

MANAGEMENT UNIT 5C

North Slope of the Alaska Range

MANAGEMENT INTENT

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

Fish and Wildlife. Fish and wildlife habitat is designated a primary use in this unit. Values include prime-rated habitat for moose, caribou, grizzly bears, and sheep (B-1 habitat; see Appendix A, *Glossary*).

There are several smaller areas that contain critical-rated caribou calving grounds (Subunit 5C1) and two known critical-rated sheep mineral licks (A-1 habitat). The caribou calving grounds lie at the headwaters of the Delta River and south of Molybdenum Ridge.

The mineral licks in Subunit 5C1 and other places not yet identified are heavily used primarily during the spring. The regular use of the licks suggests an important biological role, especially for sheep. Licks may also be an indicator of mineral values.

The management intent for Subunit 5C1 is to protect the mineral licks for wildlife use and allow exploration and development of mineral resources. The licks should be managed as a group and some licks should be available to wildlife at all times. Additional lick areas may be added to Subunit 5C1 in the future.

Minerals. The mineral potential of this unit is moderate. Leasehold location has been made on low silica, high calcium limestone near the Hoodoos in Subunit 5C1. Limestone will be produced to provide agricultural lime for the Delta Barley Project with secondary uses as cement mix and for road de-icing. Mining claims have been located near Mt. Moffit and Mt. Skarland.

Subunit 5C1 (the nine sections surrounding the mineral lick) is subject to leasehold location to protect wildlife habitat values. Existing claims in the leasehold area will not be converted to leasehold location or be required to obtain a lease from the state prior to production. However, exploration and min-

ing on existing claims will be managed according to additional guidelines listed for this unit. The remainder of state land is open to mineral entry.

Recreation. Recreation is designated a primary use in subunits 5C2 and 5C3. Areas of heavy use and high recreation values are the Castner, Cantwell, and Gulkana glaciers, Black Rapids, and the Delta River. High scenic values at the southern tip of Subunit 5C2 should be protected.

The Black Rapids access site should be retained in public ownership to facilitate access to and from the Delta River and Black Rapids Glacier.

The Delta River downstream from the National Wild and Scenic River will be managed consistently with the Delta Wild and Scenic River.

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.

Black Rapids Glacier Selection. The plan recommends selecting blocks of land within Subunit 5C3. For further description, see Chapter 4, *Proposed State Selections*.

Subsurface Resources. Permits or operating plans for activities within the mineral licks and immediately adjacent sections must show how direct or indirect impacts on the mineral licks and wildlife trails will be avoided during the exploration and development phases.

The Department of Natural Resources will ensure, as much as possible, that a minimal number of licks are being explored at the same time.

The nine sections surrounding each lick will be under leasehold location. These concerns should be addressed in the permits or leases: 1) avoiding licks and trails leading to the licks; 2) mitigating negative impacts; 3) compensation for destruction or loss of a lick; and 4) type and location of access in the area.

LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT 5C: *North Slope of the Alaska Range*

Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface ¹	Prohibited ² Surface Use	Comments
5C1	Wildlife habitat		Open through leasehold location	Land disposals Remote cabins	Mineral licks See guidelines in text
5C2	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals Remote cabins	
5C3	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals Remote cabins	

¹ Subsurface designations refer to locatable minerals. All areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals, except as noted for coal.

² 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.