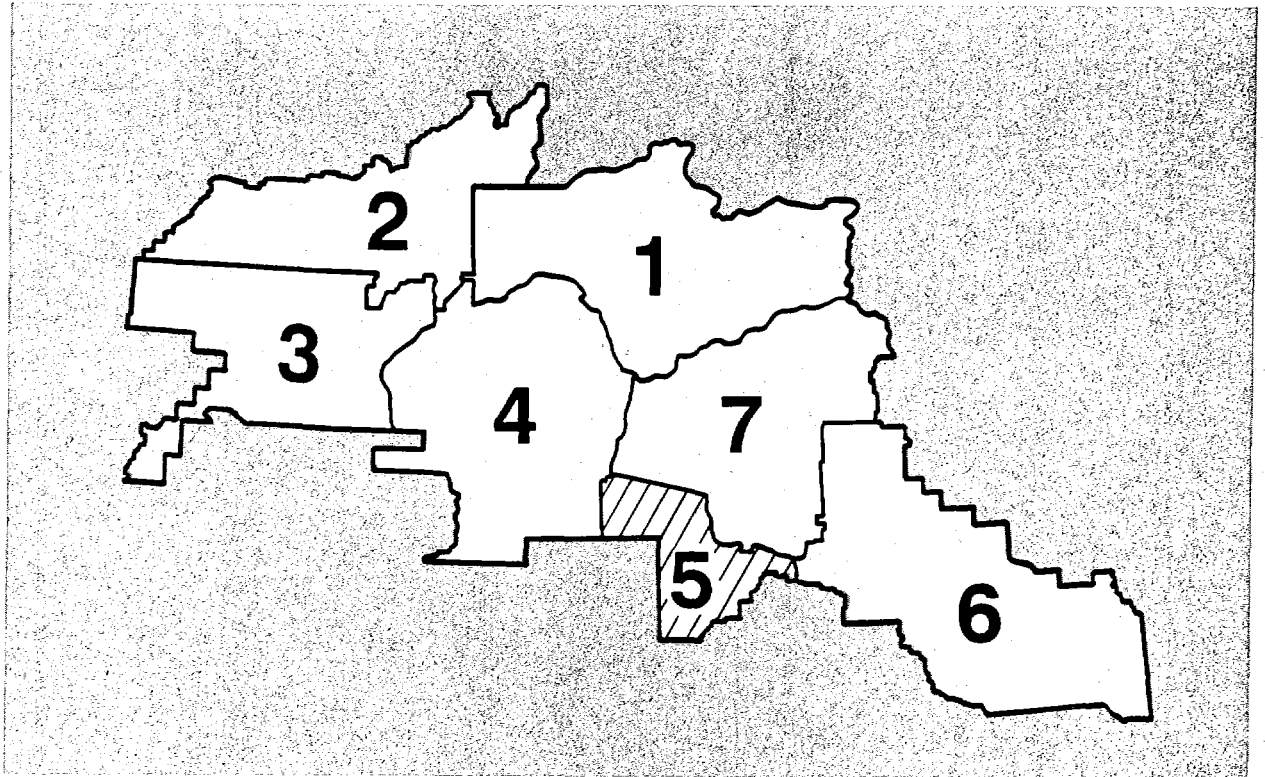

Subregion 5 *East Alaska Range*



Subregion 5

EAST ALASKA RANGE

The East Alaska Range subregion is a mountainous area in the southcentral portion of the Basin. Access to the area is via the Richardson Highway extending north-south through the region and the Denali Highway extending east-west.

Commercial guiding for big game, trapping, hunting, and recreation are the main land uses in this area. Some mining occurs in the northern part of the unit. Settlement is confined to areas very close to the roads.

Future uses in this subregion for the most part will be extensions of existing uses such as recreation, fish and wildlife use, and mineral extraction.

AGRICULTURE

There are no known agricultural areas in this subregion.

FISH & WILDLIFE

The East Alaska Range subregion contains extremely important habitat for a variety of species. Mineral licks and peregrine falcon areas throughout the Alaska Range require habitat designation and protection.

FORESTRY

This area has too high an elevation to be a productive forest area. Consequently, no land has been designated for forestry.

MINERALS

This area has several scattered blocks of active claims north of Wildhorse Creek. The subregion will be left open to mineral entry, coal prospecting, and oil and gas and coal leasing.

RECREATION

This subregion contains the second highest peaks of the Alaska Range and extensive glaciers and rivers. Central features include Fielding Lake, the sur-

rounding high country, and the Delta River with its boating opportunities. Access provided by the Denali and Richardson highways increases the value of the area for tourism.

Fielding Lake has high value for public recreation. It is recommended for designation as a State Recreation Area.

The Castner, Cantwell, and Gulkana Glaciers will be retained in public ownership and managed for recreation. The Delta River corridor flows through a variety of terrain with some highly scenic portions and some challenging stretches for boating. The river corridor will be protected in a recreation designation.

The scenic values along the Richardson and Denali highways will be protected through management guidelines consistent with the Denali Scenic Highway Study (DNR, 1982).

SETTLEMENT

The opportunities for land sales in this region are very limited because of terrain. No areas have been identified for sale in this subregion.

TRANSPORTATION

The following access corridors have been identified by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF). There are no proposals for ac-

tual construction of access within these corridors at this time, but the option to develop access in these areas should not be precluded.

Richardson and Denali Highway Realignment: DOT&PF has plans to reconstruct and realign portions of the Richardson and Denali 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.

Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline: A route, basically parallel to the existing Trans-Alaska Pipeline, is proposed for the construction of a gas line from the North Slope to Fairbanks. A possible continuation of the route is to Valdez via the Richardson Highway and Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor.

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.