

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1: NORTH FORK

Background

Location and Land Ownership. This management unit consists of the North Fork of the Kuskokwim River drainage that is located within the planning area. Most of the land in this unit is state owned; however, some Native-owned land exists near Telida, Medfra, and Nikolai; the remainder is state or Native selected. Approximately 25 Native allotments exist in the unit along the North Fork. Only a few mining claims are located in the area north of Dyckman Mountain.

Resources and Land Use. Although no villages exist within this unit, residents of Telida, Nikolai, Lake Minchumina, and Medfra use the area for trapping, hunting (primarily moose and bear), and fishing. A few permanent residents live along the North Fork. Trapping cabins, hunting camps, and fish camps are widely dispersed. The unit is not heavily used for recreation, sport hunting, or fishing because of its distance from population centers, the time required to reach the area by boat or snowmachine from McGrath, and the low fish and game populations compared to other parts of the planning area. Timber in the area is used for house logs and firewood. The unit is covered primarily by black spruce and shrubs with some stands of hardwoods located mostly on south-facing slopes. However, accessible riparian lands along the North Fork contain productive stands of white spruce, birch, and cottonwood.

Access. Winter access is by snowmachine on established trails, traplines, and along frozen rivers. Regional trails pass through the unit and connect Lake Minchumina, Medfra, Nikolai, Telida. Power boats are used on the North Fork by residents of Telida, Nikolai, Lake Minchumina, and the North Fork area. The North Fork is also floated with non-motorized boats for hunting and recreation and accessed by a portage from Lake Minchumina. Although no established airstrips exist in the area, numerous lakes and

straight stretches of the North Fork River provide float plane access.

Management Intent

The general management intent for this unit is to provide a mix of opportunities for private land acquisition and public use. One area totalling 800 net acres within this unit has been identified for future disposal. The lands along the North Fork not identified for disposal will be managed primarily for hunting, trapping, fishing, and personal-use forestry. The lands away from the North Fork are currently used to a limited degree for hunting, trapping, and transportation. These lands have generally low resource values and will be managed for general multiple use. One state-selected area north of the river should be relinquished to the federal government because of low resource values.

All state lands retained in public ownership will remain open to new mineral entry. Lands proposed for disposal will be closed to mineral entry prior to sale. The entire unit will be closed to remote cabin permits. Areas with winter habitat for moose will be closed to grazing.

Although bordered by Native-owned lands, the riverbed of the North Fork and many of its navigable tributaries are state owned and subject to the Chapter 2 guidelines. All lands retained in state ownership will remain open to mineral entry.

Subunit 1a - Upper North Fork

This subunit contains state-owned lands along the upper North Fork and adjacent to several small lakes. Settlement is a primary use. Approximately 800 acres will be offered for private ownership. The subunit will be closed to mineral entry prior to the sale. Remaining public lands will be available for forestry and wildlife habitat.

Subunit 1b - North Fork Uplands

Most of the land in this subunit is state owned with some overlapping selections. One trapping cabin permit has been applied for on the upper North Fork. The land in this subunit will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat. Access along the Telida - Sulukna River trail in this subunit will be protected consistent with the trail management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Subunit 1c - North Fork Uplands

This subunit contains mostly state and some state-selected or Native-selected lands. State lands in this unit will be managed for general multiple use. These lands are composed primarily of higher elevation lands away from the North Fork and have low surface resource values. Two trapping cabin permits have been issued in this subunit near Fish Creek Lake and Spirit Lake. Parts of the subunit have moderate mineral potential and are located adjacent to the highly mineralized Nixon Fork gold deposits. Access along the Lake Minchumina - Telida, Telida - Medfra, and the Telida - Sulukna River drainage trails on state lands will be protected consistent with the trail management guidelines in Chapter 2. Additional lands may be added to this subunit northwest of Sprucefish Lake if a land exchange between the state and the National Park Service is completed. One state selection near Von Frank Mountain will be relinquished.

Subunit 1d - North Fork Lowlands

Most of the land in this subunit is state owned with some overlapping selections. One trapping cabin permit has been issued on the north end of Munsatli Ridge. The lands in this subunit will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat and forestry. Access along important trails in this subunit on state-owned lands will also be protected: the winter trail on the North Fork, and the Telida - Medfra, Nikolai - Telida, and Telida - Sulukna River drainage trails.

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. Those most likely to apply are listed below:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Public and commercial recreation resources
- Remote cabins and trapping cabins
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

Subunits 1a, 1b, and 1d - Upper North Fork, North Fork Uplands, and North Fork Lowlands

Grazing. Grazing leases or permits will not be allowed in the following areas because of their importance as winter concentration zones for moose (Map 2.1). Temporary passage is not prohibited through these areas to reach areas where grazing is permitted. Grazing may be allowed in portions of these prohibited areas if consistent with the guideline in Chapter 2 ("Grazing on Important Habitat Lands"). All the following townships are in the Kateel River Meridian.

Within 1.25 miles of the North Fork River;
T23S R25E Sec. 17-20, 29 & 32 (all K.R.M.)
T25S R27E Sec. 11
T23S R24E Sec. 25-26 & 35-36
T24S R25E Sec. 4-9, 16-21 & 28-33
T24S R24E Sec. 1-3, 9-36
T24S R23E Sec. 23-27 & 32-36
T25S R24E Sec. 1-3 & 10-12
T25S R23E Sec. 1-4, 9-12, & 13-16

Subunit 1a - Upper North Fork

Lakeshore Management. The northern Chleca Lake is located entirely in the disposal area of subunit 1a; only the northern half of the southern Chleca Lake is located within the disposal area of subunit 1a. At least 50 percent of the public land within 500 feet of the

shore of the northern Chleca Lake will be retained in public ownership. Retained lands shall include 50 percent or more of the actual shoreline. A significant portion of the lakefront land that is retained in public ownership should be suitable for recreational activities. If feasible, the publicly retained land should include land adjacent to the lakes' inlet and outlet. Because 50 percent of the southern portion of Chleca Lake is located outside the disposal, the 50 percent retention guideline along lakes will not apply. Retention sites on numerous smaller ponds and oxbows in subunit 1a will be determined at the time the sale is designed.

Stream Corridors and Wetlands. The North Fork meanders, and has many oxbows. White spruce and hardwood vegetation is a typically narrow band between the rivers, oxbows, and wetlands inland from the river. To protect public access and recreation along the rivers, the disposal will require a 100-foot staking setback on the Kuskokwim River. Staking will be allowed up to wetlands, but there will be a 50-foot building setback from the wetlands. Out-houses, septic tanks, and other waste-disposal facilities must be sited to meet the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) guidelines that require a 100-foot setback from wetlands and water bodies. This subunit will be closed to mineral entry prior to the sale.

Land Sales and Trapping. There are several existing traplines along the upper North Fork and trapping is an important part of the local economy. Opportunity for trapping by new residents may be limited if parcels in subunit 1a are sold. If this condition exists at the time a sale is designated, DNR, in consultation with ADF&G will develop language to be included in the annual state land offering brochure advising applicants of this situation and encouraging them to contact local trappers before establishing new traplines.

Subunit 1c - Munsatli Ridge - Sischu Mountains

Historic Sites. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will be consulted before a permit or lease is issued within one-quarter mile of Spirit Lake, which has a historic site.

Selections - Relinquishments. One-half township of state-selected land east of Von Frank Mountain has low surface and subsurface resource values and will be relinquished. This includes township T22S R25E K.R.M. sections 1-3, 10-15, 22-27, and 34-36 (Map 4.1).

Additional Access Needs. Legal access may be needed across T21S R26E K.R.M. just south of Stone Mountain if this overlapping Native and state selection is not conveyed to the state. The existing trail connects Telida to the Sulukna River drainage which has moderate to high fish and wildlife values. See Chapter 4, "Recommendations for Additional Access" for more information.

Management of Exchange Lands. The lands northwest of Sprucefish Lake (T15S R27W F.M. sections 1-11, 15-21, and 29-31), proposed to be conveyed to the state through an exchange with the National Park Service, will be managed consistent with the management intent of subunit 1c.

Subunits 1a, 1b, and 1d, - Upper North Fork, North Fork Uplands, and North Fork Lowlands

Campsites Along North Fork River. Lands along the North Fork River are frequently used for hunting, trapping, fishing, berry picking, personal use forestry, and transportation. Opportunities for camping will be maintained at reasonable intervals along the North Fork.

Subunits 1a, 1c, and 1d - Upper North Fork, Munsatli Ridge-Sischu Mountains, and North Fork Lowlands

Agricultural Potential. Although preliminary ratings in the USDA Exploratory Soil Survey show portions of these subunits as having moderate potential for agriculture, detailed information is unavailable to confirm these ratings. To protect options for long-term use of these lands, the Division of Agriculture should be consulted before permits or leases are issued for any activities that would significantly diminish their capability to support agriculture.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 1 - North Fork

Resource	Subunit			
	1a	1b	1c	1d
Agriculture	Moderate to low potential	Low potential	Most low to unsuitable, some moderate	Moderate to low potential
Energy	Very low coal potential	Very low coal potential	Very low coal potential	Very low coal potential
Fish	Resident fish	Resident fish	Resident fish	Salmon & resident fish
Forestry	High potential along river; rest unsuitable	Low to unsuitable	Most unsuitable, some low to moderate potential	High potential along river; rest unsuitable
Grazing	Mixed: high to low potential	High to low	Moderate to low potential	Most moderate to low potential; some high
Historic/cultural	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Materials	Low potential	Low potential	Low potential	Low potential
Minerals	Low potential	Low potential	Low to moderate potential; a few mining claims	Most low potential; some moderate along Von Frank Mts.; a few mining claims
Oil & gas	Partially within currently mapped estimated Minchumina sedimentary basin boundary	Partially within currently mapped estimated Minchumina sedimentary basin boundary	Partially within currently mapped estimated Minchumina sedimentary basin boundary	Partially within currently mapped estimated Minchumina sedimentary basin boundary
Public access	Plane to lakes or winter landings; boat North Fork; trails	Plane to lakes or winter landings, boat on North Fork; trails	Plane to lakes or winter landings; trails	Plane to lakes or winter landings; boat on North Fork; trails
Recreation	Low use and potential	Low use and potential	Low use and potential	Low use and potential
Settlement suitability	Mixed: high and unsuitable	Very low to low potential	Most unsuitable; some low	Some high along river; most low to unsuitable
Wildlife	Mostly B-1, some A-2; Moose winter range, bear, ducks, and geese	A-2 and B-1; moose winter range, bear, ducks, and geese	C; Bear, moose	A-2 and B-1; Moose winter range, bear, ducks, and geese
Important trails	Winter trail along North Fork	Winter trail along North Fork, Telida-Sulukna River trail	Telida-Sulukna River trail and Minchumina-Telida trail	Winter trail along North Fork, Telida-Medfra trail, and Telida-Nikolai trail

See glossary for definition of ratings.

LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

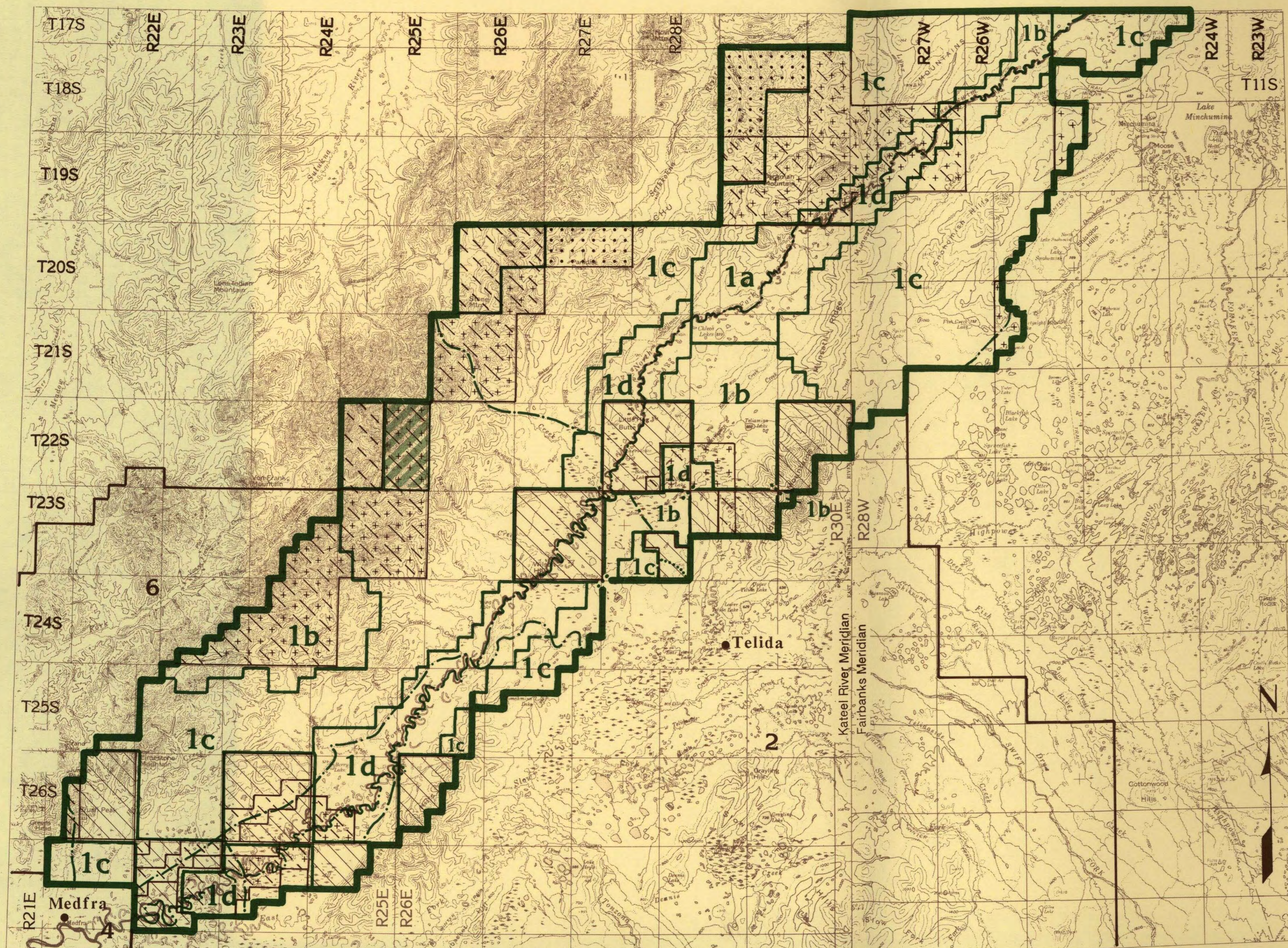
MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 - NORTH FORK




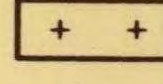






SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				COMMENTS
		Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Prohibited Surface Uses ^a	Subsurface ^b	
1a Upper North Fork	State	Settlement Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Grazing in part of subunit Remote cabins Trapping cabins after sale is scheduled	Closed prior to sale	Net sale area = 800 acres
1b North Fork Uplands	State, state/ Native select.	Wildlife habitat		Grazing in part of subunit Remote cabins	Open	
1c Munsalti Ridge - Sischu Mountains	Most state, some state/ Native sel.	General use: low resource values		Land disposals Remote cabins	Open	2 blocks in Sischu Mts. proposed for relinquishment; Historic sites present; Lands may be added as part of a proposed land exchange.
1d North Fork Lowlands	Most state, some state selections, some state/ Native sel.	Forestry Wildlife habitat		Grazing in part of subunit Land disposals Remote cabins	Open	

^aOther 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. Grazing may be allowed in portions of closed units when consistent with the guideline in Chapter 2 (Grazing on Important Habitat Lands).

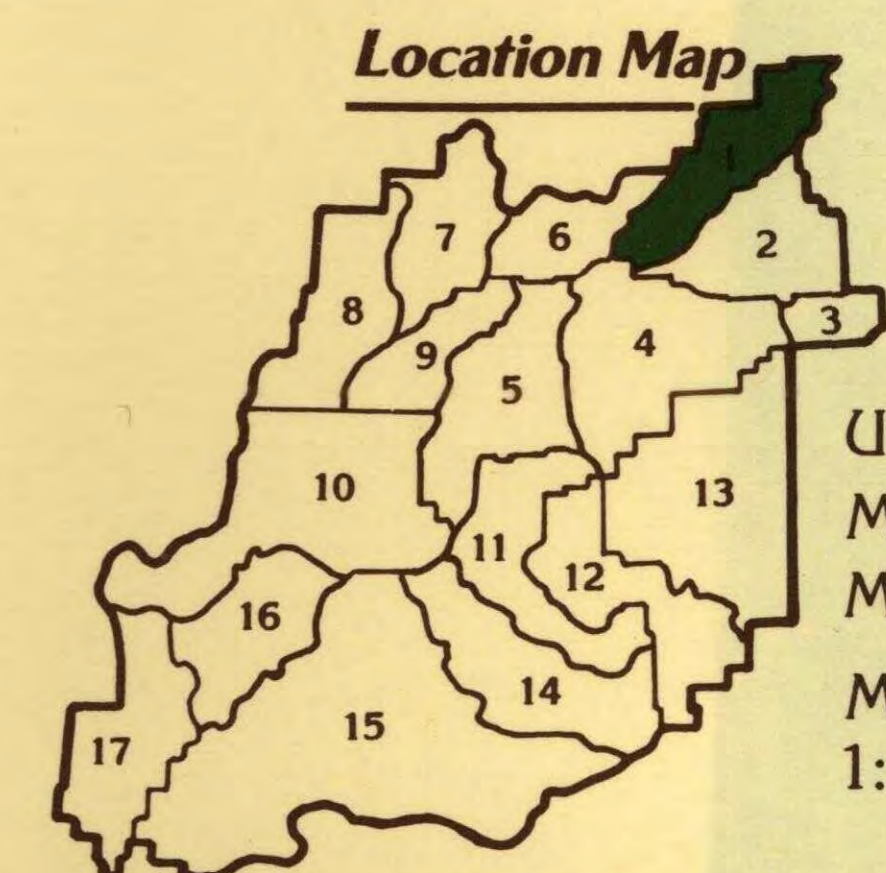
^bAll areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals.

1: North Fork



-  Management Unit Boundary
-  Subunit Boundary
-  No Pattern State Owned
-  ++ State Selected
-  Native Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Proposed Relinquishments
-  Trails on public lands
-  ANCSA 17 (b) easements & State Omnibus roads

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



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Mt. McKinley
Medfra
Map Scale:
1:500,000