

## WILDLIFE ALTERNATIVES

### MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

#### Goals:

1. Manage wildlife habitat to ensure wildlife productivity, consistent with State of Alaska wildlife management objectives.
2. Protect and provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses.
3. Maintain and enhance big game and upland game habitat to sustain or increase wildlife populations and user opportunities.
4. Perpetuate a diversity and abundance of waterfowl and wetland habitat.
5. Manage/protect riparian areas to maintain a healthy and productive condition (proper functioning condition – see attributes listed below under watershed section)

#### Objectives:

1. Identify specific Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) with management objectives or maintenance, enhancement, and/or protection or specific habitat attributes.
2. Identify measures needed to maintain, enhance, or protect specific habitat attributes within each ACEC.
3. Manage moose habitat, emphasizing the improvement of high value moose winter range. Identify opportunities for management actions or measures that would maintain and/or enhance high value moose winter range. On a landscape level, desired condition for moose habitat is mosaic pattern of upland spruce woodland cover types interspersed with a lower seral expression dominated by alder and willow. Upland woodland cover types are mixed with stream terraces and flood plains dominated by edge and mixed are classes of alder and willow.
4. Identify and protect specific areas of critical caribou habitat (calving and winter ranges). Identify measures necessary to protect and/or enhance. Identify opportunities for management activities to achieve specific desired plant community conditions. Desired condition for caribou summer range is similar to that described for moose. For caribou winter range, desired condition is uplands spruce woodland cover type where lichen and various herbs dominate the opened layer.
5. Maintain Dall sheep and mountain goat habitat in productive condition. Identify management opportunities or measure that would maintain and/or enhance the quality of Dall sheep and mountain goat habitat.
6. Identify and protect specific areas of critical bison habitat (calving and winter ranges). Identify management actions opportunities and ensures necessary to protect and/or enhance critical habitat.
7. Maintain waterfowl habitat in productive condition to provide consistent levels of water fowl production. Identify management opportunities or measures that would maintain and/or enhance the quality of waterfowl habitat.

## ALTERNATIVES – Wildlife

8. Protect raptor nest sites from destruction or harassment.
9. Protect and maintain landbird habitat in productive condition, especially during breeding and brood-rearing season.
10. Maintain overall habitat diversity for the benefit of a variety of wildlife species, including large mammals, furbearers, small mammals, amphibians, and birds. Identify opportunities or measure to enhance the quality and diversity of habitat for the benefit of a variety of wildlife.
11. Where possible, identify desired habitat conditions for special status species wildlife species and the measure necessary to maintain or achieve these qualities. Where applicable, include provisions for special status species management and conservation in all BLM funded or authorized actions in the planning area.

**Land Use Requirements:** In order to protect wildlife habitat and wildlife permitted activities would follow guidelines for surface disturbing activities described in “Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing Activities. Specific guidelines for permitted activities that do not cause surface disturbance (helicopter-supported skiing or tourism) are as follows: On BLM-managed lands within permitted area, helicopter landings or skiing will not be permitted in identified mountain goat or Dall sheep critical ranges. These areas will be based on ADF&G range maps and will be refined through monitoring and inventory. In addition, helicopters will maintain a landing distance of ½ mile from all observed wildlife, maintain a vertical distance of 1,500 feet above all observed mountain goats, Dall sheep, and moose, and will not approach within ½ mile of an active eagle or osprey nest (4/15-8/31). Other more site-specific stipulations for wildlife protection may be included in permits for helicopter-supported activities.

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DIFFERENCES IN MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE BY ALTERNATIVE				
Management Actions	Alternative A: Current management	Alternative B: Development end of spectrum	Alternative C: Conserve, maintain end of spectrum	Alternative D
<b>Special Areas</b>	No areas recommended	See specific ACEC descriptions	See specific ACEC descriptions	Bering RNA would protect unique vegetation, soil, water, characteristics associated with nunataks and glaciers
<b>Improvement and Enhancement</b>				
<b>Moose</b>	Alphabet Hills prescribed burn would continue to be implemented with primary objective of improving moose habitat.	Utilize commercial timber sales where possible to accomplish objectives.	Utilize only prescribed and natural fire to accomplish objectives.	Use wildland fire and pursue vegetation treatment opportunities such as prescribed burning, mechanical treatment, or logging with emphasis on improving moose habitat, with objectives as described above. First priority for such projects is critical winter range (see map). Second priority is general distribution areas.
<b>Bison</b>	Nothing proposed		Use only prescribed and wildland fire to accomplish objectives.	Use wildland fire and pursue vegetation treatment opportunities such as prescribed burning or fertilizing to improve Delta bison calving range (see Delta Bison description). Objectives are to increase forage productivity and palatability.

ALTERNATIVES – Wildlife

<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>Alternative A: Current management</b>	<b>Alternative B: Development end of spectrum</b>	<b>Alternative C: Conserve, maintain end of spectrum</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Caribou</b>	Alphabet Hills prescribed burn is within Nelchina caribou range.		Same as D	Within portions of the Nelchina caribou summer range, utilize wildland and prescribed fire to create a mosaic of burned/unburned areas. On Nelchina caribou winter range, manage for less than 10% of range to be burned every decade. If large wildfires occur, consider changing suppression class to full or modified.
<b>Dall Sheep</b>	Currently, limited inventory work is being done to refine dall sheep ranges.		Same as D.	Based on inventory as described above, identify areas for maintenance or enhancement of Dall sheep range. Use fuels treatment projects and wildland fire to achieve objectives.