

**GULKANA RIVER**  
**Proposed Special Recreation Management Area**  
**Comparison of Alternatives – Recreation**

**MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES**

**Objectives:**

1. Consistent with public use management provisions in ANILCA, manage to maintain recreation experiences identified in Gulkana Environmental Assessment (primitive, semi-primitive, undeveloped). This Environmental Assessment will be used to develop a revised management plan for the Gulkana River.
2. Maintain or enhance resource values.
3. Preserve the free-flowing conditions of the waters within the river corridor.
4. Establish management objectives for recreation use within the river corridor, consistent with actions, indicators, and standards developed in the Gulkana River Environmental Assessment and planning process.

**Description of Area:** Existing ANILCA-designated Gulkana WSR corridor, plus south branch of West Fork of Gulkana and Dickey Lake. The area includes Sourdough and Paxson campgrounds and boat launches. Total area is 113,440 acres, 95% of which is unencumbered BLM land. On State selected lands, measures identified below would only apply until conveyance occurs. Adoption of identified measures after conveyance would be at the discretion of the State of Alaska or the Native corporation.

**Definition of “limited” for OHVs:** In this SRMA, limited would mean designation of trails. Goal would be to designate trails to prevent unmanaged proliferation of motorized trails that access or cross the river. This unmanaged trail proliferation is causing and has potential to cause significant rutting and impacts to water quality. Secondary goal is to facilitate maintenance of designated trails.

ALTERNATIVES – Gulkana River SRMA

DIFFERENCES IN MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE BY ALTERNATIVE				
<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>Special Area Decision</b>	No SRMA designated.	No SRMA designated.	SRMA as described above, and include viewshed.	SRMA as described above.
<b>Trails/Off-Highway-Vehicle (OHV)</b>	OHVs to stay on “existing” trails.	Same as A.	Same as D.	Designate trails with goals as described above.
<b>Construction of new airstrips</b>	Not permitted within corridor.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.
<b>Construction of new roads</b>	Generally not permitted.	Same as alternative A	No new road construction.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Minerals: Locatable minerals</b>	Closed by ANILCA in corridor. Dickey Lake portion of SRMA currently closed by PLO 5178. South branch West Fork portion is split: 1) one portion closed under PLO 5178; 2) one portion open.	Maintain closure in corridor. Revoke existing withdrawals in Dickey Lake area and south branch West Fork.	Closed in corridor. Maintain current d(1) withdrawals in Dickey Lake and south branch west fork area.	Maintain closure in corridor. State selected lands are closed to mineral entry by selection. If retained in long-term federal ownership, maintain current withdrawal.
<b>Minerals: Leasable minerals (Oil &amp; Gas)</b>	Same as locatable.	Same as locatable.	Same as locatable.	Same as locatable.

ALTERNATIVES – Gulkana River SRMA

<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>Minerals:</b> Leasable minerals (Coal)	Same as locatable.	Same as locatable. Dickey Lake area and south branch west fork areas would be available for coal leasing.	Same as locatable.	Same as locatable.
<b>Minerals:</b> Mineral materials	Not recommended.	Same as Alternative A.	Not permitted.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Public use cabins</b>	None authorized.	None.	None.	None.
<b>Special Recreation Permits (SRP)</b>	Permitted on case-by-case basis.	Same as alternative A.	Determine management objectives for recreation use, consistent with new Gulkana River Plan.	Same as alternative C.
<b>General visitor use</b>	No established objectives.	Determine management objectives for recreation use.	Determine management objectives for visitor use, consistent with new Gulkana River Plan.	Same as Alternative C.
<b>Recreational facilities</b>	Allows for signage for hazards, portage work, toilets, and improvements to Paxson and Sourdough campgrounds.	Same as A but develop more toilets along the river.	No new facilities.	Same as A, with emphasis on phasing out toilets.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> Emphasis area for acquisition?	No	No	Yes	Yes, for lands in or adjacent to the corridor.

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<b>Lands and Realty:</b> FLPMA, R&PP leases	Yes, case-by-case.	Same as A.	No.	No.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> FLPMA 302 Permits	Yes, case-by-case.	Yes, case-by-case.	No.	No occupancy permits, unless use is consistent with objectives of SRMA. Non-occupancy permits OK if consistent with objectives of SRMA.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> Rights of Way (ROW)	Not permitted unless compatible with values.	Allow, case by case.	No.	Avoid.
<b>Military permits, activities</b>	Considered case-by-case.	Same as A.	No.	No.
<b>Fire</b>	Limited or modified suppression classes.	Same as A.		Same as A. Prescribed fire burn plans should address visual resources and buffer for water quality. Use fuels treatment projects and wildland fire to achieve resource objectives.
<b>Forestry</b>	Limited personal firewood use permitted, consistent with 1983 Gulkana River Management Plan.	Same as A.	No personal use or commercial firewood allowed.	Same as A, plus no commercial firewood or timber sales allowed.