

## Spooky Valley RNA

### *Ray Mountains*

**Size:** 8,842 acres

**Elevation:** 2,050–4,600 feet

### Area Description

Spooky Valley is formed by three parallel branches of Kobuk Creek and the crest of the Ray Mountains. The Research Natural Area (RNA) includes an outstanding tundra ecosystem that reflects biogeographic isolation.

Geologic features such as stone stripes, tors, and rock polygons are well displayed on the upper ridges. The valley bottom is suitable for formation of ice wedges and lenses.

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

*Animal:* Small endemic herd of caribou; American golden plover in lower elevation tundra (Matthews 1980); 27 known or expected mammal species

*Plant:* Low willow closed shrub; dwarf birch closed shrub; low willow open low shrub; *Dryas* closed dwarf shrub; mat and cushion sedge tundra; open *Dryas*-lichen tundra

*Geologic:* Stone stripes; massive ground ice exposures; granite and granodiorite tors

### Additional Features

Snowbed, graminoid meadow, and talus slope plant communities support a rich association of birds.

Wheatears are abundant.

Boulders and bouldery crevices in ground and tundra streams provide good foraging habitat for this bird species.

Diverse habitats support a variety of bird species, perhaps the highest in the Ray Mountains.



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 in Alaska.



# Central Yukon RMP - Research Natural Areas

