

MANAGEMENT UNIT 9: KAHILTNA RIVER

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit includes the Kahiltna River corridor, Shulin Lake, and extensive areas of interspersed lowland forests and wetlands east of the river. Over half of the area falls within the existing Kahiltna remote parcel disposal area. Shulin Lake is a fly-in lake that provides opportunities for public and private recreation. The Kahiltna River, although not boatable, is an important river for runs of pink, king, coho, silver, and chum salmon. Most of the area also has moderate value for moose winter range, and about half of the area has potential for commercial forest management. There are concentrations of mining claims along the whole length of the Kahiltna in this management unit. Although not accessible by year-round road, the Shulin Lake winter trail provides seasonal access to the northern part of the unit. This route is recommended for consideration for upgrading to provide year-round access to this area. Consideration also is recommended for a route to tie the Shulin Lake trail to the forest lands between the Kahiltna River and Kroto Creek. See the transportation section of Chapter 4 for additional information on both these routes. This management unit will be managed to provide for both public and private land use. Management Unit 9 will be open to mineral location and available for coal leasing except for the existing disposal area in subunit 9d. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing.

Four subunits are included in the Kahiltna management unit: the Kahiltna River corridor (9a), borough lands around Shulin Lake (9b), the lowlands between the river corridor and the past disposal area (9c), and the past Kahiltna Flats remote parcel area (9d). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas, and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses for each subunit.

Subunit 9a, the Kahiltna River corridor, will be retained in public ownership for recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and mining. Forestry is a secondary use in this subunit. Timber harvesting will be allowed when consistent with the habitat and recreation objectives for the subunit. Provision will be made for logging road access through subunit 9a where necessary for harvest and management of timber resources further west, particularly in subunit 7a.

Subunit 9b, borough lands around Shulin Lake, will be put in the borough land bank. The southern and eastern portions of the unit have some potential for agriculture. Portions of the area may be available for future sales if residential land is needed to support resource development nearby. Because of the lake and

the unit's proximity to the Kahiltna River, the Shulin Lake area would be an attractive location for settlement if forestry, coal, or other development occurs. There are no plans for disposals in the immediate future. Additional sales will be unnecessary if resource development does not occur.

Subunit 9c (Kahiltna Lowlands) also will remain in public ownership, at least in the near term, and will be designated resource management-high value. It will be reevaluated in the future to determine appropriate management for the long term. This area has high potential for forestry and habitat management and settlement, with some possibility of agricultural use. All these values must be considered in determining its long term designation. The relative ease of improving access to the subunit, especially if resource development occurs in subunits 1a and/or 10a, increases the area's value for all these uses.

Subunit 9d, the past Kahiltna remote parcel area, will remain available for additional settlement. A net area of approximately 5,360 acres will be available for additional disposal offerings within this subunit.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide 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 & Wildlife Habitat
- *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.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Susitna LowlandsMANAGEMENT UNIT 9 – Kahiltna River

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
9a Kahiltna R. corridor	State/ Borough	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Remote Cabins Land Disposals	
9b Shulin Lake	Borough	Borough Land Bank Values: Commercial Development, Forestry, Public Recreation, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	Grazing	
9c Kahiltna lowlands	State	Resource Management (high) Values: Agriculture, Forestry, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat		Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Portions closed to grazing (see mgmt. guidelines)	
9d Kahiltna disposal	State/ Private	Settlement (past remote parcel offering)	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	—	Estimated net disposal area = 5360 acres

*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.

Subunit 9b and 9c (Shulin Lake and Kahiltna Lowlands)

Protection of Transportation Routes

Chapter 4 of this plan identifies a system of possible improvements to the regional and local transportation system. Two of those routes pass through these subunits. The precise location of these routes has not been determined, although a general location is shown on the maps in Chapter 4. Land use authorizations in these units such as land sales, leases, or other actions should be located so as not to preclude the option to build these roads along feasible and efficient routes.

Subunits 9b, 9c, and 9d (borough lands, Kahiltna disposal and resource management lands)

Stream Corridors

The management intent for land adjacent to the unnamed streams that appear on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic maps 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 side of the river) should be used.

Subunit 9c (Kahiltna Lowlands)

Grazing

Grazing is prohibited in those portions of subunit 9c within T23N R9W and T24N R9W.