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1 Chapter 3 : Land Management Guidelines 2 for Individual Subunits

3 Introduction

4 The following chapter describes the detailed subunit management plan for managing the Moose Range
5 and Jonesville Public Use Area. The Moose Range and JPUA are divided into four management subunits -
6 the Western, Middle, Eastern, and Jonesville Subunits. Each subunit is described individually and includes
7 a unit description with background information, a summary of planning and land management issues, a
8 management intent statement, a land use designation summary description, and subunit specific
9 management guidelines.

10 Organization of Chapter

11 This chapter includes the following sections for each of the four management subunits:

- 12 • Subunit Description
- 13 • Planning and Land Management Issues
- 14 • Management Intent
- 15 • Land Use Designations
- 16 • Subunit Management Guidelines

17 Subunit Description

18 Unit descriptions include background information on land status, access, use, fish and wildlife habitat,
19 facilities, trails and easements, and cultural and historical resources.

20 Planning and Land Management Issues

21 The Planning and Land Management Issues section discusses issues that are affecting management and
22 that management guidelines are intended to address and resolve.

23 Land Use Designations

24 Land uses are designated in each subunit consistent with enabling legislation and other state statutes.

25 A land use designation recognizes uses or resources that are of major importance in a particular
26 management subunit. Management subunits may be broken down into further units for land use
27 designation purposes. Unit designations are based on current and projected future use patterns and the
28 most significant resources identified in each unit. DNR will manage activities in the unit to encourage,
29 develop, or protect the uses or resources for which the unit is designated. Plan designations are more
30 specific than the land use classifications required under 11 AAC 55.040, and such designations are

31 converted to land use classifications, as required by 11 AAC 55.020. DNR will manage State land according
32 to these designations and the equivalent land use classification.

33 Under AS 38.05.300, all designations are intended for multiple use. Uses other than those receiving
34 primary designations for a given unit may still be authorized if they are not incompatible with the primary
35 uses or resources for which a unit is designated. If DNR determines that a proposed use is incompatible
36 with a primary designation, the proposed use will not be authorized, or will be authorized in a manner
37 that minimizes the incompatibility. Primary designated uses cannot take precedence over disposals of
38 interest that have already occurred. Such disposals include property rights such as mining leases, land
39 leases, and rights-of-way, that once issued, are protected by the Constitution. A primary designation,
40 however, may take precedence over uses authorized by permits that were issued on a revocable at will
41 basis.

42 When the plan assigns a designation to a unit, the designation is accompanied by a management intent
43 specific to that unit. These two pieces of information – designations and statement of intent – as well as
44 subunit management guidelines, must be taken into consideration in determining how a parcel of state
45 land is to be managed and when making authorization decisions.

46 **Primary designated use.** Most units are assigned a primary designated use, which indicates, in a general
47 way, how state land is to be used and managed. Primary designated uses shall take precedence over other
48 uses. Generally, however, DNR allows multiple uses. DNR initially presumes that all other uses are
49 compatible with the primary use. However, if DNR determines that a use conflict exists and that the
50 proposed use is incompatible with the primary use, the proposed use should not be authorized, or it
51 should be modified so that the incompatibility no longer exists or the impacts from the proposed use have
52 been effectively mitigated (from 11 AAC 55.040 (c)). The plan may assign a designation to ensure a future
53 use that will best serve the public interest, even if that use is not imminent.

54 **Co-designated use.** Where a unit has two or more designated uses, DNR will avoid or minimize conflicts
55 between designated uses by applying the management intent statement and guidelines for the unit and
56 the Chapter 2 guidelines from this plan together with existing statutes, regulations, and procedures. Only
57 those co-designations that are generally complementary to or compatible with each other are included in
58 this plan. Co-designated uses should, therefore, be viewed as compatible unless specific conditions that
59 exist at the time an agency is evaluating whether to grant an authorization indicate otherwise. In this plan,
60 co-designated uses are often Habitat, Public Recreation Dispersed, and Forestry. Other co-designations
61 included in the plan are Coal and Habitat. Within areas so co-designated, mineral
62 exploration/development is an appropriate use, however such activities and projects must consider their
63 potential impacts upon wildlife, fisheries, and habitats, and must either avoid or mitigate significant
64 adverse impacts.

65 [Designations Used in This Plan](#)

66 **Co – Coal.** Areas considered to have coal potential and for which coal mining is an appropriate use, are
67 designated Coal. This designation converts to a land use classification of Coal Land as defined by 11 AAC
68 55.055.

69 **F – Forestry.** Land that is or has been forested and is suited for long-term forest management because of
70 its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions. This land will remain in State ownership. Approving
71 authorizations in these areas will be conducted in compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act
72 (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95), the specific management guidelines in the Forestry section of Chapter 2, and
73 any specific requirements that might apply at the management unit level identified for a particular
74 management unit. Forest Land is to be retained by the state, although timber sales, a type of disposal, are
75 recognized as appropriate.

76 Certain sites within the plan area contain both habitat and forestry values and, as such, are co-designated
77 Forestry and Habitat. In these instances, while forest management projects are recognized as appropriate
78 uses, any proposed activity must take into consideration the impacts upon wildlife, fisheries, and their
79 associated habitats.

80 This designation converts to a land use classification of Forest Land as defined by 11 AAC 55.070.

81 **Ha – Habitat.** This designation applies to areas of varied size for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive
82 life-history stage where alteration of the habitat or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss
83 of a population or sustained yield of a species or that contain a unique or rare assemblage of a single or
84 multiple species of regional or statewide significance. Land designated Habitat is intended to remain in
85 state ownership, and is to be maintained in an undisturbed, natural state except for improvements related
86 to public health, safety, habitat restoration or rehabilitation, and public recreation. Utilities and roads may
87 be appropriate with appropriate design if habitat functions can be maintained. Authorizations within
88 areas designated Habitat are to be considered inappropriate unless consistent with these stipulations and
89 with the management intent for the management unit.

90 This designation converts to a land use classification of Wildlife Habitat Land as defined by 11 AAC 55.230.

91 **Rd – Public Recreation-Dispersed.** This designation applies to those areas that offer or have a high
92 potential for dispersed recreation and where desirable recreation conditions are scattered or widespread
93 rather than localized. Developed facilities are generally not necessary other than trails, trail signs,
94 primitive campsites, and other minor improvements. This land will be retained in public ownership in an
95 undisturbed, natural state except for improvements related to public health, safety, or recreation.
96 Authorizations within areas designated Public Recreation-Dispersed are not to be considered appropriate
97 unless necessary for public health, safety, or recreation. Utilities and roads may be appropriate with
98 appropriate design if recreation functions can be maintained.

99 This designation converts to a land use classification of Public Recreation Land as defined by 11 AAC
100 55.160.

101 **Rp – Public Recreation-Public Use Site (Developed).** Areas used by concentrations of recreationists
102 relative to the rest of the planning area or areas with a high potential to attract concentrations of people
103 who recreate. These areas offer localized attractions or ease of access, and in many instances developed
104 facilities. Examples include marinas, cabins, lodges, anchorages, scenic overlooks, road-accessible shore
105 locations that are used for picnicking, sports, fishing, etc. The recreation uses for which these units are

106 designated may be either public or commercial. This land will remain in state ownership unless otherwise
107 noted in the management intent for the unit. The primary management intent for these sites is to protect
108 the opportunity of the public to use these sites, and their public values for recreation. Many of these sites
109 require additional management attention because of the use they are receiving.

110 This designation converts to a land use classification of Public Recreation Land as defined by 11 AAC
111 55.160.

112 **Management Intent**

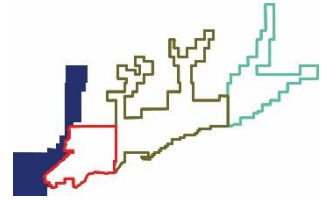
113 Management intent provides a statement about the desired future condition of State land consistent with the
114 purposes of the enabling legislation of the Moose Range and JPUA. Specific management
115 recommendations are found in the subunit management guidelines.

116 **Subunit Management Guidelines**

117 Management guidelines are intended to provide specific management direction for decisions DNR makes
118 about the planning area. Guidelines range from giving general guidance for decision-making to identifying
119 specific factors that need to be considered when making on-the-ground decisions. DNR will use the
120 guidelines when adjudicating applications for the use of state lands within the planning area. In most cases,
121 these guidelines can be implemented through the authorization of applications for proposed uses or
122 through agency actions. In other cases, DNR may promulgate regulations to ensure that these guidelines
123 can be implemented and are enforceable. The guidelines include recommendations for facilities and
124 Public Use Sites.

125

126 The Western Management Subunit



127 Background

128 The Western Management Subunit includes portions of the Moose Range that lie east of Fishhook Road
129 and west of Moose Creek. The subunit includes the entire Moose Creek drainage within the Talkeetna
130 Mountains and the headwaters and adjacent wetlands of Wasilla Creek, an anadromous stream. The
131 subunit is accessed by Wendt Road from the west, Buffalo Mine Road from the east, and Soapstone Road
132 from the south. Lower elevations of this subunit have high potential for personal and commercial firewood
133 harvest, while upper elevations, above 2,000 feet, have minimal timber value.

134 The Western Management Subunit is closest to the highest density of residential land in Palmer resulting
135 in increased recreational use over the past 10-15 years. Community groups groom a system of trails for
136 winter use. Public lands in the Western Management Subunit are used at moderate levels for dispersed
137 outdoor recreational activities in the summer months and higher levels in the winter. There are few
138 existing developed outdoor recreational facilities inside the Moose Range in this subunit including an
139 undeveloped trailhead at Wendt Road and a few bridges over Wasilla Creek. The predominant scenic
140 values in this subunit, as viewed from the Glenn Highway, include Arkose Ridge. Although there are no
141 active leases/permits, and there haven't been for many years, the best potential grazing lands in the
142 Range are found in the subunit.

143 Planning and Land Management Issues

144 Due to the proximity to residential development and with some of the most developed access routes, the
145 lands in the Western Management Subunit receive some of the highest motorized and non-motorized
146 recreational trail use. Additionally, the easy access for hunting from Buffalo Mine Road and Fishhook Road
147 put motorized pressure on the Western Management Subunit during the fall when soil conditions are
148 generally saturated. Conflicts between motorized and non-motorized trail users are a significant issue and
149 solutions are required to allow multiple use to continue while protecting wetland habitat and anadromous
150 streams.

151 Incompatible Uses

152 The enabling legislation of the Moose Range directs DNR and ADF&G to manage multiple uses that are
153 compatible with its enabling legislation to maintain, improve, and enhance moose populations and habitat
154 and other wildlife resources of the area. Existing damage to wetlands, streams, and wildlife habitat from
155 motorized recreational use is significant in the Western Management Subunit and the management
156 guidelines below are intended to mitigate the resource damage.

157 Land Use Designations

158 State land will be managed consistent with its designation(s); as specifically articulated through
159 management intent described below and applicable goals and management guidelines found in Chapters
160 2 and 3. Some lands have one designation while other lands are co-designated for a variety of uses. Table
161 1 provides a quick reference of the designations and co-designations used in this management subunit,
162 and the acreages of designation(s).

163 *Table 1: Western Management Subunit Designations and Acreages*

<i>Designation or Co-Designation</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
<i>W1: Habitat, Public Recreation-Dispersed</i>	<i>Ha, Rd</i>	<i>19,467</i>
<i>W2: Habitat, Public Recreation-Dispersed, Forestry</i>	<i>Ha, Rd, F</i>	<i>2,235</i>
<i>W3: Coal, Habitat, Public Recreation-Dispersed</i>	<i>Co, Ha, Rd</i>	<i>320</i>

164 **Management Intent**

165
 166 **Unit W1: Ha, Rd.** The management intent for Unit W1 in the Western Management Subunit is to enhance
 167 browse-producing habitat. Manage the unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat and
 168 associated wetlands, streams and waterbodies. Additionally, Unit W1 will be managed for dispersed
 169 outdoor recreational activities. Popular activities such as hunting big and small game, trapping, wildlife
 170 viewing, horseback riding, hiking, skiing, winter biking, and fishing will continue. To protect wildlife habitat
 171 including wetlands and anadromous streams, this plan recommends restricting the use of motorized
 172 vehicles to be more restrictive than the Generally Allowed Uses on State Land (11 AAC 96.020). The plan
 173 recommends restricting motorized use to designated, hardened routes⁷ as identified in a subsequent
 174 Trails Management Plan (See Chapter 2, Trails).

175 Proposed recreational facility development in the subunit includes trail hardening and bridge and culvert
 176 installations to protect wetlands and habitat in the vicinity of the Wasilla Creek headwaters. Trailhead
 177 facilities should only be authorized as an access point if specific management guidelines are met.

178 **Unit W2: Ha, Rd, F.** Same intent as Unit W1 with the following addition:

179 There is a local need for personal firewood, and this need may be met to the extent possible by
 180 improving fish and wildlife habitat in conjunction with timber harvest. Timber harvest is allowed only if
 181 the activity enhances fish and wildlife habitat.

182 **Unit W3: Co, Ha, Rd.** Same intent as Unit W1 with the following addition:

183 Coal development is allowed according to existing authorizations. The primary post-mining land use in
 184 this unit is designated as Public Recreation-Dispersed (Rd) if the location is appropriate and if the
 185 recreation use is consistent with the definition of recreation land in the Surface Mining Control and
 186 Reclamation Act and the Alaska Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The secondary post-mining
 187 land use is designated as Habitat (Ha) and reclamation efforts will be directed toward producing habitat
 188 that is primarily beneficial to moose.

189

⁷ This management guideline requires the promulgation of regulations for implementation.

191 **Subunit Management Guidelines**

192 **1. Access and Trails**

- 193 a. Public Lands. Public access into the Western Management Subunit is necessary for maintaining
194 multiple use. The state will maintain public rights-of-way and/or easements for public access to
195 Moose and Wasilla Creeks, Tsadaka Canyon along Moose Creek, and to public lands along
196 Fishhook, Wendt, Soapstone, Buffalo Mine and Murphy Roads.
- 197 b. Public Use of Existing Access.
- 198 i. Areas of Open Access. Public sections of the Buffalo Mine and Wendt Roads will remain
199 open to motorized and non-motorized uses.
- 200 ii. Area of Unimproved, Closed, or Revegetated Roads. To help manage potential human
201 conflicts with habitat enhancement research efforts, the Division of Forestry (DOF) timber
202 harvest roads in the southwest corner of the Western Management Subunit will not be
203 upgraded, improved, or posted with recreational signs. Roads or trails that are required
204 for timber harvest and/or habitat enhancement projects are not necessarily intended for
205 public access and may be closed or revegetated as part of the habitat maintenance or
206 enhancement efforts.
- 207 c. New Access.
- 208 i. Public input indicates upper Moose Creek drainage should be left undisturbed. No new
209 trails or roads shall be built beyond or north of the knoll located north of the southern
210 section line of Sec. 1 and 2, T19N, R2E, S.M., for recreation, timber management or
211 wildlife habitat enhancement activities.
- 212 ii. Wendt Road Trailhead. Access to the Western Management Subunit from Fishhook Road
213 is possible via Wendt Road. An upgraded trailhead may be developed at the end of Wendt
214 Road for multiple use access to the Moose Range. DNR DMLW and ADF&G should work
215 cooperatively to develop a trailhead designed to be consistent with the intent of the
216 management plan. The trailhead should minimize negative impacts on neighboring
217 private property and land uses. If a trailhead at this location is proposed by an entity other
218 than DNR, a management agreement for active site management, maintenance, and
219 enforcement is required to be in place prior to authorization. Additionally, a trailhead
220 should not be authorized until the Trail Management Plan (TMP) for the Moose Range
221 and JPUA is complete and there is a more thorough understanding of the capacity of the
222 trail system in the Western Management Subunit for increased use.
- 223 d. Trails. In addition to the areawide management guidelines established for trails in Chapter 2, the
224 following guidelines are specific to the Western Management Subunit.
- 225 i. Wasilla Creek Headwaters Trail System. ADF&G and DNR should continue to authorize
226 the construction of hardened routes and sustainable creek crossings. To protect wetland
227 resources and habitat, motorized and mechanized trail use should be restricted during
228 snow-free and ice-free seasons to authorized hardened routes that will be established by

229 the TMP defined in Chapter 2. Vehicle use restrictions may be necessary to protect
230 habitat⁸.
231 ii. Trail Kiosks, Signage, and Wayfinding. Trailhead maps, kiosks, wayfinding signage, and
232 trail use information may be developed. Signs should clearly display trail use information,
233 regulatory information, and allowed trail uses. Wayfinding and trail use signs may be used
234 to appropriately guide trails users.

235 2. Cultural and Heritage Resources

- 236 h. Known Sites. One heritage resource site is recorded on the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey in
237 the Western Management Subunit. This site will be managed according to the guidelines in
238 Chapter 2.
- 239 i. Undiscovered Sites. The Western Management Subunit has been used historically by Alaska
240 Native people primarily traveling along the Matanuska River and up into the Moose Creek
241 Drainage. With the extent of past cultural use, it is likely that additional cultural resources may be
242 located. Areas in the Western Management Subunit designated by SHPO as known and high
243 potential areas for containing heritage resources should be surveyed for heritage values as
244 funding and staffing allow.

245 3. Fish, Wildlife, and Forestry

- 246 a. Resource Management. This subunit will be managed primarily to maintain, protect and, if
247 necessary, enhance the following fish and wildlife resources and habitats:
- 248 i. Moose throughout the subunit.
 - 249 ii. Ruffed grouse throughout the subunit.
 - 250 iii. Brown bear in upper Moose Creek drainage.
 - 251 iv. Black bear throughout the subunit.
 - 252 v. Dall sheep in upper Moose Creek and in higher elevations.
 - 253 vi. Small game and fur bearers.
 - 254 vii. Riparian habitats and instream flow along Moose and Wasilla Creeks.
 - 255 viii. Chinook and coho salmon and Dolly Varden in Moose Creek.
 - 256 ix. Coho and Chinook salmon, Dolly Varden and rainbow trout in upper Wasilla Creek.
 - 257 x. Habitat for moose and other wildlife species.
 - 258 xi. Buffer areas around Moose and Wasilla Creeks.
 - 259 xii. Other species and habitats identified by ADF&G.
- 260 b. Fish and Wildlife Utilization. The subunit will be managed to allow continuation of the following
261 activities:
- 262 i. Hunting of big and small game and trapping throughout the subunit.
 - 263 ii. Sportfishing for anadromous, resident, and stocked fish.
 - 264 iii. Wildlife viewing throughout the subunit.

⁸ This management guideline requires the promulgation of regulations for implementation.

- 265 c. Habitat Enhancement. The Western Management Subunit may be managed to produce moose
266 habitat. Secondly, DNR, in consultation with ADF&G, may authorize research to identify
267 preferred methods for habitat enhancement and regeneration of browse. DNR, ADF&G, and
268 others will work cooperatively on research efforts whenever possible. Techniques may include
269 willow bundle planting, scarification, use of seed trees, selective cutting of spruce, and variations
270 in the size and shape of cuts. Techniques to be tested include, but are not limited to, overstory
271 removal, burning, pesticides, and plant trimming to promote sprouting.
- 272 d. Fisheries. ADF&G will maintain, protect, and enhance the fisheries and habitats of Wasilla and
273 Moose Creeks. To accomplish this, ADF&G may conduct spawning and escapement surveys,
274 monitor trends in harvest angler effort, and develop recommendations for field investigations
275 and/or Board of Fisheries consideration, as time and funds allow. ADF&G will adjust stocking
276 levels in stocked lakes based on health and survival of stocked fish and changes in use patterns
277 and pursuant to the annual public review of the statewide stocking plan. ADF&G will manage sport
278 fisheries for sustained yield and angler satisfaction, work closely with enforcement staff in
279 adherence to regulations, and assist in habitat conservation and restoration.

2804. Forestry

281 Timber harvest operations that enhance fish and wildlife habitat may be authorized in the Western
282 Management Subunit. Specific sales locations and dates will be identified by DOF in consultation with
283 ADF&G. The criteria for determining the location of cutting units includes access on existing roads/trails
284 to allow the public to obtain firewood. Commercial timber harvests will occur in areas where cost
285 effectiveness and habitat enhancement methods justify such harvests.

286 a. Timber Harvest and/or Habitat Enhancement Location.

- 287 i. Elevation. No timber may be harvested above 1,100 feet elevation.
- 288 ii. Schedule. The schedule for forest product harvest in the Western Management Subunit
289 should be identified by DOF in consultation with ADF&G.
- 290 iii. Buffers. See Buffer guidelines in Chapter 2.

291 5. Public Use Sites

292 There are no identified Public Use Sites in the Western Management Subunit.

293 6. Recreation

294 Follow the areawide management guidelines in Chapter 2.

295 7. Subsurface Resources

296 The Western Management Subunit is open to locatable and leasable mineral development. There is no
297 known coal potential in upper Moose Creek.

298 8. Water, Wetlands, and Waterbodies

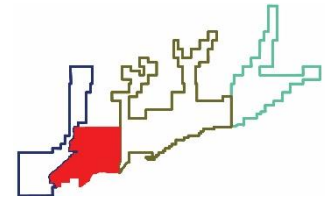
299 a. Lakeshores and Stream Corridors.

- 300 i. Wasilla Creek. There is a 200-foot buffer on each side of Wasilla Creek above ordinary
301 high water. Any habitat enhancement activity altering the habitat/vegetation within the

302 buffer shall require concurrence by DNR and ADF&G. See Chapter 2 guidelines on stream
303 corridors and lakeshores for other allowed activities within buffers.
304 ii. Other Streams and Lakes. Habitat enhancement efforts in riparian zones along Moose
305 Creek may take place according to the Chapter 2 guidelines on buffers.
306 b. Wetland Buffers. Large wetlands, more than 700 acres, exist in the southwestern end of this
307 subunit in the headwaters of Wasilla Creek. A buffer will be retained around them as described in
308 Chapter 2.
309 c. Instream Flow Reservations. ADF&G may establish instream flow needs on Wasilla Creek and
310 Moose Creek to maintain fish and wildlife resources, riparian habitat, and associated recreational
311 opportunities as funding and staff are available. The DMLW shall work closely with ADF&G to
312 establish the instream flow reservations as necessary.

313

314 The Jonesville Management Subunit



315 Background

316 The Jonesville Public Use Area (JPUA), Alaska Statute 41.23.280, was established by the Alaska State
317 Legislature in 2018 to address the public's safety concerns in the area and to protect a spectrum of public
318 recreation activities while maintaining fish and wildlife habitat and allowing compatible uses. The JPUA
319 lies almost entirely within the Moose Range.

320 This area extends east from Buffalo Mine Road and the ordinary high-water mark of Moose Creek nearly
321 six miles east to a north-south section line near and roughly paralleling Granite Creek. The dominant
322 features of this area are the benchlands above the Matanuska River and the alpine and subalpine terrain
323 around Eska Mountain. The Eska Creek drainage and its tributaries are the dominant hydrologic feature
324 of the area. Moose Creek and Granite Creek roughly comprise the western and eastern boundaries,
325 respectively. The Glenn Highway forms most of the unit's southern boundary, and an east-west section
326 line between Eska Mountain and Granite Peak forms the northern boundary. The area includes lands
327 around Wishbone Hill, Seventeen Mile Lake, and the Sutton community.

328 This Moose Range Management Plan will provide management direction for both the Moose Range and
329 the JPUA. The lands that are legislatively designated as the JPUA will comprise the bulk of the Jonesville
330 Management Subunit. To ensure management consistency, additional lands within the boundary of the
331 Moose Range that are south of the JPUA between Moose Creek and Granite Creek will also be included in
332 the Jonesville Management Subunit. The specific management recommendations for the Jonesville
333 Management Subunit will be consistent with the enabling legislation of both the JPUA and the Moose
334 Range.

335 The subunit has moderate-to-high values for fish, wildlife, and forestry resources. Big and small game
336 hunting, fishing, and trapping are historic uses of the area and occur throughout the subunit. Subsistence
337 and sport harvest both occur but cannot be readily quantified. Wildlife viewing mostly occurs in road and
338 trail-accessible areas of the subunit. Habitat enhancement research efforts and regeneration of habitat
339 projects have been established in this subunit and are ongoing. Moose habitat is being enhanced in the
340 subunit to offset critical habitat being lost to development elsewhere in the Matanuska Valley. Wishbone
341 Lake has highly valued rainbow trout sport fishing opportunities.

342 Jonesville Mine Road is the primary road used to access the area. Seventeen Mile Lake and Wishbone Strip
343 Mine Trails provide primary trail access into the subunit. There is secondary access from All Elks Road,
344 Buffalo Mine Road, and Mile 58 Road.

345 Moderate to high levels of recreational use occur in this unit year-round, but primarily on weekends. Both
346 non-motorized and motorized use occurs; however, most of the recreational use is motorized.

347 Non-motorized uses in the area include hiking, fishing, boating, camping, wildlife viewing, fossil viewing,
348 horseback riding, biking, swimming, recreational shooting, trapping, and hunting. This unit is the gateway
349 for many users to access state land to the north, east, and west. When ice and snow conditions permit, the

350 area receives a variety of uses, including snowshoeing, winter biking, skiing, and dogsledding. Non-
351 motorized boating occurs during the ice-free periods on Slipper Lake. Several creeks in and around the
352 unit are used by canoes, kayaks, or rafts.

353 Motorized uses include highway, OHV, ATV, side-by-side and dirt bike operation as a means of access for
354 fishing, hunting, trapping, camping, wildlife viewing, photography, and recreation. OHV use occurs
355 primarily on the numerous trails throughout the subunit. During winter months, frozen ground conditions
356 allow for increased motorized recreational opportunities and access.

357 Some of the highest valued coal resources in the state are in the lower half of the Jonesville Management
358 Subunit.

359 The predominant scenic values in this subunit, as viewed from the Glenn Highway, include Wishbone Hill,
360 Eska Mountain, and Granite Peak.

361 **Planning and Land Management Issues**

362 The primary issues in the Jonesville Management Subunit are unsafe and unlawful activities, conflicting
363 and incompatible uses, trespassing concerns on private land, and noise disturbing area residents. Unsafe
364 recreational shooting throughout the subunit is one of the primary threats to public safety.

365 Many users of the Jonesville Management Subunit engage in activities that are unlawful or are a threat to
366 public safety. Some issues identified by the public include dangerous and/or reckless discharge of weapons,
367 destruction of private and public property, and the burning of automobiles. Users indicate that they do not
368 feel safe when others are shooting in the area or discharging illegal explosives. Several comments cite a lack
369 of enforcement as a major issue.

370 The relative ease of access of the Jonesville Management Subunit from the Glenn Highway, Seventeen
371 Mile Lake, and Jonesville Mine trails contribute to the issues. Many users access the area by means of a
372 motorized highway and OHVs to reach the unmanaged trails in the forest and sub-alpine areas. The area
373 is popular with motorized trail users for recreation because it is adjacent to state land for hunting and
374 fishing. The high level of use is causing negative effects on the trails such as braiding, rutting, and debris,
375 making the trails unusable for some methods of non-motorized use. Some users suggested
376 they are displaced from the area because of conflict with other user groups on trails.

377 The increased use may be negatively affecting water quality in the area. Some issues identified include
378 camping with no sanitary method of human waste disposal, leaving shooting litter with no lead
379 containment or cleanup, and dumping of household waste (trash, electronics, and vehicles).

380 **Compatible Uses**

381 The enabling legislation of the JPUA requires DNR to protect, maintain, enhance, and perpetuate the
382 present use of the JPUA. The legislation directs the DNR Commissioner to allow the JPUA to be used for
383 activities that are compatible with its establishment including operating all-terrain vehicles on trails or in
384 areas designated or constructed for their use, aircraft, and watercraft; snowmachining, horseback riding,
385 hiking, bicycling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, skijoring, camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife

386 viewing, photography, berry picking; and, where permitted, rifle and pistol ranges, parking of vehicles,
387 and lawful mineral exploration and mining⁹. All above listed activities are compatible and can occur safely,
388 when following the management guidelines of this plan.

389 **Incompatible Uses**

390 The JPUA enabling legislation allows for uses to be restricted if those uses are determined to be one of
391 the following:

- 392 1. Incompatible with the purpose of the JPUA as defined in AS 41.23.280.
- 393 2. Incompatible with one or more other uses in the JPUA.

394 Furthermore, the JPUA legislation does not allow the restriction of the use of weapons, including firearms,
395 except in locations where there is a threat to public safety¹⁰. As required by 41.23.284 (f), if the
396 Commissioner determines that a use is incompatible with one or more other uses in a portion of the JPUA,
397 the Commissioner shall describe:

- 398 (1) each determination of incompatibility;
- 399 (2) the specific area where the incompatibility is determined to exist;
- 400 (3) the time within which the incompatibility is determined to exist; and
- 401 (4) the reasons for the determination of incompatibility.

402 Incompatibility Determination

403 This Plan finds the use of weapons, including firearms, incompatible with one or more uses in the JPUA
404 except if being used for lawful hunting or trapping or within a designated shooting area. The use of
405 firearms for lawful hunting and trapping is compatible with the purpose of the JPUA and other uses in the
406 JPUA.

- 407 1. Determination of Incompatibility. The unorganized use of weapons, including firearms, is not
408 compatible with other recreational uses occurring in the JPUA and creates a significant threat to
409 public safety. There are currently no designated areas or infrastructure for target shooting and
410 weapons discharge placing other users and neighboring residential areas at significant risk of
411 property damage, injury, and/or death. There are no lead containment or shooting debris clean-
412 up requirements contributing to litter and pollution. Weapons discharge and target shooting
413 produce noise at significant levels at all times of the day impacting all other uses including
414 neighboring residential areas, wildlife, and their habitat.
- 415 2. Specific Area Where Incompatibility is Determined to Exist. The unorganized use of weapons,
416 including firearms, is incompatible in the high-use area of the Jonesville Management Subunit
417 near Slipper Lake, Eska Falls, Wishbone Lake, near residential areas, and other private property.

⁹ As outlined in 41.23.284 (d) (B)

¹⁰ See 41.23.284 (c) (2)

418 3. Time Within Which Incompatibility is Determined to Exist. The JPUA is used at all hours of the day,
419 all days of the week, and all months of the year for recreation. The incompatibility of unorganized
420 use of weapons, including firearms, is present at all times of the day and year.

421 Land Use Designations

422 State land will be managed consistent with its designation(s); as specifically articulated through
423 management intent described below and applicable goals and management guidelines found in Chapters
424 2 and 3. Some lands have one designation while other lands are co-designated for a variety of uses. Table
425 2 provides a quick reference of the designations and co-designations used in this management subunit,
426 and the acreages of designation(s).

427 Table 2: Jonesville Management Subunit Designations and Acreages

<i>Designation or Co-Designation</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
<i>J1: Habitat, Public Recreation-Dispersed</i>	<i>Ha, Rd</i>	<i>7,764</i>
<i>J2: Coal, Habitat, Public Recreation-Dispersed</i>	<i>Co, Ha, Rd</i>	<i>6,550</i>
<i>J3: Coal, Public Recreation-Public Use Site</i>	<i>Co, Rp</i>	<i>339</i>
<i>J4: Public Recreation-Public Use Site</i>	<i>Rp</i>	<i>2,367</i>

428 Management Intent

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430 **Unit J1: Ha, Rd.** The primary management intent for Unit J1 is to manage for dispersed outdoor recreation
431 use and mitigate conflicts between incompatible uses as necessary. In addition to outdoor public
432 recreational use, Unit J1 should be managed to enhance browse-producing habitat. Manage the unit to
433 protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat including wetlands and anadromous streams and
434 waterbodies. A subsequent Trails Management Plan (See Chapter 2, Trails) should address the impacts
435 associated with the use and proliferation of trails in the unit. Trails should be assessed, classified,
436 designated, and improved as identified in the TMP. Popular activities such as hunting big and small game,
437 trapping, wildlife viewing, fossil hunting, off-road vehicle riding, overnight camping, horseback riding,
438 hiking, biking, skiing, and fishing will continue. DNR should manage the Eska Creek Falls public use site
439 (See Map 7) to minimize user conflicts and ensure public safety.

440 **Unit J2: Co, Ha, Rd.** The primary management intent for Unit J2 is to manage for dispersed outdoor
441 recreation use and mitigate conflicts between incompatible uses as necessary. In addition to outdoor
442 public recreational use, Unit J2 should be managed to enhance browse-producing habitat. Manage the
443 unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat including wetlands and anadromous streams and
444 waterbodies. A subsequent Trails Management Plan (See Chapter 2, Trails) may address the impacts
445 associated with the use and proliferation of trails in the unit. Trails should be assessed, classified,
446 designated, and improved as identified in the TMP. Popular activities such as hunting big and small game,

447 trapping, wildlife viewing, off-road vehicle riding, overnight camping, horseback riding, hiking, biking,
448 skiing, and fishing will continue. DNR should manage the Wishbone Lake public use site (See Map 7) to
449 minimize user conflicts and ensure public safety. Shoreline improvements such as docks may be
450 considered at Wishbone Lake.

451 Coal development will proceed in the Wishbone Hill area according to existing authorizations. The primary
452 post-mining land use in this area is designated Rd if the location is appropriate and if the recreation use is
453 consistent with the definition of recreation land in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and
454 the Alaska Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The secondary post-mining land use is designated
455 as Habitat (Ha) and reclamation efforts will be directed toward producing habitat that is primarily
456 beneficial to moose. In situations where coal development is scheduled, utilization of timber resources on
457 lands leased for coal will be encouraged. The entire subunit will remain open for locatable mineral entry
458 and for the leasing of coal and oil and gas. It is possible that the state will lease small tracts adjacent to
459 the existing coal leases if it appears that they contain coal.

460 **Unit J3: Co, Rp.** The management intent for Unit J3 is the development of a public shooting range designed
461 to minimize noise disturbance.

462 **Unit J4: Rp.** The primary management intent for Unit J4 is to manage high levels of outdoor public
463 recreational use and mitigate the conflicts between incompatible uses. DNR may manage the Slipper Lake
464 public use site (See Map 7) to minimize user conflicts and ensure public safety. Developed recreation
465 facilities constructed at key locations would enhance the public's enjoyment of the area, protect public
466 safety, and minimize impacts on fish and wildlife habitats. A few key facilities, such as designated camping
467 areas, once constructed, along with active management and enforcement, will greatly enhance public
468 safety and enjoyment of Unit J4. Popular activities such as hunting big and small game, trapping, wildlife
469 viewing, off-road vehicle riding, overnight camping, horseback riding, hiking, biking, skiing, and fishing will
470 continue. A subsequent Trails Management Plan (See Chapter 2, Trails) may address the impacts
471 associated with the use and proliferation of trails in the unit. Trails should be assessed, classified,
472 designated, and improved or constructed as identified in the TMP. DNR may consider authorizing a
473 motocross area in an area already impacted by former mining activity.

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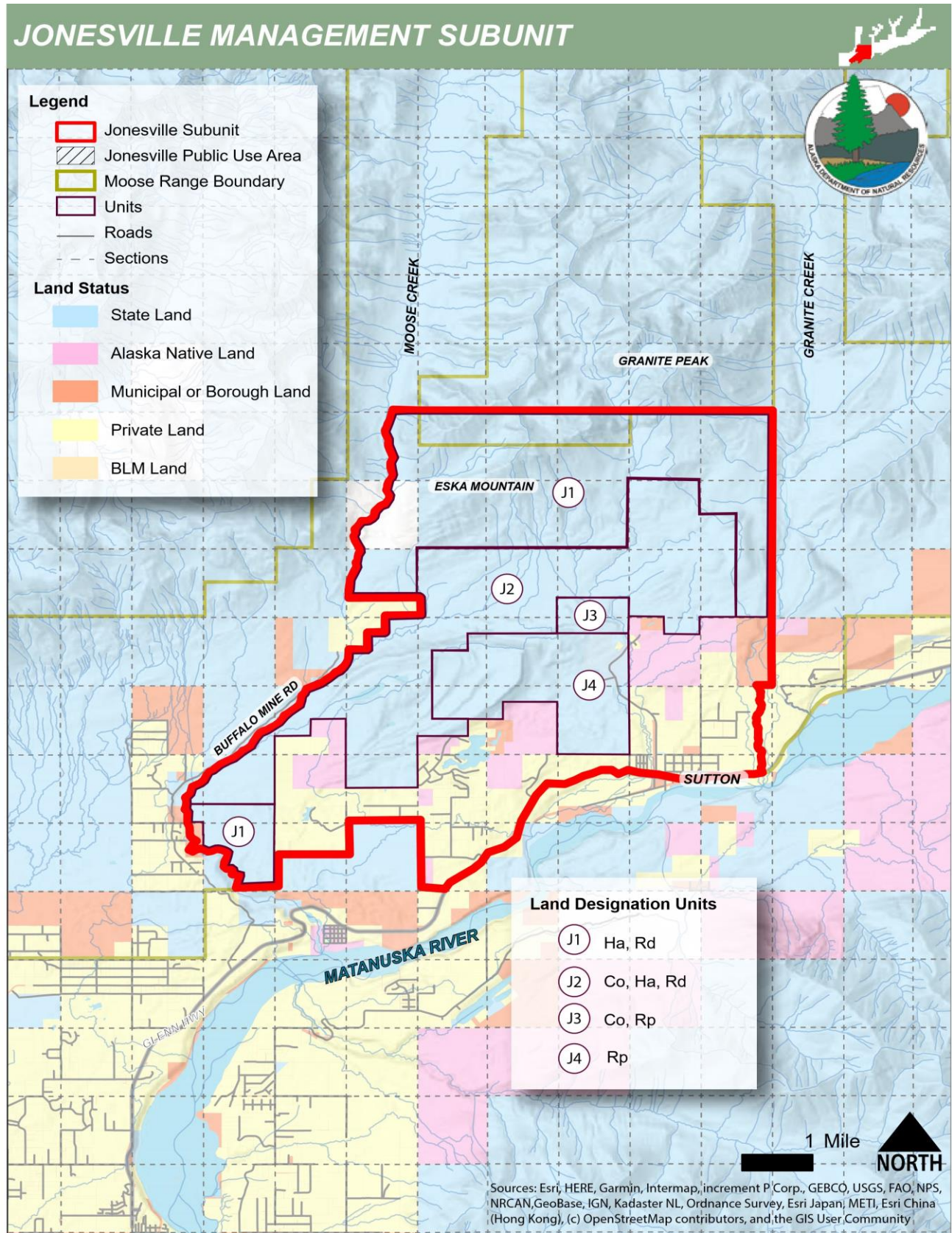
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482 **Subunit Management Guidelines**

483 1. **Access and Trails**

- 484 a. Public Lands. Public access into the Jonesville Management Subunit is necessary for maintaining
485 multiple use. The State should ensure access to public rights-of-way and easements for public
486 access to Wishbone Lake and Eska Creek.
- 487 b. Public Use of Existing Access.
- 488 i. Areas of Open Access. Public sections of the Buffalo Mine Road, mining spur roads to
489 Wishbone Lake and Seventeen Mile Lake, and the Jonesville Mine Road and mining spur
490 roads to the east will remain open to motorized and non-motorized uses.
- 491 ii. Area of Unimproved, Closed, or Revegetated Roads. Roads or trails that are required for
492 timber harvest and/or habitat enhancement projects are not necessarily intended for
493 public access and may be closed or revegetated as part of the habitat maintenance or
494 enhancement efforts.
- 495 iii. Areas with Active Assertion. The public has been using the mining roads that connect
496 Buffalo Mine Road, Seventeen Mile Lake, and Jonesville Road since they were
497 constructed. DNR DMLW will continue researching the validity of a public right-of-way on
498 roads and trails and follow Chapter 2 guidelines for making a right-of-way assertion
499 wherever necessary and possible. This includes access to Wishbone Lake off the mining
500 roads system.
- 501 c. New Access. New trailheads to the Jonesville Management Subunit may be developed.
- 502 d. Trails. In addition to the areawide management guidelines established for trails in Chapter 2, the
503 following guidelines are specific to the Jonesville Management Subunit.
- 504 i. Develop Non-motorized Hiking Trails. The following non-motorized hiking trails may be
505 developed:
- 506 1) Slipper Lake parking lot to the Eska Falls hiking trail.
- 507 2) Hiking trail to the top of Wishbone Hill.
- 508 ii. Trail Kiosks, Signage, and Wayfinding. Trailhead maps, kiosks, wayfinding signage, and
509 trail use information may be developed. Signs will clearly display trail use information,
510 regulatory information, and allowed trail uses. Wayfinding and trail use signs may be used
511 to appropriately guide trails users.

512 2. **Cultural and Heritage Resources**

- 513 a. Known Sites. Three known heritage resource sites have been recorded on the Alaska Heritage
514 Resources Survey in the Jonesville Management Subunit. These sites will be managed according
515 to the guidelines in Chapter 2.
- 516 b. Undiscovered Sites. The Jonesville Management Subunit has been used historically by Alaska
517 Native people primarily traveling along the Matanuska River and up into the Moose Creek
518 drainage. Coal mining near Jonesville/Sutton subsequently spurred the development of the non-
519 native communities. With the extent of past use, it is likely that additional cultural resources may
520 be located in the future. Areas in the Jonesville Management Subunit designated by the State

521 Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as known and high potential areas for containing heritage
522 resources may be surveyed for heritage values as funding and staffing allow.

523 3. Fish and Wildlife

524 a. Resource Management. This subunit will be managed primarily to maintain, protect and, if
525 necessary, enhance the following fish and wildlife resources and habitats:

- 526 i. Moose throughout the subunit.
- 527 ii. Ruffed grouse throughout the subunit.
- 528 iii. Brown bear in upper Moose Creek drainage.
- 529 iv. Black bear throughout the subunit.
- 530 v. Dall sheep in upper Moose Creek and in higher elevations.
- 531 vi. Small game and fur bearers.
- 532 vii. Riparian habitats and instream flow along Eska Creek.
- 533 viii. Dolly Varden, Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon in Eska Creek.
- 534 ix. All 5 species of pacific salmon in Moose Creek.
- 535 x. Rainbow trout in Slipper and Wishbone Lakes.
- 536 xi. Habitat for moose and other wildlife species.
- 537 xii. Rainbow trout in Coyote Lake.
- 538 xiii. Buffer around Wishbone Lake.
- 539 xiv. Other species and habitats identified by ADF&G.

540 b. Fish and Wildlife Utilization. The subunit will be managed to allow continuation of the following
541 activities:

- 542 i. Hunting of big and small game and trapping throughout the subunit.
- 543 ii. Sportfishing for anadromous, resident, and stocked fish.
- 544 iii. Wildlife viewing throughout the subunit.

545 c. Habitat Enhancement. Habitat enhancement techniques that are proven to be cost-efficient and
546 environmentally sound may be applied.

547 d. Fisheries. ADF&G will maintain, protect, and enhance the fisheries and habitats of Eska Creek,
548 Wishbone and Slipper Lakes. To accomplish this, ADF&G may conduct spawning and escapement
549 surveys, monitor trends in harvest angler effort, and develop recommendations for field
550 investigations and/or Board of Fisheries consideration, as time and funds allow. ADF&G will adjust
551 stocking levels in stocked lakes based on health and survival of stocked fish and changes in use
552 patterns and pursuant to the annual public review of the statewide stocking plan. ADF&G will
553 manage sport fisheries for sustained yield and angler satisfaction, work closely with enforcement
554 staff in adherence to regulations, and assist in habitat conservation and restoration.

555 4. Forestry

556 a. Timber Harvest. Timber harvest operations that enhance fish and wildlife habitat may be
557 authorized in the Jonesville Management Subunit. Specific sale locations and dates will be
558 identified by DOF in consultation with ADF&G. The criteria for determining the location of cutting

559 units includes identifying access on existing roads/trails to allow the public to obtain firewood.
560 Commercial timber harvests will occur in areas where cost effectiveness and habitat
561 enhancement methods justify such harvests.

- 562 i. Coal Leases. Timber harvest may be pursued on existing coal development leases near
563 Wishbone Hill to utilize existing timber resources prior to coal development.
- 564 ii. Elevation. No timber shall be harvested above 1,100 feet elevation except for habitat
565 enhancement purposes.
- 566 iii. Schedule. The schedule for forest product harvest in the Jonesville Management Subunit
567 should be identified by DOF in consultation with ADF&G.
- 568 iv. Buffers. See Buffer guidelines in Chapter 2.

569 5. Public Use Sites

570 a. Public Use Sites. Public Use Sites, illustrated on Map 7 on the next page, are sites on state land that
571 have been identified as particularly important for public access, recreation, camping, fishing, or
572 other recreation or public use. These sites have high public value and therefore should receive a
573 higher degree of management attention to preserve recreation and resource values. The
574 designation of these sites in this management plan serves to recognize the importance of the
575 areas for continued public use. As use patterns change, new sites may be designated. Such
576 additions will be at the discretion of DNR. Improvements such as public facilities, docks, and boat
577 ramps may be authorized. Within a Public Use Site and based on the incompatibility
578 determination above, uses may be restricted to protect the health and safety of the public. This
579 plan recommends prohibiting the discharge of weapons except for lawful hunting and trapping or
580 within a designated shooting area, restricting vehicle and boat speeds, and restricting camping to
581 a designated campground, identified campsites, for a certain duration, or within a certain distance
582 of a developed facility when a facility is developed¹¹. The following Public Use Sites are designated
583 in the plan:

- 584 i. Slipper Lake
- 585 ii. Eska Falls
- 586 iii. Wishbone Lake

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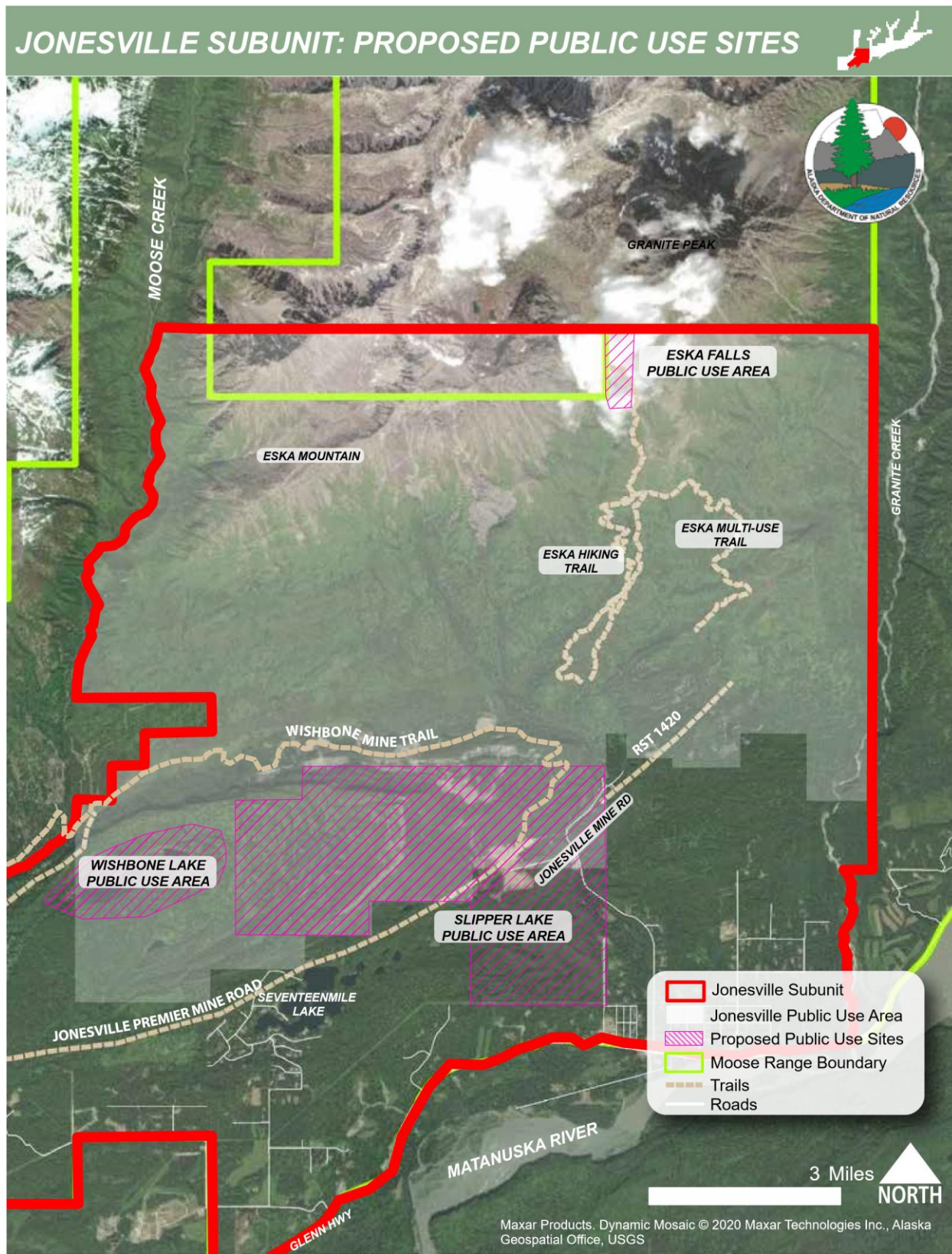
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¹¹ This management guideline will require the promulgation of regulations for implementation.



596 6. Recreation

597 a. Facility Development.

598 i. Slipper Lake Campground. A campground may be developed at Slipper Lake that provides
599 restrooms. Considerations for a campground should include separate facilities for
600 different user groups (i.e., RV/motorized, tent/motorized, tent/non-motorized, remote
601 campground accessible by trail only). The campground should include facilities for a camp
602 host.

603 ii. Shooting Range. A shooting range may be designated and constructed in the Jonesville
604 Management Subunit where shooting can occur safely and where impacts to fish habitat,
605 wildlife habitat, and other outdoor recreation activities are minimized. Planning and
606 construction of a shooting range and necessary support facilities should conform to
607 appropriate best management practices for shooting ranges. The shooting area should
608 have specified hours of operation and should be staffed, managed, and maintained. The
609 shooting range should be located in an area that is accessible year-round and provides
610 suitable barriers or backstops to catch stray projectiles. Significant baffling should be
611 considered for firing lanes to shield from errant bullets and noise. Map 8 on the next page
612 identifies a potential shooting range site that appears to achieve the criteria listed above;
613 however, a more thorough feasibility analysis should be completed.

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MAP 7: Jonesville Subunit: Proposed Designated Shooting Area



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b. Interpretive Displays, Regulatory, & Informational Signs. Developed facilities, trails, and public use sites should include all informational and regulatory signage necessary for management and enforcement. Wishbone Lake and Slipper Lake may include interpretive displays to inform the public about the purposes of the Moose Range and JPUA, existing outdoor recreational opportunities, natural, cultural, and historic values, and unique geologic features. The displays can be used to inform the public about natural resource values and multiple use management of the natural resources. Interpretive signage along trails outside of public use sites should be limited. See the trails section in Chapter 2 for more information about trail wayfinding.

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c. Fossil Viewing. Fossil viewing is a dispersed outdoor recreational activity that is popular in the Jonesville Management Subunit. The activity may be restricted by DNR if the public's safety is endangered, if the activity interferes with coal mining operations, or if the cultural/heritage value of the resource warrants restrictions. All fossils are the property of the State, and it is unlawful to collect or remove them without the proper authorizations (AS 41.35).

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6. Subsurface Resources

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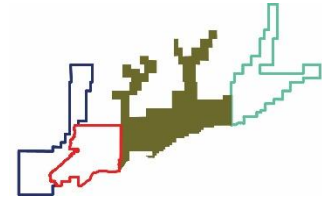
The Jonesville Management Subunit is open to locatable and leasable mineral development.

- 645 a. Coal Lease Location.
- 646 i. Existing Leases. The state will follow existing procedures to allow for development of high
- 647 valued coal resources on lands now leased for coal development near Wishbone Hill. Map
- 648 3 shows the location of the existing leases.
- 649 ii. Agency/Lessee Cooperation. DMLW will work actively with the lessee on the existing
- 650 Wishbone Hill coal leases. DNR and ADF&G will review the mining plans of operation
- 651 when the lessee submits them to the state. State agencies will follow the intent of this
- 652 plan and follow established ASCMCRA procedures in approving the plans for operation.
- 653 State agencies will make recommendations to minimize impacts on fish and wildlife
- 654 habitat and populations.
- 655 iii. Wishbone Lake. Wishbone Lake will be protected, replaced, and/or remediated if
- 656 impacted because of mining.
- 657 b. Post-Mining Land Use. Post-mining land use is designated as wildlife habitat for the Wishbone Hill
- 658 area coal mined lands. Reclamation must be directed to a habitat type and density which is
- 659 primarily beneficial to moose consistent with ASCMCRA. DMLW will monitor coal mining and
- 660 reclamation activities at Wishbone Hill according to the ASCMCRA, including the rainbow fisheries
- 661 in Wishbone Lake, water quality in Moose Creek, groundwater, and air quality of the subunit.
- 662 c. Post-Mining Roads. The location and development of mining roads will receive interagency review
- 663 during the review of any new or changes to approved mining authorizations. The determination
- 664 of post-mining road use will be made at that time. Roads which are designated to be used by the
- 665 public will remain open after mining operations have ceased or until an agency management
- 666 decision is developed to do otherwise.

667 7. Water, Wetlands, and Waterbodies

- 668 a. Lakeshores and Stream Corridors. Habitat enhancement efforts in riparian zones along Eska
- 669 Creek, Wishbone, and Seventeen Mile Lakes may take place according to Chapter 2 buffer
- 670 guidelines.
- 671 b. Instream Flow Reservations. ADF&G may establish instream flow needs on Eska Creek to maintain
- 672 fish and wildlife resources, riparian habitat, and associated recreational opportunities as funding
- 673 and staff are available. DNR DMLW shall work closely with ADF&G to establish the instream flow
- 674 reservations as necessary.
- 675 c. Slipper Lake. The Alaska Dam Safety Program (ADSP) is evaluating Slipper Lake to determine if it
- 676 is an artificially impounded lake. Aerial imagery strongly indicates that the lake has an artificial
- 677 barrier that may be classified as a jurisdictional dam by state regulations (11 AAC 93). If Slipper
- 678 Lake meets the jurisdictional definition of a dam, DNR will need to decide how to bring it into
- 679 compliance with the ADSP. ADSP shall consult with DNR DMLW and ADF&G if Slipper Lake meets
- 680 the jurisdictional definition of a dam to determine how to bring the lake into compliance taking
- 681 the following into consideration:
- 682 i. Slipper Lake is heavily used by the public for recreation, including boating and fishing.
- 683 Slipper Lake is a popular camping location.
- 684 ii. Slipper Lake is currently stocked by ADF&G

685 The Middle Management Subunit



686 Background

687 The Middle Management Subunit includes portions of the following drainages in the Moose Range:
688 Granite Creek, Young Creek, Kings River and Chickaloon River. The area has moderate-to-high values for
689 fish and wildlife. Moose, small game, furbearers, black bear, Dall sheep and resident fish are harvested
690 throughout the subunit by residents. Subsistence and sport harvest effort both occur but cannot be easily
691 quantified. Wildlife viewing occurs in road or trail accessible areas of the subunit. Mature forests dominate
692 the subunit below the 2,000-foot elevation level.

693 The Young Creek area and area around Castle Mountain have known high-value coal resources. Although
694 the Kings River drainage contains low-value coal, there are potentially marketable limestone deposits in
695 the upper east side of the drainage and haydite materials near the confluence with the Matanuska River.
696 Upper Granite Creek drainage is the only drainage in the Moose Range that does not have existing road
697 access. This drainage also has unstable geologic conditions, rugged terrain, avalanche potential and sub-
698 alpine and alpine vegetation.

699 Dispersed outdoor recreation activities occur throughout the management subunit along the Chickaloon-
700 Knik-Nelchina Trail, Young Creek Trail, and Permanente Road. The predominant scenic resources in the
701 subunit are Granite Peak and Castle Mountain.

702 Planning and Land Management Issues

703 Outdoor recreation use in the Middle Management Subunit is more dispersed than the Eastern or
704 Jonesville Subunits, however as the population of the Mat-Su Valley continues to increase, the pressure
705 for access to motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities farther east in the Moose Range will
706 continue to increase. Currently, there is unmanaged camping at the Kings River along the Glenn Highway.
707 Comments indicate that access and recreation facilities along the Glenn Highway should continue to be
708 upgraded and improved with accompanying management and enforcement.

709 Land Use Designations

710 State land will be managed consistent with its designation(s); as specifically articulated through
711 management intent described below and applicable goals and management guidelines found in Chapters
712 2 and 3. Some lands have one designation while other lands are co-designated for a variety of uses. Table
713 3 provides a quick reference of the designations and co-designations used in this management subunit,
714 and the acreages of designation(s).

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719 *Table 3: Middle Management Subunit Designations and Acreages*

<i>Designation or Co-Designation</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
<i>M1: Habitat, Public Recreation Dispersed</i>	<i>Ha, Rd</i>	<i>35,254</i>
<i>M2: Habitat, Public Recreation Dispersed, Forestry</i>	<i>Ha, Rd, F</i>	<i>6,690</i>

720 **Management Intent**

721 **Unit M1: Ha, Rd.** The management intent for Unit M1 is to maintain, improve and enhance fish and wildlife
 722 habitat. The management intent for the upper Granite Creek drainage (the area north of Sec. 36, T20N,
 723 R3E) is to emphasize minimal changes in its existing condition due to the unstable geologic conditions,
 724 rugged terrain and fragile sub-alpine or alpine vegetation. There will be no new trail or road development
 725 into upper Granite Creek.

726 Dispersed outdoor recreational opportunities will be maintained throughout Unit M1. There are a variety
 727 of roadside recreational sites with varying levels of developed infrastructure including parking areas,
 728 trailheads, campgrounds, restrooms, and picnicking facilities that provide access to the Moose Range. The
 729 management intent is that these facilities will continue to be improved, managed, and maintained to
 730 safely accommodate users, protect habitat and natural resources, and decrease impacts to private
 731 property while serving as key access to the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail and accessible drainages within
 732 the subunit.

733 There are potentially marketable limestone and haydite materials along the Kings River. To accommodate
 734 material development, Unit M1 will remain open to locatable mineral entry and will be available for the
 735 development of leasable minerals, except for the southern face of Castle Mountain and wildlife mineral
 736 licks. The southern face of Castle Mountain is closed to locatable mineral entry and will not be available
 737 for the exploration or development of leasable minerals.

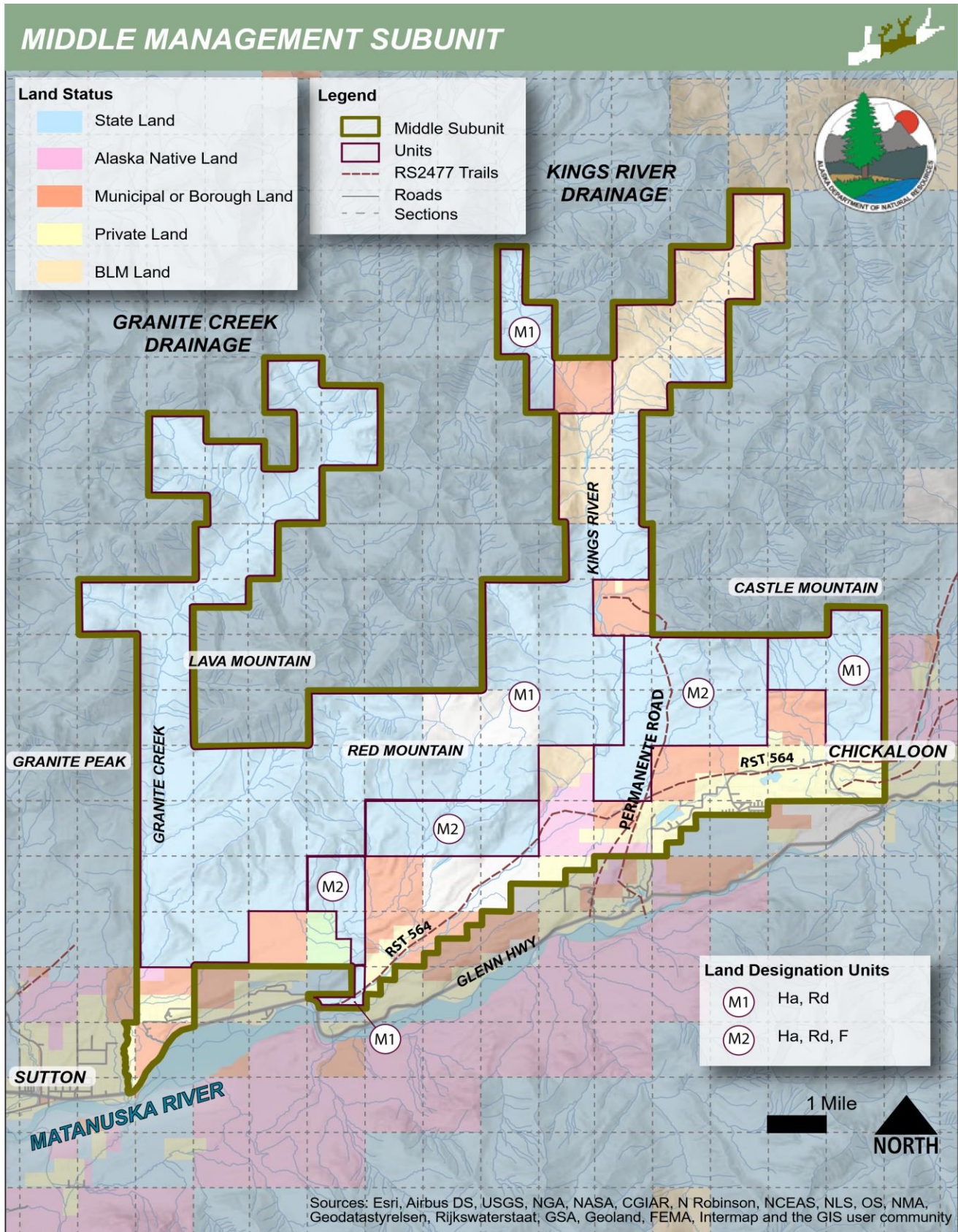
738 There are areas in this unit where grazing may be authorized under the guidelines of this plan, however
 739 grazing will not be authorized along a portion of the east fork of Granite Creek, north of Little Granite
 740 Creek, due to unstable slopes and possible conflicts with Dall sheep concentrations.

741 **Unit M2: Ha, Rd, F.** Same intent as Unit M1 with the following addition:

742 Due to the good potential for improved access, the mature forests below 2,000 feet along Young Creek,
 743 Kings River and the base of Castle Mountain will be managed for habitat enhancement through timber
 744 harvest and other applicable methods. Timber harvest is allowed only if the activity enhances fish and
 745 wildlife habitat.

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749 **Unit-Specific Management Guidelines**

750 1. **Access and Trails**

751 a. **Public Use of Existing Access.**

752 i. **Maintenance of Existing Access.** The state should ensure access to public rights-of-way
753 and easements for public access along the Permanente Road, the Fish Lake Subdivision
754 Road, the Castle Mountain Mine Road, the Chickaloon River Road, the Chickaloon-Knik-
755 Nelchina Trail, the Chickaloon River Trail and the Young Creek Trail, and to public lands
756 along the Fish Lake Subdivision.

757 ii. **Access Priorities.** DNR should verify legal access for the Chickaloon River Trail and the
758 Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail according to Chapter 2 guidelines. If acquisition of access
759 is required, DNR may pursue this process as time and staffing allows. Relocation of the
760 Chickaloon River Trail north of private land through state lands will be allowed following
761 the criteria outlined in 11 AAC 51.100 to provide an alternative trail if necessary.

762 iii. **Access to Little Granite Creek Bench.** Access to trails is often blocked by private lands.
763 Public access to the Little Granite Creek bench is important for providing outdoor
764 recreational opportunities such as hunting, and for future moose management of the
765 Moose Range. There is an existing private access road to the bench that is blocked to
766 public use. Private land on the bench also blocks public access to public land beyond.
767 Public access to the Little Granite Creek Bench should be pursued.

768 iv. **Areas with Active Assertion.** DNR should continue researching the validity of a public
769 right-of-way on roads and trails and follow Chapter 2 guidelines for making a right-of-way
770 assertion wherever necessary and possible.

771 b. **New Access.** Construction of new trails and roads into the upper Granite Creek drainage (the area
772 north of Sec. 36, T2CN, R3E) shall be prohibited for recreation, timber management, or wildlife
773 enhancement activities¹². Foot and helicopter access will be used to access the upper drainage
774 for habitat enhancement if necessary to maintain a wildlife species.

775 c. **Trails.** In addition to the areawide management guidelines established for trails in Chapter 2, the
776 following guidelines are specific to the Middle Management Subunit.

777 i. Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina, Chickaloon River and Young Creek Trails. These trails should be
778 maintained at their existing functional level and not be substantially upgraded or
779 improved (except sustainable trail work to reestablish foot use on the Chickaloon-Knik-
780 Nelchina and Chickaloon River Trails is allowed if necessary). Access will remain open to
781 the public for existing uses, including hunting and trapping activities. Timber harvest or
782 habitat enhancement activities along these trails will follow the Chapter 2 guidelines on
783 buffers. Signs may be placed along the trails as necessary to inform the public of legal
784 access, mark the proper trail route, and help keep the public from trespassing on private
785 lands.

786 ii. **Trail Kiosks, Signage, and Wayfinding.** Trailhead maps, kiosks, wayfinding signage, and
787 trail use information may be developed. Signs will clearly display trail use information,

¹² This management guideline requires the promulgation of regulations for implementation.

788 regulatory information, and allowed trail uses. Wayfinding and trail use signs may be used
789 to appropriately guide trails users; however, their use should be minimal.

790 2. Cultural and Heritage Resources

- 791 a. Known Sites. There are seven known heritage resources on the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey
792 Record in the Middle Management Subunit. These sites will be managed according to the
793 guidelines in Chapter 2. There are multiple old cabins in Chickaloon and on Drill Lake. As time and
794 funding allows, SHPO may work with private landowners to evaluate their importance and
795 determine, alongside the property owner, if additional steps for protection are necessary.
- 796 b. Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail. SHPO may pursue funding to review and propose the Chickaloon-
797 Knik-Nelchina Trail and the Chickaloon River Trail for the National Register of Historic Places.
- 798 c. Undiscovered Sites.
- 799 i. Newly Located Sites. The state, through DPOR and DGGs, will protect and interpret any
800 significant cultural or historic features further identified in this subunit as funding and
801 staffing capability permits.
- 802 ii. Survey Priorities. The Chickaloon townsite, the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail corridor,
803 and the Permanente Road all have moderate to high potential for heritage resources and
804 should be surveyed prior to any development.
- 805 iii. Wickman Cabin. Working with the private owner, SHPO may evaluate the Carl Wickman
806 cabin and barn on Drill Lake to determine its heritage resource value. Recommendations
807 as to its use or protection should be made available to the private owner.

808 3. Fish & Wildlife

- 809 a. Resource Management. This subunit will be managed primarily to maintain, protect and, if
810 necessary, enhance the following fish and wildlife resources and habitats:
- 811 i. Moose throughout the subunit.
- 812 ii. Ruffed grouse throughout the subunit.
- 813 iii. Brown Bear in upper Granite Creek and Young Creek.
- 814 iv. Black bear habitat throughout the subunit.
- 815 v. Dall sheep winter and summer ranges.
- 816 vi. Caribou in the northernmost, montane portions of the subunit.
- 817 vii. Mineral Licks.
- 818 viii. Riparian habitats and instream flow along the following drainages: Granite Creek, Young
819 Creek, Kings River and lower Chickaloon River.
- 820 ix. Chinook, coho, and chum salmon and Dolly Varden in Granite Creek and Kings River.
- 821 x. Pink salmon in Granite Creek.
- 822 xi. Chinook and coho salmon in the Chickaloon River.
- 823 xii. Rainbow trout in Chain Lakes, Kings River, Fish Lake, and Ruby Lake.
- 824 xiii. Bald eagle nests along lower Granite Creek.

- 825 xiv. Primary attention will be given to maintenance or enhancement of moose summer and
826 winter concentration areas, fall harvest areas and rutting concentrations area.
827 xv. And other species and habitats identified by ADF&G.
- 828 b. Fish and Wildlife Utilization. The subunit will be managed to allow continuation of the following
829 activities:
- 830 i. Hunting of big and small game and trapping throughout the subunit.
831 ii. Sportfishing for anadromous, resident, and stocked fish.
832 iii. Wildlife viewing throughout the subunit.
- 833 c. Fisheries. ADF&G will maintain, protect, and enhance the fisheries and habitats of Granite Creek,
834 Young Creek, Kings River, the Chickaloon River, and Chain Lakes. To accomplish this, ADF&G may
835 conduct spawning and escapement surveys, monitor trends in harvest angler effort, and develop
836 recommendations for field investigations and/or Board of Fisheries consideration, as time and
837 funds allow. ADF&G will adjust stocking levels in stocked lakes based on health and survival of
838 stocked fish and changes in use patterns and pursuant to the annual public review of the
839 statewide stocking plan. ADF&G will manage sport fisheries for sustained yield and angler
840 satisfaction, work closely with enforcement staff in adherence to regulations, and assist in habitat
841 conservation and restoration.
- 842 d. Habitat Enhancement. Habitat enhancement may be considered in this subunit and shall follow
843 management guidelines in Chapter 2.

844 4. Forestry

- 845 a. Timber Harvest. Timber harvest operations that enhance fish and wildlife habitat may be
846 authorized in the Middle Management Subunit. Specific sales locations and dates will be identified
847 by DOF in consultation with ADF&G. Commercial timber harvests will occur in areas where cost
848 effectiveness and habitat enhancement methods justify such harvests.
- 849 i. Schedule. The schedule for forest product harvest in the Middle Management Subunit
850 should be identified by DOF in consultation with ADF&G.
851 ii. Elevation. No timber shall be harvested above 1,100 feet elevation except for habitat
852 enhancement purposes.
853 iii. Buffers. See Buffer guidelines in Chapter 2.

854 5. Grazing

855 Grazing Prohibited. In addition to the guidelines in Chapter 2 and due to potential conflict with Dall sheep
856 and unstable soils, livestock grazing shall be prohibited in an area north of Little Granite Creek and east of
857 Granite Creek¹³.

¹³ This management guideline requires the promulgation of regulations for implementation.

858 6. Public Use Sites

859 There are no identified Public Use Sites in the Middle Management Subunit.

860 7. Recreation

861 a. State Recreation and Camping Roadside Facilities.

862 i. Kings River Campground. DMLW should consider authorizing development, maintenance,
863 and management of a campground facility at Kings River. The site could be at least 200
864 acres in size and include the bluff and usable land within the proposed site and the land
865 that lies east of the Glenn Highway right-of-way in the NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4 and N1/2S1/2
866 Sec. 16, T19N, R4E S.M. Before issuing an authorization, a proposed campground site plan
867 should be developed that analyzes the floodplain and provides for public access to the
868 adjoining Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina and Young Creek trail systems.

869 ii. King Mountain State Recreation Site. Although outside the boundary of the Moose Range,
870 the King Mountain State Recreation Site provides an opportunity for camping in the
871 vicinity of the Moose Range.

872 b. Interpretive Displays. Site development plans for a campground at Kings River and King Mountain
873 Recreation Site may provide for interpretation related to the Moose Range. Interpretive displays
874 may also be installed at other trailheads within the subunit.

875 c. Fossil Viewing. Fossil viewing is a dispersed outdoor recreational activity that is popular in the
876 Middle Management Subunit. The activity may be restricted by DNR if the public's safety is
877 endangered, if the activity interferes with coal mining operations, or if the cultural/heritage value
878 of the resource warrants restrictions. All fossils are the property of the State and it is unlawful to
879 collect or remove them without the proper authorizations (AS 41.35).

880 8. Subsurface Resources

881 Mineral Closures. The southern face of Castle Mountain shall be closed to locatable mineral entry to
882 protect the unique scenic quality of the mountain. The southern face of Castle Mountain will not be made
883 available for the exploration or development of leasable minerals.

884 9. Water, Wetlands, and Waterbodies

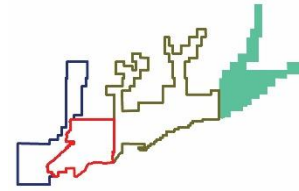
885 a. Lakeshores and Stream Corridors. Habitat enhancement efforts in riparian zones along Granite
886 and Young Creek and Kings River and in the vicinity of all lakes in the subunit will take place
887 according to the Chapter 2 guidelines on buffers.

888 b. Wetland Buffers. A buffer will be retained around the 160-acre wetland on Little Granite Creek
889 Bench as described in the Chapter 2 guidelines on buffers.

890 c. Instream Flow Reservations. ADF&G may establish instream flow needs on Granite Creek, Young
891 Creek, Kings River, and Chickaloon River to maintain fish and wildlife resources, riparian habitat
892 and associated recreational opportunities as funding and staff are available. The DLWM will work
893 closely with ADF&G to establish the instream flow reservations.

894

895 The Eastern Management Subunit



896 Background

897 The Eastern Management Subunit includes the portion of the Moose Range that lies east of R5E, S.M. and
898 includes most of the Chickaloon River drainage and a portion of the Boulder Creek drainage. The area has
899 high-to-moderate values for fish and wildlife. Moose, small game, furbearers, black bear, Dall sheep and
900 resident fish are harvested by residents. Subsistence and sport harvest effort both occur but cannot be
901 readily separated or quantified. Wildlife viewing mostly occurs in road or trail accessible areas. Unlike the
902 Western, Jonesville, or Middle Management Subunits, this subunit has low-to-moderate timber values
903 along the lower Chickaloon River and lower Boulder Creek. The Eastern Management Subunit has
904 moderate coal values, located near Anthracite Ridge.

905 Public lands in this subunit have moderate-to-high values for dispersed outdoor recreation. Most use
906 occurs along the existing Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail, the Chickaloon River Trail, the Boulder Creek Trail
907 and on the Chickaloon River. The Chickaloon River provides a highly valued remote wilderness Class II, III
908 and IV whitewater boating opportunity in southcentral Alaska.

909 Planning and Land Management Issues

910 Outdoor recreation use in the Eastern Management Subunit is the most dispersed in the Moose Range,
911 however, as the population of the Mat-Su Valley continues to increase, the pressure for access to
912 motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities farther east in the Moose Range will continue to
913 increase. Comments indicate that access and recreation facilities at the Glenn Highway should continue
914 to be upgraded and improved with accompanying management and enforcement.

915 Land Use Designations Summary

916 State land will be managed consistent with its designation(s); as specifically articulated through
917 management intent described below and applicable goals and management guidelines found in Chapters
918 2 and 3. Some lands have one designation while other lands are co-designated for a variety of uses. Table
919 4 provides a quick reference of the designations and co-designations used in this management subunit,
920 and the acreages of designation(s).

921 *Table 4: Eastern Management Subunit Designations and Acreages*

<i>Designation or Co-Designation</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
<i>E1: Habitat, Public Recreation-Dispersed</i>	<i>Ha, Rd</i>	<i>22,028</i>
<i>E2: Habitat, Public Recreation Dispersed, Forestry</i>	<i>Ha, Rd, F</i>	<i>3,481</i>

922 Management Intent

923
924 **Unit E1: Ha, Rd.** The management intent for Unit E1 is to maintain, improve, and enhance fish and wildlife

925 habitat. Manage the unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat and associated wetlands,
926 streams and waterbodies. Additionally, Unit E1 will be managed for dispersed outdoor recreational
927 activities. Popular activities such as hunting big and small game, trapping, wildlife viewing, horseback
928 riding, hiking, skiing, winter biking, and fishing will continue.

929 **Unit E2: Ha, Rd, F.** Same intent as Unit E1 with the following addition:

930 There is a local need for personal firewood, and this need may be met to the extent possible by
931 improving fish and wildlife habitat in conjunction with timber harvest. There is a limited supply of timber
932 in the unit and timber harvest is allowed only if the activity enhances fish and wildlife habitat.

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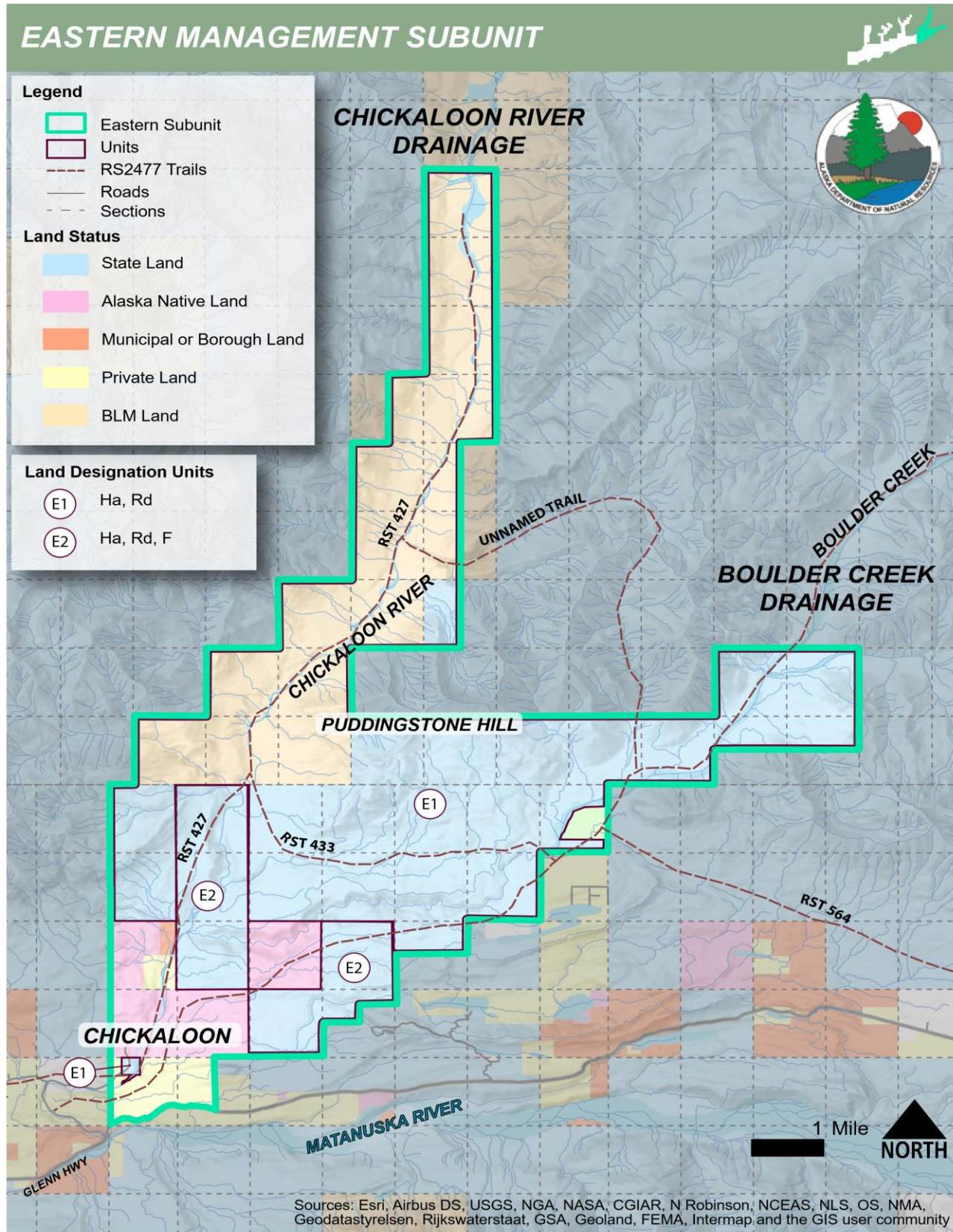
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947 **Unit-Specific Management Guidelines**

948 **1. Access and Trails**

- 949 a. Public Use of Existing Access. The state should ensure access to public rights-of-way and
950 easements for public access to the Eastern Management Subunit from the Glenn Highway and
951 Chickaloon River Road through a network of trail systems. The public has traditionally used these
952 trails to access public land for outdoor recreational and commercial purposes. The state will verify
953 and assert public rights-of-way as needed.
- 954 b. Areas with Active Assertion. The state will continue researching the validity of a public right-of-
955 way on roads and trails and follow Chapter 2 guidelines for making a right-of-way assertion
956 wherever necessary and possible.
- 957 c. Trails. The areawide management guidelines to establish a Trail Management Plan shall be
958 followed in the Eastern Management Subunit.
- 959 i. Access on Native Allotments and ANCSA Lands. DNR will coordinate with the BLM to
960 provide public access through native allotments and native selected lands.
- 961 ii. Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail, Old 98 Trail, and Boulder Creek Trail. Continued public
962 access on these trails provides vital links to the public lands in the Eastern Subunit of the
963 Moose Range and is essential to management.

964 **2. Cultural and Heritage Resources**

- 965 a. Known Sites. There is one known heritage site on the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey Record in
966 the Eastern Management Subunit. This site will be managed according to the guidelines in Chapter
967 2.
- 968 b. Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail and Chickaloon River Trail. SHPO may pursue funding to review
969 and propose the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail and the Chickaloon River Trail for the National
970 Register of Historic Places.
- 971 c. Undiscovered Sites. It is likely that there are other cultural resources in the vicinity of the Old
972 Chickaloon townsite and along the Chickaloon River Trail, the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail and
973 the Old 98 Trail. Trails up the Boulder Creek drainage may also have high heritage resource values.
974 Areas in the Eastern Management Subunit designated by SHPO as known high potential areas for
975 containing heritage resources may be surveyed for heritage values as funding and staffing allows.

976 **3. Fish & Wildlife Habitat**

- 977 a. Resource Management. This subunit will be managed primarily to maintain, protect and, if
978 necessary, enhance the following fish and wildlife resources and habitats:
- 979 i. Moose throughout the subunit.
- 980 ii. Ruffed grouse throughout the subunit.
- 981 iii. Brown bear and black bear throughout the subunit.
- 982 iv. Caribou in the middle and upper Chickaloon and Boulder Creek drainages.
- 983 v. Dall sheep habitat throughout the subunit and lambing in the Puddingstone Hill area.
- 984 vi. Wolves in the middle and upper reaches of the drainages.
- 985 vii. Chum salmon, grayling, rainbow trout, and Dolly Varden in Chickaloon River.

- 986 viii. Dolly Varden and grayling in the Boulder Creek drainage.
- 987 ix. Riparian habitats and instream flow along the Chickaloon River and Boulder Creek.
- 988 x. Other species and habitats identified by ADF&G.
- 989 b. Fish and Wildlife Utilization. The subunit will be managed to allow continuation of the following
- 990 activities:
- 991 i. Hunting of big and small game and trapping throughout the subunit.
- 992 ii. Sportfishing for anadromous, resident, and stocked fish.
- 993 iii. Wildlife viewing throughout the subunit.
- 994 c. Protection of Mineral Licks. There are mineral licks located in the Eastern Management Subunit.
- 995 Verify the location with ADF&G. Mineral licks are used by significant numbers of wildlife primarily
- 996 during the spring and early summer. The area around the lick should be protected for its wildlife
- 997 value. Stipulations should be developed on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with ADF&G, for
- 998 authorizations. The stipulations should address the following:
- 999 i. The avoidance of direct and indirect impact on the mineral lick, the animal tracks leading
- 1000 to them and other areas of concentrated animal use that is associated with the mineral
- 1001 lick;
- 1002 ii. Consult with ADF&G for their specific locations.
- 1003 d. Fisheries. ADF&G will maintain, protect, and enhance the fisheries in the Chickaloon River,
- 1004 Boulder Creek and other waters. To accomplish this, ADF&G may conduct spawning and
- 1005 escapement surveys, monitor trends in harvest angler effort, and develop recommendations for
- 1006 field investigations and/or Board of Fisheries consideration, as time and funds allow. ADF&G will
- 1007 adjust stocking levels in stocked lakes based on health and survival of stocked fish and changes in
- 1008 use patterns and pursuant to the annual public review of the statewide stocking plan. ADF&G will
- 1009 manage sport fisheries for sustained yield and angler satisfaction, work closely with enforcement
- 1010 staff in adherence to regulations, and assist in habitat conservation and restoration.
- 1011 e. Habitat Enhancement. Habitat enhancement may be considered in this subunit and shall follow
- 1012 management guidelines in Chapter 2.

1013 4. Forestry

- 1014 a. Timber Harvest. The Eastern Management Subunit has small pockets of moderate timber value
- 1015 along the Chickaloon River, below 2,200 feet. Much of the subunit has limited timber potential.
- 1016 In the subunit, because of its poorer soil types, limited vegetation, and poor access, the
- 1017 management emphasis will be on maintenance of wildlife habitat rather than active timber
- 1018 management.
- 1019 i. Enhancement Considerations. Habitat enhancement is desirable for this area. The state
- 1020 will apply the most appropriate techniques available. Any active habitat enhancement
- 1021 requires DNR and ADF&G approval.
- 1022 ii. Schedule. Although timber harvest has not been a priority in the Eastern Management
- 1023 Subunit, any future schedules for forest product harvest in the Eastern Management
- 1024 Subunit should be identified by DOF in consultation with ADF&G.

- 1025 iii. Buffers. See Buffer guidelines in Chapter 2.
- 1026 5. Grazing
- 1027 a. Future Authorizations. Grazing authorizations will not be issued in the Eastern Management
- 1028 Subunit due to the limited availability of grass resources for grazing.
- 1029 6. Public Use Sites
- 1030 There are no identified Public Use Sites in the Eastern Management Subunit.
- 1031 7. Recreation
- 1032 a. State Recreation, Camping, and Trailhead/Roadside Facilities.
- 1033 i. Long Lake State Recreation Site. Although outside the boundary of the Moose Range,
- 1034 the Long Lake State Recreation Site provides an opportunity for camping in the vicinity
- 1035 of the Moose Range.
- 1036 ii. Purinton Creek. Although outside of the Moose Range, one of the key access points to
- 1037 the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail is Purinton Creek at the Glenn Highway. DMLW may
- 1038 support efforts to improve access at this location including parking, restroom facilities,
- 1039 and signage.
- 1040 b. Interpretive Displays. The Long Lake State Recreation Site and other roadside/trailhead facilities
- 1041 may provide for interpretation related to the Moose Range. Interpretive displays may also be
- 1042 installed at other trailheads within the subunit.
- 1043 8. Subsurface Resources
- 1044 a. Locatable and Leasable Mineral Entry. The Eastern Management Subunit is open to locatable and
- 1045 leasable mineral development.
- 1046 i. Coal. The Eastern Management Subunit contains limited pockets of moderate to high
- 1047 potential coal resources, which would be difficult and expensive to develop. The plan
- 1048 does not preclude development of this coal for the long-term; however, development is
- 1049 not recommended.
- 1050 ii. Other Minerals. The Eastern Management Subunit is open to locatable and leasable
- 1051 mineral development, except for the mineral lick area (see 8b, below).
- 1052 b. Mineral Licks. There are mineral licks located in the Eastern Management Unit that are closed to
- 1053 mineral entry. DNR should consult with ADF&G to verify their location.
- 1054 9. Water, Wetlands, and Waterbodies
- 1055 a. Lakeshores and Stream Corridors. Habitat enhancement efforts in riparian zones along the
- 1056 Chickaloon River and Boulder Creek shall take place according to Chapter 2 guidelines on buffers.
- 1057 b. Wetland Buffers. A buffer will be maintained around the wetlands in the area of Simpson's cabin
- 1058 on the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail as described in the Chapter 2 Wetland buffer guidelines.
- 1059 Instream Flow Reservations. ADF&G may establish instream flow needs for the Chickaloon River and
- 1060 Boulder Creek to maintain fish and wildlife resources, riparian habitat and associated recreational
- 1061 opportunities as funding and staff are available. The DMLW will work closely with ADF&G to establish the
- 1062 instream flow reservations.