

Unit 23. Chilikadrotna River Corridor

Background

Land Status. The unit is owned by the state. The headwaters of the Chilikadrotna River are located in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The unit is located within the Lake and Peninsula Borough.

Miles of River. The main channel of the Chilikadrotna River extends for 45 miles.

Access. Accessibility is difficult for motorboats and airplanes. The main access points for floating drop-offs are Snipe Lake and Twin Lakes (in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve). The unit is about a one-hour flight from Iliamna, but much use is based directly out of Anchorage and the Kenai vicinity.

Existing Development. No cabins or other development are documented in the unit.

Fisheries. The Chilikadrotna River is a clear water stream and provides important spawning and rearing habitat for king, coho, and chum salmon. The river offers only fair angling potential.

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

Wildlife. Moose density is moderate; caribou density is high. Upper portions of the unit support essential caribou calving habitat.

Subsistence hunting use is nearly non-existent. Sport hunting use is moderate for moose and caribou and is associated with float trips from Twin Lakes (in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve) to pickup spots on the Mulchatna River.

Trails and Easements. The Native Trail is a possible RS-2477 right-of-way crossing into the Koksetna drainage from the Little Mulchatna River.

Other Values. Scenic values are high because of high landscape diversity, good scenic views of the Bonanza Hills, and stretches of whitewater. The Chilikadrotna River is one of the highest quality float rivers in the Bristol Bay region. The U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation recommended its inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System as a "wild river area" in 1976. Floating use, both guided and unguided, is high. Upstream of the Little Mulchatna, rapids are common. The river provides Class II whitewater. Some opportunities for hiking through nearby alpine tundra exist near the Bonanza Hills.

Management Intent

Primitive use experience.

Management Guidelines

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

Permanent facilities	Prohibited.
Temporary facilities	Prohibited.
Trapping cabins	Prohibited.
Boat storage	Prohibited.
Airstrip development	Prohibited.
Docks: permanent	Prohibited.
temporary	Prohibited.
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

- U23.1 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.
- U23.2 Siting Criteria. Long-term uses should be sited out of view from the main river channel.

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 42 Campsite and floatplane landing area on the Chilikadrotna River at the mouth of an unnamed creek.
- Site 43 Campsite and floatplane landing area on the Chilikadrotna River at the mouth of Ptarmigan Creek.
- Site 44 Campsite on the Chilikadrotna River at the mouth of Little Mulchatna River.
- Site 45 Campsite on the Chilikadrotna River at the mouth of the creek which drains Snipe Lake.

Recommendations for this Unit

Protection of Resident Fish Stocks: ADF&G should complete further studies of the resident fish resources of the Chilikadrotna River. Although angling opportunities are only fair, the unit receives high floating and hunting use, and fishing use is greater than in other rivers in the upper Mulchatna drainage.