

MANAGEMENT UNIT 7D

Goodpaster River

MANAGEMENT INTENT

General. This management unit will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use, with an emphasis on recreation and fish and wildlife values. The unit will remain open to mineral entry. The lower Goodpaster River corridor (Subunit 7D1) will be managed to maintain and enhance the recreational and scenic values of the river. The upper Goodpaster River corridor (Subunit 7D2) will be managed to maintain and enhance the habitat values of the river.

A monitoring program on the patterns and impacts of use is recommended for the Goodpaster area, particularly for the lower Goodpaster River corridor (Subunit 7D1), see Chapter 4, Research and Monitoring.

DNR supports legislative designation for this management unit that is consistent with the management intent and guidelines of this plan.

Fish and Wildlife. Fish and wildlife habitat is a primary use in this management unit. The Goodpaster River contains important grayling spawning and rearing areas that also affect the Delta Clearwater River, and is one of the few known king salmon spawning streams in the upper Tanana drainage. The lowlands surrounding the river are wetland, providing year-round range and important calving grounds for moose. This management unit also provides prime-rated habitat for black bears, furbearers, and waterfowl. Additionally, the upper stretches of the river provide prime-rated habitat for caribou, grizzly bear, and Dall sheep. The unit is predominantly rated as B1, with some B2 in the upper reaches of the river and at higher elevations (see Appendix A, *Glossary*).

Forestry. Timber harvest is an allowed use in Subunit 7D4, and a primary use in Subunit 7D3. The hillsides in Subunit 7D3 are dominated by an extensive cover of white spruce sawtimber and poletimber, with non-commercial black spruce on the north slopes and high elevations.

Timber harvest activities in this unit will be designed to recognize the scenic and recreation values of the river corridor (see Access, Public Notice, and Visual Impacts guidelines below).

To protect the scenic and recreational values of the Goodpaster River Corridor, timber harvest within Subunit 7D1 is limited to negotiated sales for personal or commercial use of up to 10,000 board feet.¹ To minimize the impacts of timber harvest in this subunit, timber sales will be small and dispersed on public land in the river corridor. Timber harvests in Subunit 7D1 may also be allowed to reduce insect, disease, fire hazard, or other hazards to public safety. These special harvest conditions must show a high probability of tree mortality in this subunit or adjacent land, based on the best available information. Timber harvest access across this subunit will be only by winter road, near the mouth of the river (see Access Guideline below).

Within Subunit 7D2, timber harvesting is prohibited within the 100-year floodplain to protect the fish habitat.

Minerals. The entire unit remains open to mineral entry. There is moderate to high mineral potential in this unit, particularly along the Eisenmenger Fork of the Goodpaster River, Tibbs Creek, and Michigan Creek. The only reported lode mining production in the Goodpaster District is from gold-antimony quartz veins near the head of Tibbs Creek. Active placer mining also occurs near the Goodpaster River at Central Creek, and along Tibbs Creek and its tributaries.

Recreation. Recreation is a primary use in this management unit. Much public recreation is related to hunting, fishing, and trapping. Recreation use also occurs by the landowners of the over 80 private parcels along the river. Good campsites exist along publicly owned stretches of the river.

To protect the existing character of the river, authorizations for commercial recreation activities in Subunit 7D1 will be allowed only if facilities are temporary and visually screened from the river. A limited number of public use cabins may be allowed along the river corridor if located to avoid conflicts with existing uses.

¹ 10,000 board feet is the equivalent of about 20 cords of wood, or enough house logs to build a 2,000 square-foot home. Existing Division of Forestry policy allows only one negotiated sale per person per year, and up to 10 cords of firewood per year may be harvested under personal use permits.

To minimize litter, trespass on private land, and other impacts from dispersed camping, primitive campsites should be developed along the river within Subunit 7D1.

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 management unit. Special guidelines that apply only to Management Unit 7D in the Goodpaster River watershed follow.

Access - Subunit 7D1. Access routes to mining claims should avoid the corridor unless no feasible and prudent alternative exists.

New access to the river in this subunit is allowed only by winter road near the confluence with the Tanana River for timber harvest access to the Tanana Valley State Forest Unit 10 (see the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan, Unit 10, Transportation Guidelines). To minimize visual impacts, this winter road should be designed to minimize the length of road within the corridor.

Other new road access is allowed only by special exception where necessary to provide feasible access to adjacent units. For example, a road could cross the edge of Subunit 7D1 to skirt a ridge extending into the subunit. A road designed under a special exception must minimize the distance within the corridor, and must not provide new road access to the river. See Chapter 4, Procedures for Plan Modification, for a description of the special exception process.

To minimize impacts on the scenic and recreational values of the Goodpaster River, and to maintain the roadless character of the river, winter roads in this unit will be designed and managed to minimize possible use by all terrain vehicles in the summer.

Access - Existing Trails. The Goodpaster Winter Trail is shown as the Fortymile-Big Delta Trail in the DOT&PF 1974 Existing Trail System. This trail may lie within an RS 2477 right-of-way. Until asserted as an RS 2477, and validity and management decisions made, the Goodpaster Winter Trail should

be managed for winter-only use by road vehicles to minimize impacts on the scenic and recreational values of the Goodpaster River, and to maintain the roadless character of the river. DNR will adjudicate land actions, including timber sales, consistent with this intent. DNR will not upgrade this trail to an all-season road.

Public Notice. To continue involvement by groups concerned with development in the Goodpaster River area, DNR will consult with organizations on the Goodpaster Review Working Group in reviewing proposed timber harvest, access plans, and other activities requiring public notice. See Appendix G for a list of the organizations on this group; see Appendix A for a definition of consultation. The Division of Forestry will also send notice each year of the draft Delta Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales to the Goodpaster Review Working Group members and to DPOR. DPOR will notify the Delta and Fairbanks Area Parks Advisory Boards of the review schedule. The Five-Year Schedule contains the proposals for timber sales, access, and reforestation in this area.

Visual Impacts. Development activities within Subunit 7D shall be designed to minimize the visual impacts to the scenic values of the Goodpaster River Corridor (Subunit 7D1).

For timber harvest:

- Cutting units will be located so they minimize impacts on the viewshed from the river.
- There will be no timber harvest within a 200' leave strip along the Goodpaster Winter Trail, except for the purposes of removing hazards.
- Cutting units and access shall be designed to blend into the natural landscape pattern. Type of harvest for cutting units will give consideration to topography and silvicultural requirements in meeting visual concerns. In the case of patch clearcuts, size and shape are recognized as primary concerns.
- Preliminary cutting unit design will be included in the Forest Management Report available for public and interagency review.

LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT 7D: *Goodpaster River*

Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface ¹	Prohibited ² Surface Use	Comments
7D1 Lower river corridor	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals All-season roads Timber harvest greater than 10MBF except for special conditions Permanent commercial facilities	
7D2 Upper river corridor	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals Timber harvest within 100-year floodplain	
7D3	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals	
7D4	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open	Land disposals	

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.