

Unit F – Grasshopper Valley

Unit Description

This unit encompasses state lands within Township 15N, R5, 6, and 7E, Township 16N, R 5, 6, & 7E, and Township 17N, R 5 & 6E, Seward Meridian as depicted on Map 3-1, *Knik River Management Plan Units* pp 3 - 3. The dominant feature of this unit is Grasshopper Valley and surrounding alpine areas.

Land ownership

There are approximately 29,394 acres of state land within Unit F. See Map 1-2 on pp. 1 - 5 for generalized land status of the planning area and surrounding lands.

Access

Few user created trails related to hunting exist in Grasshopper Valley. Seven un-maintained gravel airstrips are located within Grasshopper Valley Unit.

Recreational Use

This unit receives low levels of use primarily related to hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and climbing. Motorized use occurs primarily on the airstrips.

Fisheries Habitat

Glacier Fork Knik River is the primary waterbody. Habitat for resident fish species may occur. No waterbodies are catalogued by ADFG as anadromous. See Appendix B, Map B-1 for a depiction of those streams and waterbodies included in ADFG's catalogue of waters important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish.

Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat extends from the sparsely vegetated valley floor to the unvegetated alpine.

Dall sheep are commonly found from the vegetated sub-alpine to alpine environments. Mountain goat habitat is located at the higher elevations. Moose utilize available habitat from the valley floor to the alpine and sub-alpine. Bear habitat encompasses the entire unit. Small game species such as rabbit and ptarmigan can be found. See wildlife habitat maps in Appendix B.

Commercial Use

This unit receives low levels of commercial use.

Facilities

Other than a few un-maintained airstrips, facilities do not exist.

1 **Trails and Easements**

2 A few user-created trails exist; however, no developed or managed trails exist at this
3 time.

4
5 **Cultural and Historical**

6 No cultural or historical artifacts or sites have been reported to date.

7
8 **Issues**

9 Because of the difficulty in access, there are few if any issues affecting management.
10 With the exception of the airstrips, this unit currently experiences low levels of motorized
11 use and low levels of non-motorized use. DNR does expect use to increase as the glacier
12 recedes and access to the unit improves. This increased access related to glacial retreat is
13 not expected for some years to come.

14
15 There are other issues concerning this unit that apply to the entire public use area. These
16 areawide issues are summarized in Chapter 2 rather than in every unit. Many areawide
17 issues are addressed by draft regulations recently released for public review and comment
18 and now are in the process of being finalized.

19
20 **Management Intent**

21 The management intent for the Grasshopper Valley Unit is to manage for low levels of public
22 use and to enhance recreational opportunities by applying management guidelines that apply
23 to the entire public use area. The unit will be managed to provide the full spectrum of public
24 uses, while mitigating impacts to habitats for fish and wildlife.

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26 **Management Guidelines**

- 27
 - (None)

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29 **Management Recommendations**

- 30
 - A single multiple use sustainable trail may be developed into Grasshopper Valley.
31 This trail will be adjudicated by DNR and reserved as a public easement.

32
33 **Facilities Recommendations**

- 34
 - (None)

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36 **Public Use Sites**

37 A portion of the Glacier Public Use Site occurs within this unit as depicted on Map 2-2 pp.
38 2 - 29.

39
40 **Land Use Designation**

41 All state land is co-designated Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. All state land will be
42 retained in public ownership.

1 **Allowed/Prohibited Uses**

2 All land uses (including commercial recreation) may be authorized except for uses/activities
3 that are designated as “prohibited” in Chapter 4, pp 4 - 4. Uses may be allowed if they are
4 consistent with the legislation, pertinent state laws, regulations, and management guidelines.
5