

2e. The Forks Subunit

Background

MILES OF RIVER/RIVER CHARACTERISTICS, RM 23.3 to RM 29.8

The subunit extends from Neil Lake to the confluence of Moose and Kroto creeks. The terrain is flat to rolling. The water column is 60 to 75 feet wide and meandering. Water velocity is slow.

Floaters often exit the river at Neil Lake for this reason. Water levels drop during the fishing season making navigation marginal through the course of the summer. Wetlands are contiguous and cover about 50 percent of the area, mostly along the river banks.

LAND OWNERSHIP

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| State | 3,618 acres |
| 2 Private Parcels | 10 acres |
| Total | 3,628 acres |

WILDLIFE

Active bald eagle or trumpeter swan nests have not been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

CAMPING

The Forks are the first place where floaters, coming downstream, can catch and keep king salmon, so fishing pressure is high in this subunit. Several camps have been established here in past years.

The following undeveloped campsites have been identified:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Primary campsites | 1 |
| Secondary campsites | 14 |
| Marginal campsites | 1 |

DEVELOPMENT

A cabin and dock is located on a lake east of the river at RM 26. There is another cabin near the river at RM 23.5.

ACCESS

There is one short off-road vehicle trail at the east end of the small lake at RM 26. A seismic line crossing the river at RM 27.8 is used in winter. Another seismic line which parallels the subunit to the west is used in winter. Neil Lake is used for floatplane landings.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit features high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities for powerboaters and floaters in a relatively remote, undeveloped setting. There are no private lands in the subunit. Neil Lake is a primary access point for river users. Use is also concentrated at the Forks (the forks of Moose and Kroto creeks), a popular fishing and camping area. In winter the subunit is used by snowmachiners, dog mushers, and skiers. The subunit contains salmon spawn

ing and winter moose habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance the recreation opportunities named above. Maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment will be the focus of management. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. Although the Deshka Recreation River does not include Neil Lake or the lands around the lake, public access to the river from the lake should be maintained and improved. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

Management Guidelines

Boating restrictions. None. See management guidelines for the Deshka River Management Unit

in this chapter for a safety warning sign to be placed on a slough of the river.

Public Use Sites

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

- PU 2e.1** **The Forks** (RM 30). The confluence of Moose and Kroto Creek is a popular fishing area and camping spot. This site includes the north, east, and west banks.

2f. Kroto Creek Subunit

Background

MILES OF RIVER/RIVER CHARACTERISTICS, RM 0 (Kroto-Moose Creek Confluence), to RM 58 (Kroto Lake)

This subunit includes all of Kroto Creek, from the junction with Moose Creek to Kroto Lake. Kroto Creek is similar to, but smaller than Moose Creek. It is narrow, shallow and marginally navigable, even by floatboats. The lower segment, below Amber Lake, has fewer navigability problems. Float trips occasionally begin at Amber Lake. Powerboats sometimes are able to use Kroto Creek, just above the forks, during high water. Approximately 90 percent of the subunit below Amber Lake is contiguous wetland. Wetland make up 10 to 25 percent of this subunit above Amber Lake.

LAND OWNERSHIP

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| State | 29,159 acres |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough | 1,040 acres |
| 55 Private Parcels | 257 acres |
| Total | 30,456 acres |

WILDLIFE

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

CAMPING

Use of Kroto Creek is relatively light. It is heavier on the portion below Amber Lake because navigability improves below Amber Lake. Kroto

Creek has not been surveyed for commonly used campsites.

DEVELOPMENT

One lodge is located on Kroto Lake. It is primarily used in the winter for cross-country skiing and other winter activities. There are five cabins in the subunit.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities recently built a new bridge across Kroto Creek on the Petersville Road. There is a dock on a lake at RM 51 in this subunit and a dock on Amber Lake, adjacent to but outside the subunit.

ACCESS

Summer

Kroto Creek users access Amber Lake by floatplane and float Amber Lake Creek for one mile before entering Kroto Creek. The extension of the Oilwell Road passes by Amber Lake, crosses Kroto Creek, and eventually parallels Lake Creek, before it crosses the Yentna River. Because of the bridge over Moose Creek has not yet been completed, this road is primarily used in winter. There is also a major trail south of the Oilwell Road that avoids a dogleg in the road where it crosses Kroto Creek. There are extensive off-road vehicle trails between RM 43 (just downriver from the Petersville Road) to Kroto Lake. Because of the combination of heavy use and extensive wetlands, this area has the most evidence of off-road vehicle use in the Recreation Rivers. In