

## Central Yukon Resource RMP: Resource Natural Area Fact Sheet

# McQuesten Creek RNA

## *Ray Mountains*

**Size: 3,930 acres**

**Elevation: 1,250–3,200 feet**

### Area Description

McQuesten Creek occupies a highly scenic small watershed with contrasting north- and south-facing slopes and a low-grade geothermal hot springs system. The creek starts on the crest of the Ray Mountains and flows south to the Tozitna River. The RNA is located about halfway up the creek.

Slumps in ice-rich permafrost soils and stone stripes are visible at upper elevations of the watershed divide.

### Features of Significant Research Value (Animal, Plant and Geologic)

*Plant:* Balsam poplar-willow-*Calamagrostis* grass; white spruce closed forest (rocky slope variant on south-facing slopes); black spruce closed forest (rocky slope variant in valley-shaded lowland); black spruce-*Cladonia* lichen woodland

*Geologic:* Low-grade geothermal hot spring, stone stripes, and surface slumps

### Additional Features

The geothermally-influenced zone around the hot springs supports some noteworthy vascular plant species and ground-dwelling ant colonies.

Hot spring pools support several thermopyllic algae and bacteria.



Source: Glenn P. Juday, 1983, Ray Mountains Proposed Natural Research Areas: Ishtalitna Creek Hotsprings, McQuesten Cerek, and Spooky Valley. Report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management – Alaska.



# Central Yukon RMP - Research Natural Areas

**RMP Subunits Boundary**  
Research Natural Areas  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
Native Patent or IC  
Native Selected  
State Patent or TA  
State Selected  
Military  
Private Lands

0 0.5 1 Miles

