

MANAGEMENT UNIT 10 – NATIVE LANDS

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 10 is a 135,000 acre block of valuable land owned almost entirely by Cook Inlet Region, Inc., a Native corporation. Approximately 2,500 acres are in borough ownership. The unit is located in the southwestern portion of the Mt. Susitna Subregion and includes lands reaching from east of Strandline Lake at the foothills of the Alaska Range to immediately north of Beluga River and east of Olson Creek. Valuable resources within the area include high to moderate coal and mineral potential, commercial quality timber stands, agricultural soils, fish and wildlife habitat — particularly along anadromous fish streams — and land suitable for settlement. Existing land uses consist of sport and subsistence hunting and fishing, trapping, boating, placer mining, and very scattered settlement. Access to these areas is presently provided by boat, float plane, or along a four season gravel road extending from the Beluga power plant to the Lewis River. Although there are no plans for construction of a public road, a public right-of-way has been established running north from the Beluga area parallel to the Beluga River, ending at Coal Creek Lake.

There are two subunits in this management unit: that which comprises the majority of the territory (10a), and the borough lands around Coal Creek Lake in the northeastern corner of the management unit (10b). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries and the accompanying chart for a summary of the land uses within this management unit.

Subunit 10a: (Native lands) The Susitna Area Plan does not affect management of Native lands. However, due to the abundance of resources in the area and potential access from either the right-of-way leading to Coal Creek Lake or from the existing local road network extending from Beluga to the Lewis River, the state recommends that Cook Inlet Region, Inc. continue their policy of keeping the area open to public recreation (hunting, fishing and other types of recreation), and allowing public access through the region. The state encourages the development of the area's subsurface and forestry resources. Where feasible, DNR and Cook Inlet Region Inc. should work cooperatively on access improvements, timber harvest plans, recreation development and other land management activities.

Subunit 10b: This subunit consists of borough lands in the northeastern corner of the management unit and land around Coal Creek Lake. Those subdivided lots

on the borough lands surrounding Coal Creek Lake which have not yet been sold will be retained in the borough land bank and reconsidered for possible sale in the long term should the borough decide to offer sales in remote areas. In the interim, this area will be managed primarily for private and public recreation. Management of fish and wildlife habitat is the major objective on lands that remain in public ownership. While there are no plans for sale of the borough lands in the northeastern portion of Management Unit 10 at present, this area does contain lakefront property capable of supporting settlement. It may be considered for sales at some time in the future. In the interim, it will be retained in the borough land bank and managed for existing uses, primarily habitat.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this plan. All of the guideline potentially apply to uses within this management unit; however those that are most likely to be applicable are indicated with asterisks in the list below.

- Agriculture
- *Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- *Forestry
- *Recreation
- *Settlement
- Subsurface
- *Transportation
- Instream Flow
- *Lakeshore Management
- Public Access
- Remote Cabin Permits
- *Stream Corridors
- *Trail Management
- *Wetland Management
- Resource Management

Management guidelines that apply to this management unit only are presented below by subunit.

Subunit 10b: (Coal Creek Lake & Northeastern Borough Lands)

Stream Corridors

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit fishing, camping and other active uses, and to protect water quality and riparian habitat. Consequently, this land should be retained in public ownership. Corridor widths will be set on a case-by-case basis using policies in Chapter 2. The standard minimum buffer width (200' on each

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Mt. Susitna

MANAGEMENT UNIT 10 - Native Lands

| SUBUNIT | LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED) | LAND USE DESIGNATIONS | | | | PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)* | COMMENTS |
|---|------------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| | | SURFACE | | SUBSURFACE | | | |
| | | PRIMARY USE(S) | SECONDARY USE(S) | LOCATABLE MINERALS | LEASEABLE MINERALS | | |
| 10a Native Lands | Native | Primarily Private Lands—Recommended Uses: Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat | | — | — | — | — |
| 10b Coal Creek Lake and Northeastern Borough Lands | Borough | Borough Land Bank Values: Forestry, Recreation, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat | | Open | Available for leasing | — | — |
| | | | | | | | |

*Other uses such as material sales, land leases, remote cabin permits, etc., that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit, and with the relevant management guidelines in chapter 2.

Mt. Susitna 10

side of the river) should be used on Coal Creek. A 200' buffer generally should also be retained on the unnamed streams that appear on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic maps.