

## **Unit 20. Middle Mulchatna River Corridor, Chilikadrotna River to Keefer Creek**

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### **Background**

**Land Status.** Most of the land is owned by the state. One Native allotment is located in the unit. Most of the unit is located within the Lake and Peninsula Borough.

**Miles of River.** The main channel of the Mulchatna River extends for 31 miles.

**Access.** The corridor is easily accessible by float and wheeled airplane and is moderately accessible by motorboat. Floaters are commonly dropped off at the headwaters of the Mulchatna and take out in this unit. The unit is about a one-hour flight from Iliamna, but much of the use is based directly out of Anchorage and the Kenai vicinity.

**Existing Development.** Four cabins are located in the unit. Four sites have been used as commercial recreation camps.

**Fisheries.** The Mulchatna River serves as a migrational corridor for salmon and provides important salmon spawning and rearing habitat.

Subsistence fishing use is low. Sport fishing use is low and usually associated with hunting and floating.

**Wildlife.** This portion of the Mulchatna River is braided and provides good moose habitat which supports seasonally high densities of moose. Caribou density is high during the fall.

Subsistence hunting use is low. Sport hunting use is high and is generally associated with nonresidents and non-local Alaskans on float trips during the fall. Many hunters are guided or outfitted.

**Trails and Easements.** None.

**Other Values.** Scenic values are high because of the contrast of high ridges on either side of the valley with river views. Floating use, both guided and unguided, is high. The river does not include whitewater, but provides a leisurely, interesting float.

## **Management Intent**

Semi-primitive use experience.

## **Management Guidelines**

### **Long-term Use (longer than 14 consecutive days at one site)**

Permanent facilities	Prohibited.
Temporary facilities	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Trapping cabins	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Boat storage	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Airstrip development	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Docks: permanent	Prohibited
temporary	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Other uses	May be allowed (case-by-case).

### **Short-term Use (14 consecutive days or less at one site)**

See Short-term Uses (generally allowed uses) in Chapter 2.

## **Other Guidelines Specific to this Unit**

- U20.1 Long-term Uses Associated with Mineral/Oil and Gas Activity. For long-term uses associated with mineral and oil and gas exploration and development, see Chapter 2 guideline.
- U20.2 Siting Criteria. Long-term uses will be sited to minimize evidence of human use.

## **Public Use Sites**

See Public Use Sites in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on maps in Appendix C.

Site 32 Campsite on the north bank of the Mulchatna River, 2 miles southeast of Red Bluff.

Site 33 Campsite and floatplane and wheeled plane landing area on the upper Mulchatna River, 5 miles downstream from Springway Creek.

Site 34 Campsite and floatplane landing area on the Mulchatna River below the mouth of the Chilchitna River.

Site 35 Campsite on the upper Mulchatna River at the mouth of the Chilikadrotna River.

## **Recommendations for this Unit**

None.