

# MANAGEMENT UNIT 6E

## *Upper Tok River*

### MANAGEMENT INTENT

**General.** All state land in this unit is retained in public ownership for multiple use management. The management emphasis is on development of hardrock minerals and maintaining fish and wildlife habitat.

**Fish and Wildlife.** Fish and wildlife habitat is designated a primary use in subunits 6E1, 6E2, and 6E3. The mountainous areas of the Tok River drainage in Subunit 6E1 are prime-rated and critical-rated habitat for grizzly bear, moose, and sheep (B-1 habitat; see Appendix A, *Glossary*). Subunit 6E2 has mineral licks areas (A-1 habitat; see Appendix A, *Glossary*). The unit lies within the Tok Trophy Sheep Management Area.

Habitat values and use of wildlife resources will be maintained. The mineral licks in Subunit 6E2 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 6E2 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 6E2 in the future.

**Forestry.** Forestry has been designated a primary use in Subunit 6E3.

**Minerals.** Minerals is designated a primary use in subunits 6E1 and 6E3. Mineral development is encouraged here. This unit includes the massive sulfides of the Delta Belt, which has a very high poten-

tial for mineral development. The Delta Belt forms the core of the Tok Mining District. In 1975-76, over 35 precious metal-bearing copper-lead-zinc massive sulfide prospects were located. All state land in this management unit is open to mineral entry; Subunit 6E2 is subject to leasehold location.

Subunit 6E2 (the nine sections surrounding each mineral lick) are subject to leasehold location to protect wildlife habitat values. Existing claims in the leasehold areas will not be converted to leasehold location or be required to obtain a lease from the state prior to production. However, exploration and mining on existing claims will be managed according to additional guidelines listed for this unit.

### 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.

**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 6E: *Upper Tok River***

Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>2</sup> Surface Use	Comments
6E1	Minerals Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals Remote cabins	
6E2	Wildlife habitat		Open through leasehold location	Land disposals Remote cabins	Mineral licks See guidelines in text
6E3	Forestry Minerals Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals 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.