

Delta River SRMA Wilderness Inventory

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No (Go to Form 2) Yes

(If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas.):

a) Inventory Source:

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source:

Area#/Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 2**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics****Area Number/Name:** Tangle Lakes Zone 1**Acreage:** 13362 Acres**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?**Yes No

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of major human uses/activities)

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 is accessed from the Delta NWSR wayside and includes the southern portion of the Upper Tangle Lakes system, commonly referred to as Second Lake, Mud Lake or 3rd Lake, Fourth Lake, and Fifth Lakes, and beyond to the extent of the river corridor boundary. All lands within the zone are contiguous unencumbered BLM lands, surrounded by state selected lands outside the river corridor boundary. Vegetation appears predominantly natural, consisting of dwarf birch, willows, grasses and sedges. Topography consists of rolling high alpine tundra, interspersed with many undulating ridges and draws in the landscape. Primary human uses/activities include boating, hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?Yes No N/A

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 appears to be natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. Any work of human beings is substantially unnoticeable. There are approximately 15 primitive campsites within the management zone. Traces of previous use are evident at some campsites, and consist primarily of small rock fire rings and minor vegetation trampling.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturallness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?Yes No N/A

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 will be managed to provide a semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation experience, where one expects to meet a few other groups of users, but solitude is still possible, particularly at campsites. Vegetative screening, topography and location between designated campsites offer seclusion and reduce the presence of the sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the area. The prevailing uses are nonmotorized hiking and boating activities. There is little evidence of motorized use, except for the use of small kicker motors that are used to travel on the lakes within the zone. The use of motorized watercraft occurs predominantly during subsistence hunting season (August 1-September 30).

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities. The predominant recreational activities within this area include nonmotorized lake boating and hiking. There are no BLM developed facilities located within the zone. The absence of facilities within this zone is a characteristic that makes this zone unique, providing solitude in a natural, primitive surrounding.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 is located entirely within the Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD). The TLAD is one of the densest areas for late Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological sites in the North American Subarctic, making the area significant for answering questions about the poorly known early peoples who migrated to Alaska (Bowers 1989). The result has been a relatively rich picture of the area's prehistory and history based upon one of the largest and densest cluster of archaeological sites in this part of Alaska. Many of these sites, and almost all of those within the TLAD, are considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing properties to the archaeological district.

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Summary of Analysis Form

Area Name and/or Number: Tangle Lakes Zone 1

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner 3/2/2011

Reviewed by:

Beth Maclean, Field Manager 3/2/2011

* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area: Tangle Lakes Zone 1

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: There are no routes or rights-of-way located within Tangle Lakes Zone 1. The wilderness characteristics inventory route analysis is not applicable.

¹ This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

² Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.



Frame 001



Frame 002



Frame 003

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 2**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics****Area Number/Name:** Tangle Lakes Zone 2**Acreage:** 6603 Acres**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?**Yes No

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of major human uses/activities)

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 includes the first lake and portage area of the Upper Tangles (accessed from the DNWSR Wayside), Round Tangle Lake, and portions of Long Tangle Lake. All lands within the zone are contiguous unencumbered BLM lands, except for approximately 30 acres of private property that are located within the zone. Outside of the river corridor boundary, the surrounding lands are both state lands and state-selected lands. Vegetation appears predominantly natural, consisting of dwarf birch, willows, grasses and sedges. Topography consists of rolling high alpine tundra, interspersed with many ridges and draws in the landscape. Primary human uses/activities include both motorized and nonmotorized boating, hunting, hiking, berry picking, and wildlife viewing.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?Yes No N/A

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 appears to be natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. Any work of human beings is substantially unnoticeable, except for a developed nonmotorized trail system in the vicinity of the campground. There are approximately 25 primitive campsites located within the management zone. Vegetation and soils are predominantly natural, but some impacts exist at campsites, consisting primarily of small rock fire rings and minor vegetation trampling.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?Yes No N/A

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 will be managed to provide a semiprimitive motorized recreation experience, where one expects to meet other groups of users, and solitude is still possible, but usually difficult to find. The use of motorized watercraft occurs frequently throughout the summer within this zone, with use increasing substantially during the Fourth of July season and subsistence hunting season (August 1-September 30). The Denali Highway is almost always in view, and the larger lakes within the zone do not offer much vegetative and topographic screening that would provide the seclusion needed to reduce the presence of sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the area.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 does offer opportunities for some primitive recreational activities, but these are not considered outstanding and unconfined. The use of motorized watercraft occurs frequently throughout the summer within this zone, with use increasing substantially during the Fourth of July holiday and subsistence hunting season (August 1-September 30).

Nonmotorized users sometimes find themselves competing for space and solitude with other motorized users, or vice versa, and social conflict issues between motorized and nonmotorized users are present within this zone. Developed hiking trails within the zone have concentrated users to specific routes that help to protect natural resources, but also reduce solitude and the feeling of being unconfined in a trail-less environment.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 is located entirely within the Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD). The TLAD is one of the densest areas for late Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological sites in the North American Subarctic, making the area significant for answering questions about the poorly known early peoples who migrated to Alaska (Bowers 1989). The result has been a relatively rich picture of the area's prehistory and history based upon one of the largest and densest cluster of archaeological sites in this part of Alaska. Many of these sites, and almost all of those within the TLAD, are considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing properties to the archaeological district.

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Summary of Analysis Form

Area Name and/or Number: Tangle Lakes Zone 2

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner 3/2/2011

Reviewed by:

Beth Maclean, Field Manager 3/2/2011

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6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area: Tangle Lakes Zone 2

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: There are no routes or rights-of-way located within Tangle Lakes Zone 2. The wilderness characteristics inventory route analysis is not applicable.

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² Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.



Frame 001



Frame 002



Frame 003



Frame 004

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 2**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics****Area Number/Name:** Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3**Acreage:** 248 Acres**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?**Yes _____ No X

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of major human uses/activities)

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 includes the Tangle Lakes Campground, Delta Wayside, Denali Highway, and portions of the Tangle River that flows through the developed facility areas. All lands within the zone are contiguous unencumbered BLM lands, except for approximately 2 acres of private property that are located within the zone. Outside of the river corridor boundary, the surrounding lands are both state lands and state-selected lands. Vegetation appears predominantly natural, consisting of dwarf birch, willows, grasses and sedges. Topography consists of rolling high alpine tundra, interspersed with many ridges and draws in the landscape. Primary human uses/activities include developed camping at BLM facilities, hiking, berry picking, and wildlife viewing.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description:

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 has been modified by gravel roads, recreation facilities, and evidence of adjacent private property, and does not appear to be natural due to the presence of the Tangle Lakes Campground, Delta Wayside, Denali Highway, and portions of the Tangle River that flows through the developed facility areas. The work of human beings is substantially noticeable, as roadways, developed campsites, boat launches, interpretive panels, and outhouses overpower the landscape with the zone. There will be approximately 45 developed campsites with the planned redesign of the Tangle Lakes Campground, and it is common for highway travelers and bus tour companies to use the developed facilities as they pass by on the Denali Highway. Vegetation and soils within the zone have been greatly altered, with large areas of impacted vegetation and bare ground disturbance commonly associated with high use recreational facilities.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description:

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 will be managed to provide a high density, roaded-natural recreational experience, where user concentrations may be high in popular recreational sites, such as waysides, campgrounds, and water access points. The area is accessible by paved or

gravel roads to conventional motorized vehicles. Facilities exist for user convenience and safety, with a moderate level of management presence. Solitude is difficult to find in the developed facilities due to the presence of highway vehicles, recreational vehicles, generators, and large groups that are situated relatively close together.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description:

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 does offer some opportunities for primitive recreational activities (fishing and hiking), but these are not considered outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. All activities are always in the presence of motorized vehicles and the noises associated with a developed camping facility and the Denali Highway. Generally, there is not an expectation of an outstanding primitive and unconfined experience when recreating in this zone; on the contrary, those who recreate within this zone usually want the amenities and security that the developed facilities offer.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description:

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 is located entirely within the Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD). The TLAD is one of the densest areas for late Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological sites in the North American Subarctic, making the area significant for answering questions about the poorly known early peoples who migrated to Alaska (Bowers 1989). The result has been a relatively rich picture of the area's prehistory and history based upon one of the largest and densest cluster of archaeological sites in this part of Alaska. Many of these sites, and almost all of those within the TLAD, are considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing properties to the archaeological district.

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Summary of Analysis Form

Area Name and/or Number: Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner 3/2/2011

Reviewed by:

Beth Maclean, Field Manager 3/2/2011

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6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area: Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: Denali Highway

I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map _____ and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log.

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

A. Current Purpose⁴ (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: State of Alaska Developed Highway for travel and/or commerce activities.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes No Unknown

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

Public highway travel across BLM lands

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes No Unknown or N/A

Explain: The Denali Highway is a primarily unpaved gravel road that connects the Glenn Highway and the Parks Highway systems.

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² Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

⁴ The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below)
 No (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes No

Examples: Paved Bladed Graveled Roadside Berms Cut/Fill
 Other

Describe: The Denali Highway is a highway access route constructed by the State of Alaska in 1953 to connect Paxson, Alaska to Cantwell, Alaska.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?)

Yes No

If "yes": by Hand Tools by Machine

Examples: Culverts Hardened Stream Crossings Bridges Drainage
 Barriers Other

Describe: The State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Works, routinely improves and maintains the Denali Highway in accordance with established highway maintenance protocols.

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively regular and continuous use*?)

Yes (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked "yes" below)
 No (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes No If "yes": by Hand Tools by Machine

Explain: The State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Works, routinely improves and maintains the Denali Highway in accordance with established highway maintenance protocols.

2. If the route or route segment is in good⁵ condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

⁵ Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

Yes ____ No ____ Not applicable **X**

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)

Yes **X** No ____

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route)⁶:

Approximately 45,000 highway travelers use the route annually. Primary use is during the summer months. The highway is not maintained from October to May, and highway travelers are advised to travel at their own risk.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment⁷ meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?

Yes **X** = Wilderness Inventory Road

No ____ = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation⁸: Items III.A, III.B, and III.C have all been checked yes; therefore this route meets the definition of a road.

Evaluator(s): Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: 3/2/2011

⁶ Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

⁷ If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

⁸ Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.



Frame 001



Frame 002

Frame 003



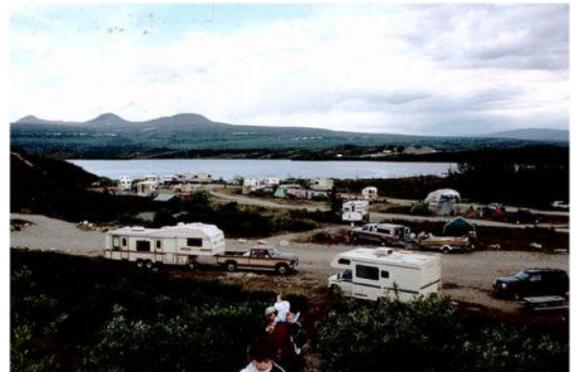
Frame 004



Frame 005



Frame 006



Frame 007

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 2**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics****Area Number/Name:** Delta River Zone 4**Acreage:** 8309 Acres**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?**Yes X No _____

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of major human uses/activities)

Delta River Zone 4 includes the Upper Delta River from Long Tangle Lake to a point just downstream of the confluence of Garrett Creek. All lands within the zone are contiguous unencumbered BLM lands, surrounded by both state lands and state-selected lands outside the river corridor boundary. Vegetation appears predominantly natural, consisting of white spruce, dwarf birch, willows, grasses and sedges. Topography consists of rolling high alpine tundra and deep river canyons, interspersed with undulating ridges and draws in the landscape. Primary human uses/activities include nonmotorized boating, with associated hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing activities.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description:

Delta River Zone 4 is characterized by an essentially unmodified natural environment. There are approximately 20 primitive campsites within the management zone and two river portages constructed of native rock and spruce materials. Facilities are rustic and built for site protection and river safety only. There is little or no evidence of motorized use, including OHV trails. Traces of previous use are evident at some campsites, and consist primarily of small rock fire rings and minor vegetation trampling.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description:

Delta River Zone 4 will be managed to provide a primitive, nonmotorized recreation experience, where the concentration of other users is very low and evidence of use is minimal. Sights and sounds of the road system are nonexistent, and area will be managed for its primitive attributes and solitude. Vegetative screening, topography and location between designated campsites offer seclusion and reduce the presence of the sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the area. The prevailing use is nonmotorized boating, with associated hiking and hunting activities that occur from campsites into the uplands. There is little evidence of motorized use, as shallow water and topography limit the rare occurrence of motorized boats entering the zone.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description:

Delta River Zone 4 offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities. The predominant recreational activities within this area include nonmotorized river boating, with associated hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing activities. Aside from the rustic facilities located at portage area, there are no other BLM facilities located within the zone. The absence of facilities within this zone is a characteristic that makes this zone unique, providing solitude in a natural, primitive surrounding.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description:

The southern half of Delta River Zone 4 is located within the Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD). The TLAD is one of the densest areas for late Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological sites in the North American Subarctic, making the area significant for answering questions about the poorly known early peoples who migrated to Alaska (Bowers 1989). The result has been a relatively rich picture of the area's prehistory and history based upon one of the largest and densest cluster of archaeological sites in this part of Alaska. Many of these sites, and almost all of those within the TLAD, are considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing properties to the archaeological district.

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Summary of Analysis Form

Area Name and/or Number: Delta River Zone 4

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner 3/2/2011

Reviewed by:

Beth Maclean, Field Manager 3/2/2011

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6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area: Delta River Zone 4

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: There are no routes or rights-of-way located within Delta River Zone 4. The wilderness characteristics inventory route analysis is not applicable.

¹ This form documents information that constitutes and inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

² Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.



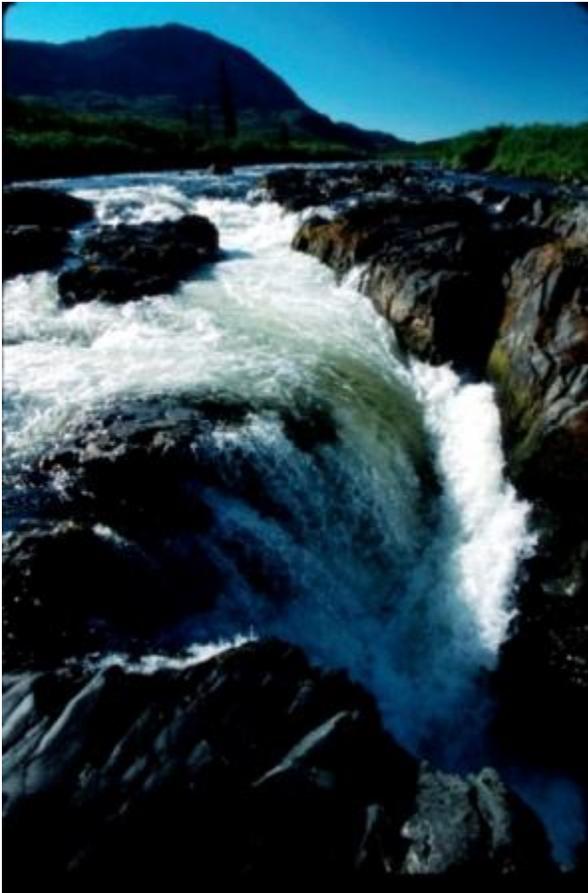
Frame 001



Frame 002



Frame 003



Frame 004

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 2**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics****Area Number/Name:** Delta River Zone 5**Acreage:** 16065 Acres**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?**Yes No

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of major human uses/activities)

Delta River Zone 5 includes the lower Delta River just downstream of the Garrett Creek confluence, to the end of the river corridor at Black Rapids. All lands within the zone are contiguous unencumbered BLM lands, although two federal patented mining claims operate in the Eureka and Rainy Creek drainages. Outside of the river corridor boundary, the surrounding lands are state and state-selected lands, with robust exploration for locatable minerals occurring on state mining claims. Vegetation appears predominantly natural, consisting of white spruce, dwarf birch, willows, grasses and sedges. Topography consists of rolling high alpine tundra and deep river canyons, interspersed with undulating ridges and draws in the landscape. Primary human uses/activities include both motorized and nonmotorized boating, hunting, and off highway vehicle (OHV) riding.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?Yes No N/A

Description:

The majority of Delta River Zone 5 appears to be natural, except for the presence of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and two developed OHV routes that are primarily used for hunting and mining access. There are approximately 6 designated campsites located within the management zone. Vegetation and soils are predominantly natural, but traces of previous use are evident at most of the campsites, consisting primarily of rock fire rings, bare ground disturbance, and moderate vegetation trampling.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?Yes No N/A

Description:

Delta River Zone 5 will be managed to provide a semiprimitive motorized recreation experience, where one expects to meet other groups of users, and solitude is still possible, but usually difficult to find. The use of motorized watercraft and OHVs occur within this zone throughout the summer season, increasing substantially during subsistence hunting season (August 1-September 30). Mining access occurs throughout the year; it is not uncommon to experience heavy machinery either crossing directly through the river corridor or travelling on the Rainy Creek mining trail. In the northern portion of the zone, the Richardson Highway and Trans-

Alaska Pipeline System are almost always in view, lacking vegetative and topographic screening that would provide the seclusion needed to reduce the presence of sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the area.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description:

Delta River Zone 5 does offer common opportunities for primitive recreational activities, but these are not considered outstanding and unconfined activities. The use of motorized watercraft or OHVs occurs throughout the summer within this zone, and users sometimes find themselves competing for space and solitude with these motorized users. There is not an outstanding expectation of primitive and unconfined recreation when viewing an OHV or heavy mining equipment crossing or running parallel to the river, and care must be taken in the narrow, braided portion of the zone to reduce the potential for swamping or collisions with passing motorboats. Social conflict issues between motorized and nonmotorized users are common within this zone.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description:

Delta River Zone 5 is located entirely outside of the TLAD boundaries, although there are still areas with important geological and historical values. Lands within this zone offer a rich history of mining dating back to the early 1900's as miners penetrated into the Eureka and Rainy Creek regions in search of gold. Cultural resources of this historic period include traces of mining equipment, cabin sites, and trail routes passing through the Delta River corridor towards Eureka Creek. Rainy Creek was a historic gold mining area within the Eureka mining district, which was organized in 1900. Mining activity was distributed all along Rainy Creek and approximately 250 men worked the area for gold between 1900 and 1910.

Delta River Zone 5 is also representative of major geological processes at work. Large glaciated valleys and numerous esker ridges present unique glacial and river-related geologic features. A rock moraine near the Black Rapids Glacier provides interesting views of large alluvial fans and glacial processes at work, and the area is further characterized by a narrow corridor of flood plains, exposed bedrock terraces, and mountain slopes adjacent to the river with a narrow rock chasm and gorge demonstrating magnificent geologic processes. Opportunities available within this area include rock and fossil collecting, photography, and the study of glacial features such as moraines, kettles, kames, and eskers. There are also nine known fossil localities with the lower Delta River corridor. One of the better investigated localities a few hundred meters east of the lower Delta River corridor and next to the Richardson Highway contain a variety of ancient corals and bi-valve shellfish from the Permian and Pennsylvanian geologic periods, which span from about 323 to 248 million years ago (Lindsey 1986:35-44).

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Summary of Analysis Form

Area Name and/or Number: Delta River Zone 5

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner 3/2/2011

Reviewed by:

Beth Maclean, Field Manager 3/2/2011

* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area: Delta River Zone 5

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: Rainy Creek Mining Trail

I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map _____ and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log.

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

A. Current Purpose⁴ (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: Mining claim access trail

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes ____ No Unknown ____

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes ____ No ____ N/A

Explain:

¹ This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

² Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

⁴ The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below)

No (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes No

Examples: Paved Bladed Graveled Roadside Berms Cut/Fill
Other

Describe: Access route was constructed by mining claimants with BLM approval in 1993 using heavy machinery to access federal patented mining claims in the Rainy Creek drainage.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes No

If "yes": by Hand Tools by Machine

Examples: Culverts Hardened Stream Crossings Bridges Drainage
Barriers Other

Describe: Mining claimants repair damaged sections of access route annually caused by high flow events and natural processes.

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively regular and continuous use*?):

Yes (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked "yes" below)

No (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes No If "yes": by Hand Tools by Machine

Explain: Mining claimants repair damaged sections of access route annually caused by high flow events and natural processes.

2. If the route or route segment is in good⁵ condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes No Not Applicable

Explain: Annual maintenance is approved by BLM

⁵ Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)

Yes No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route)⁶:

Vehicle tracks are routinely observed and mining claimants access their mining claims during the summer and winter months.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment⁷ meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?

Yes = Wilderness Inventory Road

No = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation⁸: Items III.A, III.B, and III.C have all been checked yes; therefore this route meets the definition of a road.

Evaluator(s): Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: 3/2/201

⁶ Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

⁷ If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

⁸ Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area: Delta River Zone 5

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: Top of the World Trail

I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map _____ and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log.

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

A. Current Purpose⁴ (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: OHV access trail

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes ____ No Unknown ____

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes ____ No ____ N/A

Explain:

¹ This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

² Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

⁴ The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below)

No (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes No

Examples: Paved Bladed Graveled Roadside Berms Cut/Fill Other

Describe: The route is a user-created route for OHV access.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes No

If "yes": by Hand Tools by Machine

Examples: Culverts Hardened Stream Crossings Bridges Drainage
Barriers Other

Describe: BLM regularly maintains and repairs damaged sections of this OHV access route caused by regular OHV use and natural processes, using both hand tools and machinery.

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively regular and continuous use*?)

Yes (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked "yes" below)

No (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes No If "yes": by Hand Tools by Machine

Explain: BLM regularly maintains and repairs damaged sections of this OHV access route caused by regular OHV use and natural processes, using both hand tools and machinery.

2. If the route or route segment is in good⁵ condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes No Not Applicable

Explain: Annual maintenance is performed by BLM

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)

⁵ Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

Yes ____ No **X**

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route)⁶:

This designated OHV route is a popular OHV route to access subsistence hunting opportunities and for general motorized recreation, but is only used for approximately 4 months per year.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment⁷ meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?

Yes ____ = Wilderness Inventory Road

No **X** = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation⁸: Only Items III.A and III.B have been checked yes; therefore this route does not meet the definition of a road for wilderness inventory purposes.

Evaluator(s): Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: 3/2/2011

⁶ Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

⁷ If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

⁸ Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Appendix D - Photo Log Form

Photographer(s): Heath Emmons, Doug Whitaker, Cory Larson
Inventory Area Name & No.: Delta River Zone 5

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Section
8/2007	001	North	Looking north to the river takeout and Alaska Range	N/A	18S	10E	24
9/2001	002	Northeast	Rainy Creek Mining Trail	N/A	18S	10E	36
9/2001	003	South	Rainy Creek Mining Trail	N/A	18S	10E	36
8/2004	004	East	Trans Alaska Pipeline viewed from river	N/A	18S	10E	36
8/2004	005	East	Trans Alaska Pipeline facility viewed from river	N/A	17S	10E	23
8/2009	006	West	Jetboat activity	N/A	19S	10E	27
8/2009	007	East	Top of the World OHV Trail scarring on hillside viewed from river	N/A	19S	10E	26
8/2009	008	West	Top of the World OHV Trail rutting	N/A	19S	10E	26
8/2009	009	West	Top of the World OHV Trail	N/A	19S	10E	26
8/2009	010	Northeast	Top of the World OHV Trail	N/A	19S	10E	26
7/2002	011	West	Top of the World OHV Trail river crossing	N/A	20S	10E	3



Frame 001



Frame 002



Frame 003



Frame 004



Frame 005



Frame 006



Frame 007



Frame 008



Frame 009



Frame 010



Frame 011