

MANAGEMENT UNIT 18: Lower Tonsina - Edgerton Highway

Background

This management unit includes state-selected and state-owned land along the Edgerton Highway and the Lower Tonsina River. The land on the north side of the Tonsina River has forestry, wildlife, and some settlement values. Land along and south of the Tonsina River has wildlife, recreation, and forestry values. The Tonsina River is becoming an increasingly popular river for floating from the Richardson Highway at Squirrel Creek to the Edgerton Highway bridge just above the confluence with the Copper River. Parts of the river have Class III whitewater. BLM has determined that the Tonsina River is probably not navigable (as legally defined for ownership) in this unit except near its confluence with the Copper River.

Management Intent

The management intent for the entire unit is to manage land for multiple use. How state land is managed will be determined by what land the state eventually acquires in the unit, because most of the land has conflicting selections attached to it. Land that the state acquires along the Edgerton Highway (subunit 18A) should be managed for settlement. Land acquired to the north of the highway (subunit 18B) is designated 'Resource Management-High' because of agricultural, habitat, and forestry values and uncertain ownership. Any land that the state acquires along the Tonsina River (subunits 18C and 18D) will be managed to protect high public recreation, wildlife habitat, and forestry values. Along the Tonsina River, a campground for river floaters and a public access point at the Edgerton Highway bridge should be reserved if the state acquires title to land suitable for these uses. Management subunit 18E is a narrow strip of land with conflicting selections that may be offered for agriculture if the state receives title.

Land in T. 2 S., R. 2 E., CRM, is currently Native selected, but not state selected. The state should file selections over Native selections to acquire land not conveyed to Ahtna, Inc. If the state is able to make selections here, up to 1,000 net acres in subunit 18A would be offered for settlement.

Management subunit 18F is the existing Liberty Falls campground managed by DPOR. The falls is a unique and scenic natural feature. This 10-acre site will continue to be managed as a recreation site. The state does not own any additional land near this site.

Land acquired by the state will be open to mineral entry. However, if the state acquires any land along Dust Creek, the creek and land within 200 feet of the creek will be closed to mineral entry to protect salmon spawning habitat.

Management Guidelines

Access to Forest Lands. Access from the Edgerton Highway to forest lands behind any land offering should be retained. This access, to allow for log hauling, should be located on firm ground and should not be immediately adjacent to private parcels.

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:

Fish and wildlife habitat
Forestry
Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
Settlement

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 18 - Lower Tonsina/Edgerton
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SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
18A	Native selected	Settlement	Forestry Wildlife habitat	Open to mineral entry, except disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	State should select land. Estimated net land offering 1,000 acres
18B	State and Native selected	Resource management, high value		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife values
18C	Native selected	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry, except Dust Creek (if state owned)	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	State should select land in Tonsina River corridor
18D	State, State-Native selected	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

* 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.

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LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
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SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
18E	State, Native selected	Agriculture		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	
18F	State	State recreation site		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Liberty Falls-existing recreation site

* 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.

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RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

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RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	18A	18B	18C	18D
Agriculture	class 3 & 4 soils	class 3 & 4 soils	class 3 & 4 soils	no info available
Fish	none docum.	none docum.	salmon - s/r/m steelhead	salmon - s/r/m
Forestry	moderate decid.	moderate conif. and decid.	high to moderate conif. & decid.	high to moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	high in area of the confl. of Tonsina and Copper River
Minerals	low	low	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	low	low	high along Tonsina River; rafting, kayaking	high along Tonsina River; rafting, kayaking
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.	existing site	existing site
Settlement Suitability	low to moderate	low	low	low; unsuitable
Transportation	Edgerton Hwy.	near Edgerton Hwy.	Edgerton Hwy.	Edgerton Hwy.
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat; A-2 habitat - moose

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

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

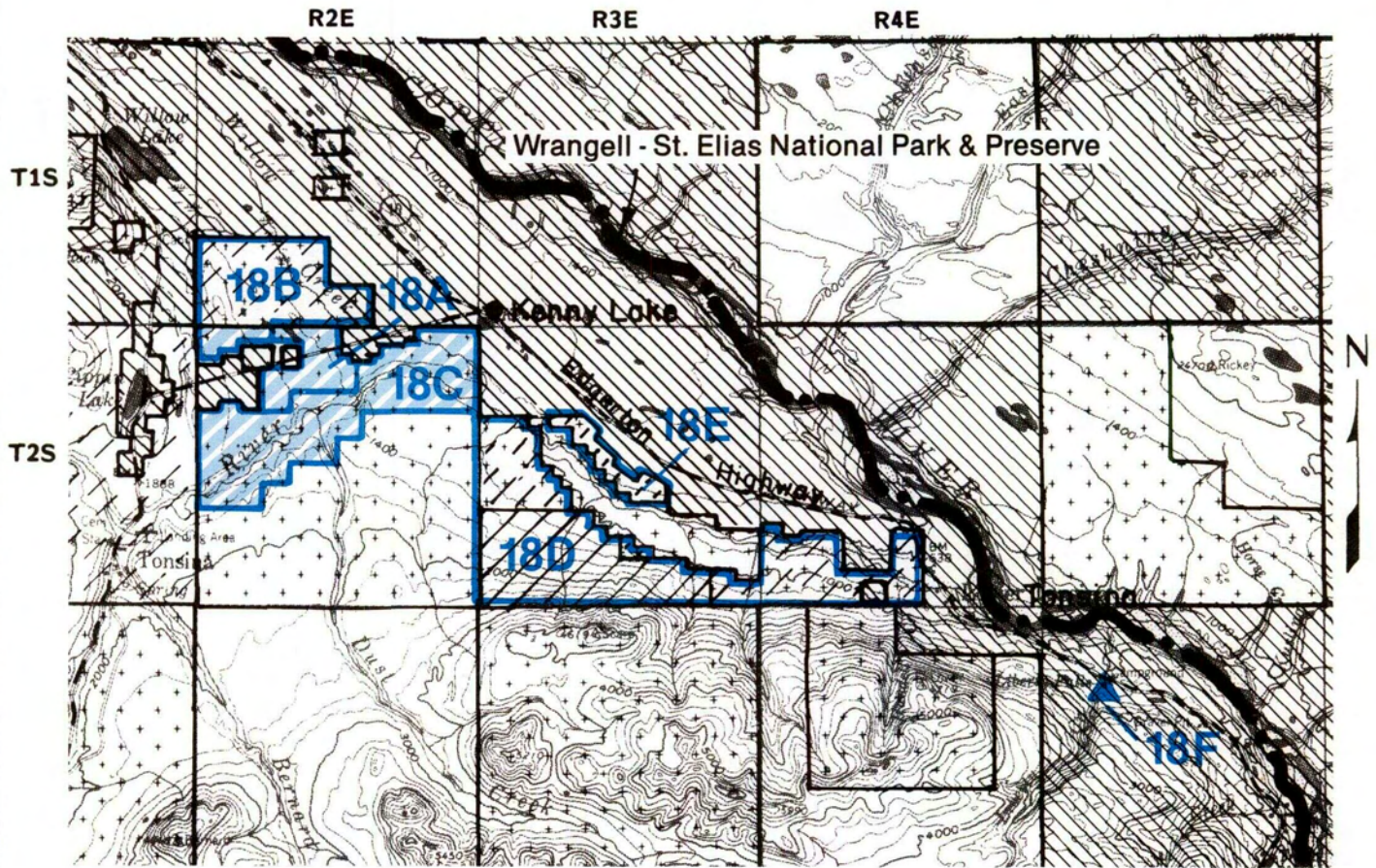
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RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	18E	18F
Agriculture	class 3 & 4 soils	N/A
Fish	none documented	none documented
Forestry	high coniferous	not rated
Historic-Cultural	unknown	Liberty Falls
Minerals	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	low	high for Liberty Falls Wayside; camping, picnicking
Sand and Gravel	none identified	none identified
Settlement Suitability	moderate	N/A
Transportation	near Edgerton Hwy.	Edgerton Hwy.
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - moose	A-2 habitat - moose

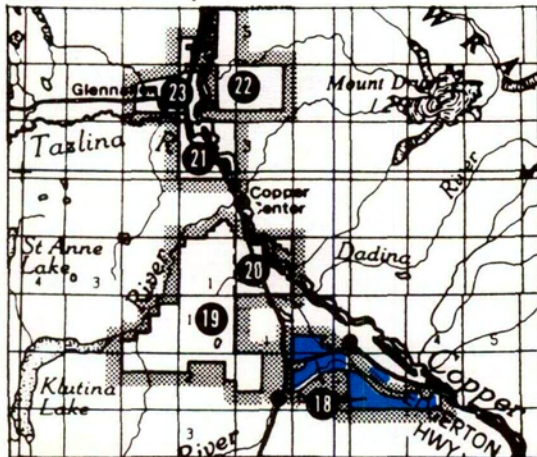
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 18

Lower Tonsina/Edgerton



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Proposed State Selections