

proposed at the Silver Hole public use site to protect public safety. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

**Borough Lands.** Borough lands in this subunit are classified "Borough Land Bank." For management intent on borough lands, contact the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

## Management Guidelines

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**Voluntary No-wake Area.** See management guidelines for the Deshka River Management Unit in this chapter.

**Commercial Camps.** A maximum of two temporary camps may be authorized in this subunit. Commercial camps will not be authorized in public use sites.

## Public Use Sites

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See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

- PU 2c.1. **Unnamed** (RM 10.1). This is a popular fishing and camping site.
- PU 2c.2 **Unnamed** (RM 13.8). This is a popular fishing and camping site.
- PU 2c.3 **Trapper Creek** (RM 14.5). This is a popular fishing and camping site.

# 2d. Neil Lake Subunit

## Background

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### MILES OF RIVER/RIVER CHARACTERISTICS, RM 14.4 to RM 23.3

This subunit extends from Trapper Creek to Neil Lake. The terrain is flat; the river slow-moving. Just over 50 percent of the area is contiguous wetland. Neil Lake and the land around it are not in the Recreation Rivers.

### LAND OWNERSHIP

The land ownership is as follows:

State	5,182 acres
17 Private Parcels	81 acres
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,263 acres</b>

### WILDLIFE

Neither active bald eagle nor trumpeter swan nests have been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

### CAMPING

This subunit is very popular for camping. Twenty-nine secondary campsites have been identified, mostly on gravel bars.

### DEVELOPMENT

There are many cabins around Neil Lake which is adjacent to the subunit. One is used commercially as a lodge for airboat fishing trips. Another lodge is located at the south end of the subunit. Five docks are located on the lake. Signs mark some of the trailheads on both the river and lake.

## Management Intent

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**Class II.** This subunit features high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities for powerboaters and floaters in a relatively remote, undeveloped setting. There are some private lands in the southern half of the subunit, and around Neil Lake, northwest of the subunit. In winter the subunit is used by snowmachiners, dog mushers, and skiers. The subunit contains salmon spawning and moose wintering habitat. The sub-

unit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating uses associated with private lands. Some commercial camps may be authorized. Maintaining public use sites is a high priority. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

## Management Guidelines

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**Boating Restrictions.** None.

**Boat Storage.** A public boat storage area should be designated near Neil Lake. See *Shoreline Development, Boat Storage* in Chapter 2.

**Access to Neil Lake.** The only state-owned parcels on Neil Lake are wetlands. The primary access points currently used by the public are three trails on the southeast end of the lake. Two trails connect with the Deshka River, the other with a slough of the Deshka River. There is an existing 18-foot easement. However, the best trails do not follow this easement. In addition, the 18-foot easement on the shore of Neil Lake is not

wide enough to accommodate the numerous floatplanes that beach at the trailhead. In the near term, signs should be placed to mark the legal access. Over the longer term, private land should be purchased for better shore and trail access on Neil Lake. (Also see Chapter 3, *Land Acquisition*.)

**Public Information.** A kiosk that provides information on the Deshka Recreation River should be established on or adjacent to Neil Lake.

**Commercial Camps.** Up to two commercial camps may be allowed in this subunit. Commercial camps will not be authorized in public use sites or on Neil Lake.

## Public Use Sites

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See *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

- PU 2d.1** No-Name or Lynx Creek (RM 17.7). This is a popular fishing and camping site.
- PU 2d.2** Eagle's Nest Camp (RM 17.8). Fishing and camping spots are popular at this site.
- PU 2d.3** Middle King Fishing Hole (RM 20.7). This site provides good fishing and camping.
- PU 2d.4** Upper King Hole (RM 21.8). This is a popular fishing and camping site.
- PU 2d.5** Neil Lake (RM 23). There are several camp sites and trails associated with this public use site. The public use site includes three trails connecting the lake with a slough and the river, and areas used for dropping-off parties, camping, and for tying up floatplanes or boats.