

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 – DINGLISHNA HILL

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Dinglishna Hill Management Unit includes approximately 15,500 acres located north of the Susitna Game Flats between Mt. Susitna and the Susitna River. This area includes well drained lowlands east of Mt. Susitna, and a considerable amount of land adjacent to Alexander Creek and the Susitna River. The mix of lowlands, rivers, and riparian habitat support mixed hardwood timber stands, moose habitat, salmon spawning, boating, fishing and hunting, and areas suitable for year-round and recreational settlement. A variety of land uses will occur within this area. The river corridors and lands immediately adjacent to the Susitna Game Flats will be retained in long term public ownership and managed for water resources and wildlife habitat. An area adjacent to the existing Dinglishna Hill subdivision will be designated resource management and be retained at least temporarily in public ownership and managed for recreation and wildlife habitat. This area will be reevaluated for possible future sale contingent upon access improvements and/or community expansion. The existing Dinglishna Hill Subdivision and the Alexander Creek corridor will be closed to mineral location and unavailable for coal leasing. The remaining lands will be open to mineral location and available for coal leasing. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing.

Access into this unit currently is provided by boat. A right-of-way has been established by DOT/PF as part of a route (the Goose Bay extension) to link the McGrath and Beluga areas to lands east of the Susitna River by either road or rail. This right-of-way originates at the Parks Highway or Alaska Railroad and travels west across the Susitna River in the vicinity of Alexander (see subunit 3a.). On the west side of the Susitna River, one spur would head northwest through Rainy Pass towards McGrath. The second spur would travel south through the Game Flats to Beluga. Actual construction of this corridor across the Susitna River has not yet been planned and will be contingent upon the economic feasibility of providing access to lands and resources west of the Susitna River.

There are six subunits within Management Unit 3: Alexander Creek and Susitna River corridors (3a), Dinglishna Hill Subdivision (3b), land east of the subdivision that is designated resource management (3c), Native lands at the mouth of Alexander Creek (3d), borough lands west of Dinglishna Hill (3e), and state lands along the Susitna River (3f). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses in each subunit.

Subunit 3a, comprises state and borough land along Alexander Creek. This subunit will be retained in long term public ownership. Alexander Creek supports very high recreational use and wildlife values, including fishing, boating, hunting, and moose and riparian habitat. The corridor generally will be retained in a natural state and managed to provide a variety of recreation opportunities, including campgrounds, public use cabins, boat launches, and easy public access, while protecting fish and wildlife habitat. Areas also will be available for personal use timber cutting where it is compatible with recreational and habitat values. Land sales will be prohibited within this subunit. Alexander Creek corridor will be proposed for legislative designation in recognition of its important public recreation and habitat values. It is recommended that a management plan be prepared for this subunit in conjunction with management planning for the adjacent portions of the Alexander Creek and Susitna River corridors in the Susitna Lowlands subregion.

Subunit 3b is the existing Dinglishna Hill Subdivision. Settlement is the primary designation for this subunit. It contains many small surveyed lots, all of which have been sold.

Subunit 3c (Dinglishna Hill East) lies between Dinglishna Hill Subdivision and the Susitna River. It will be designated resource management and retained in public ownership for at least the near term. Because of its location, high amenity values, and access via the streams, this area has great settlement potential. In addition, this land is crossed by the Beluga right-of-way and consequently is likely to be near road access if a bridge is built across the Susitna River. The land will be managed to protect its high recreation and habitat values in the near term. In the long term, the land will be reevaluated for possible land sales contingent upon improved access and/or community expansion needs.

Subunit 3d comprises lands at the mouth of Alexander Creek that are in private and Native ownership. The plan encourages cooperative management among Native land owners and the borough and state agencies responsible for management of adjacent lands in 3a, 3b, 3c and 3e in order to protect public access and opportunities for hunting, fishing and public recreation.

Subunit 3e, borough-owned lands west of Dinglishna Hill, will be retained in the borough land bank and managed for public recreation. In the future, this unit may be reconsidered for land sales if access improves or the borough decides to sell additional parcels

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Mt. Susitna

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 – Dinglishna Hill

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
3a Alexander Creek	State/ Borough	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Grazing Land Disposals	Recommended for legislative designation
3b Dinglishna Hill Subdivision	State/ Private	Settlement (existing subdivision)	Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Trapper Cabins Remote Cabins	
3c Dinglishna Hill East	State	Resource Management (high) Values: Forestry, Public Rec., Settlement, Wildlife Hab.		Open	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	
3d Alexander Village	Native	Primarily Private Land	—	—	—	—	

*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.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Mt. SusitnaMANAGEMENT UNIT 3 — Dinglishna Hill

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
3e Dinglishna Hill West	Borough	Borough Land Bank Values: Public Recreation, Oil & Gas, Settlement, Forestry, Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	—	
3f Susitna River Corridor	State	Forestry Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Land Disposals Remote Cabins	

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without road access.

Subunit 3f, the Susitna River corridor, contains important timber lands and riparian habitat, particularly moose winter range; offers opportunities for public recreation; and serves as a major transportation corridor. It is contiguous with the Susitna Game Flats refuge and with segments of the Susitna River proposed for legislative designation as a habitat and recreation area. This subunit will be retained in public ownership and managed for habitat, public recreation and forestry.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this plan. All of the guidelines 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 and Wildlife
- *Forestry
- *Recreation
- *Settlement
- *Subsurface
- *Transportation
- *Instream Flow
- Lakeshore Management
- *Public Access
- Remote Cabin Permits
- *Stream Corridors
- *Trail Management
- Wetlands Management
- Resource Management

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

Subunit 3a (Alexander Creek)

Management Planning and Remote Cabins

It is recommended that a management plan be prepared for subunit 3a. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether or not remote cabins will be permitted in this subunit. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.

Subsurface and Oil and Gas

Oil and gas exploration and development activities will be sited and/or timed to mitigate impacts on the fish and wildlife habitat and public use values of Alexander Creek corridor. Specific mitigation measures necessary

to protect the values for which the river corridor is designated will be developed as part of the lease sale process. Mitigation measures will be developed on a case-by-case basis considering timing, topography, vegetation and other factors affecting the impact of oil and gas exploration and development activities on fish and wildlife, habitat and public use values.

Commercial development

Commercial development to support recreational activities is a permitted use in the Alexander Creek corridor.

Subunits 3a and 3f (Alexander Creek and Susitna River Corridors)

Grazing

Lands within this subunit are closed to grazing because of their importance as moose winter range and brown bear concentration areas.

Transportation

Road crossings in the Alexander Creek and Susitna River corridors should be minimized. All crossings and roads within the corridors should be designed in consultation with the Divisions of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and Land and Water Management, and the Department of Fish and Game.

Subunit 3c and 3e (Dinglishna Hill East and Dinglishna Hill West)

Stream Corridors

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit uses such as 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 side of the river) should be used on Granite Creek and the unnamed streams that appear on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic maps.