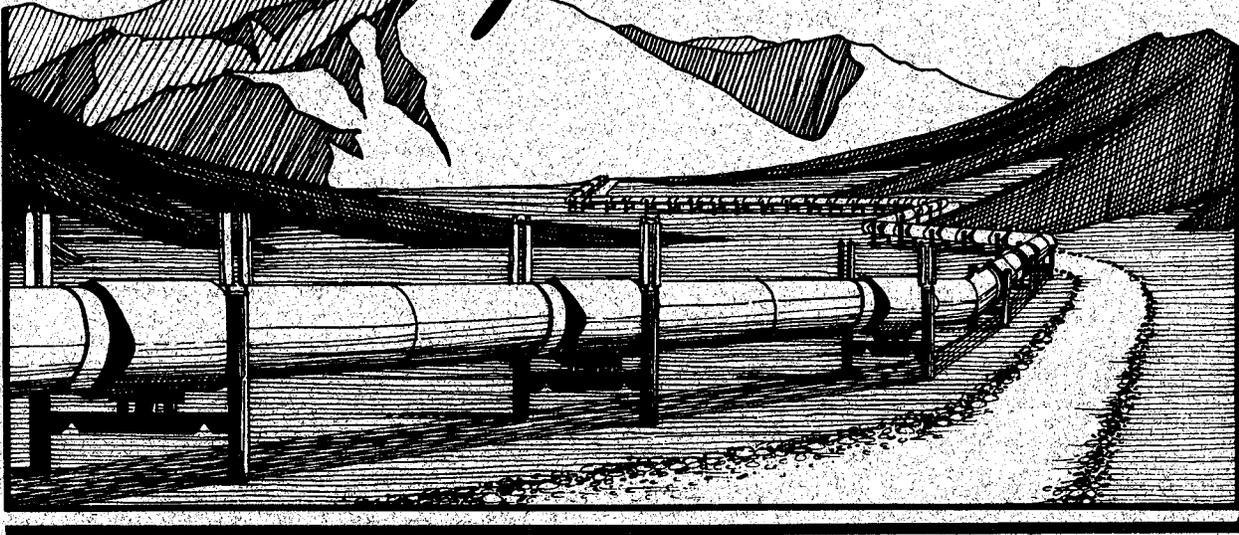


Utility Corridor



Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arctic District Office, ALASKA

maintained. Off-road vehicles would be restricted to soils with low erosion hazard or to winter use with snow cover adequate to prevent disturbance of the vegetative cover. In all cases, BLM will adhere to water quality standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Proposed Action 48: Floodplains and wetlands would be managed in accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 11988 and E.O. 11990 to assure continued hydrological functions.

Proposed Action 49: Little is known about the resource values of the Kanuti Hot Springs, but there are few undeveloped hot springs on federal land. Recent investigation of the area did indicate the range extension of several plant species. The area would be designated as an ACEC under the proposed plan and no leases would be allowed within the immediate area of the springs or "thawbulb" (an area roughly corresponding to a meadow which surrounds the hot water pools). Additional inventory work is recommended to define the area needed under ACEC protection more accurately, and to aid in the design of lease stipulations intended to protect this resource. If changes in the ACEC boundary or use restrictions result from such an inventory, they would be addressed in a plan amendment (also see proposed action 23).

Species management plans for *Montia bostockii* in the Toolik Lake ACEC and *Erigeron muirii* in the Sagwon Bluffs ACEC would be initiated. Additional plans would be written and implemented if these species are found in other areas, or if other threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are located (also see proposed action 40).

Fire Management

Proposed Action 50: Fire will be managed according to the standards and procedures outlined in the appropriate Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan. Five fire plans cover the planning area: Arctic, Kobuk, Upper Yukon-Tanana, Seward-Koyukuk, and Tanana-Minchumina (USDOI, BLM, AFS). Areas of critical, full, modified, and limited suppression are defined in the Fire Management Plans and are shown in Appendix N. A major focus of fire suppression in the Utility Corridor would be the protection of the facilities needed for the transport of energy minerals.

Cultural Resources

Proposed Action 51: Cultural resources would continue to be inventoried and evaluated as part of project or activity planning. Such evaluation would consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of cultural resources in the affected area. Stipulations would be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for cultural resources. In addition, the southern portion of the Nigu-Iteriak ACEC would be closed to surface-disturbing activities, in large part because of the cultural resources in the area. The proposed Galbraith Lake and Ivishak River ACECs contain cultural resources eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

The objectives of designating an ACEC are to identify and manage areas within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect: (1) important historic, cultural and scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, and other natural systems and processes; and (2) protect human life and property from natural hazards.

Development activities, when wisely planned and properly managed, can take place in these areas without either unduly risking human life or safety or causing permanent damage to historic, cultural or scenic values, or natural systems or processes. Thus, a particular ACEC designation may provide for a range of multiple-use activities. These may include specified kinds and degrees

of development and commodity production activities, provided that important environmental resources and human property or lives within that area are not damaged or endangered.

In the proposed plan there are no ACECs recommended for designation which would preclude the collection of baseline resource data nor would any proposed ACEC be managed in a way which would hamper existing or future energy transportation systems. Furthermore, mining activities with approved plans of operation would be allowed within ACECs.

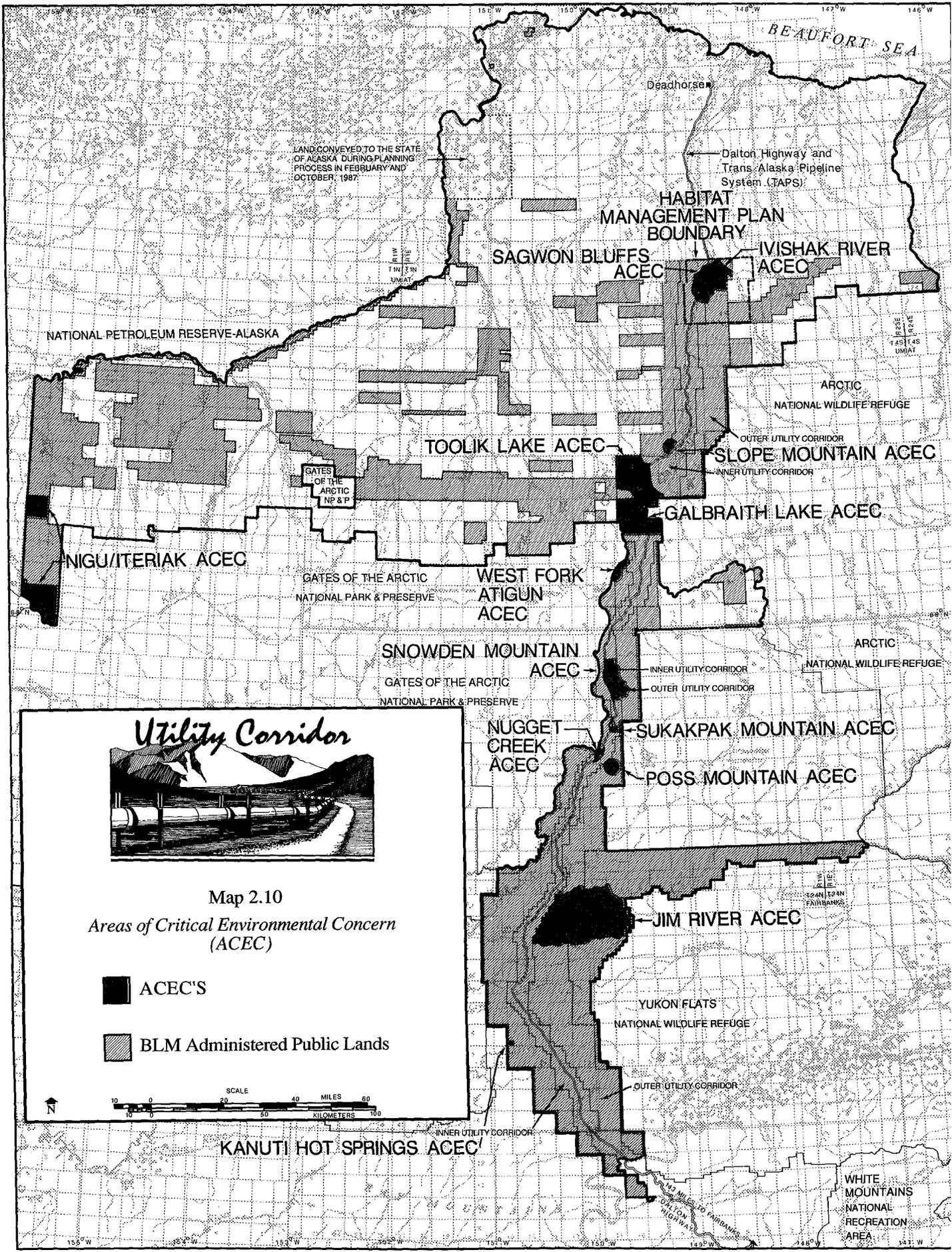
Proposed Action 52: Under current management, there are no ACECs within the planning area. The proposed RMP would designate 13 ACECs (Map 2.10). One ACEC, Toolik Lake, would also be classified as a Research Natural Area (RNA), to protect the on-going and future research activities in that area.

Due to the nature of on-going research activities and future projections of research needs, and as a result of comments received, the Toolik Lake RNA has been enlarged from that shown in the draft RMP/EIS. Portions of the watersheds of the Kuparuk and the Itigaknit rivers define this RNA. The Dalton Highway and energy transmission rights-of-way (TAPS, TAGS and ANGTS) cross the RNA. The U.S. Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and the University of Alaska are committed to long-term ecological research within the RNA. The Bureau fully supports these research efforts and views them as vitally important to a more complete understanding of arctic biosystems. Such research is a direct benefit to effective land and resource management systems by aiding in the design and implementation of stipulatory controls on authorized activities in the fragile arctic environment. The successful future of multiple resource management in the arctic largely depends on the success of these research efforts.

Detailed descriptions of each ACEC including size, location, importance, relevance and allowable uses follow Map 2.10. The ACECs designated under this proposed RMP are shown in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4
Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

	ACEC	Size (in Acres)	Resources
1.	Galbraith Lake	56,000	Cultural, rare/sensitive plants, scenic values, lambing areas.
2.	Ivishak River	3,800	Fishery, cultural resources
3.	Jim River	200,000	Fishery, recreation, cultural
4.	Kanuti Hot Springs	40	Hot spring
5.	Nigu-Iteriak	64,000	Geology, cultural resources
6.	Nugget Creek	3,300	Lambing areas, mineral lick
7.	Poss Mountain	8,000	Lambing areas, mineral lick
8.	Sagwon Bluffs	42,200	Peregrine falcons,
9.	Slope Mountain	5,100	Lambing areas, mineral lick, cultural
10.	Snowden Mountain	28,000	Lambing areas, mineral lick
11.	Sukakpak Mountain	3,500	Scenic, geology
12.	Toolik Lake RNA	82,800	Research activities, cultural
13.	West Fork Atigun River	8,500	Lambing areas, mineral lick
	Total	505,240	



Galbraith Lake ACEC

Location

Galbraith Lake; Quad: Phillip Smith Mountain

Size

56,000 acres

Management Objective

To protect historical and archeological sites, critical wildlife habitat, paleontological and geological sites, scenic values, and possibly, rare and sensitive plants.

Importance

This area has the highest concentration of historic and prehistoric cultural resources of any region yet inventoried along the Utility Corridor. Three of these sites have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, with more potentially eligible. The area provides crucial lambing areas and mineral licks for Dall's sheep. Located on the northern side of the Brooks Range, north of Atigun Pass, the scenic value is high. The geology and paleontology are remarkable and are accessible via the Dalton Highway. In the probable event of rare and sensitive plants found in the area, BLM policy requires that such plants be accorded the full protection of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Relevance

The area contains the former Alyeska camp pad, a large improved airstrip with facilities, and an operating Pump Station. These are an inducement for further developments which could adversely impact the important resources noted above. The area has been recommended as an Ecological Reserve by the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission and for entry into the Registry of Natural Landmarks by the USGS and National Park Service.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Protect habitats crucial to species considered threatened, endangered, candidate or sensitive (including plants) by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the State of Alaska.
2. This area is currently withdrawn from mineral location and entry as part of the inner Corridor. No mineral withdrawal specific to mineral licks is necessary at this time.
3. Nonsurface occupancy restrictions would apply to mineral leasing because of the location of the ACEC within the inner Corridor.
4. Require plans of operation with protective stipulations and mitigation measures to all surface disturbing activities to avoid restricting sheep movement, unduly disturbing sheep habitat, or affecting any other protected resource.
5. All BLM-authorized camps and support facilities located within the confines of the ACEC, including cabins and tent frames, shall be temporary and must be removed after their purpose has been accomplished.
6. Aircraft associated with all BLM-authorized land use activities shall be required to fly a minimum of 2,000 feet above ground level (AGL) from May 1 to August 31, unless doing so would endanger human life or be an unsafe flying practice.
7. Given the primary purpose of the Utility Corridor, every effort will be made to minimize visual impacts.

8. All recreational facilities will be consistent with the Dalton Highway Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), and will minimize disturbance to protected resources within the ACEC.
9. Allow the development of public campground facilities if the Dalton Highway is opened to public travel.
10. Establish cooperative agreements for cultural resource research and excavation.
11. Use by guides and outfitters will be allowed; no surface disturbing activities are permitted.

Program Activities

1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Review plans of operation to ensure protective stipulations and mitigation measures in all surface disturbing activities to avoid restricting sheep movement, unduly disturbing sheep habitat, or affecting any other protected resource.
3. Design wayside near lake to accommodate summer tour bus travel. Include displays or signs explaining features of the area. Emphasize resource importance and protection.
4. Inventory ACEC to identify any additional crucial habitats.
5. If the inner Corridor boundary should change, it will be necessary to prepare, publish, and implement a withdrawal from mineral location and entry under the 1872 mining law for each known mineral lick known or identified in future inventories.
6. If the inner Corridor boundary should change, apply nonsurface occupancy stipulations for mineral leasing to identified mineral licks, to threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant or animal habitat, and to protect other resources as appropriate.
7. Conduct class I and II cultural resource inventories for those areas that have not been surveyed. Require a class III cultural resource inventory for all ground disturbing actions. Nominate significant cultural resource sites to the National Register of Historic Places, and develop activity plans for each.
8. Prepare a detailed management activity plan for the Galbraith Lake ACEC in conjunction with the Toolik Lake Research Natural Area Plan.
9. Prepare a cultural resource management plan for the National Register Sites within the ACEC.
10. Record geological resources, and prepare a geologic map of the area at 1:24,000 scale.
11. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

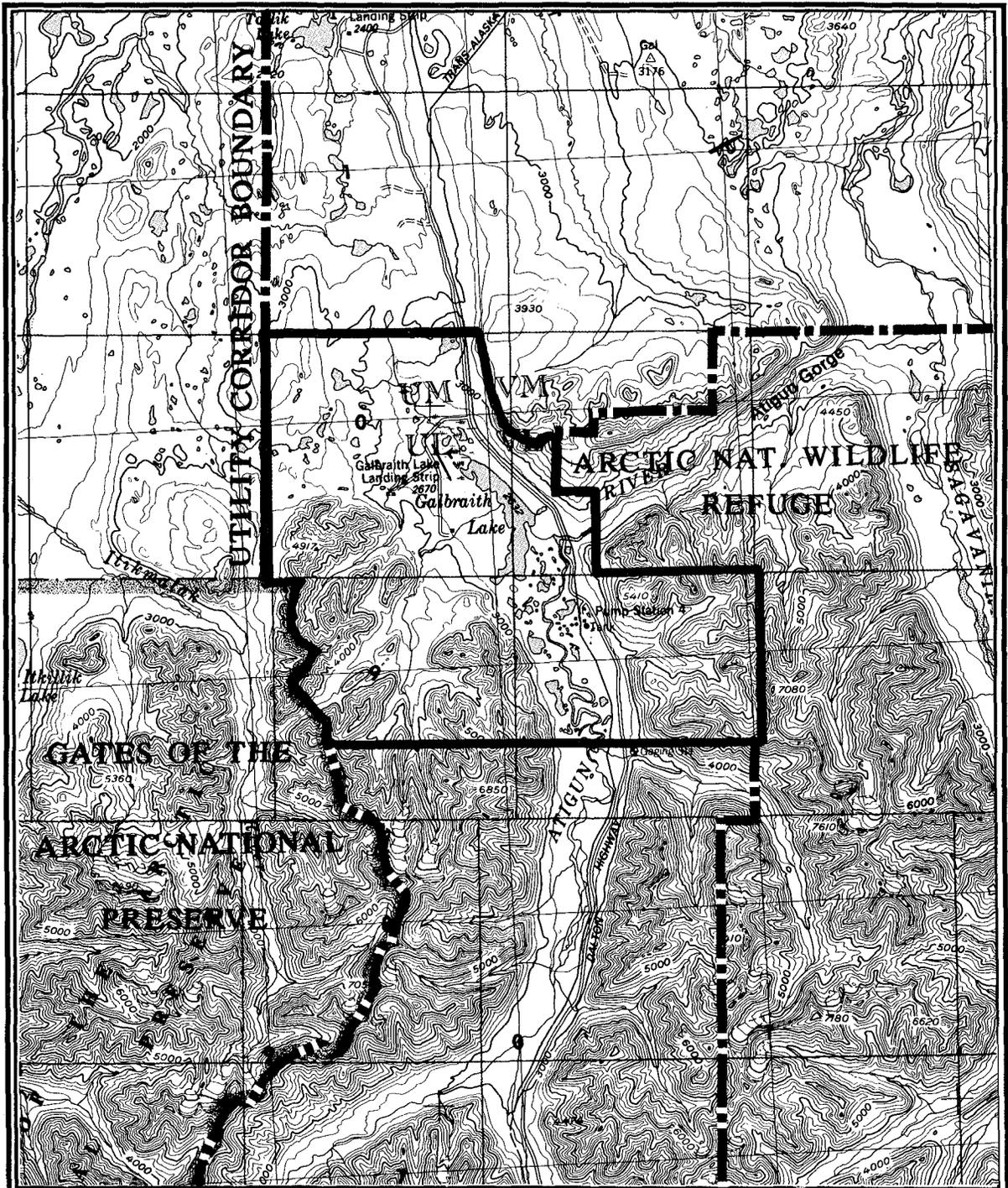
Supporting Programs

Lands, Recreation, Minerals, Wildlife, Cultural

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Crucial Dall's sheep habitats and use periods will be monitored. Once baseline data are collected, monitoring will occur on a three to five year cycle.
2. Crucial plant habitats and population size will be monitored. Once baseline data are collected, monitoring will occur on a three to five year cycle.
3. Annually inspect cultural resource properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

4. **Annually monitor permitted actions and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.**
5. **Identify significance and evaluate use of cultural resources in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.**



BOUNDARY MAP
 Map sheet Phillip Smith Mtns.

Scale in Miles



Within Tps. 11 and 12 S., Rs. 11
 and 12 E.
 Umiat Meridian



GALBRAITH LAKE AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Map 2.11



Ivishak River ACEC

Location

Ivishak River between Sagavanirktok and Echooka Rivers (8 mi); Quad: Sagavanirktok B-3

Size

3,800 acres

Management Objective

To protect and/or enhance the fisheries resources and to protect the known archeological resources.

Importance

The lower Ivishak contains the highest concentration of overwintering arctic char in the Central Arctic Area. Thousands of fish, apparently that spawn in other rivers, concentrate here every winter. A removal of habitat in this area would impact char populations in rivers outside the Ivishak system.

The "Sag-Ivishak" site (SAG-004) is the only stratified Inupiat archeological site known within the planning area and one of the very few known at all.

Relevance

The proximity of the lower Ivishak River to the Dalton Highway and future pipeline routes increases the potential demand for stream and floodplain gravel, posing a threat to the resources in the area.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. New mineral materials sites throughout the ACEC would be approved only if no other economically feasible sites are available.
2. Temporary and casual use permits may be allowed.
3. Protect habitats crucial to species considered threatened, endangered, candidate or sensitive (including plants) by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the State of Alaska.
4. Protect fisheries habitats and populations, including char spawning areas, overwintering habitat, and nursery/rearing habitat.
5. Protect habitat crucial to raptors, especially peregrine falcons.
6. Plans of operation with protective stipulations and mitigation measures will be applied to all surface disturbing activities to avoid unduly disturbing aquatic, riparian, and threatened, endangered, or candidate species, including plants. Nonsurface occupancy stipulations apply to oil and gas leasing activity.
7. All recreational facilities will be consistent with the Dalton Highway Recreation Activity Management Plan (RAMP), and will minimize disturbance to protected resources within the ACEC.
8. Establish cooperative agreements for cultural resource research and excavation.

Program Activities

1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Prepare an ACEC activity plan within one year of designation if the lands have not been transferred to the state.

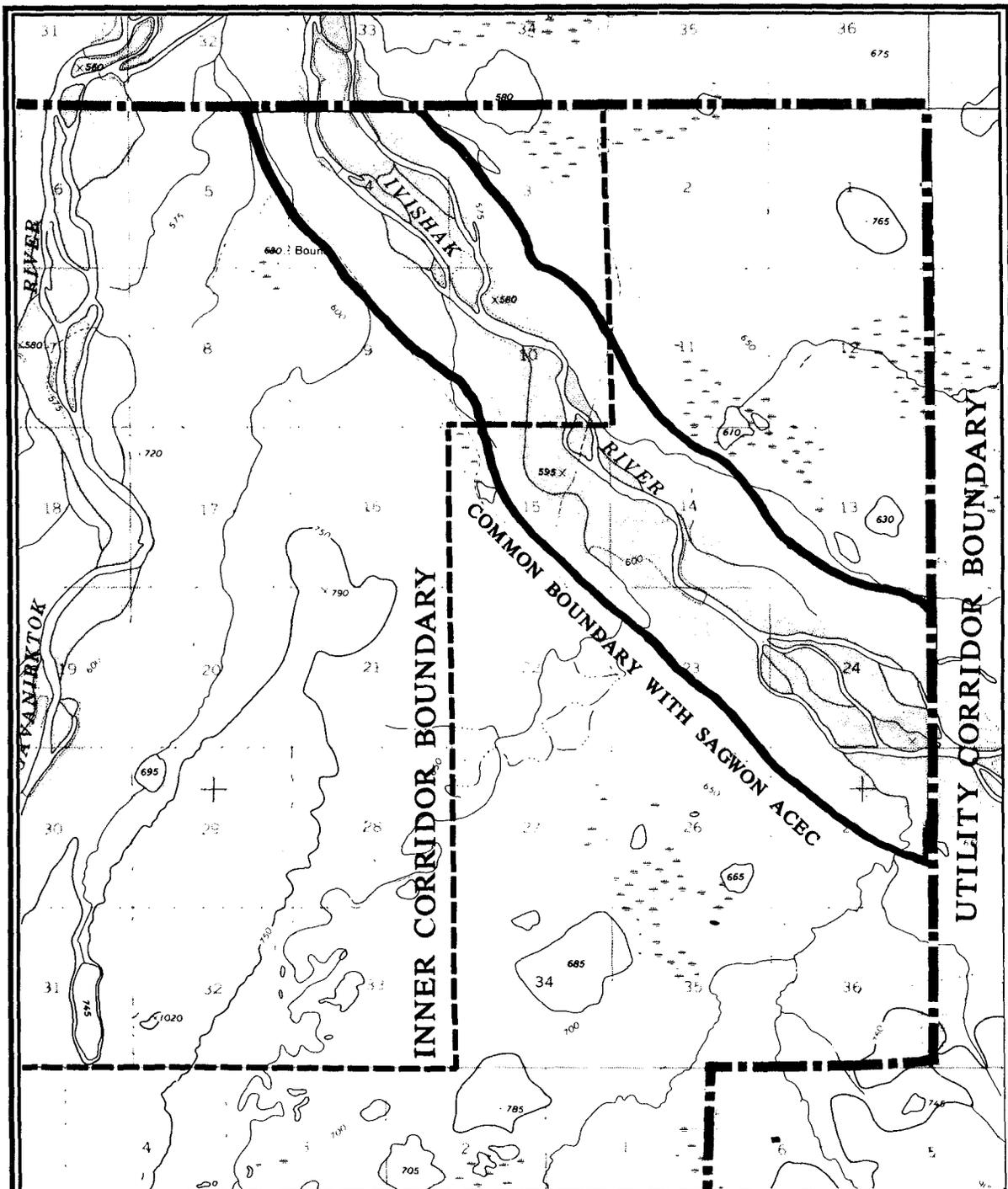
3. Develop appropriate stipulations and mitigative measures to protect crucial habitat and/or resources during multiple use activities, including mineral materials sales or permits.
4. Conduct class I and II cultural resource inventories for those areas that have not been surveyed. Require a class III cultural resource inventory for all ground disturbing actions. Nominate significant cultural resource sites to the National Register of Historic Places, and develop an activity plan for each.
5. Inventory ACEC to record fish populations and habitats, and aquatic and riparian resources. Identify any crucial habitats for future management actions.
6. Inventory ACEC to record and delineate raptor habitats, including that of the endangered peregrine falcon. Identify any crucial habitats for future management actions.
7. Inventory ACEC to record areas inhabited by threatened, endangered, or candidate plant species. Identify crucial habitats for future management actions.
8. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Minerals, Recreation, Cultural, Lands, Wildlife

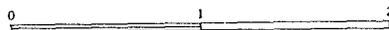
Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Crucial fishery, raptor, and plant habitats and use periods will be monitored. Once baseline data are collected, monitoring will occur on a three to five year cycle. If disturbance to crucial habitat is noted, monitoring will occur annually.
2. Annually monitor permitted actions and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.
3. Annually inspect cultural resource properties on the National Register of Historic Places.
4. Identify significant and evaluate use of cultural resources in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
5. Reevaluate monitoring and evaluation guidelines listed above in accordance with the ACEC activity plan recommendations.



BOUNDARY MAP
 Map sheet Sagavanirktok B-3

Scale in Miles



Within T. 1 N., R. 15 E.
 Umiat Meridian



IVISHAK RIVER AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Map 2.12



Jim River ACEC

Location

Jim River drainage; (east upstream) of inner Corridor. Quad: Bettles D-1, D-2, D-3; Beaver D-6

Size

200,000 acres

Management Objectives

Protect and/or enhance chum and king salmon spawning areas, overwintering habitat for resident and anadromous species, and sport fishing. Monitor and protect raptor habitat, and protect scenic, recreation, and archeological resources.

Importance

Fisheries. The Jim River has the most concentrated chum and king salmon spawning in the upper Koyukuk region. Fish produced here are important to downstream subsistence and commercial users. The river is important not only for the spawning and overwintering of their eggs and fry but as habitat for resident species. The river is one of the most heavily utilized recreation streams in the planning area, and the sport fishing quality is excellent from a regional perspective.

Archeology. The river valley contains a rich concentration of prehistoric Athapaskan sites. At least three are of National Register quality.

Scenic values. The valley, along the Utility Corridor, is rated as Class A scenic quality or "Outstanding scenery." These resources are distinctive and have special worth because it is the only place with relatively easy road access by the public.

Raptors. One of the few known peregrine nesting sites south of the Brooks Range is located near the lower part of this ACEC. Several other raptor species are also known.

Relevance

The Jim River/Prospect Creek area contains a number of current and potential developments which pose a threat to the continued viability of the high quality anadromous fishery, and to the other resources. These developments include: placer mining, DOT/PF camp, Bettles road, Dalton Highway with 5 bridge crossings, demand for riparian timber, demand for construction gravel, future pipeline construction, and community development.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Protect fisheries habitats and populations, including salmon spawning areas, overwintering habitat, and nursery/rearing habitat.
2. Require plans of operation with protective stipulations and apply mitigation measures to all surface disturbing activities to avoid unduly affecting aquatic and riparian habitat or threatened, endangered, or candidate species (including plants and peregrine falcons), or affecting any other protected resource.
3. Seasonal use and surface occupancy restrictions, including oil and gas leasing, may be identified once inventory and monitoring studies have been conducted.
4. All BLM-authorized camps and support facilities located within the confines of the ACEC, including cabins and tent frames, shall be temporary and must be removed after their purpose has been accomplished.

5. Protect habitat crucial to threatened and endangered species, especially peregrine falcons.
6. New mineral material sites would be approved within the floodplain only if no other economically feasible sites are available.

Program Activities

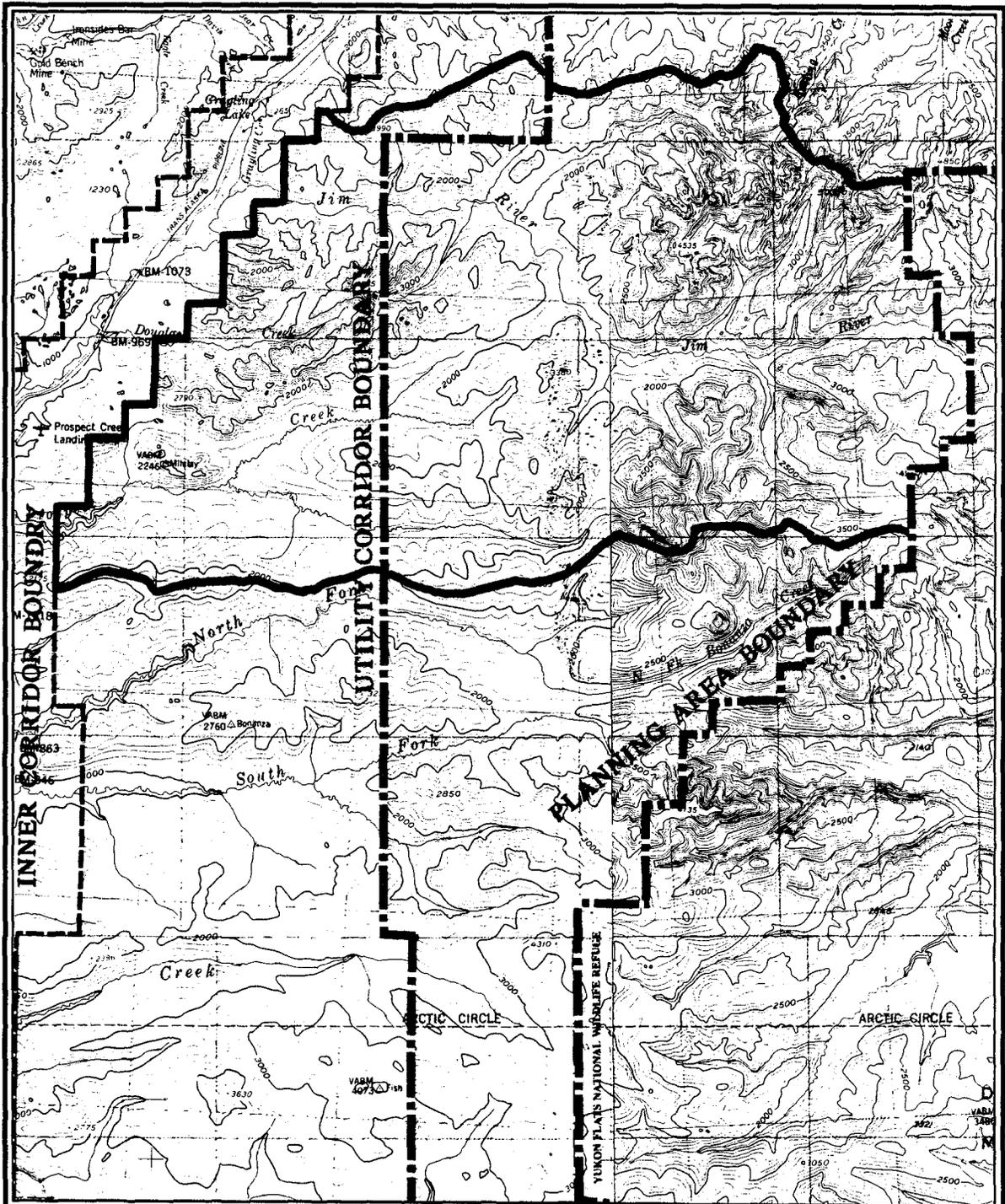
1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale.
2. Include on base map all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined, including the Jim River and Prospect Creek floodplains
3. Prepare an activity plan for the Jim River ACEC.
4. Inventory ACEC to record aquatic and riparian resources, recreation areas, threatened, endangered, sensitive, or candidate plant and peregrine falcon location, and geologic resources. Identify any additional crucial habitats.
5. Conduct class I and II cultural resource inventories for those areas that have not been surveyed. Require a class III cultural resource inventory for all ground disturbing actions. Nominate significant cultural resource sites to the National Register of Historic Places, and develop activity plans for each.
6. Inventory visual resources in the ACEC.
7. Enhance fisheries populations and habitats, including spawning areas, nursery/rearing and overwintering habitat, and fish passage.
8. Develop appropriate stipulations and mitigative measures to protect crucial habitat and/or resources during multiple use activities.
9. Prepare handouts, brochures, reports or display signs to present geologic information to the public.
10. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Recreation, Wildlife, Minerals, Lands, Cultural

Monitoring and Evaluation

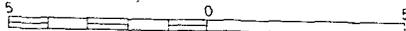
1. Crucial riparian and aquatic habitats will be monitored annually. Once baseline data are collected, monitoring will occur on a three to five year cycle, unless disturbance is noted.
2. Identify significance and evaluate use of cultural resources in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
3. Annually inspect cultural resource properties on the National Register of Historic Places.
4. Annually monitor permitted actions, including water quality sampling, and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.
5. Evaluation of habitat improvement projects will be conducted after completion of each project.



BOUNDARY MAP
 Map sheets Bettles and Beaver

Scale in Miles

Within Tps. 22 and 23 N., Rs. 10, 11, 12, 13,
 14 W.
 Tps. 24 and 25 N., Rs. 10, 11, 12, 13 W.
 Fairbanks Meridian



JIM RIVER AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



Kanuti Hot Springs ACEC

Location

Caribou Mountain; T. 18 N., R. 15 W., Sec 31; Quad: Bettles B-2

Size

40 acres

Management Objective

To protect the hot springs and the associated meadow habitat.

Importance

Kanuti Hot Springs is the only hot spring known to occur on BLM-administered land within the planning area. It is located approximately five miles southwest of Caribou Mountain along the Kanuti River. The spring temperature has been reported by some sources to be about 150°F and to have a strong sulphur dioxide odor. However, in December of 1988, BLM personnel measured the spring temperature at 125°F in the main outlet and 73°F in the lesser outlet.

Relevance

The springs are about 8 miles west of and accessible from the Dalton Highway. There is an immediate need for special management attention in order to protect this undeveloped spring, since hot springs in Alaska's interior are usually developed.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Restrict leasing and development to actions which would not directly affect the hot springs, any identified crucial wildlife habitat, and rare, endangered or listed plant species.
2. The ACEC would be closed to mineral entry. Also closed would be the surrounding lands (a total of approximately 160 acres) under PLO 399 of August 20, 1947, which withdrew from entry and all forms of appropriation all hot springs in Alaska.
3. Nonsurface occupancy stipulations apply for mineral leasing within the ACEC.
4. Maintain water quality of spring area and adhere to EPA and state water quality standards.
5. All surface disturbing activities having any affect on the resources within the ACEC will require plans of operation and appropriate mitigation to eliminate or minimize any adverse impacts.
6. The Kanuti Hot Springs ACEC would be closed to gravel extraction.

Program Activities

1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Baseline data gathering will be completed in FY89 to determine the spring's importance to area wildlife. A report will be prepared by FY90.
3. Prepare an activity plan for this ACEC with an emphasis on allowable FLPMA lease areas for development. Emphasis in this plan will be to protect the integrity of the hot spring and its potentially significant plant ecology. No development will be allowed at the springs or in the adjacent meadow.
4. Require a class III cultural resource inventory for all ground disturbing actions.

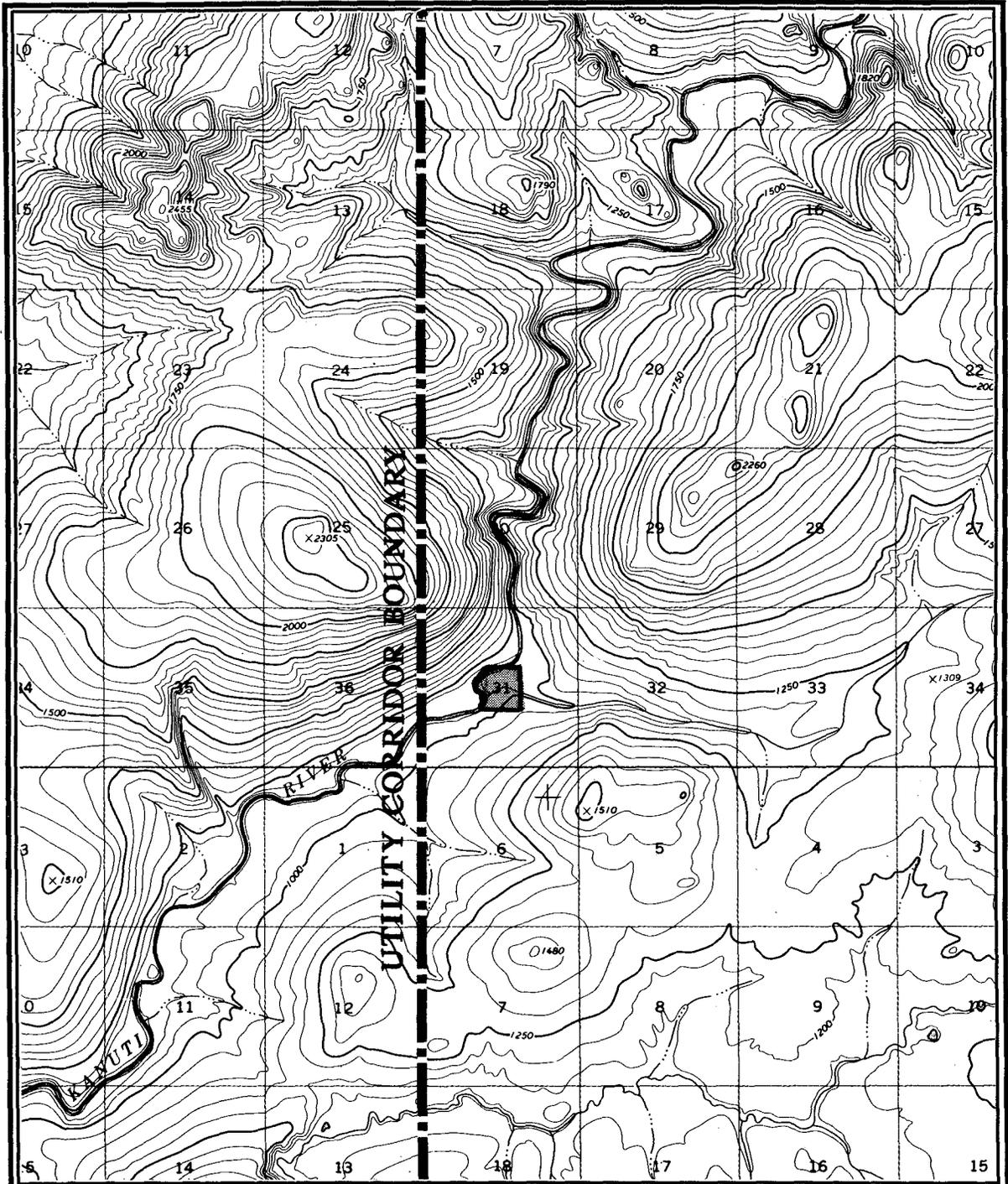
5. Inventory and record the presence of any threatened and endangered or listed plant species.
6. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Lands, Minerals, Wildlife, Soil/Water/Air/Vegetation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

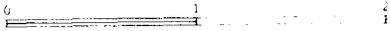
1. Seasonally monitor any FLPMA lease activities.
2. Annually monitor surface disturbance activities to prevent impacts to springs and the water quality of Kanuti River.
3. Sample water seasonally prior to and during FLPMA lease activities or mining operations.
4. Annually inspect cultural resource properties on the National Register of Historic Places.
5. Identify significance and evaluate use of cultural resources in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
6. Adhere to monitoring recommendations made in the activity plan.



BOUNDARY MAP
Map Sheet Bettles B-2

Scale in Miles

Within T. 18 N., R. 15 W. sec. 31
Fairbanks Meridian



KANUTI HOT SPRINGS AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Map 2.14



Nigu-Iteriak ACEC

Location

Upper Nigu River and middle Iteriak Creek; Quad: Killik River A-5, B-5

Size

64,000 acres

Management Objective

To protect the unique geological, cultural, and scenic resources of the area.

Importance

This ACEC consists of two separate areas about 19 miles apart: the upper Nigu River and the middle reaches of Iteriak Creek. Cultural resource values are similar to those in the NPR-A, e.g., National Register Districts at Etivluk, Liberator, Betty, Swayback, Tukuto, and Kinyiksukvik Lakes, and include two potentially eligible National Register sites.

The area has been recently glaciated and shows many features not present on other BLM lands associated with these events, such as ice-cored kame terraces and a collapsed pingo. Wildlife values are also high in the ACEC.

Relevance

The area is adjacent to both the Gates of the Arctic National Park and the Noatak National Preserve, and is an extension of the special management situation that prevails within that system. The two areas are both part of the Etivluk River drainage, and both are bounded on the west by the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPR-A). A management plan is expected for the NPR-A; if ACECs can be designated under existing legislation for NPR-A, these areas could become a contiguous ACEC management area albeit designated under two plans.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. The upper Nigu section has been recommended for wilderness designation in the *Central Arctic Management Area Wilderness Recommendations and Final EIS* (USDOI, BLM; 1988) and the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Section 1001 Report* (USDOI, BLM; 1988) that has been completed and submitted to Congress. If Congress should designate this area as wilderness it would be managed in accordance with Wilderness Management Policy. Until such time, both areas will be managed to protect their wilderness values in accordance with interim wilderness management policy and guidelines.
2. Regardless of Congressional action, the upper Nigu section would remain closed to mineral location, mineral materials extraction, and mineral leasing; the Iteriak section would be opened to mineral development (entry and leasing), but closed to mineral materials extraction.
3. Require plans of operation for any mining activities in the northern section.
4. Only ORV use for subsistence purposes would be allowed.

Program Activities

1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Prepare an activity plan for the ACEC.

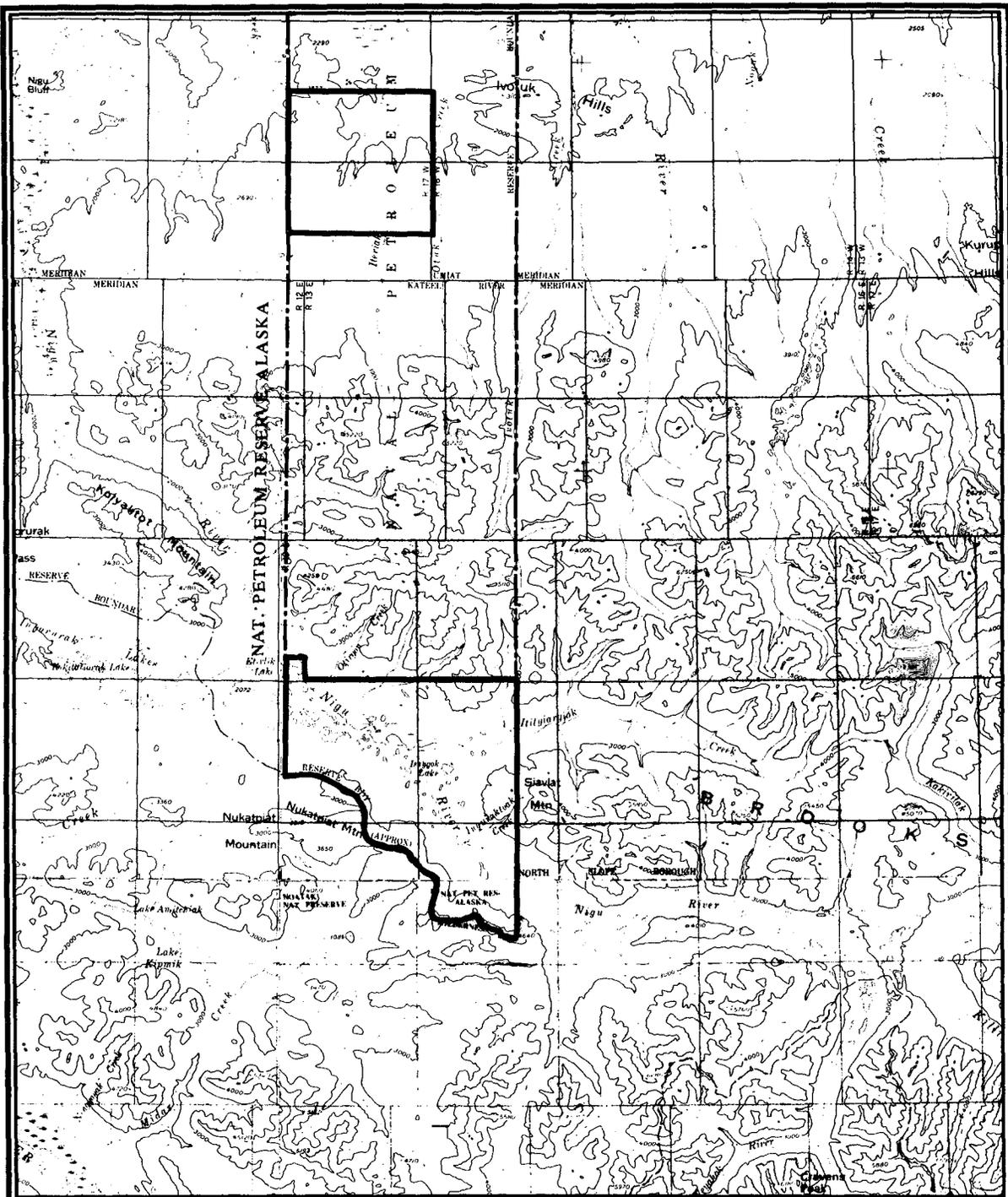
3. Require a class III cultural resources inventory for all ground disturbing actions in the northern section.
4. If the Mesa Site is determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, prepare a cultural resources management plan for the site.
5. Inventory geologic resources of the area, and prepare a geologic map at 1:24,000.
6. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Recreation, Lands, Minerals, Subsistence, Wildlife, Cultural

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Seasonally monitor activities in the area.
2. Sample water quality in Iteriak watershed if mining or leasing activities occur.
3. Annually inspect cultural resource properties on the National Register of Historic Places.
4. Identify significance and evaluate use of cultural resources in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.



BOUNDARY MAP
 Map sheets Killik River,
 Howard Pass, Ambler River,
 and Survey Pass

Scale in Miles



Within Tps. 11 and 12 S., R. 17 W.
 Umiat Meridian
 and Tps. 30, 31, 32 N., Rs. 13 and 14E.
 Kateel River Meridian



NIGU-ITERIAK RIVERS AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Map 2.15



Nugget Creek ACEC

Location

Opposite Nugget Creek T. 31 N., R. 11 W.; Quad: Chandalar B-6, C-6

Size

3,300 acres

Management Objective

To protect mineral licks and lambing habitat for Dall's sheep.

Importance

Ewes traditionally return to the same habitat each spring to bear their offspring. Dall's sheep use natural licks to replace important skeletal minerals. Destructive activities or excessive human disturbance may eliminate these important habitats necessary to sustain a viable sheep population.

Relevance

A growing number of hunters use the Dalton Highway for easy access to hunt Dall's sheep; therefore, BLM needs to protect this crucial habitat to sustain a viable sheep population. Areas such as this ACEC should be earmarked for attention since a number of potentially disturbing activities (e.g., increases in traffic and recreation activity, future pipeline construction) may occur within the life of this plan.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Mineral lick sites (160 acre parcels), would be closed to mineral entry and location under the 1872 mining law, to surface occupancy by BLM-authorized land activities, and to mineral materials extraction. Nonsurface occupancy stipulations would apply to mineral leasing.
2. Only allow mineral materials extraction with stipulations to prevent disturbance of Dall's sheep habitat or access.
3. Plans of operation with protective stipulations and mitigation measures would be applied to all surface disturbing activities to avoid restricting sheep movement, unduly disturbing sheep habitat, or affecting any other protected resource.
4. All BLM-authorized camps and support facilities located within the confines of the ACEC, including cabins and tent frames, shall be temporary and must be removed after their purpose has been accomplished.
5. Aircraft associated with all BLM-authorized land use activities shall be required to fly a minimum of 2,000 feet above ground level (AGL) from May 1 to August 31, unless doing so would endanger human life or be an unsafe flying practice.

Program Activities

1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Conduct field exam of known mineral licks to establish metes and bounds description; record on map of appropriate scale. Write legal descriptions.

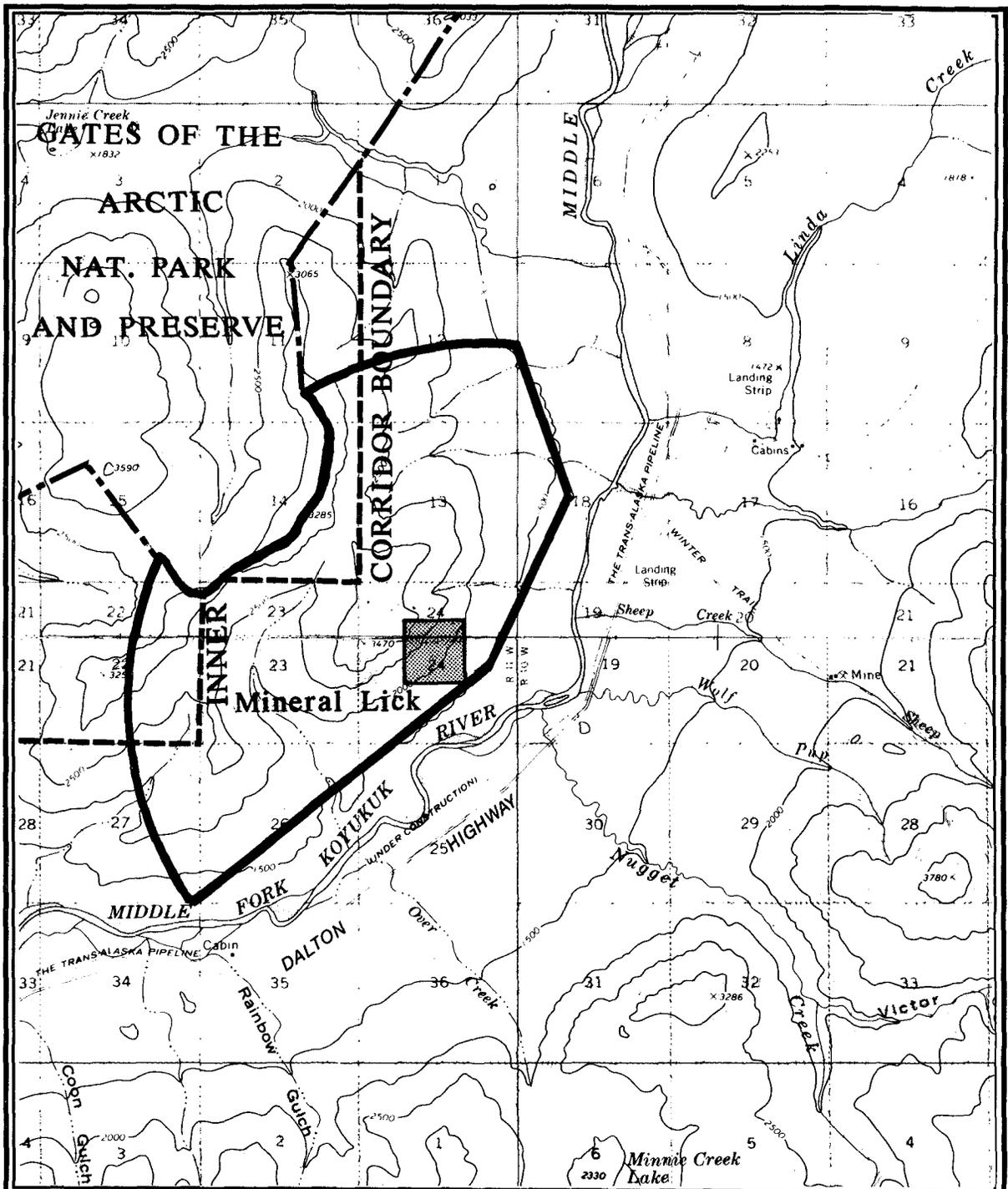
3. Prepare, publish, and implement a withdrawal from mineral entry and location under the 1872 mining law for each mineral lick (160 acres) currently known or those identified in future inventories.
4. Inventory ACEC to identify any additional crucial habitats.
5. Develop appropriate stipulations and mitigative measures to protect crucial habitat and/or resources during multiple use activities, including mineral materials sales or permits.
6. Record geologic features and prepare geologic map of the area at 1:24,000 scale.
7. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Minerals, Wildlife

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Crucial Dall's sheep habitats and use periods will be monitored. Once baseline data are collected, monitoring will occur on a three to five year cycle.
2. Evaluate all mining plans to insure that mineral licks and access to them are protected through appropriate stipulations.
3. Annually monitor permitted actions and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.



BOUNDARY MAP
 Map Sheets Chandalar
 B-6 and C-6

Scale in Miles

Within Tps. 31 N., Rs. 10 and 11 W.
 Fairbanks Meridian



NUGGET CREEK AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Map 2.16



Poss Mountain ACEC

Location

Poss Mountain (east of Wiseman) T, 30 N., R. 10 W., Sec 3; Quad: Chandalar B-6

Size

8,000 acres

Management Objective

To protect lambing habitat for Dall's sheep and known mineral lick sites.

Importance

Ewes traditionally return to the same habitat each spring to bear their offspring. Dall's sheep use natural licks to replace important skeletal minerals. Destruction of the licks and excessive human disturbance may eliminate these important habitat features that are necessary to sustain viable sheep populations.

Relevance

A growing number of hunters use the Dalton Highway for easy access to hunt Dall's sheep; therefore, BLM needs to protect this crucial habitat to sustain a viable sheep population. Although this area is farther from the Dalton Highway than the Nugget Creek ACEC, the area should be earmarked for attention since a number of potentially disturbing activities near this habitat (principally mining) may occur within the life of this plan.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Mineral lick sites (160 acre parcels), would be closed to mineral entry and location under the 1872 mining law, to surface occupancy by BLM-authorized land activities, and to mineral materials extraction. Nonsurface occupancy stipulations would apply to mineral leasing.
2. Only allow mineral materials sales with stipulations to prevent disturbance of Dall's sheep habitat or access.
3. Plans of operation with protective stipulations and mitigation measures would be applied to all surface disturbing activities to avoid restricting sheep movement, unduly disturbing sheep habitat, or affecting any other protected resource.
4. All BLM-authorized camps and support facilities located within the confines of the ACEC, including cabins and tent frames, shall be temporary and must be removed after their purpose has been accomplished.
5. Aircraft associated with all BLM-authorized land use activities shall be required to fly a minimum of 2,000 feet above ground level (AGL) from May 1 to August 31, unless doing so would endanger human life or be an unsafe flying practice.

Program Activities

1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Conduct field exam of known mineral licks to establish metes and bounds description; record on map of appropriate scale. Write legal descriptions.

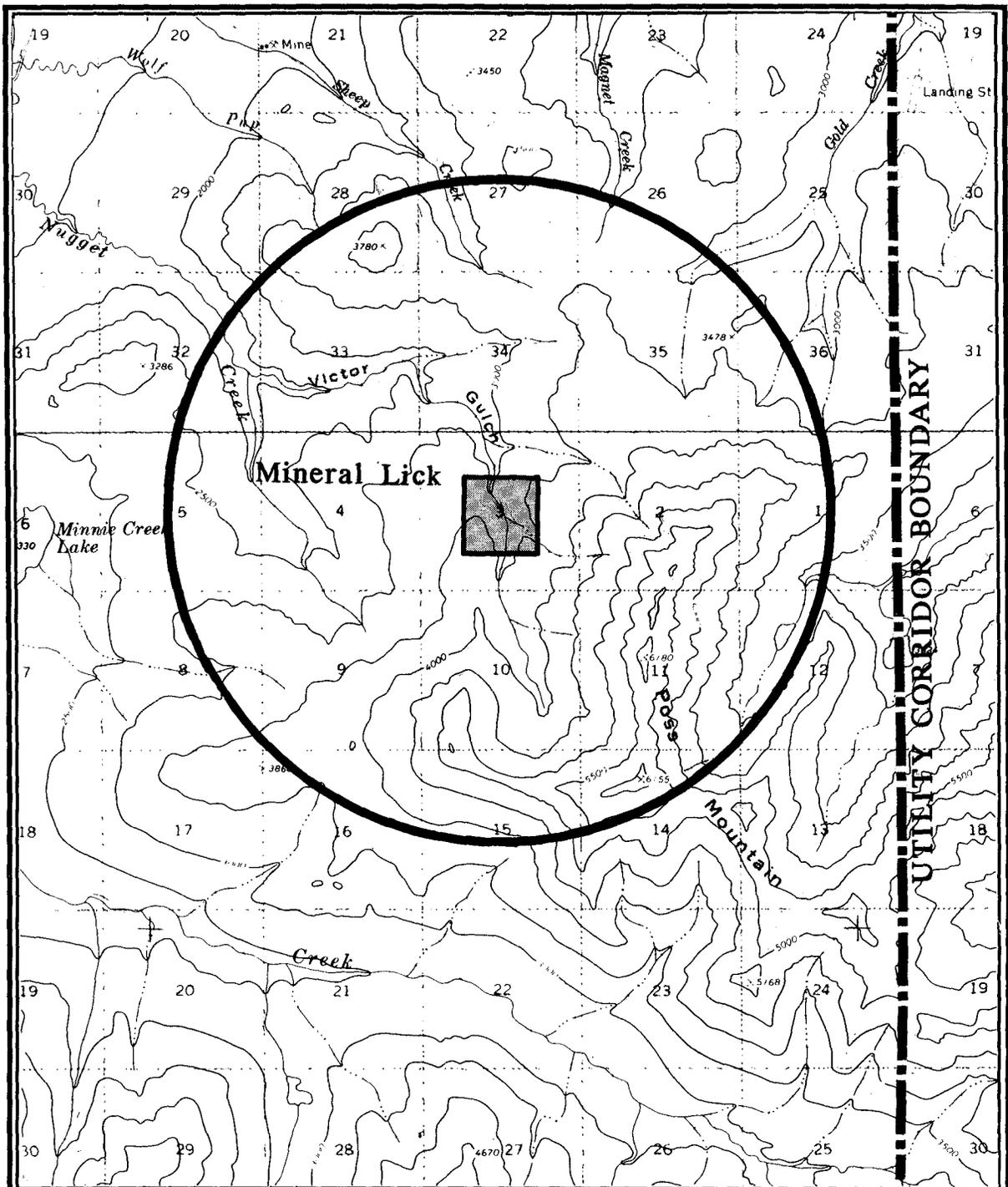
3. Prepare, publish, and implement a withdrawal from mineral entry and location under the 1872 mining law for each mineral lick (160 acres) currently known or those identified in future inventories.
4. Inventory ACEC to identify any additional crucial habitats.
5. Develop appropriate stipulations and mitigative measures to protect crucial habitat and/or resources during multiple use activities, including mineral materials sales or permits.
6. Record geologic features and prepare geologic map of the area at 1:24,000 scale.
7. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Minerals, Wildlife

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Crucial Dall's sheep habitats and use periods will be monitored. Once baseline data are collected, monitoring will occur on a three to five year cycle.
2. Evaluate all mining plans to insure that mineral licks and access to them are protected through appropriate stipulations.
3. Annually monitor permitted actions and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.



BOUNDARY MAP
Map sheet Chandalar B-6

Scale in Miles



Within Tps. 30 and 31 N., R. 10 W.
Fairbanks Meridian



POSS MOUNTAIN AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Map 2.17



Sagwon Bluffs ACEC

Location

Sagwon Bluffs. Quad: Sagavanirktok B-3

Size

42,200 acres

Management Objectives

To protect threatened raptor habitat: peregrine, also gyrfalcon, rough-legged hawk. To protect riparian habitat: caribou, moose, grizzly bear. To protect the farthest north known Athapaskan archeological sites. To protect sensitive and rare plants.

Importance

Approximately 20 percent of the known nesting pairs of arctic peregrine falcons (T & E species) occur along the Sagavanirktok River; nesting sites are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Protection of important hunting habitat in this ACEC provides additional safeguards for the peregrine falcon. A sensitive plant species (*Erigeron muirii*) is also present.

Relevance

Close proximity to the Dalton Highway allows for scientific research by university and other groups. However, this convenient access also presents potential human impact unrelated to research activities, such as the rights-of-way for pipelines. This ACEC is currently included under the Sagwon Bluffs Habitat Management Plan, approved in 1979.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Protect habitats crucial to species considered threatened, endangered, candidate or sensitive (e.g., *Erigeron muirii*) by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the State of Alaska.
2. All BLM-authorized land use activities shall follow the protective measures for peregrine falcons identified in the *Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan* (September 1982).
 - a. Within one mile of nest sites:
 - 1) Require aircraft to maintain minimum altitudes of 1,500 feet above nest level from April 15 through August 31.
 - 2) Prohibit all ground level activity from April 15 through August 31 except on existing thoroughfares.
 - 3) Prohibit habitat alterations or the construction of permanent facilities.
 - b. Within two miles of nest sites:
 - 1) Prohibit activities having high noise levels from April 15 through August 31.
 - 2) Prohibit permanent facilities that have high noise levels, sustained human activity, or alter limited, high quality habitat (e.g. ponds, lakes, wetlands and riparian habitats).
 - c. Within 15 miles of nest sites:
 - 1) Prohibit alteration of limited, high quality habitat which could detrimentally and significantly reduce prey availability. Of particular concern are ponds, lakes, wetlands and riparian habitats.
 - 2) Prohibit use of pesticides. The only exception may be limited non-aerial application of approved non-persistent insecticides at supply bases.
3. Nonsurface occupancy stipulations would be applied to plant habitat (*Erigeron muirii*) locations.

4. Plans of operation with protective stipulations and mitigation measures will be applied to all surface disturbing activities to avoid unduly disturbing peregrine falcons and their habitats, or affecting any other protected resource.
5. Establish cooperative agreements for cultural resource research and excavation.

Program Activities

1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Continue implementation of the 1982 *Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan - Alaska Population*, which outlines the protective actions necessary for the recovery of this species.
3. Inventory ACEC to delineate crucial habitats for peregrine falcon and other listed and candidate species. Identify any crucial habitats for future management actions.
4. For threatened and endangered candidate plant species (*Erigeron muirii*) BLM will develop a species management plan that includes habitat and population management objectives, and strategies necessary to meet those objectives.
5. Develop appropriate stipulations and mitigative measures to protect crucial habitat and/or resources during multiple use activities, including mineral materials extraction.
6. Conduct class I and II cultural resource inventories for those areas that have not been surveyed. Require a class III cultural resource inventory for all ground disturbing actions. Nominate significant cultural resource sites to the National Register of Historic Places, and develop activity plans for each.
7. Prepare a geologic map of the area at 1:24,000 scale.
8. Require plans of operation for all mining activity in the outer corridor before any ground disturbing activity begins.
9. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Wildlife, Minerals, Cultural Resources, Soil/Water/Air/Vegetation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Crucial habitats and use periods will be monitored. Once baseline data are collected, monitoring will occur on a three to five year cycle. If disturbance to crucial habitat is noted, monitoring will occur annually.
2. Annually monitor populations and habitat of *Erigeron muirii* to determine if management objectives are being met.
3. Annually inspect cultural resource properties on the National Register of Historic Places.
4. Annually monitor permitted actions and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.
5. Identify significance and evaluate use of cultural resources in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Slope Mountain ACEC

Location

Slope Mountain. T. 8 S., R. 13 E.; Quad: Phillip Smith Mt.; C-4.D-4

Size

5,100 acres

Management Objective

To protect mineral lick sites and lambing habitat for Dall's sheep. To protect cultural resources.

Importance

Ewes traditionally return to the same habitat each spring to bear their offspring. Dall's sheep use natural licks to replace important skeletal minerals. Destructive activities or excessive human disturbance may eliminate these important habitats necessary to sustain a viable sheep population.

As late as the early 1980s, a known arctic peregrine falcon (a threatened species) nesting site was present on Slope Mountain. Therefore, the area is considered high potential for future nesting sites and warrants protection.

Relevance

A growing number of hunters use the Dalton Highway for easy access to hunt Dall's sheep; therefore, BLM needs to protect this crucial habitat to sustain a viable sheep population. Areas such as this ACEC should be designated for attention since a number of potentially disturbing activities (e.g., increases in traffic and recreation activity, future pipeline construction) may occur within the life of this plan. Such activities may also potentially affect cultural resources.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Mineral lick sites (160 acre parcels), would be closed to mineral entry and location under the 1872 mining law, to surface occupancy by BLM-authorized land activities, and to mineral materials extraction. Nonsurface occupancy stipulations would apply to mineral leasing.
2. Only allow mineral materials extraction with stipulations to prevent disturbance of Dall's sheep habitat or access.
3. Plans of operation with protective stipulations and mitigation measures would be applied to all surface disturbing activities to avoid restricting sheep movement, unduly disturbing sheep habitat, or affecting any other protected resource.
4. All BLM-authorized camps and support facilities located within the confines of the ACEC, including cabins and tent frames, shall be temporary and must be removed after their purpose has been accomplished.
5. Aircraft associated with all BLM-authorized land use activities shall be required to fly a minimum of 2,000 feet above ground level (AGL) from May 1 to August 31, unless doing so would endanger human life or be an unsafe flying practice.
6. Protective measures for peregrine falcons within the ACEC will be those measures identified in the *Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan* (September 1982). See Appendix K.

Program Activities

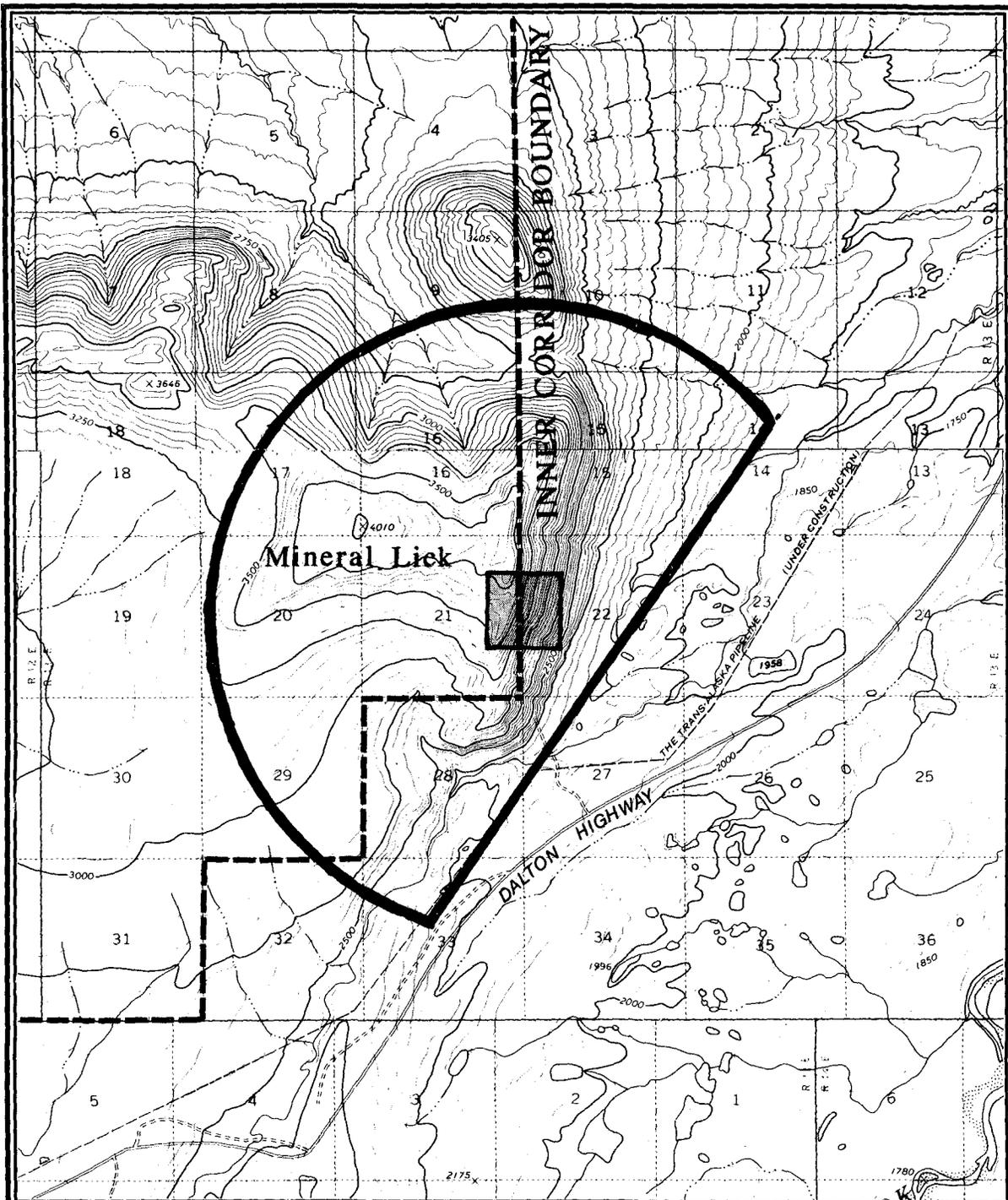
1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Conduct field exam of known mineral licks to establish metes and bounds description; record on map of appropriate scale. Write legal descriptions.
3. Prepare, publish, and implement a withdrawal from mineral entry and location under the 1872 mining law for each mineral lick (160 acres) currently known or those identified in future inventories.
4. Inventory ACEC to identify any additional crucial habitats and potential peregrine falcon nest sites.
5. Develop appropriate stipulations and mitigative measures to protect crucial habitat and/or resources during multiple use activities, including mineral materials sales or permits.
6. If peregrine falcons return to the area, protective measures will be those identified on page 51 of the *Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan* (September 1982).
7. Record geologic features and prepare geologic map of the area at 1:24,000 scale.
8. Require a Class III cultural resources inventory for all ground disturbing actions.
9. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Minerals, Wildlife

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Crucial habitats and use periods will be monitored. Once baseline data are collected, monitoring will occur on a three to five year cycle. If disturbance to crucial habitat is noted, monitoring will occur annually.
2. Monitor area for peregrine falcon occupancy and use within the ACEC to determine population trends and critical use periods.
3. Annually monitor permitted actions and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.
4. Identify significance and evaluate use of cultural resources in consultation with the State Historic Preservation.



BOUNDARY MAP
 Map sheets Phillip Smith
 Mtns C-4 and D-4

Scale in Miles



Within T. 8 S., R. 13 E.
 Umiat Meridian



SLOPE MOUNTAIN AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Map 2.19



Snowden Mountain ACEC

Location

Snowden Mountain.; Mile 217 Dalton Highway; T. 34 N., R. 9 W., Sec. 6; Quad: Chandalar D-6

Size

28,000 acres

Management Objective

To protect Dall's sheep habitat and mineral lick sites. To protect the unique geologic exposures and associated paleontology.

Importance

The area contains excellent exposures of Devonian and lower Paleozoic rocks: Devonian corals and Cambrian trilobites. Dall's sheep use natural licks to replace important skeletal minerals, and ewes traditionally return to the same habitat each spring to bear their offspring. Destructive activities or excessive human disturbance may eliminate these important habitats necessary to sustain a viable sheep population.

Relevance

Close proximity to public access allows for scientific research by university and other groups, but, because of this easy access, this area needs additional management protection. This proximity and the relatively high locatable mineral potential in the outer Corridor warrant additional protection of sheep access to lick sites.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Mineral lick sites (160 acre parcels), would be closed to mineral entry and location under the 1872 mining law, to surface occupancy by BLM-authorized land activities, and to mineral materials extraction. Nonsurface occupancy stipulations would apply to mineral leasing.
2. Only allow mineral materials extraction with stipulations to prevent disturbance of Dall's sheep habitat or access.
3. Plans of operation with protective stipulations and mitigation measures would be applied to all surface disturbing activities to avoid restricting sheep movement, unduly disturbing sheep habitat, or affecting any other protected resource.
4. All BLM-authorized camps and support facilities located within the confines of the ACEC, including cabins and tent frames, shall be temporary and must be removed after their purpose has been accomplished.
5. Aircraft associated with all BLM-authorized land use activities shall be required to fly a minimum of 2,000 feet above ground level (AGL) from May 1 to August 31, unless doing so would endanger human life or be an unsafe flying practice.
6. All recreational facilities would be consistent with the Dalton Highway Recreation Activity Management Plan (RAMP), and will minimize disturbance to protected resources within the ACEC.

Program Activities

1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.

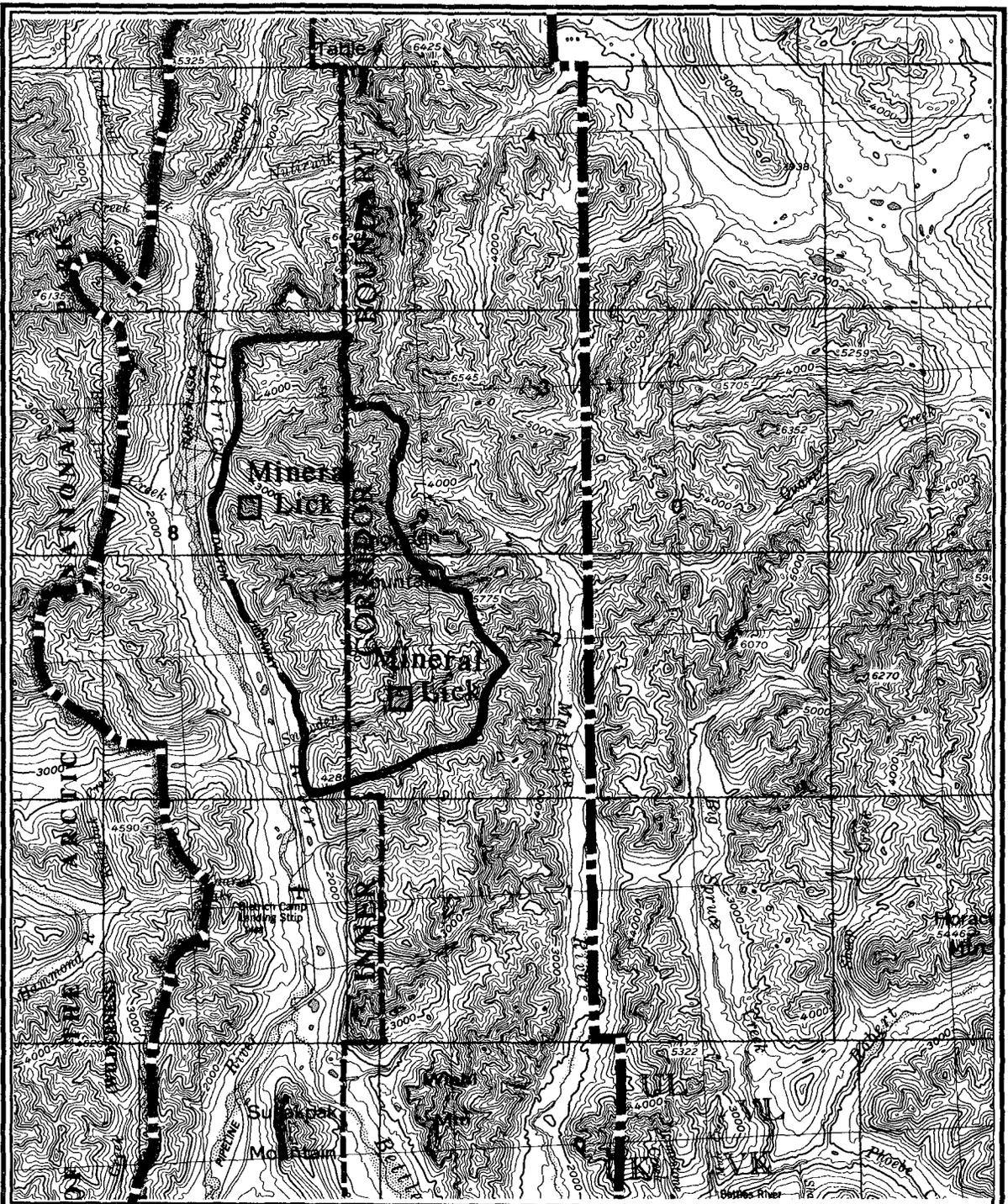
2. Conduct field exam of known mineral licks to establish metes and bounds description; record on map of appropriate scale. Write legal descriptions.
3. Prepare, publish, and implement a withdrawal from mineral entry and location under the 1872 mining law for each mineral lick (160 acres) currently known or those identified in future inventories.
4. Inventory ACEC to identify any additional crucial sheep habitats, unique geological features, and paleontological locations.
5. Develop appropriate stipulations and mitigative measures to protect crucial habitat and/or resources during multiple use activities, including mineral materials sales or permits.
6. Design displays or signs explaining features of the area. Emphasize resource importance and protection. Prepare brochures about significant features.
7. Record geologic features and prepare geologic map of the area at 1:24,000 scale.
8. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Recreation, Minerals, Wildlife

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Crucial habitats and use periods will be monitored. Once baseline data are collected, monitoring will occur on a three to five year cycle. If disturbance to crucial habitat is noted, monitoring will occur annually.
2. Annually evaluate all mining plans to insure that mineral licks and access to them are protected through appropriate stipulations.
3. Annually monitor permitted actions and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.



BOUNDARY MAP
Map sheet Chandalar

Scale in Miles



Within Tps. 34 and 35 N.,
Rs. 9 and 10 W.
Fairbanks Meridian



SNOWDEN MOUNTAIN AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



Map 2.20

Sukakpak Mountain ACEC

Location

Sukakpak Mt. T. 32 N., R. 10 W., Sec 10; Quad: Chandalar C-6

Size

3,500 acres

Management Objective

To protect unique geologic structures, folds, and faults; view of geologic process of mountain building and erosional forces. Rare plant species are also present. Sukakpak Mountain offers one of the more outstanding scenic views along the Dalton Highway.

Importance

This is an excellent location for public viewing of the geology of the Brooks Range, including geologic formations and erosional processes. A rare plant species (*Orthotrichum diminutivum*) is found on the slopes of the mountain.

Relevance

This area is accessible to the public via the Dalton Highway and is a readily available source of mineral materials. Access to the base of the mountain exists via a material source access road. Material sales on the mountain's slopes are now discouraged in order to ensure the scenic qualities of the area. The RMP's emphasis on recreation in the Utility Corridor identifies Sukakpak Mountain as having an outstanding opportunity for the development of a trailhead for day hikes.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Mineral materials extraction would not be allowed on the slopes of Sukakpak Mountain.
2. Mineral location will not be allowed in this ACEC. (This area is located within the inner Corridor.)
3. Nonsurface occupancy stipulations would be applied to mineral leasing in the ACEC. (The area is located within the inner Corridor.)
4. All recreational facilities would be consistent with the Dalton Highway Recreation Activity Management Plan (RAMP).
5. Recreational opportunities of the area will be emphasized by trail development.

Program Activities

1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Develop a trailhead with informational and regulatory signs.
3. Inventory ACEC to record geologic resources. Prepare handouts, brochures, and reports to present geologic information to the public.
4. Prepare geologic map of the area at 1:24,000 scale
5. Inventory visual resources in the ACEC.

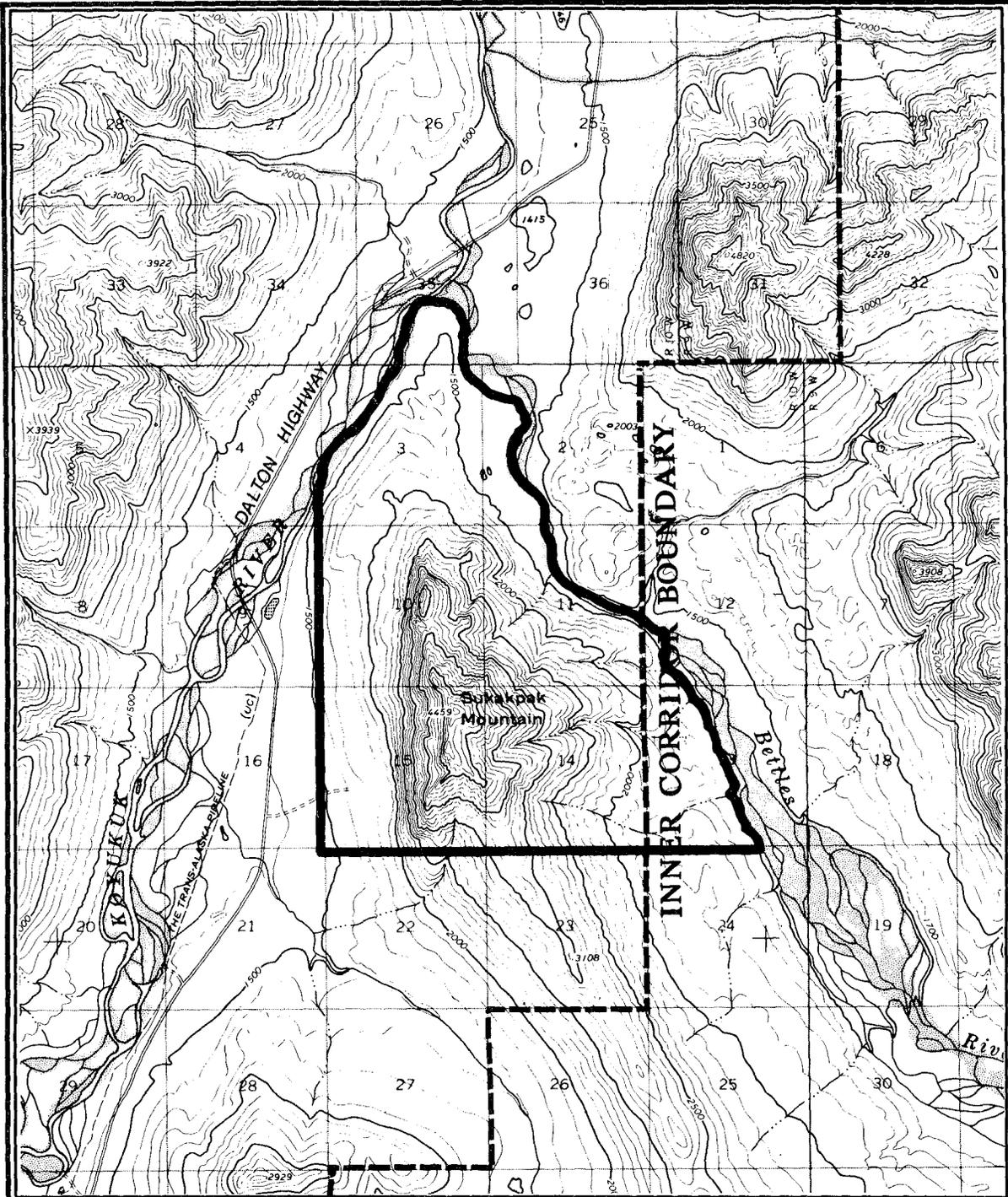
6. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Minerals, Soil/Water/Air/Vegetation, Recreation

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Use of trails in the ACEC would be monitored on a yearly basis.
2. Annually monitor permitted actions and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.



BOUNDARY MAP
Map sheet Chandalar C-6

Scale in Miles

Within Tps. 32 and 33 N., R. 10 W.
Fairbanks Meridian



SUKAKPAK MOUNTAIN AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Map 2.21



Toolik Lake ACEC / Research Natural Area

Location

Quad: Phillip Smith Mountain C-5.

Size

82,800 acres

Management Objective

To protect a natural lake and tundra biome extensively used for arctic natural resources research.

Importance

A large number of research projects have been based in and around this lake area. These research projects have produced and are producing extremely valuable information concerning the resources of public lands on the North Slope. Only through carefully planned and detailed research findings will it be possible to design land use and resource management strategies which will adequately protect environmental values in the face of resource development. Additionally, a sensitive plant species, *Montia bostockii*, is located in the Toolik Lake ACEC.

Relevance

Energy transportation is the primary function of the Corridor lands which comprise this Research Natural Area. However, because of the vital importance of the data produced by ongoing research, the area needs to be protected to the extent possible.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Protect habitats crucial to species considered threatened, endangered, candidate or sensitive (e.g., *Montia bostockii*) by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the State of Alaska.
2. All authorized actions would be reviewed to avoid conflict with ongoing research projects in the area.
3. Mineral location will not be allowed in this ACEC. (The area is located within the inner Corridor.)
4. Nonsurface occupancy stipulations would be applied to mineral leasing. (The area is located within the inner Corridor.) Nonsurface occupancy stipulations would be applied to plant habitat (*Montia bostockii*) locations.
5. No recreational camping would be permitted within this Research Natural Area. No public use campgrounds would be developed at Toolik Lake.
6. ORV access for research activities would be allowed through permit.
7. Guiding operations would not be authorized at Toolik Lake.
8. The sale of mineral materials would be confined to already disturbed sites. New sites would be considered only if no other economically feasible alternatives are available.
9. No lands within the RNA would be made available for disposal (state selection, exchange, or sale).
10. Prepare a detailed management activity plan for the Toolik Lake Research Natural Area Plan, including the Galbraith Lake ACEC.
11. Prepare a species management activity plan for the sensitive plant species, *Montia bostockii*.

Program Activities

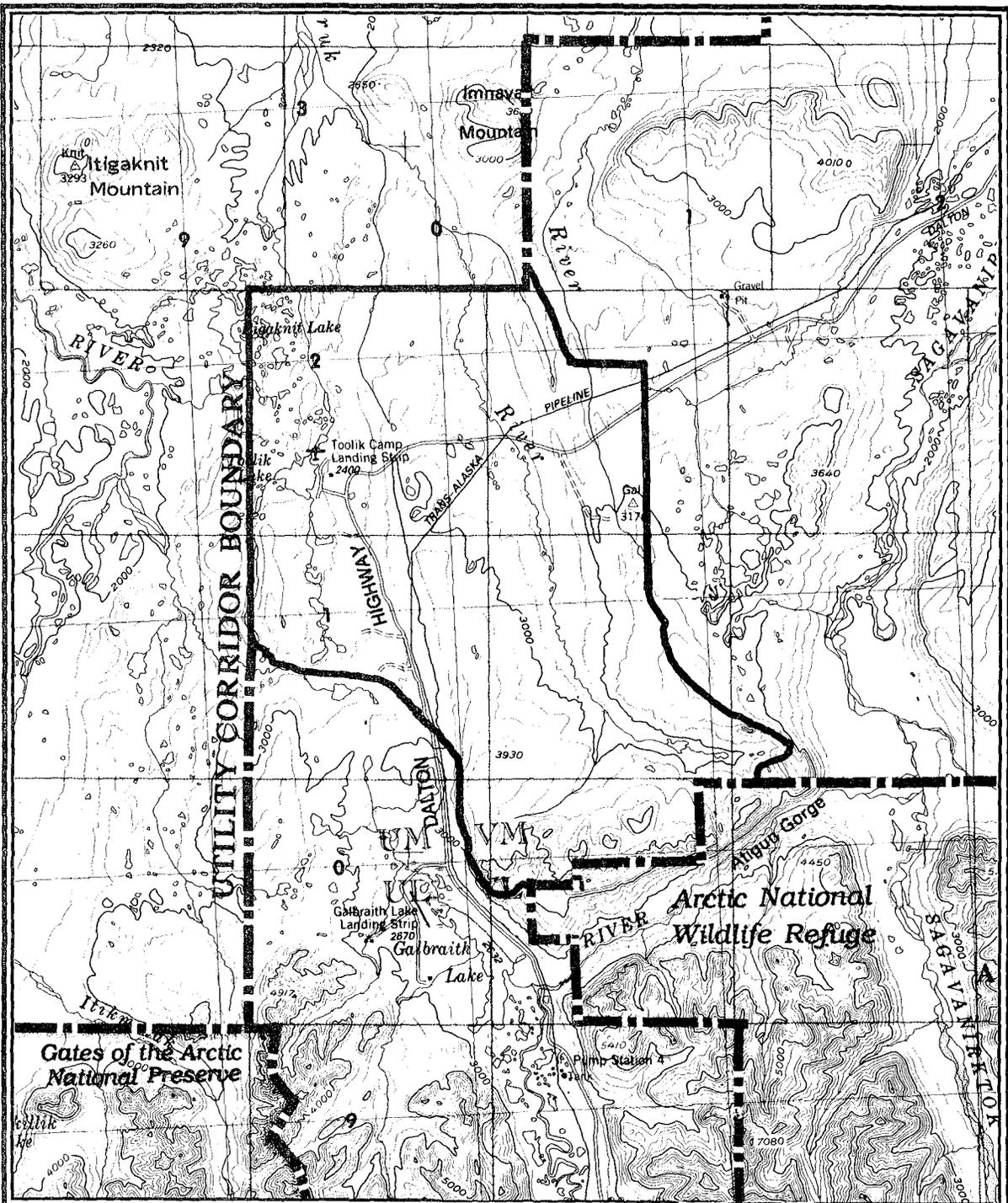
1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features, location of ongoing research activities, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Evaluation and consideration of proposed authorized actions, including solid waste sites, within the RNA would be coordinated with the University of Alaska to avoid conflicts with ongoing research.
3. Prepare and implement an activity plan to address management of all resources in the Toolik Lake RNA emphasizing maintaining both the energy transportation function of the corridor and the integrity of ongoing research.
4. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.
5. Inventory ACEC to delineate crucial habitats for *Montia bostockii* for future management actions.
6. For threatened and endangered candidate plant species, (*Montia bostockii*), BLM will develop a species management plan that includes habitat and population management objectives, and strategies necessary to meet those objectives.

Supporting Programs

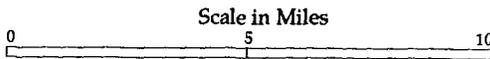
Wildlife, Minerals, Soil/Air/Water/Vegetation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Annually monitor permitted actions and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.
2. Annually monitor populations and habitat of *Montia bostockii* to determine if management objectives are being met.
3. Obtain copies of published research results.
4. Annually coordinate with the University of Alaska to review research activity plans. Incorporate appropriate information on existing RNA base map.



BOUNDARY MAP



Within Tps. 9,10,11S.,
RS. 11,12,AND 13S.
Umiat Meridian

TOOLIK LAKE AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Map 2.22



West Fork Atigun ACEC

Location

West Fork Atigun River. T. 13,14 S.; R. 10,11 E.; Quad: Phillip Smith Mt. A-5, B-5

Size

8,500 acres

Management Objective

To protect mineral licks and lambing habitat for Dall's sheep.

Importance

Ewes traditionally return to the same habitat each spring to bear their offspring. Dall's sheep use natural licks to replace important skeletal minerals. Destructive activities or excessive human disturbance may eliminate these important habitats necessary to sustain a viable sheep population.

Relevance

A growing number of hunters use the Dalton Highway for easy access to hunt Dall's sheep; therefore, BLM needs to protect this crucial habitat to sustain a viable sheep population. Areas such as this ACEC should be earmarked for attention since a number of potentially disturbing activities (e.g., increases in traffic and recreation activity, future pipeline construction) may occur within the life of this plan.

Management Practices and Allowable Uses

1. Mineral lick sites (160 acre parcels), would be closed to mineral entry and location under the 1872 mining law, to surface occupancy by BLM-authorized land activities, and to mineral materials extraction. Nonsurface occupancy stipulations would apply to mineral leasing.
2. Only allow mineral materials extraction with stipulations to prevent disturbance of Dall's sheep habitat or access.
3. Plans of operation with protective stipulations and mitigation measures would be applied to all surface disturbing activities to avoid restricting sheep movement, unduly disturbing sheep habitat, or affecting any other protected resource.
4. All BLM-authorized camps and support facilities located within the confines of the ACEC, including cabins and tent frames, shall be temporary and must be removed after their purpose has been accomplished.
5. Aircraft associated with all BLM-authorized land use activities shall be required to fly a minimum of 2,000 feet above ground level (AGL) from May 1 to August 31, unless doing so would endanger human life or be an unsafe flying practice.

Program Activities

1. Prepare a base map of appropriate scale. Include all significant ACEC features as they are located, and any restricted use areas as they are defined.
2. Conduct field exam of known mineral licks to establish metes and bounds description; record on map of appropriate scale. Write legal descriptions.

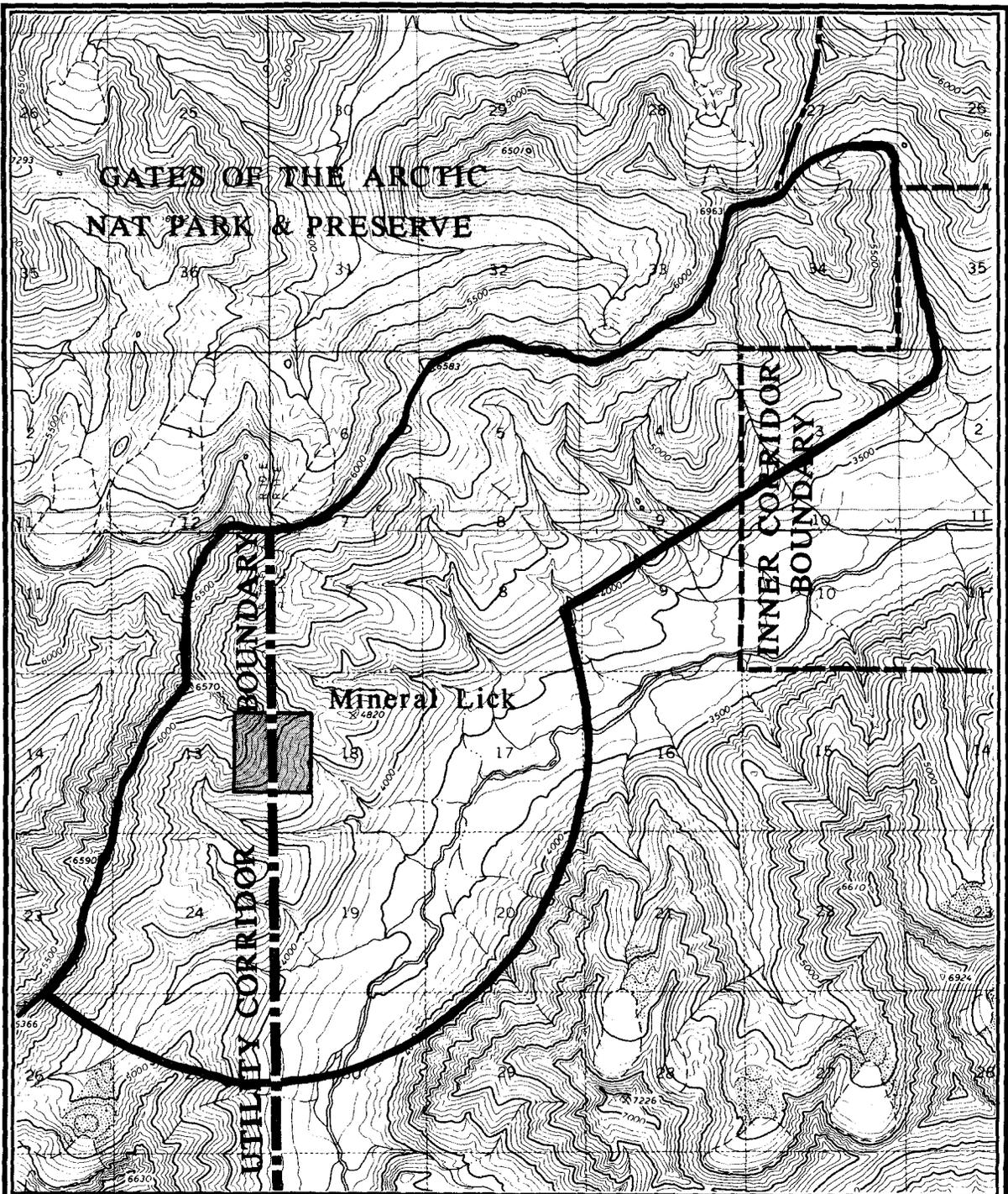
3. Prepare, publish, and implement a withdrawal from mineral entry and location under the 1872 mining law for each mineral lick (160 acres) currently known or those identified in future inventories.
4. Inventory ACEC to identify any additional crucial habitats.
5. Develop appropriate stipulations and mitigative measures to protect crucial habitat and/or resources during multiple use activities, including mineral materials sales or permits.
6. Record geologic features and prepare geologic map of the area at 1:24,000 scale.
7. Prepare a 1610.00 serialized case file.

Supporting Programs

Minerals, Wildlife

Monitoring and Evaluation

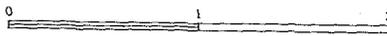
1. Crucial Dall's sheep habitats and use periods will be monitored. Once baseline data are collected, monitoring will occur on a three to five year cycle.
2. Evaluate all mining plans to insure that mineral licks and access to them are protected through appropriate stipulations.
3. Annually monitor permitted actions and cooperative agreements to assure compliance with protective stipulations and mitigative measures.



BOUNDARY MAP

Scale in Miles

Map sheet Phillip Smith Mtns. B-6



Within T. 13 S., R 11 E.

Tps. 14 S., Rs. 10 and 11 E.

Umiat Meridian



WEST FORK ATIGUN AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Map 2.23

