MANAGEMENT UNIT 20: Willow Creek

Background

This unit consists of state-owned land in two large blocks, one west of the TAPS line and the other across the Copper River. Various small tracts of state land are located between the pipeline and Copper River.

Management Intent

Management Subunit 20A (Tonsina North). This unit is state land west of the pipeline. It has potential for agricultural development and settlement and has been subdivided for land offering. An access road must be constructed across the pipeline before offering the land for either use. Partial funding for this road was allocated in the 1986 state legislative session. The area south of Willow Creek has not been subdivided and should be offered under the state's agricultural programs (agricultural homesteads or small tracts). Land along Willow Creek should be retained in public ownership (see p. 2-46). Lots in the subdivided area that have soils classified by the Soil Conservation Service as Class IV soils should be offered under the agricultural programs. Remaining lots should be offered under the nonagricultural settlement programs. Estimated total agricultural and settlement offerings are 4,000 acres net.

Management Subunit 20B. This subunit consists of a few past state land offerings. Unsold lots previously offered for sale or lots that revert to state ownership (for example, through foreclosure) can be reoffered for private ownership. The remaining small parcels previously classified for retention in public ownership will not be changed and will be managed under the guidelines in this plan.

Management Subunit 20C. This subunit is a block of state-owned land east of the Copper River, near the Nadina River, and within the boundary of the Wrangell - St. Elias National Preserve. The land has potential for forestry, agriculture, and settlement. It is also habitat for buffalo and moose. The land is not easily accessible because it lies across the river from the road. Legal access from the river is via a 25-foot 17(b) easement reserved across Ahtna, Inc., land. Feasibility of easements along section lines is uncertain due to topography. Due to its remote location, the land will be retained in public ownership for multiple use and will remain open to mineral entry. The land should be reevaluated for more active management or a land offering in the future.

Management Guidelines

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

Agriculture
Fish and wildlife habitat
Settlement
Stream corridors and instream flow
Public access

ACE 6329519

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 20 - Willow Creek

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
20A	State	Agriculture, Settlement	Forestry	Disposal area closed before offering; some parts already closed	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Estimated net agricultural and settlement land offerings - 4,000 acres
20B	Mixed - State and past land offerings	Agriculture, Settlement	Forestry Wildlife habitat	Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	Past land offerings
20C	State	Resource management, high value		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	East of the Copper River

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

ACE 6329520

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 20 - Willow Creek

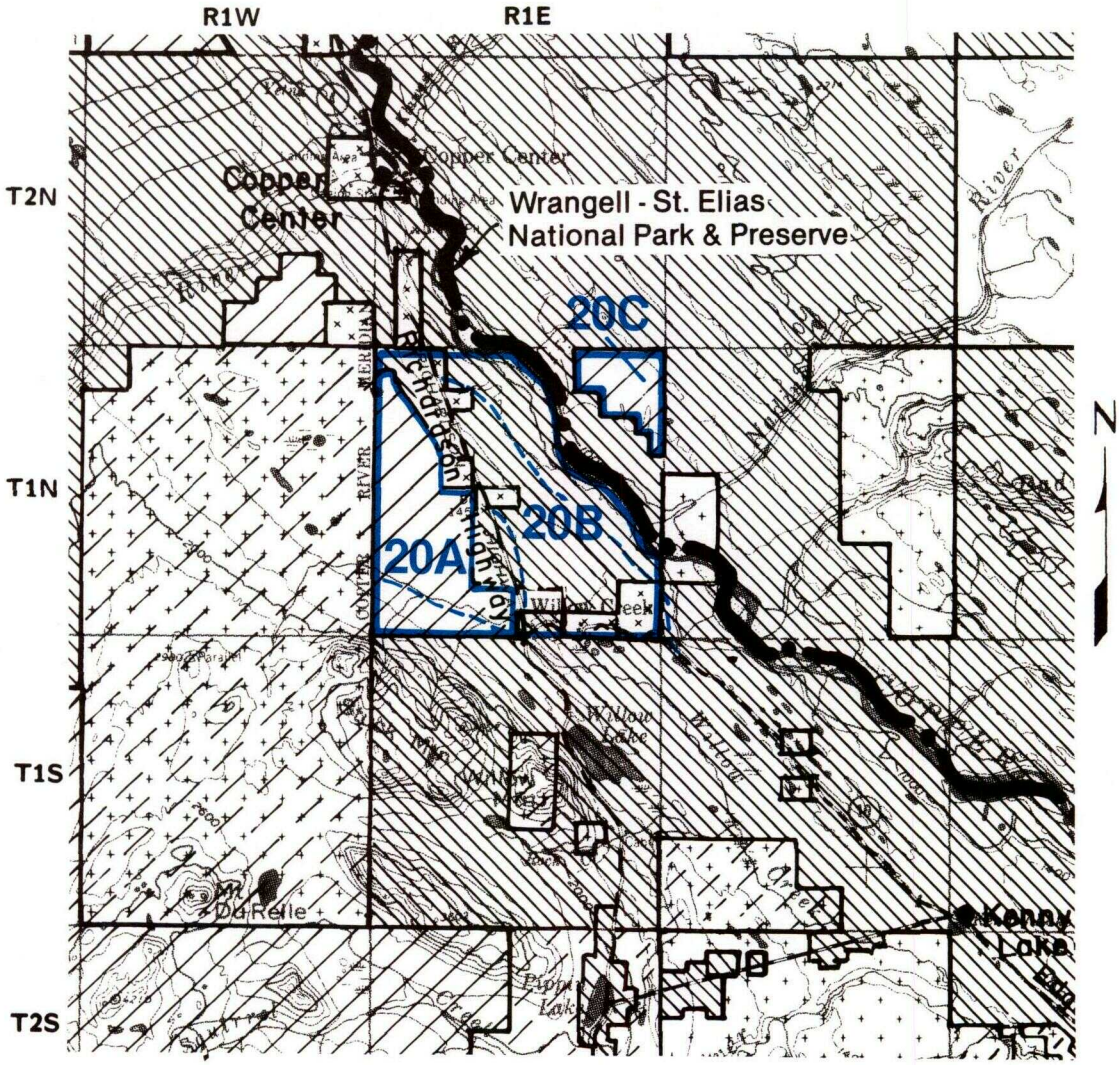
RESOURCE	SUBUNIT		
	20A	20B	20C
Agriculture	low (w/some moderate)	unsuitable	high
Fish	none docum.	salmon, s/r/m steelhead mod.	none docum.
Forestry	moderate conif. & decid.	conif., scattered	high
Historic-Cultural	high	high	high
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low	low
Recreation	high along Willow Cr.	high along Willow Cr.	low
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	existing site	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	moderate	past land sales	moderate to high
Transportation	across pipeline from Richardson Hwy.	Richardson Hwy.	none ident.
Wildlife	B-2 habitat; A-2 habitat	A-2 habitat - moose	A-2 habitat

Important trails:
Subunit 20A: Trail from Willow Creek due east
Subunit 20C: 17(b) easement from Nadina River to southern boundary of subunit

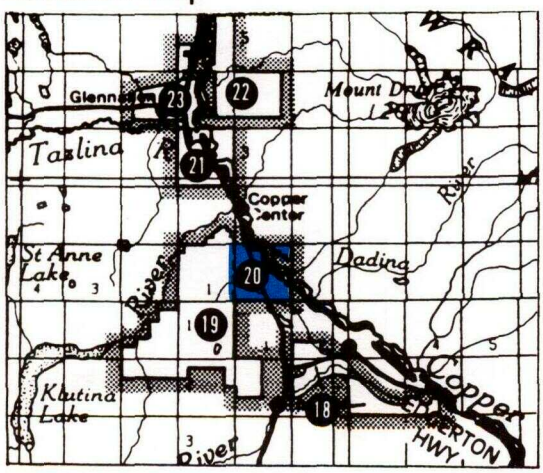
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

ACE 6329521

Willow Creek



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad: Valdez

Map scale: 1:250,000

- State Owned
- State Selected
- Native/Private Owned
- Native Selected
- Federal
- Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

ACE 6329522