

## Legislatively Designated Areas

There are five Legislatively Designated Areas (LDA) within the plan boundary. These encompass a total of about 1.7 million acres out of the 8.2 million acres of state-owned land and state-selected land within this area. The larger LDA's include: Tanana Valley State Forest (1,348,436 <sup>25</sup> acres within the ETAP), Chena River State Recreation Area (252,812 acres), and the Delta Junction Bison Range Area (88,385 acres). The TVSF occupies substantial areas of state land throughout the planning area and within the Fairbanks, Delta Salcha, and Upper Tanana regions. The Chena River SRA occupies portions of the eastern half of the Fairbanks region, while the Delta Junction Bison Range Area occupies state and private land in areas near Delta. The smaller LDAs include the Creamer's Field Migratory Bird Refuge (2,704 acres) and the Goldstream Public Use Area (3,213 acres). DNR is responsible for the administration of the land and resources of the Tanana Valley State Forest, Chena River SRA and the Goldstream PUA, and shares management responsibility with the ADF&G for the Delta Junction Bison Range Area. ADF&G is responsible for the management of Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

Legislatively Designated Areas are special purpose sites that are managed according to the requirements of the legislation specific to the site and to the general class of LDA, and any subsequent management plans or regulations that implement the requirements of the legislation. The effect of the LDA designation is to reserve state lands out of the public domain and use or protect them for the purposes stipulated in the enabling legislation.

For these reasons, area plans do not apply to the management of LDAs within the planning boundary, except for the plan designation that is assigned, which is subsequently converted to a land classification in a Land Classification Order<sup>26</sup>. Certain types of authorizations issued by the Department involve a disposal of state land, and administrative regulation requires that the land, with certain exceptions, must first be classified before it is conveyed out of state ownership. In general, the LDAs within the plan boundary are assigned the designations of Forestry, Habitat, and Public Recreation-Dispersed, reflecting the intent of the legislation that created the LDA. These plan designations are not intended to provide the general management direction similar to the way that designations are applied in other units of this plan, however. Management direction for authorizations within LDAs is provided through the enabling legislation, state administrative regulation, or a management plan specific to the LDA. If management plans or administrative regulations are not available, the general management intent specific to the LDA or to the category of LDA are to be followed.

The LDAs that are the subject of this discussion are contained in all area-wide plan maps.

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<sup>25</sup> The 1,348,436 acres of the Tanana Valley State Forest within the ETAP boundary do not represent the total acreage for the TVSF, which extends across multiple planning areas.

<sup>26</sup> The land classification order in this plan (NC-10-004) does not affect the Tanana Valley State Forest nor the Chena River State Recreation Area.

*Chapter 3: Legislatively Designated Areas*

The following Resource Allocation Table identifies the five LDAs. It gives their plan designation, management purposes (which are usually related to statutory purposes), and specifies if a management plan exists that guides Department decision making for the specific LDA.

## Resource Allocation Table – Legislatively Designated Areas

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Administrative Aspects and Other
L-01	F 1,811,400	Map	<p>Tanana Valley State Forest (AS 41.17.400): Manage uses consistent with the legislative purposes described in AS 41.17.200 and with the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF) management plan. The primary purpose of this State Forest is timber management while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources. The public use of lands within a state forest is only to be restricted when necessary to carry out the primary management objective of timber management.</p> <p>Authorizations issued by the Division of Mining, Land and Water within the Tanana Valley State Forest are to be consistent with the management intent of AS 41.17.200(a) and the adopted Management Plan.</p> <p>Note: The current land classification orders affecting the TVSF are retained. NC-10-004 does not affect the TVSF. Additions to the TVSF will require the amendment of the existing LCOs.</p>	A management plan is required under AS 41.17.230 and is adopted (2001); uses and activities in the TVSF are to be guided by this management plan. The management plan constitutes a more specific statement of the purposes of the state forest. See management plan for detail on permitted uses. State land is to be retained in this LDA.
L-02	Ha 1,772	Map	<p>Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge (AS 16.20.039): Manage uses consistent with the purposes of the Refuge (AS16.20.039(c)) and with the management plan under AS 16.20.039 (d). The primary purpose of the Refuge is to protect and enhance habitat for migratory birds with special emphasis on waterfowl.</p> <p>A management plan for the Refuge has been prepared (Interim Management Plan, 1993). Authorizations are to conform to the general purposes of the Refuge and are to be consistent with the requirements of the management plan. When adopted, the provisions of the revised plan will apply.</p>	Recreational and agricultural activity is expressly permitted within the Refuge if consistent with the management plan. See management plan for detail on permitted uses. State land is to be retained in this LDA.
L-03	Ha, Rd 27,000	Map 3-5	<p>Chena River State Recreation Area (SRA) (AS 41.21.475): Manage uses consistent with the purposes of the SRA (AS 41.21.475) and with the management plan. The primary purpose of state recreation areas is to provide for public recreation.</p> <p>A management plan for the SRA has been prepared (Management Plan, 2006). Authorizations are to conform to the general purposes of the SRA and are to be consistent with the requirements of the management plan.</p>	Specific prohibitions on the restriction of uses are identified in AS 41.21.490. Such restrictions shall not prohibit work on valid mineral leases or mining claims, the legal taking of fur bearing animals, and the traditional use of roads and trails by any means of transportation occurring regularly before the creation of the SRA on June, 18, 1967. State land is to be retained in this LDA.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Administrative Aspects and Other
L-04	Ha, Rd 5,088	Map 3-5	<p>Goldstream Public Use Area (AS 41.23.170): Manage uses consistent with the purposes of the Public Use Area (PUA), which recognizes the area as a public use area intended to protect and enhance the present uses of the PUA, and with the management plan.</p> <p>A management plan for the PUA has not been prepared. Until prepared, the PUA is to be managed for the general use of state land by the public. A listing of allowed uses is included in AS 41.23.150(c) and should be consulted prior to the issuance of an authorization. When prepared, authorizations are to be consistent with the requirements of the management plan and with AS 41.23.150(c).</p>	<p>The Goldstream PUA is open to mineral entry under AS 41.23.150(d). State land is to be retained in this LDA.</p>
L-05	Ha 28,260	Map 3-5	<p>Delta Junction Bison Range Area (AS 16.20.300-320): Manage uses consistent with the purposes of the Bison Range Area and with the management plan for this Area (Delta Bison Interim Management Plan, 2012). Because of the interim nature of this plan and the absence of a firm method of bison management, DNR should consult with ADF&amp;G prior to issuing any authorizations in this Area. The Area is open to most public uses provided the activity does not damage the range's resources, disturb wildlife or disrupt existing public uses. Allowed activities include hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife watching, hiking, boating, snowmachining and camping.</p> <p>Consult with ADF&amp;G to determine if a final plan has been prepared. If prepared, management actions are to be consistent with the final adopted plan.</p>	<p>Note that this is considered by ADF&amp;G to be an interim plan pending resolution of the issue of fencing. A working group recommended that fencing was the best solution for keeping bison out of agricultural fields but the farming community's preference is for other management options, but the 'latter cannot be supported by ADF&amp;G'. The Interim management plan indicates that ADF&amp;G will continue to collaborate with DNR to explore various fencing and maintenance alternatives as well as other means to mitigate or prevent bison damage to agriculture fields.</p>

**Map 3-6: Legislatively Designated Areas**