

4c. Middle Lake Creek Subunit

Background

MILES OF RIVER/RIVER CHARACTERISTICS, RM 6.8 to RM 41.8

This subunit extends from the canyon exit to the mouth of Camp Creek. Below RM 25, there is no significant amount of wetlands. From RM 25 to RM 30, 20 to 30 percent of the area is wetland, mostly contiguous. Above RM 30, 75 to 90 percent of the uplands are contiguous wetlands.

LAND OWNERSHIP

State	25,858	acres
32 Private Parcels	143	acres
Total	26,001	acres

WILDLIFE

Recent surveys have found bald eagle nests near the creek at RM 19.5 and RM 39. Brown bear densities along Yenlo Creek are high during the summer and fall when salmon are running. The Yenlo Hills and Yenlo Creek area have high fall and winter densities of moose.

CAMPING

The following undeveloped campsites were identified in this reach:

Primary campsites	8
Secondary campsites	20
Marginal campsites	37

DEVELOPMENT

There are six cabins and three docks on Quiet Lake, and three cabins and a dock on Lake 1,015', near RM 27.

ACCESS

There is an extensive system of off-road vehicle trails in the wetlands along the northeast side of the creek (from RM 32 to RM 42 and from RM 17 to RM 21 [the Quiet Lake area]) which receive year-round use. These trails are used heavily during hunting season. There are a few airstrips associated with private cabins adjacent to the subunit, but these are not used for activities associated with the creek. The Oilwell Trail extension parallels the Lake Creek unit on the east side from RM 0 to RM 14. It is used as a tractor trail and off-road vehicle trail. Several lakes in the subunit are used for floatplane access including Quiet Lake, Shovel Lake, Lake 1,015' (RM 27), and Martana Lake (RM 26).

There are extensive areas of open bogs adjacent to the subunit used for snowmachines travel. Two long seismic lines crossing the lower subunit are used in winter, in conjunction with the summer off-road vehicle trails. In previous winters snowmachines were used for trapping in the area.

HERITAGE RESOURCES

The heritage site potential is high due, in part, to the history of mining in the area.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

There are over 100 existing mining claims within the subunit. These claims are located between RM 9.9 and 11.5, RM 16 and RM 21 (Quiet Lake area), and between RM 30 and RM 42 (Camp Creek area). The historic and currently active mining community of Collinsville is located above Camp Creek 8 miles northwest of the subunit. A dredge, cabin ruins, and cables, visible at RM 7.5, are remnants of historic mining activity in the corridor.

Management Intent

Class I. This subunit is primarily used by floaters during the ice-free season. The subunit provides high quality fishing, camping, whitewater, and hunting opportunities in a remote, scenic setting. Class II, III, and IV whitewater provide risk values when floating the river. Private lands are located primarily around lakes. There are also over 100 mining claims along the river. Because the canyon has open water in winter, there is little winter use. The creek and its tributaries contain salmon spawning habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance recreation opportunities, a primitive setting, and fish and wildlife habitat, while accommodating uses associated with private lands and mining claims. With the exception of uses associated with mining claims

and private lands, the focus of management will be on maintaining an essentially unmodified natural environment. The numbers of encounters on the river and at campsites should be maintained at a low level to provide for a remote recreation experience. Management of activities on existing mine locations will focus on providing opportunities for mineral extraction while avoiding or minimizing negative impacts on recreation, public access, habitat, and water quality. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. The subunit will be managed to provide non-motorized opportunities during the fishing season with the exception of access to mine locations, private lands, and special management areas.

Management Guidelines

Boating Restrictions. See management guidelines for the Lake Creek Management Unit in this chapter.

Mining Locations. There are active mining claims in this subunit. Guidelines for mining claims are described in Chapter 2, *Subsurface*.

Standards for Interaction Impacts. See management guidelines for Subunit 4d, Upper Lake Creek.

Voluntary Trip Scheduling Program. See management guidelines for Subunit 4d, Upper Lake Creek.

Unauthorized Cabin. An unauthorized cabin is located on the west bank of Shovel Lake. The cabin is in poor condition, located on a poorly drained site surrounded by wetlands, and is the only structure on this lake. Its removal is a high priority.

Special Management Areas

See *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on the map at the end of this unit.

- SMA 4c.1 Quiet Lake (RM 20).** This SMA includes the land and water in and adjacent to Quiet Lake. Several private parcels and structural improvements are located in the SMA including cabins, docks, and trails connecting with Lake Creek. The SMA will be managed as a Class II area Class II area guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate access to private lands in the SMA while providing for and enhancing recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Seasonal motor restrictions do not apply within the SMA.

Special Management Areas (cont.)

- SMA 4c.2 Martana Lake and Two Unnamed Lakes (RM 24-28).** This SMA includes the land and water in and adjacent to Martana Lake, and two unnamed lakes. Several private parcels and structural improvements are located in the SMA including cabins, docks, and trails. The SMA will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate uses associated with private lands in the SMA while providing for and enhancing recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Seasonal motor restrictions do not apply within the SMA.
- SMA 4c.3 Shovel Lake (RM 32).** This SMA includes the land and water in and adjacent to Shovel Lake. Several private parcels and structural improvements are located adjacent the SMA. There is a primitive trail connecting Shovel Lake with the river. The SMA will be managed as a Class II area. Class II area guidelines will apply. The area will be managed to accommodate access to private lands adjacent to the SMA while providing for and enhancing recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Seasonal motor restrictions do not apply within the SMA.
- SMA 4c.4 Primitive Landing Area (RM 39).** This SMA includes only a large gravel bar in the middle of the creek that has been traditionally used for wheelplane landings. This SMA will be managed as a Class I area and Class I guidelines will apply. Although the landing area may not be improved, wheelplane landings on this bar will continue to be allowed although upper Lake Creek is designated a non-motorized area. This exception for wheelplane landings does not apply to helicopters or boats on the river adjacent to the gravel bar.

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 4c.1 Upper Hole (RM 7.9).** This site provides fishing and camping opportunities at the point where motor restrictions begin upstream.
- PU 4c.2 Yenlo Creek Junction (RM 13.5).** This site receives high public use for camping and fishing. It is a well-known destination point for float trips down the river.
- PU 4c.3 Two Unnamed Campsites (RM 20.8 and RM 21).** These are frequently used for fishing and camping.
- PU 4c.4 Home Creek Junction (RM 35.5).** This site receives high public use for camping and fishing. It is a well-known destination point for float trips down the river.