

## 133 – 501(b) – Recommended Wilderness – Category 1

**Theme** – 501(b) - Recommended Wilderness is managed to concurrently conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats and maintain the wilderness character. Areas with this prescription will be recommended to Congress for Wilderness designation. The 501(b) - Recommended Wilderness Management Area will be managed as described in this prescription while it is recommended for Wilderness designation. Unresolvable conflicts between conserving fish and wildlife and their habitat, and maintaining the area’s potential for wilderness designation, must be resolved by conserving fish and wildlife and their habitat as requires by Section 501(b) of ANILCA.

### **Management Intent**

**Ecological Systems desired condition** - Ecological processes, largely undisturbed by human activity, dominate this Management Area. Vegetation in the area will be mostly regenerated by natural processes such as; floods, avalanches, earthquakes, wind, fire, insect, or disease. Fish and wildlife habitat restoration or enhancement activities will occur to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats, but will be designed to minimize impact to the wilderness character. Treatment measures may be taken on exotic plants and animals to minimize their impacts on ecological processes.

**Social Systems desired condition** - The 501(b) - Recommended Wilderness Management Area will provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, quiet and isolation when traveling cross-country. Scenery will be natural in appearance. Somewhat more frequent encounters should be expected when on trails or near shorelines. People should expect to use primitive skills in an environment that offers a moderate to high level of challenge and risk. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum will range from Primitive to Semi-primitive Non-motorized. There may be some evidence of human use in this area, such as primitive trails, campsites, and historic structures. Opportunities to view wildlife will exist, but will not be encouraged through management activities. Hardened campsites in areas of higher use may be provided. Recreation cabins may be present and new cabins may be constructed for public health and safety. Unacceptable human-induced disturbances may be restored or rehabilitated. Signs may be present when essential for public safety or resource protection. Tourism related activities should be limited to small groups with no facilities.

No new roads will be constructed unless necessary for reasonable access to mining claims or private land. Snowmachines (during periods of adequate snow cover), motorboats, airplanes, and non-motorized surface transportation methods for traditional activities are allowed. For subsistence purposes, snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed by local residents may be allowed. Airboats are allowed for hunting and fishing activities and for administrative use, but may be restricted for the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. Trails should be maintained to a primitive condition level. These trails may not always be clear of down trees or brush. Bridges or other trail structures may be present if needed for resource protection. Helicopter access for management of fish and wildlife may occur when approved by the District Ranger.

There may be evidence of past or present mining activity.

<b>501(b) - Recommended Wilderness Management Area - Activities Table</b>			
<b>Physical Elements</b>			
Soil/Watershed Projects	N		
<b>Biological Elements</b>			
Vegetation Management	C	Integrated Pest Management	C
Wildlife Habitat Projects	C	Management Ignited Prescribed Fire	N
Fish Habitat Projects	C		
<b>Resource Production</b>			
<b>Forest Products</b>		<b>Minerals/ Mining</b>	
Commercial Timber Harvest ASQ	N	Minerals Activities - Locatable	C
Commercial Timber Harvest - non ASQ	N	Minerals Activities - Salable	N
Commercial Special Forest Products	N		
Personal Use Timber Harvest	N		
Personal Use Special Forest Products	Y		
<b>Use and Occupancy Activities</b>			
<b>Recreation/Tourism Activities</b>			
Recreational Gold Panning	C	Day-use Facilities	N
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Class Cap	SPNM	Forest Service Recreational Cabins	C
OHV/Motorized Recreation Use - Summer (Designated Routes and Areas Only)	C	Campgrounds	N
		Scenic Integrity Objective Cap	H
OHV/Motorized Recreation Use - Winter	C	Hardened Dispersed Camping Sites	Y
Non-motorized Recreation Use - Summer	Y	Viewing Sites	N
Non-motorized Recreation Use - Winter	Y		
<b>Transportation/Access</b>			
Marine Transfer Facilities	N	New Roads Built by Others	C
Boat Docks and Ramps	N	New Trails	Y
Mode Changes: Parking Lots at Trail Heads, Ferry Terminals, etc.	N	Motorized Access for Subsistence	Y
		Administrative and Permitted Motorized Access	Y
New FS Built Roads	N		
<b>Lands/Special Uses</b>			
Electronic Sites	C	SUP Destination Lodges	N
Utility Systems	N	SUP Non-Forest Service Recreation Cabins	N
SUP Helicopter Landings - Summer	N	SUP Recreation Equipment Storage/Cache	N
SUP Helicopter Landings - Winter	N	Outfitter/Guide Capacity Allocation (%)	50%
SUP Fixed Wing Flightseeing Landings	C	Administrative Facilities	C

Y - means the activity is permitted consistent with the management intent

C - means that the activity is allowed consistent with the management intent, standards, and guidelines

N - means the activity is not permitted in the management area

268 **Standards and Guidelines**

269 **Fisheries**

270 Standards

- 271 1. Small, motorized equipment (chainsaws, generators,  
272 compressors, etc.) may be used in the construction of  
improvement projects.
- 273 2. Larger motorized equipment (backhoes, tracked vehicles,  
274 ATV's, etc.) may be used in the construction of  
275 improvement projects if authorized by the District Ranger.
- 276 3. Structural fisheries projects will be designed to minimize  
277 impact to the wilderness character.
- 278 4. The District Ranger must approve the use of helicopters  
279 for fish surveys, research, improvement projects, etc.  
280 consistent with Section 501 (b) of ANILCA.

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282 **Wildlife**

283 Standards

- 284 1. Motorized equipment (airplanes, helicopters, ATV's etc.)  
285 may be used for animal control activities, wildlife surveys,  
286 research, improvement projects, etc. if authorized by the  
District Ranger.
- 287 2. Small, motorized equipment (chainsaws, generators,  
288 compressors, etc.) may be used in the construction of  
289 improvement projects.
- 290 3. Larger motorized equipment (backhoes, tracked vehicles,  
291 ATV's, etc.) may be used in the construction of  
292 improvement projects if authorized by the District Ranger.
- 293 4. Wildlife projects will be designed to minimize impact to  
294 the wilderness character.

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296 **Integrated Pest Management**

297 Guidelines

- 298 1. Treatment measures may be taken on exotic plants and  
299 animals to minimize their impacts on ecological  
processes.

300 **Minerals**

301 Standards

- 302 1. When a plan of operations is approved, the Minerals  
prescription will apply to the mining activity.
- 303 2. The Copper River addition to the Chugach National Forest  
304 is withdrawn from mineral location, entry, and patent  
305 under United States mining laws (ANILCA Section 502).

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307 Guidelines

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1. Minerals activities, including oil and gas development, may be limited or restricted to maintain, to the extent possible, the wilderness character.
2. Road construction should not be authorized for initial prospecting to determine the existence of mineral or oil and gas deposits. Authorizations for second level, or subsequent evaluations of known mineral or oil and gas occurrences should be limited to minimum standard necessary to accommodate an exploration plan based upon previous findings. This process is commonly referred to as completing the next logical step evaluation.
3. Helicopter access may be approved for exploration and prospecting under an approved plan of operations.

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320 **Recreation**

321 Standards

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1. Motorized dredges or equipment for recreational gold panning is not allowed.
2. Cabins may be constructed for public health and safety.
3. Chainsaws may be used for trail maintenance, hazard tree removal, and cutting firewood for recreation cabins

326 **Access and Transportation**

327 Standards

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1. The District Ranger must approve motorized access for administrative and permitted uses.

329 Guidelines

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1. Motorized access should be limited to that necessary to meet existing laws such as traditional activities, access to private land, and mining claims.

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334 **Special Uses (Non-Recreation)**

335 Standards

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1. Communication sites will be located outside 501 (b) - Recommended Wilderness Management Areas where practical. However, they are allowed when necessary for health and safety. Facilities must be designed and located to minimize effects on wilderness values.

340 **Special Uses (Recreation)**

341 Standards

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1. No competitive group events are allowed.

342 **Administrative Facilities**

343 Guidelines

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1. Whenever practical, administrative facilities should be located outside of 501 (b) - Recommended Wilderness Management Areas. However, they are allowed when necessary for effective management of wilderness resources. Facilities should be designed and located to minimize effects on wilderness value.

