

MANAGEMENT UNIT 7K

Bison Range

MANAGEMENT INTENT

General. The Bison Range was created by enactment of Alaska Statute 16.20.330 "to perpetuate free-ranging bison on the land described in this act by management of the habitat to provide an adequate winter range for the bison. It is also the purpose of this act to alter seasonal movements of bison herds on the land in order to diminish the damage caused by the herds to agriculturally developed land." This area will remain in state ownership and be managed for multiple use, with an emphasis on protecting the wildlife habitat. The unit will remain open for mineral entry.

Agriculture. This plan recommends that the existing soil survey along the Alaska Highway be extended south to the foothills.

Fish and Wildlife. The Delta Bison Management Plan, developed by the Department of Fish and Game, includes monitoring and manipulation of wildlife population levels, establishment of harvest goals, and habitat manipulation. Reference to the Delta Bison Management Plan should be made on all management decisions concerning this unit. The range is actually a multi-species area, and habitat

rehabilitation would enhance conditions for other species inhabiting the area.

Forestry. Forestry is designated as a secondary use within this management unit. Small timber sales may occur where consistent with the primary management intent, and will require the approval of the Department of Fish and Game.

Recreation and Access. The existing trail network shall remain available for recreational access. Establishing new access trails for recreational use or to reach other state land and resources must be compatible with maintaining the overall habitat value of this unit, and will be coordinated with the Department of Fish and Game. The Donna Lakes area is to remain available for public recreation use.

Other Resources. The Alaska Railroad extension shall remain as a reserved use corridor, 300 feet in width.

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 7K: *Bison Range*

Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface ¹	Prohibited ² Surface Use	Comments
7K1	Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open	Land disposals Remote cabins	Delta Bison Range

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.