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## **Part I Introduction**

### ***Background***

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of December 2, 1980 (ANILCA, PL 96-487) established the upper portion of Beaver Creek as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Subject to prior existing rights, ANILCA classified and designated approximately 127 miles of Beaver Creek as a "wild" river pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA, PL 90-542).

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act declared it a policy of the United States that: selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Specifically, Section 10(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that: Each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as it is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values...

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.By classifying Beaver Creek as "wild," Congress mandated that Beaver Creek National Wild River shall "be managed to be free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines primitive, and waters unpolluted... representing vestiges of primitive America."

AN ILCA also directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish detailed boundaries, to prepare a management and development plan, and to present this information to Congress by December 2, 1983. In response to this directive, this river management plan establishes the detailed boundaries and develops the management policies for Beaver Creek National Wild River.

The Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service intends that these management policies be flexible in order to remain responsive to future management needs while at the same time serving as a standard to assure the protection of the river's resources from possible future changes in resource quality and use.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), "Proposed Beaver Creek National Wild River" was approved by the Department of the Interior in 1973. The EIS addressed the impact of designating a portion of Beaver Creek as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In addition, this plan has been developed in compliance with Title VIII of AN I LCA to ensure that management policies will cause the least possible adverse impact to local residents who may depend upon the river corridor for subsistence needs.

The initial 111-mile segment of Beaver Creek National Wild River flows through a portion of the one million-acre White Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA) established by ANILCA. The White Mountains NRA is administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and managed to provide for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment and such management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources and the continuation of such existing uses and developments as will promote or are compatible with or do not significantly impair public recreation and conservation of values contributing to public enjoyment (AN ILCA Section 1312). A comprehensive land use plan for the White Mountains NRA is currently under preparation by the BLM, and is scheduled for completion by December 2, 1985. The land use plan for the White Mountains NRA is being prepared in conjunction with this river management plan. The river corridor boundary within the White Mountains NRA is managed by the BLM.

The final segment of the national wild river flows through a portion of the 8,630,000 acre Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) also established by ANILCA. The Yukon Flats NWR is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and managed to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity, fulfill international treaty obligations with respect to fish and wildlife and their habitats, provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents, and ensure that the water quality and quantity necessary to support fish and wildlife resources are maintained (ANILCA Section 302). A comprehensive land use plan for the Yukon Flats NWR is

currently under preparation by the FWS, and is scheduled for completion by December 2, 1985. The land use plan for the Yukon Flats NWR is being prepared in conjunction with this river management plan. The river corridor within the Yukon Flats NWR is managed by the FWS.

Because Beaver Creek National Wild River flows through both the White Mountains NRA and the Yukon Flats NWR, this river management plan was jointly prepared by the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The river management policies developed for Beaver Creek National Wild River reflect this combined planning effort.

### ***The Setting***

Beaver Creek is located in Interior Alaska, approximately 50 air miles north of Fairbanks. (See Regional Map) A moderately swift, shallow stream surrounded by rolling hills in its upper reaches, Beaver Creek flows past the jagged limestone peaks of the White Mountains before slowing to a sluggish meandering river as it passes through the marshy Yukon Flats to the Yukon River, a total distance of 303 miles. Major tributaries include Bear, Champion, Nome, Trail, Wickersham, Fossil, and Victoria Creeks. The region is characterized by alternating upland plateaus and marshy lowlands.

The climate of the area is sub-polar continental, where severe winters with extended periods of 60 F to 600 F below zero are common, summers are short and warm with temperatures sometimes reaching over 800 F, and precipitation ranges only 5 to 20 inches per year. Freeze-up of the rivers and marshes takes place in October, while spring thaws occur during April-May.

Soils are generally shallow and stony, with discontinuous permafrost underlying much of the area. Vegetation, which is highly dependent upon soil conditions, ranges from treeless areas of alpine tundra in the higher elevations, to sparsely vegetated black spruce bogs, and open spruce-hardwood forest in drainages and upland plateaus.

Beaver Creek's fishery consists primarily of Arctic grayling. Northern pike, sheefish, and whitefish are also present in the lower reaches of the river. Wildlife in the area include moose, black, and grizzly bear, Dali sheep, wolves, and caribou. Common furbearers are lynx, beaver, marten, wolverine, muskrat, and fox. Other species present include willow ptarmigan, spruce grouse, Canada geese, golden eagle, bald eagle, and the peregrine falcon, an endangered species.

Although it is assumed that early Native people may have hunted, fished, trapped, and traveled on occasion in the upper Beaver Creek area, no record of their use of the area has been found. Historical evidence of non-Natives in the area is largely confined to remnants of old prospectors' and fur-trappers' cabins, except at upper Nome Creek where extensive tailing piles created by bucket line dredging for gold and tin during the early 1900s may be found. Remnants of historic mining trails exist in the region.

The area receives moderate dispersed recreational use from float-boating, hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, and snowmobile activities. Placer mining operations are currently taking place on several of the upper tributaries of Beaver Creek outside of the river corridor.

The Steese Highway and U.S. Creek Road commonly provide overland public access to the beginning of Beaver Creek from Fairbanks during the summer season. The lower end of Beaver Creek National Wild River is accessible during the summer only by boat and aircraft. Winter access to the area is generally limited to snowmobiles and aircraft.

### ***River Corridor Description***

Special resource values, existing uses, and legal constraints all have bearing upon the management of Beaver Creek National Wild River. This portion of the river management plan describes the major factors influencing the identification of issues and concerns and the development of specific management actions. (See Area Map)

**HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.** Beaver Creek originates at the confluence of Bear and Champion Creeks (river mile 0). The first 20 mile river segment is characterized by a narrow channel, 1 to 3 feet deep, flowing through a gravel streambed averaging 50 feet in width, with an average river gradient of 8 feet per river mile. Except for occasional shallow riffles, sufficient water levels are present throughout the summer season for boats to float this segment. In this first segment of Beaver Creek, clear water is present except during occasional periods when placer mining activities are occurring in the Bear, Champion, Ophir, or Nome Creek drainages. Entering near river mile 5, Nome Creek is the most frequently used water course to gain surface access to Beaver Creek from the Steese Highway and U.S. Creek Road. Nome Creek flows through a narrow twisting channel, 5 to 20 feet in width, with numerous sweepers (trees which have fallen into the creek obstructing passage).

The second river segment (river mile 20 through 100) is characterized by a widening channel which varies in width from 75 to 150 feet with depths averaging 2 to 4 feet. The average river gradient is 8 feet per river mile. Major drainages entering into Beaver Creek along this segment include Trail, Wickersham, and Fossil Creeks. At several locations Beaver Creek separates into two main channels which flow separately for up to a mile. The river bottom is a mixture of small stones, pebbles, and sand. Exposed gravel bars are numerous. Water quality is generally excellent, except occasionally when placer mining activities in the headwaters cause turbidity downstream as far as river mile 30.

The final 27 mile segment of Beaver Creek National Wild River (river mile 100 through 127) is characterized by a gradual reduction in gradient as the river flows into the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge at river mile 127. The river gradient lessens from 8 feet per river mile at the beginning of this segment, to less than 2 feet per river mile. The width of the river channel increases up to 150 feet with average water depths of 2 to 6 feet. The major tributary joining Beaver Creek in this segment is Victoria Creek. Broad gravel bars

occur more frequently and the river bottom, while predominately a mixture of gravels and sands contains more silt material than the initial 100 river miles. Sufficient water depth and volume is available for shallow-draft motorized boats. Although occasional small tributaries in this section are brownish or tea-colored due to the presence of organic matter from adjacent bogs and sloughs, the overall water quality of the river remains excellent. Beaver Creek continues beyond the end of the national wild river portion another 176 miles through the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge before emptying into the Yukon River.

**SOILS.** Soils have formed from a variety of parent materials; Upland soils are usually shallow and stony or gravelly. Depending upon elevation, aspect, soil type, and temperature, the vegetation varies from alpine tundra to open forests of spruce, quaking aspen, and white birch.

Valley bottoms frequently have soils formed in deep, loamy sediment washed from the adjacent uplands. Permafrost is often near the surface on north slopes, south facing toe slopes, and valley bottoms. These soils are frequently poorly drained. This characteristic is reflected in vegetation such as sedge tussocks, low shrubs, and stunted black spruce woodlands. Better drained south facing slopes support open forests of spruce, white birch, and quaking aspen. Gravelly soils immediately adjacent to the river are commonly free of shallow permafrost and support open stands of white spruce, quaking aspen, balsam poplar, and willows.

Surface disturbance of areas underlain by permafrost will change the balance of heat **flow**, causing thawing and resulting in erosion, surface slumping, and thermokarst formation where ice lenses or wedges are found.

**RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES,** Beaver Creek National Wild River provides for a wide variety of primitive recreational opportunities. Recreational float-boating in small canoes or rafts, nature observation, fishing, and hunting are the major activities within the river corridor. Attractive, natural campsites are abundant along the river, including the many gravel bars as well as upland forested areas.

Recreational float trips generally start in the Nome Creek area, reached by the State maintained Steese Highway and the U.S. Creek Road. Most parties require one to two days of difficult paddling and pulling their boats over shallow riffles on Nome Creek before reaching leisurely floating on Beaver Creek at river mile 6. Most parties travel an average of 10 to 15 river miles per day, requiring 7 to 10 days to float the national wild river portion of Beaver Creek. Because no surface access is available near the end of the wild river segment to Beaver Creek, the only take out is by aircraft landing on gravel bars, floatplane, or by continuing an additional 8 to 14 days (268 river miles) to the Dalton Highway at the Yukon River Bridge. Recreational use during the winter months on Beaver Creek is primarily by snowmobile users who access the area via the White Mountains Trail.

Scenic views from Beaver Creek are one of the regions most valuable recreational opportunities. The White Mountains, with elevations averaging from 3,000 to 4,000 feet, form an almost continuous backdrop for the entire national wild river. The jagged white, exposed limestone cliffs, and peaks provide a sharp contrast to the green mosaic formed by the surrounding vegetation on low rolling hills. Colorful rock layers in exposed cliffs are occasionally observed. The view from the river averages four miles wide, extending up to ten miles at some locations.

**FISHING, HUNTING AND TRAPPING.** Excellent opportunities for Arctic grayling fishing exist on Beaver Creek, primarily from river miles 20 - 100; the occasional water turbidity caused by placer mining may diminish the fishing opportunities in the initial river segment. Northern pike, sheefish, and whitefish are also present. Most fishing occurs in conjunction with float-boating. Fly-in fishing trips originating in Fairbanks also occur throughout the summer months. Good opportunities for wildlife observation and hunting occur throughout the area. Boats and aircraft provide access for hunters along the river. Hunting also occurs in the headwaters area of Bear, Champion, and Nome Creeks where most recreationists use all terrain vehicles for access. Commercial guiding has taken place in the past from private cabins with airstrips at river miles 41 (Herman's Landing) and 46 (Shebal's Landing).

Trapping also occurs within the river corridor, and is regulated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The BLM and FWS manage land occupancy activities related to trapping, such as authorizing the construction of trappers' cabins or shelters.

**GEOLOGIC AND MINERAL RESOURCES.** The river flows through the White Mountains, an area with an identified mineral potential. A uranium and rare earth mineral deposit has been located in the Mount Prindle region to the east of the river corridor. No placer deposits have been discovered within the river corridor. However, placer gold deposits have been located in Bear, Champion, Noire, Trail, and Ophir Creeks. Placer gold deposits were first discovered on Nome Creek in 1910. Large scale bucket line dredging for gold and tin took place on Nome Creek during the 1920 40 period. In terms of known value and production levels, gold is the most important mineral resource in the area of Nome Creek.

**HISTORIC USES.** No record of early Native use of the Beaver Creek river corridor has been found. Evidence of historic use in the area by non-Natives is largely confined to remnants of trappers' or prospectors' cabins. These log structures are in various stages of disrepair; most are beyond rehabilitation. No properties within the river corridor have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Dredge tailings from gold mining activity during the early 1900s are visible on upper Nome Creek. Evidence of overland routes crossing the river corridor is limited to the Trail Creek - O'Brien Creek and the Livengood - Colorado Creek winter trails. The Fairbanks - Chandalar winter trail is located along the west side of Beaver Creek from Colorado Creek to the headwaters of Victoria Creek. This trail was used as a winter sled route for the transport of mail and freight.

**SUBSISTENCE.** Evidence of subsistence use has been identified in the river corridor by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, including a family living at the confluence of Beaver and Victoria Creeks. Although no further information is available on subsistence activities in the area, this does not rule out the possibility that other subsistence activities may be present.

**FORESTRY AND VEGETATIVE RESOURCES.** Vegetative resources within the river corridor include willow, alder, aspen, black and white spruce, and white birch. Poorly drained areas generally support only low scrub and stunted black spruce, while the better drained south-facing slopes generally support open forests of spruce, aspen, and birch. The gravel soils which are normally adjacent to the river and are for the most part free of shallow permafrost, frequently support open stands of white spruce, aspen, poplar, and willows.

Past and present uses of the forest resources of the area have been primarily for construction of cabins and firewood for local residents. Future use is probably limited due to the generally low forest density of the area along with the moderately steep topography and difficult access.

### ***Boundary Determination***

#### **LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS**

ANILCA classified and designated that, subject to valid existing rights, 127 miles of the main stem of Beaver Creek from near the confluence of Bear and Champion Creeks (Section 20, Township 7 North, Range 4 East, Fairbanks meridian) within the White Mountains National Recreation Area, downstream to the river's final exit from Section 1, Township 12 North, Range 6, East, Fairbanks meridian within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge shall be administered as a "wild" river pursuant to WSRA.

ANILCA further amended the WSRA to authorize the establishment of a river corridor boundary to include an average of not more than 640 acres per river mile on all designated national wild and scenic rivers in Alaska. This boundary shall not include any lands owned by the State or a political subdivision of the State, nor shall such boundary extend around any private lands adjoining the river in such a manner as to surround or effectively surround such private lands.

#### **BOUNDARY DETERMINATION POLICY**

For the purpose of preparing a detailed boundary for Beaver Creek National Wild River corridor, the following policies were applied:

- The acreage limitation for the river corridor has been measured outward from the ordinary high water mark along the shoreline and does not include islands in the river nor the riverbed.

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- Those portions of Beaver Creek National Wild River, which in their natural and ordinary condition were used or were capable of being used as a "highway of commerce" as of Alaska statehood in 1959, are considered navigable for title purposes. A final determination of navigability has been made by BLM which finds that Beaver Creek was susceptible to navigation as of statehood from the Yukon River upstream to the confluence with Victoria Creek. For those portions determined to be navigable, the State of Alaska retains ownership of the riverbed between ordinary high water marks and such lands are not included within the boundary of the river corridor.
- While islands in the river corridor are not used to determine the total acreage for the navigable section of the river, islands which are stable, vegetated, and not subject to flooding are included within the boundary. All islands in the non-navigable section of the river are also included in the boundary.
- A review of State land selections and Federal mining claims has been made. If current BLM land records identify a land parcel as non Federal or identify prior right which will result in a land parcel being transferred from Federal ownership, these parcels and their traditional access routes are excluded from the river corridor boundary. Examples of such prior rights are State and Native land selections, settlement claims, and Native allotments.
- Under this river management plan and consistent with the regulations found in Titles 43 and 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 3809, 50 CFR Part 36) reasonable access for miners to reach properly located and maintained mining claims will be provided. Lands within one-half mile of the bank of any Alaskan river designated a "wild" river have been withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and the mineral leasing laws by Section 606 of ANILCA. When mineral patent has been applied for and requirements for patent met, the rights patented and reasonable access to enjoy those rights will be provided in accord with Section 9(a)(ii) of the WSRA (16 USC 1280(a)(ii)).
- Should any privately claimed or State selected lands not pass from Federal ownership, these lands and their access routes shall be encompassed by the adjacent river corridor boundary so long as such inclusions do not exceed the acreage limitations contained in Section 103(b) of ANILCA.
- Where private lands are adjoining, they will be excluded from the river corridor by a common external boundary, and access will be provided to the entire block via the most commonly used route.
- All non-Federal interests and their access have been identified on maps appended to this report.

- Federal lands within the protracted survey sections which are wholly or in part within one mile of the bank of Beaver Creek National Wild River were withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, and from location and entry under the mining laws, and from leasing under the mineral leasing laws (Public Land Order 5179, as amended). It is proposed by this plan that this Public Land Order be modified to describe only those lands included within the final boundary of the wild river corridor, and that the land order be revoked for those lands not included within this boundary. This proposal, in combination with the one-half mile withdrawal established by Section 606 of ANILCA will maintain the withdrawal of all Federal lands within the final river corridor boundary.

## **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

In addition to being affected by these legislative controls and policies, the boundary was adjusted to protect key natural and cultural values associated with the river, such as crucial wildlife habitat or important geological formations, and outstanding scenic values observed from the river. The final boundary was then further adjusted to follow subdivisions of protracted survey section lines to simplify the legal description and on the ground management.

Therefore, based upon the designated beginning and ending points, and the legislative controls, policies, and considerations described herein, the acres contained within the Beaver Creek National Wild River boundary is approximately 72,000 acres.

For further information on the boundary, see the legal description and the detailed maps in the appendix of this report.

## **Part II: Management Considerations**

### ***Introduction***

During the preparation of this river management plan, the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service considered many factors which guided the development of the final management actions. These factors included: (1) management objectives and constraints, and (2) issues or concerns identified by the public and public agencies who were interested in the future management of Beaver Creek National Wild River. These factors are discussed here in Part II, Management Considerations. The final management actions are found in Part III, The Management Program.

### ***Management Objectives***

When Congress through ANILCA designated Beaver Creek as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, they intended that Beaver Creek National Wild River be preserved in a free-flowing condition and that the river and its immediate environment be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Congress mandated that Beaver Creek remain a vestige of primitive America, free of

impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines primitive and waters unpolluted (WSAA Section 2).

To this end, Beaver Creek National Wild River will be managed under the following long-term objectives:

- Protect valid existing rights and future rights granted pursuant to appropriate Federal and State laws.
- Preserve the river and its immediate environment in its natural, primitive condition.
- Preserve the free-flowing condition of the waters.
- Protect water quality and quantity.
- Provide high quality primitive recreational opportunities for present and future generations.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for interpretive, scientific, educational, and wildlands oriented uses.
- Assure protection of significant historic and archaeological values.
- Maintain and improve fish and wildlife habitat

## ***Major Issues and Concerns***

### Item 1: SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

ISSUE: What types of surface transportation should be allowed within the river corridor?

SITUATION: The Steese Highway and U.S. Creek Road provides the principal access to the region from Fairbanks. The U.S. Creek Road leaves the Steese Highway at milepost 58 and travels 7 miles to the upper end of Nome Creek, 15 miles from Nome Creek's confluence with Beaver Creek at river mile 6. Except in wet weather, the road is passable to light trucks and four wheel drive vehicles. The Lower Nome Creek Road leaves the Steese Highway at milepost 43 and is 15 miles in length, terminating on the lower end of Nome Creek, 4 miles from the confluence of Nome and Beaver Creeks at river mile 6. The Lower Nome Creek Road is generally impassable except during dry periods or frozen conditions and then only to all terrain vehicles. A third overland route used by motorized vehicles is the White Mountains Winter Trail which leaves the Elliott Highway at milepost 23 and travels 17 miles to Beaver Creek at river mile 32. The trail then parallels Beaver Creek in a northwesterly direction for approximately 3 miles before becoming indistinguishable. The White Mountains Winter Trail is managed for winter cross-country skiing, dog mushing, and snowmobile use, although the trail has also been used year around by recreationists with all terrain vehicles. Recreationists have been known to drive all terrain vehicles across or through segments of the river corridor during both the summer and winter months. Riverboats have traveled on the lower portion of Beaver Creek

CONSIDERATIONS:

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- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that wild rivers are generally inaccessible except by trail, and that wild rivers are to represent vestiges of primitive America (WSRA Section 2).
- Management of the river corridor is influenced by the types and degree of surface access to the area.
- The existing limited surface access to or across the river corridor in summer has been an important factor in maintaining the primitive setting.
- ANILCA allows for the development of new transportation systems in and across components of the National Wild and Scenic River System provided certain requirements are met (ANILCA Section 1107).
- Valid existing rights of way and easements into or across the river corridor must be recognized.
- ANILCA provides for such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate and feasible access for economic or other purposes to State or privately owned land or a valid mining claim or other valid occupancy, subject to reasonable regulations to protect the natural and other values of the national wild river (ANILCA Section 1110).
- ANILCA provides for the use of snowmobiles, motorboats, and nonmotorized surface transportation for traditional activities and for travel to and from villages and home sites, subject to reasonable regulations to protect the natural and other values of the national wild river (ANILCA Section 1110).
- The use of airboats generates noise levels which are disruptive to some recreationists and may, for short periods, diminish the present primitive experience expected by those recreationists on a national wild river.
- As mineral development increases in the area, additional road access will likely be required.
- Access routes to some mining claims may not presently be feasible without crossing the river corridor.
- Surface disturbance caused by vehicle use is minimized by frozen ground and protective snow and ice during the winter and early spring. Winter equipment moves reduce the potential for user conflicts between summer recreation visitors and mining.
- The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has recently upgraded the U.S. Creek Road to State highway standards.
- Time and cost to float the wild river would be reduced if surface access to a take-out along the river corridor was provided, making the opportunity available to a larger segment of the public.
- Improved surface access to Beaver Creek via the Lower Nome Creek Road, or extending the U.S. Creek Road around active placer mining operations will facilitate recreational access to the river while alleviating access conflicts with miners in upper Nome Creek.
- Improved surface access will increase the level of visitor participation and interaction.

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- The past presence of motor vehicles and surface disturbance caused by vehicle use may have impaired the primitive recreational opportunities expected by the public on a national wild river.

### Item 2- AIRCRAFT USE

ISSUE: Should aircraft access improvements be permitted within the river corridor?

SITUATION: Few recreationists use aircraft to access the beginning of the river because road access is available. The only access to the lower river corridor is via small aircraft which can land on broad gravel bars or on long, straight segments of the river with floats, or skis during the winter. Most recreationists float down Beaver Creek to the Yukon River, taking out at the Yukon River Dalton Highway Bridge (an additional 268 river miles, requiring 8 to 14 days). In addition to providing river access for float boating, aircraft are used to provide access for hunting and fishing. No public airstrips are located within the river corridor.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

Almost all recreational floaters access the beginning of the wild river by driving the Steese Highway from Fairbanks rather than by using aircraft, and this situation is expected to continue.

Enhancing aircraft access improvements may allow for shorter float trips than are presently available. An increase in visitor use may occur if improved aircraft access to a take out point along the river was provided; time and cost to float the wild river would be reduced, making the opportunity available to a larger segment of the public.

Aircraft access improvements will increase the likelihood of visitor interaction and may reduce the opportunity for a primitive experience.

The BLM currently has no funds available or anticipated for airstrip construction or maintenance.

### Item 3 – MINERALS MANAGEMENT

ISSUE: How can mineral development be managed to minimize adverse effects on the river corridor?

SITUATION: Placer mining activity occurs on Nome Creek, a major tributary to Beaver Creek. Placer gold exploration is taking place on Trail, Ophir, Bear, and Little Champion Creeks. During the last decade, improvements in mining technology and a significant rise in the price of gold has caused an increase in mining activity in the area. Mining activities cause localized surface disturbance. Presently, these disturbances have created conflicts on Nome Creek between miners and recreationists accessing Beaver Creek. The effluent from the placer operations drains into Beaver Creek. Placer mining provides employment and a base for service industries that are located in Fairbanks.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Valid rights shall be protected.

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- There are approximately 186 properly located and, maintained placer claims within the drainages of Beaver Creek. No placer claims are located within the boundary of the river corridor.
- There are approximately 1,000 properly located and maintained lode claims that are within the White Mountains National Recreation Area. No lode claims are located within the boundary of the river corridor.
- Present technology for treatment of placer effluent can eliminate settleable solids but not turbidity.

### Item 4 – WATER QUALITY

ISSUE: How should the water be managed to maintain or improve its quality?

SITUATION: Water quality in Beaver Creek is good with the exception of occasional increases in turbidity levels in the upper 30 miles of the river. These increased turbidity levels are due primarily to placer mining activities and erosion from disturbed areas on Nome Creek outside of the river corridor. Beaver Creek supplies domestic drinking water to residents adjacent to the river.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that the water quality of rivers within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System are to be protected and unpolluted (WSRA Sections 1-2).
- Turbid water adversely affects recreational opportunities by reducing the aesthetic appeal of the river, decreasing water visibility, and creating safety problems for floaters.
- The turbid water may affect the fishery in Beaver Creek. The degree and extent of this impact is unknown.
- Public comment has generally supported improving water quality through existing regulations to minimize adverse effects on the wild river.
- The administration of water quality regulations is primarily the responsibility of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- Most placer mining operations within the watershed cooperate with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to minimize the water quality impacts of their effluent discharges into tributaries of Beaver Creek.
- Achievement of existing water quality standards for turbidity is difficult using commonly employed placer mining techniques.

### Item 5 – WATER RIGHTS

ISSUE: What amount of water needs to be reserved to protect the particular values which led to Beaver Creek's inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System?

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**SITUATION:** Water rights within the watershed of Beaver Creek have been assigned to some individuals by the State of Alaska primarily for mining purposes. There have been no allocations of water for recreation or other purposes.

### CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that watersheds are to be essentially primitive, with waters free-flowing and unpolluted (WSRA Section 2).
- Reservations on available surface water have the potential to reduce the quantity of water available for recreation and other purposes.
- Applications for water uses other than recreation will likely increase in the future.
- The designation of Beaver Creek as a national wild river established a Federal reserved water right to protect the values for which Beaver Creek National Wild River was established.
- The Federal reserved water right has priority over all allocations occurring after passage of ANILCA.

## Item 6 – FACILITY MANAGEMENT

**ISSUE:** What facilities, if any, can be provided or authorized in the river corridor, and still maintain a primitive recreation opportunity?

**SITUATION:** Beaver Creek provides a primitive recreational opportunity due to the overall lack of facilities or other evidence of human use. A BLM public use cabin is located near river mile 32. No other visitor facilities exist within the river corridor. The present levels of dispersed recreation use have not created identifiable resource degradation or sanitation problems.

### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Increased public use of the river area may require the development of shelters, cabins, toilets, trails, small campgrounds, or other facilities to protect visitor health and safety, and resource values.
- The development or authorization of facilities may conflict with the primitive setting as perceived by some of the public.

## Item 7 – VISITOR MANAGEMENT

**ISSUE:** How will public recreation use of the river corridor be managed?

**SITUATION:** Current interaction between recreation users is low and evidence of recreational use is minimal. This situation has minimized potential user conflicts. No on site recreation management controls such as use limitations are evident, The River is occasionally used by local guides and outfitters.

### CONSIDERATIONS

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- Primitive areas are characterized by low interaction among users and minimal evidence of other visitors or user controls.
- As interaction between users, signs of other users, or evidence of on site management controls increase or become apparent, the primitive recreation opportunities expected by the public on a national wild river may be impaired.
- As visitor use increases, human bear conflicts will probably increase.

### Item 8 – NON-FEDERAL LANDS

**ISSUE:** How can the Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service cooperate with non Federal land owners adjacent to the river corridor in order to better fulfill the purposes of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act?

**SITUATION:** All State or private lands have been excluded from the proposed river corridor. The two parcels of private land in the vicinity of Beaver Creek have been excluded from the river boundary.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Beaver Creek has been determined to be navigable downstream from its confluence with Victoria Creek. The State of Alaska retains ownership of the riverbed between the ordinary high water marks in this portion of the river.
- Consideration should be given to establishing a cooperative agreement with adjacent non Federal land owners.

### Item 9 – FISH AND WILDLIFE

**ISSUE:** How will the fish, wildlife, and habitat within the wild river corridor be managed?

**SITUATION:** The Fortymile caribou populations that historically used the area have apparently stabilized at around 8 10,000 after declining in recent years. Moose numbers are also low, apparently due to predation limiting calf survival. Moose habitat has deteriorated and been lost due to the exclusion of fire. The peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and other raptors nest along Beaver Creek. The status of grizzly and black bear populations is assumed to be good. Arctic grayling are found in Beaver Creek and its tributaries.

#### CONSIDERATIONS

- Fish and wildlife contribute greatly to the recreational values of the river corridor and should be managed for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations (WSRA Section 1).
- The Endangered Species Act mandates that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the land manager should not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or modification of the species' habitat (Endangered Species Act Section 7).

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- The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), an endangered species, has been observed nesting in the river corridor.
- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires that inventories of fish, wildlife, and habitat on public lands be prepared and maintained.
- BLM and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have completed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperative and coordinated management of fish, wildlife, and habitat.
- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has listed Beaver Creek as an anadromous fish stream. Permit authority over activities affecting anadromous fish streams is the responsibility of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- A specific activity plan called a Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the White Mountains N RA which will include lands within the river corridor.
- A comprehensive conservation plan will be prepared for the Yukon Flats NWR which will identify and describe the management and use of the fish and wildlife populations, habitat, resources, and special values to be inventoried and maintained.

### Item 10 – HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING

ISSUE: Will the management of Beaver Creek as a national wild river affect existing hunting, fishing, or trapping opportunities?

SITUATION: Hunting, fishing, and trapping occurred within the river corridor prior to designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The designation of Beaver Creek as a national wild river does not preclude or alter hunting, fishing, or trapping opportunities within the river corridor.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides guidelines for the management of fish and wildlife resources within a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (WSRA Section 13).
- Wildlife habitat can be improved for certain species such as moose through proper management. Improved habitat conditions may, in turn, enhance human use opportunities, both consumptive and nonconsumptive.
- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulates the harvest of species utilized for fishing, hunting, and trapping in the river corridor.

### Item 11 – SUBSISTENCE

ISSUE: Will the management of the river corridor affect traditional subsistence activities?

SITUATION: Evidence of subsistence use has been identified in the river corridor by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The designation of Beaver Creek as a national wild river does not alter or preclude subsistence activities within the river corridor.

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### CONSIDERATIONS:

- ANILCA provides policy guidelines for subsistence management within a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (ANILCA Section 802).

### Item 12 - FIRE MANAGEMENT

ISSUE: How will fire be managed within the river corridor?

SITUATION: The exclusion of fire through past fire suppression activities has affected the character, vigor, and diversity of plants and animals in the region. Widely dispersed private property that could be burned by wildfire is present adjacent to the river corridor.

### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Total suppression of fires over the long term will conflict with the river management plan objective to preserve the river and its immediate environment in its natural, primitive condition.
- Aggressive and continued suppression action will be taken on fires which threaten human life or private property.
- In the absence of a specific fire management plan for the region, the Alaska State Fire Plan dictates that all fires should be suppressed to the maximum extent possible.
- Fire is a natural component of the boreal forest ecosystem in Interior Alaska.
- Continued full fire suppression activities will result in a loss of the vegetative mosaic, resulting in monotypic fuel types which, when ignited, could result in large, severe fires.
- Exclusion of wildfire has resulted in deterioration and loss of wildlife habitat.
- The Upper Yukon Tanana Interagency Fire Management Plan is under preparation for the region encompassing the Beaver Creek National Wild River as directed by the Alaska Land Use Council.

### Item 13 – HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ISSUE: How should historic and archaeological resources within the river corridor be managed?

SITUATION: Remnants of trappers' and prospectors' cabins and associated artifacts may be observed within the river corridor. The structures are in various stages of disrepair and most are beyond rehabilitation. Only a few isolated archaeological artifacts have been discovered in the region. Visitors have been known to remove or vandalize cultural resource objects found within the river corridor. Cultural resources are also subject to deterioration due to the natural elements.

### CONSIDERATIONS:

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- Historic and archaeological values within the Beaver Creek river corridor should be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations (WSRA Section 1).
- The Antiquities Act of 1906, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 require that cultural resources on public lands be protected.
- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires that an inventory of cultural resources values be prepared and maintained.
- Viewing historic resources has been cited by the public as an important recreational opportunity while visiting the river corridor.

### Item 14 – SCENIC QUALITY

ISSUE: How will the scenic quality of the landscape within the river corridor be managed?

SITUATION: The view from the river averages four miles wide, extending up to ten miles at some locations. A significant portion of this view is located outside the river corridor and within the White Mountains National Recreation Area, and the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Scenic values within the river corridor are to be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations (WSRA Section 1).
- The wild river corridor boundary was developed to include outstanding scenic values as observed from the river.
- The BLM has an established policy for the management of scenic quality within components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

### Item 15 – WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

ISSUE: Will systems for the control or transportation of water or the generation of hydroelectric power be permitted within the river corridor?

SITUATION: Water impoundments, controls, or transportation systems are nonexistent within the river corridor, and no demand for them is expected in the near future. Water control systems present within the watershed occur principally on None Creek and are related to mining activities. In these instances, water utilized for sluicing operations is temporarily retained in settling ponds and then reintroduced into the creek.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- National wild rivers are to be free of impoundments, with free flowing waters preserved (WSRA Sections 1 & 2).
- Water impoundment in Beaver Creek would conflict with the river management plan objective to preserve the free flowing condition of the river.

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- The free flowing water of Beaver Creek is a basic resource value expected by the public on a national wild river.

### Item 16 – NEW PIPELINE AND ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES

ISSUE: Will new pipelines or electrical transmission facilities be permitted within the river corridor?

SITUATION: No pipelines or electrical transmission lines are located in the river corridor.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Pipelines or electrical transmission facilities may be considered, provided that certain requirements are met (ANI LCA Sections 1102 1107).
- Pipelines or electrical transmission lines visible from the wild river may conflict with the objective to preserve the river and its immediate environment in a natural condition.

### Item 17 – FORESTRY AND VEGETATIVE RESOURCES

ISSUE: How will vegetative resources be managed within the river corridor?

SITUATION: Low potential for commercial timber development exists because of difficult access and distance to market. Trees have been cut for the construction of cabins and for use as firewood for local use. There are no known sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant species in the river corridor.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Need for trees for cabin construction and firewood for local use will likely continue in the future.
- Large-scale removal of timber may conflict with long term management objectives of the wild river.
- Although there are no known sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant species in the corridor suitable habitat for one species does exist at several locations. Should sensitive, threatened, or endangered species be found, formal measures will need to be made to protect their habitats.

## ***Management Constraints***

Constraining factors which influenced the development of this plan included:

- Recognition of valid existing rights.
- The provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the Hatch Act, the National Environmental Protection Act, the 1872 Mining Law (as amended), the Endangered Species Act, and the Alaska Statehood Act. These and other laws

- provide a framework for the regulations and policy that direct the decision process leading to management actions.
- The existing situation, including past and present uses of the area by man (such as development of mining claims or roads), agency capability for management of the resources and resource users, the biotic resources of the region (such as threatened or endangered species), the physical attributes of the area (to include soils, topography, and mineral deposits), and the combined management of the wild river between ELM and FWS.
  - The existing management authorities of the State of Alaska, including fish and game management, surface water quality, mining under State mineral law, the public roads of the area, and management of navigable portion of Beaver Creek.

## **Part III: The Management Program**

### ***Introduction***

The following management actions are the result of a careful evaluation of the objectives, issues, concerns, and constraints discussed in Part 11 of this report. An attempt has been made to respond to the concerns of various user groups without compromising the values for which the river was designated. This management program will be evaluated periodically to determine what changes may be necessary.

Most of the following management actions apply equally to lands in the river corridor inside the White Mountains NRA and the Yukon Flats NWR. Where differences in management within the river corridor exist between the BLM and FWS administered lands, a separate management action statement is specified.

### ***Management Actions***

#### Item 1: SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

**Action 1.1: Overland transportation systems within or across the river corridor may be authorized if it is determined that there are no economically feasible and prudent alternative routes (AN ILCA Section 1105).**

Discussion: Any authorized transportation system must be compatible with wild river values, and shall be located and constructed in a manner that does not interfere with or impede stream flow or transportation on the river. Locations and construction techniques shall be selected to minimize adverse effects on scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, and other values of the river area (AN ILCA Section 1107).

**Action 1.2: Access to mining claims located outside the river corridor prior to ANILCA and with acceptable proof of discovery will be managed under existing surface protection regulations (43 CFR 3809, FWS 50CFR Part 36).**

Discussion: 43 CFR 3809 and 50 CFR Part 36 requires a "plan of operations" from all mining claimants planning surface disturbing activities within the White Mountains NRA, the Yukon Flats NWR or in the river corridor. These plans must include a detailed description of access needs. The land manager will specify vehicle types, season of use, and reclamation procedures to minimize impacts.

**Action 1.3: On BLM administered areas, use of off road vehicles weighing less than 1,500 pounds GVW is authorized without a permit. Use of vehicles weighing more than 1,500 pounds GVW is prohibited without authorization or approved plan of operations. On FWS administered areas, off road vehicle use, other than snowmobiles, is prohibited without a permit or approved plan of operations.**

Discussion: For vehicle use requiring a permit, the land manager will assure adequate and feasible surface access to Federal, State or privately owned land, properly located mining claims, other valid occupancy, or for other proposals subject to reasonable regulations to protect the natural and other values of the national wild river (ANILCA Section '1110).

The location, time of year and the type of vehicle shall be selected to minimize adverse effects on scenic, recreational, fish, wildlife, and other values of the river corridor.

**Action 1.4: A program will be established to monitor the effect of 'vehicle use within the river corridor boundary.**

Discussion: Limitations on vehicle use (such as limiting use to identified routes) may be imposed if significant problems are found to be occurring.

**Action 1.5 The land manager will work cooperatively with the State of Alaska to identify all rights of way claimed pursuant to RS2477 within the river boundaries for administrative purposes.**

Discussion: When rights or title are granted directly by statute, such as HS2477, the land manager cannot adjudicate these rights. However, for the purposes of carrying out the land manager's administrative duties, a determination may be made. Such a determination would not affect the legality of an RS2477 right of way, but would provide a basis for administrative actions such as acceptance of right of way applications or trespass actions.

**Action 1.6: Use of motorized boats is permitted without specific authorization.**

Discussion; The past location of use, types of boats, and horse power levels are considered compatible with the values of the national wild river and no limitations to protect values are presently necessary. Hovercraft and airboats are not considered compatible and will not be authorized.

Item 2- AIRCRAFT USE

**Action 2.1: Construction of new public landing strips within the river corridor may be allowed if there is an identified and significant public need.**

Discussion: Landing strips must be compatible with the river values and it must be shown that there is no economically feasible and prudent alternative site (AN ILCA, Sections 1102 1105).

**Action 2.2: On BLM administered areas, landing of fixed wing or rotary wing aircraft is permitted without specific authorization. On FWS administered areas, the landing of fixed wing aircraft is permitted without specific authorization. Landing of rotary wing aircraft must have specific written authorization in advance from the land manager.**

Discussion: Present use is incidental, with no significant adverse affects on the river corridor. In the future, specific areas may be closed to such access to facilitate resource protection (such as for peregrine falcon critical habitat).

### Item 3 – MINERALS MANAGEMENT

**Action 3.1: The land manager shall cooperate with private land owners, mining operators, and *the* State of Alaska to ensure that mineral exploration and development on non-federal lands which may affect the river corridor are developed to minimize adverse effects on the national wild river. Mining operations in the White Mountains NRA and the Yukon Flats NWR outside the river corridor boundary will be addressed in the respective land use plans now being prepared.**

**Action 3.2: Improperly located mining claims will be adjudicated in a timely fashion.**

Discussion: The river corridor will be designated as a priority area for mineral adjudication. Adjudication will determine if claims are located in compliance with existing land orders and issue any necessary decisions. Claims improperly located and operating will constitute mineral trespass.

**Action 3.3: Mineral right of way applications will be administered as described in 43CFR 2880.**

**Action 3.4: On BLM administered areas within river corridor boundary, mineral collection for personal recreation using a gold pan, shovel, or other nonmotorized means is allowed without specific authorization in areas where there are no existing claims or private lands. On FWS administered areas, only the use of a gold pan is allowed.**

### Item 4 – WATER QUALITY

**Action 4.1: All use authorizations will include measures to control water pollution.**

Discussion: Using accepted techniques, the user must make every reasonable attempt to achieve established water quality standards for both water discharge and sewage disposal.

**Action 4.2: The land manager shall cooperate with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and where appropriate, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for the purpose of preventing, eliminating, or diminishing the pollution of river water consistent with the Federal Clean Water Act or Federally Approved State Water Quality Standards.**

#### Item 5 – WATER RIGHTS

**Action 5.1: A reservation of minimum water flows sufficient for public recreation and to support the values for which the area was designated will be determined in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management.**

Discussion: The jurisdiction of the State over waters within the Beaver Creek National Wild River watershed shall not be affected by the designation to the extent that such jurisdiction may be exercised without impairing the purposes for which the national wild river was established (WSRA Section 13).

#### Item 6 – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

**Action 6.1: No new developed recreation facilities within the river corridor are proposed by this management plan.**

Discussion: Basic minimum facilities, such as toilets, refuse containers; or primitive campsites may be authorized in the future to mitigate user impacts on the resource. If these types of facilities are necessary, they will generally be located at access points or at a sufficient distance from the riverbank to minimize their potential adverse impact.

Recreational hiking trails across or within the river corridor may be authorized.

Consideration will be given in the White Mountain National Recreation Area Land Use Plan to assure continued surface access via the Steese and Elliott Highways and the establishment of developed recreation facilities, outside the river corridor.

**Action 6.2: The construction of new cabins or temporary structures such as for trapping may be authorized pursuant to a nontransferable, five year special use permit issued by the land manager.**

Discussion: Special use permits will be issued upon a determination that the proposed use, construction, and maintenance of a cabin is compatible with the purpose for which the national wild river was established (ANILCA Section 1303).

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Permit conditions should include setbacks beyond the line of sight of the river, timber cutting, sanitation, and access.

Special use permits will not be issued to authorize the construction of a cabin for private or commercial recreation use.

**Action 6.3: Traditional and customary uses of existing cabins and related structures within the river corridor may be allowed to continue in accordance with a nontransferable, renewable, five year special use permit, in the same manner as described for new cabins (AN ILCA Section 1303).**

Discussion: In situations where an authorization for cabin construction and use was not issued and no owners can be identified, the cabin may be posted and made available as a public recreation shelter.

### Item 7 – VISITOR MANAGEMENT

**Action 7.1: The river corridor will be managed to be essentially free from evidence of recreation management induced restriction or activities, such as permit systems or signs.**

Discussion: Minimum on site restrictions or recreation management activities may be authorized by the land manager to protect the public health and safety, or to protect resource values.

**Action 7.2: Public information on Beaver Creek National Wild River should emphasize resources protection measures, and visitor safety guidelines.**

**Action 7.3: Permits are required for all commercial river guides and outfitters operating within the river corridor.**

Discussion: The impact of commercial river guides and outfitters will be closely monitored to ensure that the values for which the river area was designated are maintained. Should limitations on use to mitigate resources or user conflicts become necessary, priority on use will be allocated to noncommercial recreationists.

### Item 8 – NON-FEDERAL LAND

**Action 8.1: The land manager shall cooperate with non Federal landowners to ensure that the purposes for which the river was designated are met to the greatest extent feasible and to ensure that non Federal land owners are not unduly encumbered.**

**Action 8.2: A cooperative agreement will be negotiated with the State of Alaska for planning, administration, and management for the navigable portion of Beaver Creek.**

Discussion: The cooperative agreement should include the following topics:

- State objectives and policies for the beds of navigable wild rivers.
- Administrative agreement on the location of the "ordinary high water mark."
- Rights of State mineral claimants.
- Guidelines for management of mining operations on a navigable riverbed. These guidelines should include provisions for operations, access, and camping, designed to minimize impacts on wild river values.
- Guidelines for visitor management, including commercial use.

**Action 8.3: The land manager shall cooperate with non Federal landowners to ensure adequate and feasible access to their lands, subject to reasonable regulations to protect the natural and other values of the national wild river.**

**Action 8.4: Condemnations will not be used to acquire fee title to lands. Nonfederal lands and interests in lands adjacent to the river corridor may be acquired through mutually acceptable and agreed upon exchanges, sales or donations (WSRA Section 6).**

#### Item 9 – FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Action 9.1: Conduct an inventory of fish, wildlife, and habitat within the river corridor, and continue to monitor the effects of river management actions, population trends, and habitat use.**

Discussion: Management priority will be given to peregrine falcon and crucial habitats of caribou, moose, fish, and raptors.

**Action 9.2: Cooperate with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to maintain, improve, or increase fish, wildlife, and habitat within the river corridor.**

#### Item 10 – HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING

**Action 10.1: Hunting, fishing, and trapping are permitted, subject to applicable State and Federal laws and regulations (WSRA Section 13).**

Discussion: Nothing in the river designation affects the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska with respect to the management of fish and wildlife.

#### Item 11 – SUBSISTENCE

**Action 11.1: The management of the river corridor is to cause the least adverse impact possible on subsistence values (ANILCA Section 802).**

Discussion: Nothing in the river designation affects the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska with respect to subsistence.

Item 12 – FIRE MANAGEMENT

**Action 12.1: Protecting human life and property and restoring the natural fire regime to the river area shall be the principal fire management considerations in the river corridor.**

Discussion: Prescribed burning may be used for wildlife habitat improvement, fuels management, or for other purposes consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Wildfire management will be consistent with the Upper Yukon Tanana Interagency Fire Management Plan.

Item 13 – HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**Action 13.1: Prepare and maintain an inventory of historic and archaeological values within the river corridor.**

Discussion: Areas or structures which are most likely to be adversely impacted by activities in the river corridor will be given inventory priority.

**Action 13.2: Protect significant cultural resources and mitigate impacts on sites which may adversely be affected by activities within the river corridor.**

Item 14 - SCENIC QUALITY

**Action 14.1: The river corridor shall be managed to maintain the natural landscape.**

Discussion: BLM policy states that changes in the scenic quality caused by a land use activity should be minimized within the boundaries of a wild river corridor. Areas within the river corridor which are not natural in appearance should be rehabilitated whenever possible.

Item 15 – WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**Action 15.1: A system for the transportation of water, such as a canal, ditch, pipeline, or diversion, may be allowed, provided certain conditions are met (ANILCA Section 1107).**

**Discussion:** These types of developments will be subject to such conditions as may be necessary to assure that the stream flow of, and transportation on Beaver Creek is not

interfered with or impeded and that the system is located and constructed in an environmentally sound manner.

**Action 15.2: Dams, reservoirs, power houses, flood control dams, levees, and similar developments are prohibited (WSRA Section 7).**

Item 16 – NEW PIPELINE AND ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES

**Action 16.1: New pipelines, electrical transmission lines, and similar transmission, distribution, or transportation systems may be permitted within or across the river corridor (AN ILCA Sections 1102 1107).**

Discussion: Before such a system will be authorized a determination must first be made that it would be compatible with the purposes for which the national wild river was established and that there is no economically feasible and prudent alternative route or location. Any authorized system shall be located and constructed in an environmentally sound manner and in a manner that does not interfere with or impede stream flow or transportation on the river. Locations and construction techniques shall be selected to minimize adverse effects on scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, and other values of the river area (AN ILCA Sections 1102 1107).

Item 17 - FORESTRY AND VEGETATIVE RESOURCES

**Action 17.1: The land manager may issue permits for the noncommercial harvest of fuel wood or house logs, for local use, if there is no economically feasible and prudent alternative to doing so. Commercial harvest of timber within the river corridor is prohibited.**

Discussion: The harvesting technique shall be selected to minimize adverse effects on the resource values of the river corridor.

**Action 17.2: Prepare and maintain an inventory of the vegetative resources within the river corridor.**

Discussion: Management priority will be given to sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant species.

## **Part IV: Appendix**

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