

# MANAGEMENT UNIT 7G

## *Delta Creek*

### MANAGEMENT INTENT

**General.** Most of this unit will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use. Management emphasis is on fish and wildlife, forestry, and public recreational values. One area is designated for dispersed disposal, and certain areas may be suitable for agricultural disposal.

Land disposals will be closed to new mineral entry prior to sale. The remainder of state land is open to mineral entry.

The lower one mile of the Delta River is recommended for legislative designation as a Critical Habitat Area (see Chapter 4, Areas Recommended for Legislative Designation).

**Agriculture.** Agriculture is one of the primary use designations of Subunit 7G2. While many thousands of acres of agricultural soils are thought to exist within this subunit, detailed soil surveys are necessary to confirm the exact quantity.

**Fish and Wildlife.** Fish and wildlife habitat is a primary use designation for subunits 7G1 and 7G3, a secondary use in Subunit 7G4, and an important use in Subunit 7G2.

The lower one mile of the Delta River, described in Appendix C, Mineral Orders, MCO# 601 for the Delta River, is critical habitat for spawning chum salmon. This location is one of the three major chum salmon spawning grounds in the state. To recognize the importance of this area, and to protect the habitat from potentially incompatible uses, this area is recommended for legislative designation as a Critical Habitat Area. The area will be managed to protect the continued productivity of the salmon habitat. To prevent conflicts with the habitat, this area is closed to new mineral entry. Gravel removal or any development that would disrupt the spring water flow or gravel beds is prohibited.

**Forestry.** Forestry is a primary use for Subunit 7G1. This subunit contains white spruce along the Tanana River and has major stands of mixed spruce and hardwood sawtimber on the hills south of the river. Development potential is high even though the Tanana must be ice bridged.

Timber harvest within a 1/4-mile buffer along the Delta River will be managed to protect the river bank

from erosion, and preserve the vegetative windbreak to minimize soil erosion.

If a timber harvest is scheduled far in advance of agriculture development, the land should be reforested to protect soils. There may be an opportunity to manage for second growth. A timber harvest occurring immediately before agriculture development will be managed as a salvage operation.

**Recreation.** Recreation is a primary use designation for Subunit 7G3, a secondary use for subunits 7G1 and 7G4, and an important use in Subunit 7G2. Commercial recreational development will be allowed by lease agreement within 7G3 only when adequate measures are provided to protect the water quality and habitat of the Richardson-Clearwater drainage and Rainbow Lake.

**Settlement.** Settlement is designated a primary use in Subunit 7G4. No new acreage for private ownership is planned.

One area in Subunit 7G4 has been offered for private ownership. The acreage offered may have been less than the maximum amount shown. A portion of the developable land may be available for additional offerings.

Southbank Homestead	1,000 acres
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The settlement density of Southbank Homestead should not exceed the number of acres divided by 20, as established for this offering in the Delta-Salcha Area Plan.

**Watershed.** Watershed maintenance is a primary use designation of Subunit 7G3. The water quality of the year-round streams in this subunit must remain in its natural condition.

**Other Resources.** Throughout this unit, the Alaska Railroad extension shall remain as a reserved use corridor, 300 feet in width.

Material extraction is prohibited from the Richardson-Clearwater and its tributaries.

### 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.

**LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY**  
**MANAGEMENT UNIT 7G: *Delta Creek***

Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>2</sup> Surface Use	Comments
7G1	Forestry Wildlife habitat	Public recreation	Open		
7G2	High value Resource mgmt. -agriculture -forestry -public recreation -wildlife habitat				
7G3	Public recreation Watershed Wildlife habitat		Open, except for portion recom- mended for legislative designation		Portion recom- mended for legisla- tive designation as a Critical Habitat Area
7G4	Settlement	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Closed prior to sale		Past Project: Southbank HS

<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.