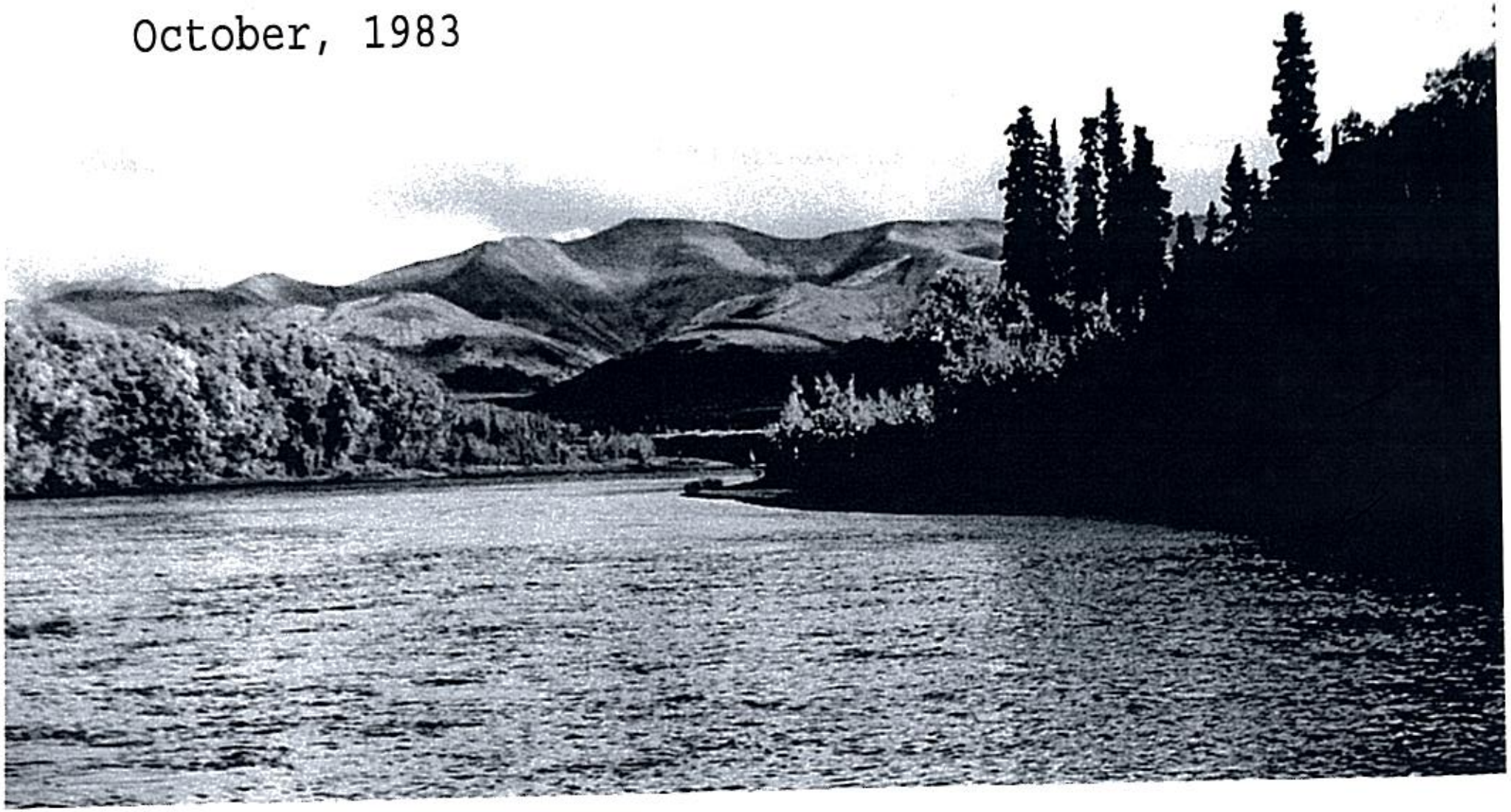
Unalakleet National Wild River
River Management Plan
October, 1983



River Management Plan

for the

Unalakleet National Wild River

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage District, Alaska

Recommended by: Wayne A. Boden — Oct. 7, 1983
ANCHORAGE DISTRICT MANAGER — DATE

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ALASKA STATE DIRECTOR — DATE

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PART I - INTRODUCTION

Background

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of December 2, 1980, (ANILCA, P.L. 96-487) established the upper portion of the Unalakleet River 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). Subject to valid existing rights, ANILCA classified and designated approximately 65 miles of the Unalakleet River as a "wild" river pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA, P.L. 90-542). Note: For a more precise river length, see the boundary determination section.

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 protected 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. . . .

By classifying the Unalakleet River as "wild," Congress mandated that the Unalakleet National Wild River will 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."

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

The Bureau of Land Management 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 rivers' resources from possible future changes in resource quality and use.

Two environmental impact statements (EIS's), "Proposed Unalakleet Wild River" and "A Proposal for Protection of Eleven Alaskan Rivers," were approved by the Department of the Interior in 1975 and 1980 respectively. These EIS's addressed the environmental impacts of designating a portion of the Unalakleet River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

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

The Setting

The Unalakleet River is located in the northwestern part of Alaska and drains into Norton Sound (figure 1). It is representative of many rivers draining the west coast of Alaska. The river, whose headwaters are approximately 105 miles inland in the Nulato Hills, drains approximately 2,000 square miles as it flows in a southwesterly direction through the Nulato Hills. The hills that flank the river on the north and south have smooth, rounded tops, range from 1,000 to 4,000 feet in elevation, and are visually prominent throughout the area. The river valley ranges from 1 mile wide at the headwaters to 4 miles wide at the mouth, forming a broad plain which gradually sweeps up to the Nulato Hills. The river cuts through the northern edge of the valley as it flows toward the sea. Major tributaries are the North River, the North Fork Unalakleet River, Tenmile Creek, the Old Woman, the Chiroskey and the South Rivers, (figure 1). The village of Unalakleet, with a population of approximately 800 people, is located at the mouth of the Unalakleet where it flows into Norton Sound.

The climate in the region is continental with winter temperatures averaging -5° to -12° F. and extremes reaching -40° F. Summer temperatures average from 42° to 61° F. Westerly winds frequently blow for long periods during fall storms at speeds reaching 50 mph. Annual precipitation averages 14.2 inches with snowfall accumulating up to 80 inches. The river normally freezes up between mid October and mid November and breaks up anytime between the end of April to the end of May.

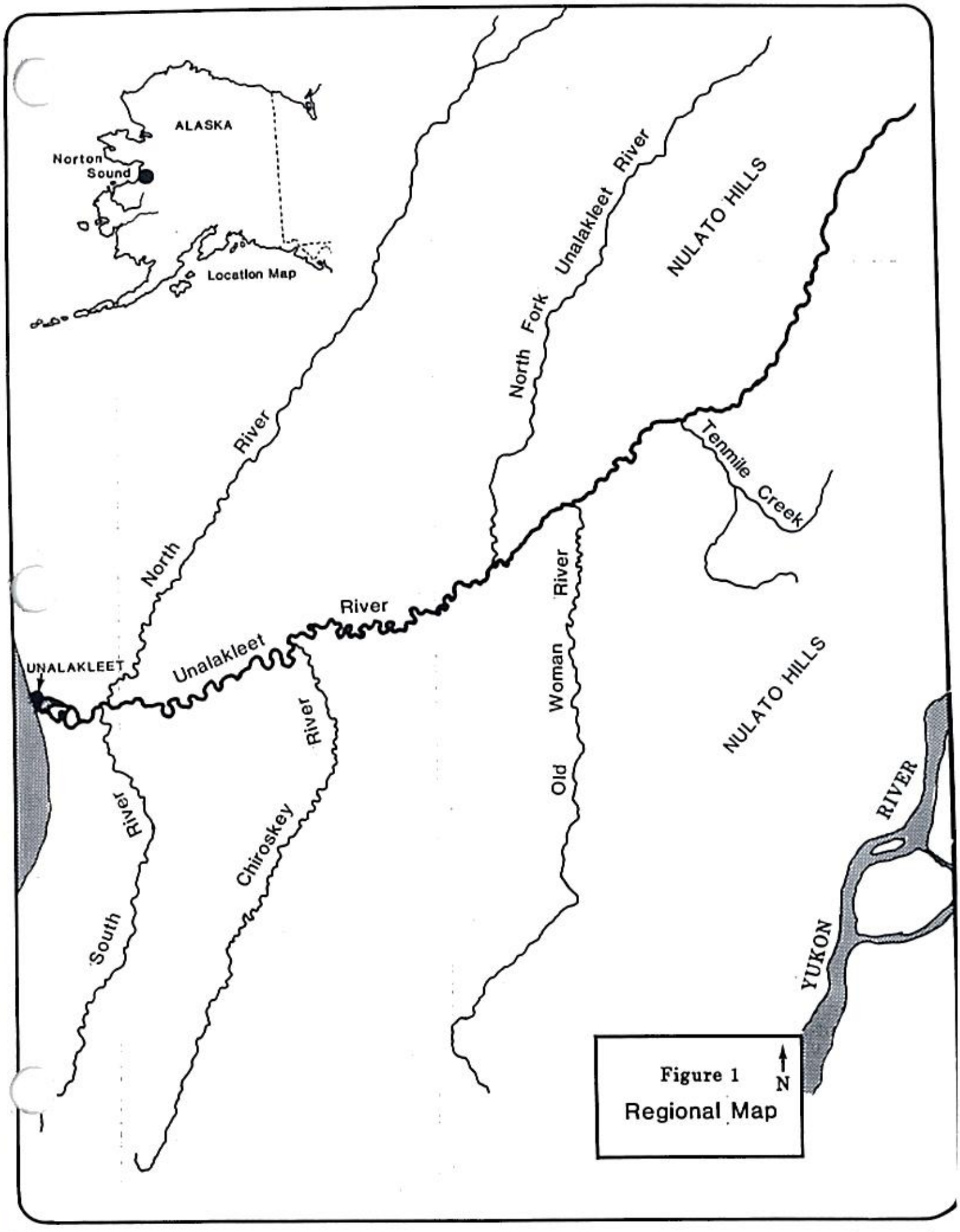


Figure 1
Regional Map

The Unalakleet River is clear and free flowing, without waterfalls or rapids. The water quality is excellent with no unnatural pollutants. The river drops gradually over its entire 105 mile length, with a gradient ranging from 15 to 5 feet per mile. Many gravel bars, cutbanks, oxbows and marshes contribute to the diversity of the terrestrial and aquatic environments.

The valley floor, which gradually slopes up to the foothills, is predominantly covered with tundra. Alder and willow thickets occur in the drainages. White and black spruce, paper birch and balsam poplar grow along the major tributaries. Vegetation along the Unalakleet River is usually dense, and obscures the view of the surrounding hills except in areas of poor drainage where tundra extends to the river bank. The vegetation along the river in the wild river corridor is undisturbed except for clearings for Native allotments.

The salmon fishery is the most important resource of the area. Chinook, coho, chum and pink salmon use the river and its tributaries as spawning grounds and supply the subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries. Arctic grayling and arctic char are also plentiful.

In addition to the excellent fishery, wildlife is abundant in the area. Moose occupy the river valley as a wintering ground, and brown bears and black bears feed on spawning salmon in summer. Occasionally wolves and caribou are seen in the area. Waterfowl and other birds use the area as a nesting ground and are plentiful in ice free seasons. Furbearers such as fox, lynx, martin and beaver are also common.

Even with this abundance of wildlife and fisheries, the area receives little use from visitors because of the difficult and expensive access. Access to the village of Unalakleet is by air. From there to the wild river corridor, it is necessary to travel by power boat or snow machine. Float plane and ski plane access is possible; however due to lack of suitable sites upriver, access is usually restricted to the wider, straighter sections which occur in the lower river area. There are no roads in the area to provide access to the wild river corridor.

Local people filling subsistence needs are the main users of the areas resources. A few sportsman from the local community hunt and fish, along with visiting fishermen who use guides and accomodations provided by the single commercial fishing lodge on the lower end of the river.

Most of the land in the Unalakleet River basin is administered by the Bureau of Land Management (figure 2). However, land bordering the river below the Chiroskey River is either private or Native selected. In addition, there are 28 Native allotments and 8 historic place selections within the lower 8 miles of the wild river corridor (figure 2).

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW Historically, the Unalakleet River valley has provided a convenient portage route to the Yukon River and the Interior of Alaska. This access has probably been used since people first entered North America, at least 11,000 years ago. The Unalakleet River was a major avenue of trade between Coastal Eskimos and Interior Indians when first explored by Russians in the late 1830's. The village of Unalakleet was an important Eskimo trade settlement and during the peak of 19th century trade activity. Ingalik Indians acting as middlemen in interior trade, occupied several villages on the river. Russian trade stations utilized the Unalakleet for similar access to the interior. This use persisted throughout the 19th century.

News of a rich gold strike at Anvil Creek on the Seward Peninsula late in the fall of 1898, drew miners over the portage route (called "Gardner Trail" at that time). With the mining settlements on the Seward Peninsula came a need for winter mail service, and by 1899 mail was being carried by dogsled over the Unalakleet-Kaltag portage route once a month.

The Unalakleet-Kaltag portage trail (figures 1 and 2) continued to be an important winter transportation route, especially for mail, until the advent of air travel. In the winter of 1925, when aircraft were still incapable of functioning in severe weather, the trail was used in the famous diptheria serum relay by dogsled to Nome.

Today the Unalakleet-Kaltag portage forms part of the annual 1200-mile Iditarod dogsled race and forms a segment of the Iditarod National Historic Trail which parallels the south bank of the Unalakleet River through this area.

River Corridor Description

RIVER CHARACTERISTICS The Unalakleet River begins as a narrow winding stream flowing southwest through the main valley dividing the Nulato Hills (figure 2). This upper 29-mile section of river is fed by the twin forks of the Unalakleet, coming together at mile 23, and by six smaller streams before it reaches Tenmile Creek. Stream flow is relatively fast, and there are usually many obstructions across the river. Stream width ranges from 10 to 30 feet with depths up to 8 feet in the deepest pools. The cold, crystal clear water flows across a sand and gravel bottom, with gravel bars occuring on almost every inside bend. Cutbanks up to 6 feet in height occur on the more actively eroding outside bends. Large trees and thick understory shrubs and grasses help stabilize these banks, and are the cause of many obstructions.

Tenmile Creek and five other small unnamed streams join the Unalakleet before it reaches the confluence with the Old Woman River 43 miles from the headwaters. Along this section of the river the stream profile and characteristics are similar to those of the headwaters with the exception of several branching sections. These branching sections have one dominant channel carrying most of the flow and several smaller channels branching and rejoining again to form a maze of interconnected waterways. These waterways offer the most diverse interactions of land, water, and vegetation of any portion of the river. Heavy stands of grass and shrubs, shaded by larger trees, overhang the waterways, often making passage difficult or impossible. Debris in these small channels forms dams, pools, and small waterfalls. The water is clear, so fish can be easily observed. There are excellent opportunities to approach and view wildlife species in their natural environment.

Beginning at the confluence with the Old Woman River, the river widens, ranging from 20 to 100 feet. The flow slows and the depth increases to over 10 feet in the deeper pools. Due to turbidity (resulting from soil and organic matter from cutbanks etc.), and depth, the river bottom is no longer visible in the deeper pools. Braided sections appear again creating another maze of interconnected waterways. Approximately 4 miles below the confluence, the Unalakleet begins its flow through the flat valley where marshes, oxbows, and backwaters occur adjacent to the river. The North Fork of the Unalakleet enters at this point, around mile 51, as a series of braided streams flowing through heavy cover that makes identification of a main channel difficult.

With the increased flows from these two rivers the Unalakleet's meandering takes on a regular pattern with fewer gravel bars, higher cutbanks, and larger timber. The river becomes slower and deeper, averaging more than 4 feet deep. The river bottom is less visible due to increased turbidity. These characteristics continue downstream until the river begins to resemble a long, crooked lake, with its slow flow, unbroken surface, and steep undercut banks topped by overhanging vegetation. The width in this lower section reaches 150 feet and more. Starting about 10 river miles below the North Fork confluence, the Native Allotments begin. These allotments adjoin the river, and some have cabins or other structures which are used seasonally for subsistence fishing, trapping, hunting, and recreational activities. The dense vegetation on the banks is occasionally broken by clearings containing these Native allotment structures. River characteristics are the same down to the lower corridor boundary at mile 80 near the Chiroskey River confluence.

SCENERY The scenery along the Unalakleet is subdued. The Nulato Hills are low, round-topped mountains relatively uniform in height without jagged, snow capped peaks. The more prominent hills can be seen through breaks in the vegetation or down long straight sections of the river. Largely these views are esthetically pleasing combinations and

interfaces of plants, clear water, gravel bars, cutbanks, inflowing streams and driftwood.

Above the confluence of Tenmile Creek, the Nulato Hills are visible north of the river and occasionally to the south. Old Woman Mountain, a historic withdrawal (figures 2 and 3c) is the most dominant feature for 5 to 6 miles both above and below the confluence with Old Woman River. Approximately 6 miles below the confluence, Old Woman Mountain is no longer visible; however, the high hills to the south of the river come into view and are the dominant feature along the remainder of the river. Through this section there are few opportunities to see the hills to the north.

Although the vegetation along the river generally restricts views of the surrounding hills, the esthetic qualities of the diverse plant communities add immeasurably to the overall river environment.

VEGETATION Plant associations range from sedge-tussock tundra to pure stands of white spruce. Generally the broad valley to the south of the river is tundra, while vegetation along the river consists of dense stands of white spruce, birch and balsam poplar. Black spruce is usually found in the poorly drained areas.

White spruce trees along the river grow 40 to 70 feet in height and up to 20 inches in diameter on the better drained sites. Birches average 30 to 50 feet in height, and poplars reach 40 to 60 feet in height and up to 16 inches in diameter.

Mosses, ferns, and grasses grow on the drier sites, while shrubs occupy the wetter areas. The more common species observed are willow, alder, rose, high-bush and low-bush cranberry, currant, and raspberry. The more open areas away from the river banks can be described as low shrub-muskeg bog, commonly consisting of sphagnum moss mats interspersed with sedges, rushes, fruticose lichens, cottongrass, labrador tea, crowberry, willow, cranberry and blueberry.

Timber within the wild river corridor could be considered commercial in quality and quantity (in selected areas) but the economic constraints of access and distance to market have discouraged commercial harvest. House logs and firewood from the lower river are cut in limited quanities for subsistence uses.

FISHERY The Unalakleet River supports a salmon fishery with runs exceeding 100,000 fish. The fishery is the most important resource value associated with the river or the region. Chinook, coho, pink, and chum salmon spawn in the river. The presence of sockeye salmon has been

documented but their occurrence is unusual. All salmon species are sold commercially, with 4,300 chinook and 21,500 coho caught near the mouth of the river in 1980. Pink and chum salmon catches totaled 203,400 and 64,200 respectively in 1980 (Alaska Department of Fish and Game). Subsistence fishermen also make use of all salmon species, accounting for 1,100 chinooks, 4,800 coho, 19,000 pink and 5,200 chum in 1980. These annual migrations provide the bulk of the income for the local inhabitants. Arctic grayling, arctic char and whitefish also are caught year round in the area for subsistence purposes.

Commercial fishing is not conducted within the wild river section, but occurs offshore in Norton Sound near the mouth of the river. Subsistence fishing takes place within the lower section of the wild river corridor from the Native allotments downstream to the mouth.

Clients of Silvertip Lodge use the Unalakleet River for sport fishing (figures 2 and 3e). A few non-local fishermen and people from the local area also go sport fishing there. Local residents exert the most pressure on the fishery but clients of Silvertip Lodge are more conspicuous according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game information. Silvertip Lodge anglers fish mostly for chinook and coho salmon but occasionally fish for char and arctic grayling, with most fishing activity taking place between the confluences of the North and the Chiroskey Rivers.

WILDLIFE The wildlife resource is important from commercial, subsistence and recreational standpoints. Sport hunting guides depend to some extent on various wildlife species in the area for their guiding business. Moose, caribou and bear are the main species sought. These big game species are not usually hunted along the river by guided hunters but are hunted in the surrounding hills, where airplane landing sites are more common. The Nulato Hills offer excellent opportunities for trophy-size brown bear and moose. Nongame birds and mammals are also common and there are no known threatened or endangered species in the river basin area.

In the fall, powerboats are used as the primary means of transportation to subsistence hunt for moose along the river. Trapping for marten, lynx, fox, wolf, beaver and muskrat is conducted in winter to provide cash income. Spring waterfowl hunting and egg gathering also fill out the subsistence diet (Unalakleet River Environmental Impact Statement, 1975).

Local people hunt primarily to satisfy their subsistence need; however, some degree of recreational benefit may be derived from subsistence hunting. Sport hunting along the river by non-local residents is minimal.

MINERALS The Unalakleet River basin is suspected of having low potential for occurrence of locatable minerals. No Federal mining claims are known to exist in the basin.

CULTURAL RESOURCES Because of its long and varied historical use, the Unalakleet River valley contains many cultural resources which reflect its historic past. Formally recognized cultural resources within the wild river corridor include sites listed on the Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS), sites selected as historic sites under Section 14 (h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), and a 35 mile section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail and its associated sites and structures.

RIVER USE OPPORTUNITIES River use opportunities on the Unalakleet River are restricted by difficult access. At present the wild river is used primarily for hunting, trapping, fishing, camping, boating, and gathering plants for food and fiber as part of the subsistence lifestyle. Most of the use is by local residents.

Opportunities to use the river resources are restricted for people who do not have ready access to a boat or other vehicle to carry them upriver. The commercial fishing lodge does provide this service for its clients, but others would have to make arrangements with local residents, because there are no commercial river boat services available.

If suitable transportation were available, a whole spectrum of activities compatible with the wild river could be enjoyed, ranging from boating to bird-watching. Considering that the river is the only practical avenue of travel, most, if not all, activities would be closely tied to some type of watercraft. The river would present few serious hazards to experienced boaters; however, encounters with bears could be a problem, especially during the peak of the salmon run.

Different portions of the river are more suitable to certain activities than others. Fishing is excellent everywhere in the river; however above the North Fork of the Unalakleet there are more varied fishing waters. Hunting is generally better the farther upstream one travels. Camping opportunities are outstanding on BLM lands above the section of the river where there are Native allotments. In this upper part of the river there are gravel bars on almost every bend providing clean campsites free of insects and vegetation.

Boating, especially canoeing and rafting are best suited to the upper portion of the river but can be enjoyed all the way to the mouth.

Other activities such as birdwatching, photography, etc., can be enjoyed anywhere on the river.

Opportunities for winter recreation in the corridor are similar to those in any Alaskan winter environment. Ice fishing, dog sledding, snowmobiling, hunting and trapping are common recreational activities occurring in the local area. However, most of these activities are associated primarily with subsistence use. The Iditarod Trail, paralleling the river, is a popular dogsled route and could be used for snowmobiling and cross country skiing. These winter activities occur in the wild river corridor as well as the surrounding area with the frozen river serving as a primary access route.

Below the wild river corridor, the lands down to ordinary high water mark are privately owned, and river users may be in trespass if they camp in these areas. However, since this portion of the river has been determined navigable by the BLM (with the State owning the river bottom and banks up to ordinary high-water), camping on gravel bars lying below ordinary high water will be under State control. These gravel bars, however, are few and far between in this section of the river. To help alleviate the potential trespass problem and provide a camping area, the BLM has established a one acre site easement (figures 2 and 3e) at mile 92 as part of their easement management program, to be used for overnight camping by river travelers.

Boundary Determination

LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS ANILCA designated and classified that, subject to valid existing rights, approximately 65 miles of the Unalakleet River beginning in Township 12 south, Range 3 west, Kateel River meridian and extending downstream to the western boundary of Township 18 south, Range 8 west is to be administered as a wild river pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). However, a comparison between the legal descriptions and the map locations of the river, found the beginning point described to be in error; and it has been determined that the beginning should be Township 13 south, Range 3 west, sections 26, 28, and 31, Kateel River meridian. This plan incorporates this correction. The ending point near the confluence of the Chiroskey River with the Unalakleet is correct as initially stated. A computer-aided digitization process was utilized to more accurately determine the river's length, boundary acreages, etc.; and it was found that the total distance of the designation was 80 miles instead of 65 miles. Therefore, the total length of the wild river corridor has been changed to 80 miles.

ANILCA further amended the WSRA to authorize the establishment of a river corridor boundary which may include up to an average of 640 acres per river mile for all designated National Wild and Scenic Rivers in Alaska. The boundary of this corridor may not include any lands owned

by the State or a political subdivision of the State, nor may the boundary extend around any private lands adjoining the river in such a manner as to surround or effectively surround such private lands.

BLM POLICY For the purposes of preparing a detailed boundary for the Unalakleet 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 or the riverbed.

- Those portions of the Unalakleet 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. 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.

A final determination of navigability has been made by the BLM and the findings are that, as of statehood, the Unalakleet River was susceptible to navigability from its mouth upstream to its confluence with Tenmile Creek and those lands are excluded from the boundaries of the wild river corridor.

- While islands in the river 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 selections and Federal mining claims has been made. If current BLM land records identify a land parcel as non-Federal or identify a prior right which will result in its transfer from Federal ownership, such a parcel and its 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.

- 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.

- 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(c) 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 of private land via the most commonly used route.

- All non-Federal interests and their access routes have been identified on the maps appended to this report.

- Federal lands within the protracted survey section which are wholly or in part within one mile of the bank of the Unalakleet 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 for all Federal lands within the final river corridor boundary. (Note: of approximately 90,800 acres originally withdrawn by P.L.O. 5179 as amended, only 45,000 acres will remain withdrawn under this proposal).

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS In addition to being affected by these legislative controls and BLM policies, the boundary was adjusted to include important resource values such as wildlife habitat, river oxbows, marshes, branched stream confluences and other ecologically sensitive areas in order to protect these resources.

The final boundary was then further adjusted to follow protracted survey section lines (minimum 160-acre parcels) whenever possible in order to simplify the legal description of the boundary.

Therefore, based on the designated beginning and ending points and on the legislative controls, policies, and considerations described in the preceding discussion, the acreage contained within the Unalakleet National Wild River Corridor Boundary is approximately 45,000 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

Management Objectives

When the Unalakleet River was designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System through the ANILCA, Congress intended that it 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. It is to remain a vestige of primitive America, free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines primitive and waters unpolluted. To this end, the Unalakleet National Wild River in its entirety will be managed to meet the following objectives:

- To preserve the environment and ecosystems of the river and river corridor in a natural, primitive condition.
- To preserve the free-flowing condition of the waters and prevent degradation of water quality.
- To provide high-quality recreational opportunities in a primitive environment for present and future generations.
- To provide an environment for interpretive, scientific, educational and wildlife/wildlands-oriented use.
- To assure preservation of historic and archeological values.
- To protect valid existing rights and future rights granted pursuant to appropriate Federal and State laws.

Major Issues and Concerns

Major points of controversy arising over proposed management of a resource must be specifically identified and actions taken to resolve the issues. Through the planning process and public comment, major issues and concerns were identified for the Unalakleet National Wild River and the following list was developed and analyzed. The issues and concerns identified relate to existing problems or problems which are likely to occur during the next 5-10 years.

Considerations are defined as components of each issue or concern that require specific management actions. Each consideration (Consideration 1.1, 1.2 etc.) in the Major Issues and Concerns section has a corresponding management action (Action 1.1, 1.2 etc.) in the Management program, Part III.

ITEM 1 - SUBSISTENCE

Issue: How will the wild river designation affect subsistence uses in the wild river corridor?

Situation

Subsistence use of the wildlife, fisheries and vegetation resources such as fishing, hunting, trapping, berry picking, etc., is an important part of the local lifestyle providing food and fiber as an essential component of the local income.

Considerations

1.1 Subsistence uses should not be affected by the river designation unless subsistence becomes excessive enough to adversely affect the resource values upon which the designation and subsistence uses are based. Most adverse effects would probably arise through overuse rather than the type of use. Unregulated subsistence harvesting of timber for example, could eventually affect aesthetic values and river bank stability. The major considerations are what kinds of subsistence-use activities are to be allowed and at what point the use will be controlled.

1.2 Since subsistence uses are based on both flora and fauna, both the State of Alaska and the Bureau of Land Management have management roles in monitoring and regulating both the subsistence activities and subsistence based resources. Identification of roles to be played by the managing agencies is to be carefully considered.

ITEM 2 - FACILITIES

Issue: What types of facilities will be allowed within the wild river corridor?

Situation

The only facilities or developments that exist within the wild river corridor are cabins and associated structures located on 11 of the 28 Native allotments in the lower 8 miles of the corridor. None of these structures are currently used for commercial purposes.

Considerations

2.1 Public use of National Rivers usually requires establishment of campsites, toilet facilities, trail construction and other management structures to handle impacts of increased use pressures. The types and extent of these facilities depend on the degree of use and/or whether the National River is designated a wild, scenic or recreational river.

2.2 Commercial facilities are often associated with or operated in the vicinity of National Wild and Scenic Rivers. In the case of the Unalakleet Wild River, a sportfishing lodge is located on the river but on private lands outside the wild river corridor. Interest that may be generated by the designation is a consideration since it may result in requests to establish such facilities on Federal lands within the wild river corridor. (See Action 5.1 for facilities on Native Allotments).

ITEM 3 - VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Issue: The major concern is how to monitor river use and identify signs of over utilization before the river resources are negatively impacted.

Situation

Visitor impacts are reflected in terms of their effects on the various river resources. Impacts can range from littering to conflicts resulting from trespassing on private property. The Unalakleet River has had no significant impacts from visitor use to date since very few people have been in the wild river area.

Considerations

3.1 The only apparent impacts from river users in the wild river corridor aside from those associated with native allotments are litter, fire rings, fish racks, tent frames, etc., where fishermen and other recreationists have camped along the river. The monitoring of popular river use areas, such as gravel bars, for impacts that would adversely affect river qualities needs to be considered as part of any river management program.

3.2 Since there are private inholdings bordering the river in the lower part of the corridor, the potential exists for trespass on private lands by those unfamiliar with the river. Management must consider this possibility and provide measures to avoid trespass.

ITEM 4 - SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Issue: The effect that the wild river designation will have on present means of transportation and future access development is a local issue.

Situation

A road system does not exist in the region and none is expected to be developed in the near future. However, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities plans a road route reconnaissance survey for 1985. The only means of access to the wild river corridor (and this is true for many of the native allotments) is to travel upstream from the village of Unalakleet by outboard motorboat or float plane in summer, or by snowmobile, dogsled or ski plane in winter. Due to physical barriers such as log jams, overhanging trees and shallow water, summer access becomes more difficult the farther upstream one travels. Travel is normally possible to the confluence of the Old Woman River and occasionally to Tenmile Creek if water levels are high enough and obstructions are passable. River travel has been the traditional means of access and is expected to remain the primary means of access.

Considerations

4.1 Certain types of vehicles used for transportation into the wild river corridor can have detrimental effects on the river's qualities. A prime consideration in developing this plan is to identify the modes of transportation allowed by law and those considered detrimental both to the river environment and to individuals enjoying the wild river.

4.2 Due to limited means of access to the wild river corridor, especially for recreationists from outside the local area, there may be interest in establishing means of access other than those which presently exist. Consideration will be given to the possibility of demands for new access and to what kinds of new access development will be allowed.

4.3 The Natives with allotments located within the wild river corridor boundary have traditionally used the river as the primary, if not exclusive, avenue of transportation in both summer and winter. Consideration must be given to existing means of access and access routes to Native allotments at the present time, and for the future if development of overland access corridors should occur in the region.

ITEM 5 - PUBLICITY

Issue: A concern of Unalakleet's local population is that more advertising by BLM or private enterprises will draw too many people to the river and cause its qualities to deteriorate.

Situation

Publicity arising from the wild river designation and from long standing national advertising associated with the excellent sport fishery on the Unalakleet River has attracted sport fishermen to the area. However, few recreationists other than sport fishermen are using the river at present.

Considerations

5.1 The Unalakleet River has become a popular sportfishing river. The wild river designation may draw even more publicity and probably more advertising by the local sport fishing lodge. Other private recreational enterprises may also develop as a result of this popularity. Consideration must be given to the effects advertising might have in terms of increased river use and how these effects will be handled in this management plan.

5.2 An integral component of successful management of this wild river is enhancing the exchange of communication between the public and river management personnel. Communication may be in the form of questionaires to gather data from people using the river or in the form of brochures to inform the public of the river's characteristics and of management policies and regulations. How this exchange of information will be handled demands careful consideration for successful management.

ITEM 6 - PRIVATE LANDS (NATIVE ALLOTMENTS)

Issue: Individuals having Native allotments adjacent to the wild river corridor are concerned that the wild river designation might place restrictions on allotment activities and developments.

Situation

There are 28 Native allotments adjoining the boundary of the wild river corridor. These allotments are private land and are not subject to direct regulation by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Considerations

6.1 Activities occurring within the boundaries of allotments are not expected to have any adverse effects on the river's resources except possible impacts on the scenery. Allottees should be aware of the possible side affects of allotment activities and consider their effects on the river and its resources.

6.2 Sale or disposal of native allotments is of concern because allotments lie within the corridor and any future activities on these lands have the potential to adversely affect river values.

ITEM 7 - FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Issue: Concerns were expressed about potential damage to the fishery from increased recreational use in the wild river corridor and from activities outside the corridor.

Situation

The Unalakleet River fishery is the most important resource associated with the area and is vital to the economic stability of the local community. This excellent salmon fishery supports subsistence, commercial and sport fishing activities.

Considerations

7.1 Protection of the fishery will require monitoring fish population dynamics, aquatic habitats, and terrestrial ecosystems bordering the river. Coordinated efforts between the BLM and Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be essential for effective management programs. Management responsibility, capability and management techniques are primary considerations to be addressed.

7.2 Ensuring adequate seasonal flows and unpolluted water from the Unalakleet River watershed is vital to maintaining the river ecosystem in its present state. Protection of the watershed against disturbance that could adversely affect water characteristics is an area where management action is essential.

ITEM 8 - LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

Issue: One concern of individuals in Unalakleet is that they will not be adequately involved in the planning process through which this management plan and any future resource related activity plans are developed.

Situation

The people of Unalakleet will be most directly and immediately affected by management decisions associated with the wild river management plan. The remote location of Unalakleet makes personal contact with BLM difficult, creating a feeling that all decisions are made elsewhere with little regard for local individual concerns. Contact to date has been through the Unalakleet Native Corporation.

Considerations

8.1 Organized involvement in river management decisions by concerned individuals in Unalakleet would be an avenue through which effective interaction could occur. How the involvement is organized and through what process the concerns and suggestions of local people are presented to the Bureau of Land Management and other management agencies will require careful consideration from all parties involved.

ITEM 9 - NAVIGABILITY

Issue: What uses will the State of Alaska permit or restrict on State lands and waters associated with the navigable portion of the Unalakleet River?

Situation

The Bureau of Land Management has determined that the the Unalakleet river is navigable up to its confluence with Tenmile Creek. This determination places the river bed and banks up to ordinary high-water under the ownership of the State of Alaska. Lands above ordinary high-water remain under BLM jurisdiction. The waters above Tenmile Creek confluence have been proposed to be non-navigable, with the riverbed and adjacent lands remaining under BLM jurisdiction.

Considerations

9.1 Identification and control of uses on the navigable portion of the wild river that are not compatible with objectives of the Wild and Scenic

Rivers Act may be necessary in order to effectively manage the river. A cooperative agreement to coordinate the management objectives of the State of Alaska and the Bureau of Land Management should be pursued.

ITEM 10 - FIRE MANAGEMENT

Issue: The concern is how the BLM will handle wildfires that occur within the wild river boundary and in the surrounding area.

Situation

Naturally occurring fires are part of the many natural processes that happen annually in Alaska and in the Unalakleet River drainage. While fires can improve wildlife habitat and aesthetic qualities over the long-term, the short-term results, on man made improvements and other values, can be severe, particularly on scenic resources.

Considerations

10.1 Managing wildfires and man-caused fires requires pre-planning for effective fire control. How management views the effects of fire, whether good or bad for a given area such as the wild river corridor, will determine how suppression will be approached. Also adjacent areas such as private land, critical habitats, watersheds, etc., will be considered in developing a management philosophy for a given area.

10.2 Suppression techniques such as slurry drops, use of heavy equipment, smoke jumpers, etc., depends on the fire location, on the resource values involved and on the sensitivity of the area to the impacts from these techniques. Protection of the values associated with the wild river corridor must be considered in any fire plan for the area.

10.3 Prescibed fire can be a useful tool in managing vegetation and wildlife habitat. If prescribed fire seems to be necessary for the protection or improvement of vegetation, it should be considered in fire habitat plans for the area.

ITEM 11 - CULTURAL RESOURCES

Issue: Identification and protection of cultural resources representing the theme of transportation or trade, or representing human use of the Unalakleet River corridor that occurred more than 10,000 years ago is a particular concern.

Situation

The Unalakleet valley has been a transportation and trade route in historic and prehistoric times. On the basis of topography and access, this valley may contain the oldest prehistoric sites on BLM land.

Considerations

11.1 Inventory of the river area will be necessary to identify all archeological and cultural sites. However, these inventories will be limited to evaluation of proposed surface activities instead of area-wide inventories.

Management Constaints

Constraining factors which because of law, policy, regulation or circumstance, influenced the development of this Management Program include:

- The management guidelines of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA), the Alaska Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the National Environmental Protection Act and the Alaska Statehood Act. These laws directly influence management of the Unalakleet River and provide the basic regulations and policies through which this management program was developed.
- Determination that the Unalakleet is navigable up to Tenmile Creek.
- Remote location of the river area.
- Lack of previous use by recreationists has not allowed the accumulation of data upon which to base future management decisons.

PART III - THE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The management program is designed to resolve the issues and concerns in order to meet overall management objectives. Every reasonable attempt has been made to accommodate the concerns of the various user groups without compromising the values for which the river was designated. This management program will be evaluated periodically to determine what changes, if any, are necessary to insure the continued protection of the river's values.

Each action in this section addresses a specific consideration discussed in Part II, Issues and Concerns. The number for each action (1.1, etc.) refers to the number shown for each consideration in Part II.

Management Action

ITEM 1 - SUBSISTENCE

Action 1.1: All existing subsistence use activities will be allowed to continue, as provided by Title XIII, Section 1314 of ANILCA. However, should subsistence use of fish, wildlife or vegetation resources become inconsistent with conservation of those resources, subsistence activities could be regulated as provided in Title VIII, Section 815(1) of ANILCA.

Discussion

Subsistence activities and levels of use at present are compatible with allowable uses on National Wild Rivers and require no regulation at the present time. The only subsistence use which may require restrictions is house log and fuel wood harvesting, which will be regulated through permits issued by the BLM.

Action 1.2: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, having responsibility for managing fish and wildlife, will monitor and regulate commercial, recreational and subsistence use of fish and wildlife resources. The BLM will inventory, monitor subsistence use, regulate use of plant resources, and cooperatively manage the wildlife habitat.

Discussion

Although the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has lead management responsibility for fish and wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management

the lead for vegetation resources, both agencies must work cooperatively to be effective. All major components of the Unalakleet River ecosystem in some way interact with each other and must be managed accordingly. Management of the Unalakleet Wild River, the wild river corridor and surrounding ecosystems will require careful monitoring of all resource related activities by both agencies in order to formulate workable management decisions. The BLM should take the lead in coordinating cooperative management efforts.

ITEM 2 - FACILITIES

Action 2.1: Bureau of Land Management recreational developments such as permanent campsites, interpretive areas, toilet facilities, etc., will not be constructed in the wild river corridor.

Discussion

Construction of such facilities would diminish the aesthetic values of the wild river designation. Should river use approach levels that would require such facilities, use would be curtailed through permits or other regulatory means.

Action 2.2: Permanent or semi-permanent commercial developments will not be allowed on Federal lands within the wild river corridor.

Discussion

Although permanent commercial developments will not be allowed, temporary camps such as sport fishing tent camps may be allowed in certain areas. BLM has no jurisdiction over commercial developments on Native allotments.

ITEM 3 - VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Action 3.1: Impacts that adversely affect river resource qualities will be identified and evaluated as to location, cause and extent. Measures will be taken to mitigate or prevent these impacts through regulation of the numbers of individuals using the river, adjustment in use areas, permits and/or other applicable regulatory techniques. All commercial operators will be required to have a permit to operate in the wild river corridor.

Discussion

The Unalakleet Wild River is essentially untouched by man-made intrusions, especially in the upper reaches of the river. Close annual monitoring will be essential to prevent degradation of this sensitive area and to provide information from which sound management decisions can be made. As the number of river users increases, this type of information will be essential for the development of management criteria if river use demands formulation of detailed activity plans.

Action 3.2: To avoid possible trespass, the public will be notified, through brochures, maps, etc. of BLM land locations where recreational activities are allowed, and where private lands are located.

Discussion

Determining one's exact location while floating a winding river like the Unalakleet is very difficult. Adequate notice of private land location is essential to avoid trespass.

ITEM 4 - SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Action 4.1: Traditional means of access such as outboard motorboats, airplanes, dogsleds and snowmobiles will be allowed for all river users. The right to use these traditional modes of transportation is guaranteed by Title VIII Sec. 811 of ANILCA. Other means of access, such as inboard jet boats, airboats, hovercraft, all terrain vehicles, etc., will not be allowed in the corridor, subject to conditions of the cooperative agreement on navigable waters proposed in Action 8.1. Helicopters will be allowed to land in the wild river corridor as part of official duties conducted by State and Federal employees. Helicopter use by other individuals will be considered on a case by case basis and will require a permit.

Discussion

Traditional means of access are necessary in order to maintain subsistence use activities. Non-traditional means are not compatible with the resource values in the wild river corridor.

Action 4.2: Development of new access is not proposed at this time. Should demand for access increase, access development will be reevaluated. The Bureau 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

Present use levels require no new means of access. Any increased use resulting from future access development will be regulated to protect those resource qualities existing at the time of designation. When rights or title are granted directly by statute, such as RS2477, the Bureau cannot adjudicate these rights. However, for the purposes of carrying out the Bureau'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 4.3: Adequate and feasible access to private inholding is guaranteed by Title XI Section 1110(b) of ANILCA. Access rights will be subject to special terms and conditions to protect the natural values in the wild river corridor.

Discussion

Due to the remote location of Native allotments in the corridor and the total lack of a regional transportation system, road access to these private holdings may never be a reality. Travel by boat or snowmachine has been and is expected to be the primary means of access.

ITEM 5 - PUBLICITY

Action 5.1: Any increased recreational use stimulated by private advertising will be handled through this management plan (Item 9 - Visitor Management) and possible future resource use related activity plans.

Discussion

BLM has not control over publicity generated by private sector advertising and therefore cannot regulate such activity. Only use of the wild river corridor can be regulated.

Action 5.2: Visitor information for the Unalakleet National Wild River will be developed in brochures which will be available at BLM offices.

Discussion

Development of brochures containing information about special management areas administered by BLM is a common method of informing the public. No additional techniques are proposed to publicize the Unalakleet River.

ITEM 6 - PRIVATE LANDS (NATIVE ALLOTMENTS)

Action 6.1: The BLM has no control over development or activities on Native allotments but will monitor the river for possible side effects generated by activities on the allotments.

Discussion

Native allotments are private land and are not included within the wild river boundary. They can be used as the owner desires as long as the side affects of those uses do not directly or indirectly affect the river resources and are not inconsistent with the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Side affects could include pollutants such as sewage, garbage, chemicals and other detrimental materials. Should allotment owners solicit BLM advice in developing their allotments in a manner that would be compatible with wild river resource values, suggestions could be provided.

Action 6.2: The BLM has no control over the sale of Native allotments. However, should allotments come up for sale, it is recommended that the BLM be considered a prospective purchaser or that a scenic easement be purchased if applicable. Purchase of an allotment by the BLM will be at the full discretion of the allotment owner.

Discussion

Bureau of Indian Affairs approval is necessary before an allotment can be sold (43 CFR 2561.3). Purchase of allotments or scenic easements would be a method of further protecting the resources in the wild river.

ITEM 7 - FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Action 7.1: The fishery will be protected in a manner consistent with applicable conservation measures and techniques. The BLM will be available to assist the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on projects required to maintain or enhance the Unalakleet fishery and will work jointly with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on inventory, monitoring and other activities or projects.

Discussion

The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game has conservation responsibility for the fishery and wildlife populations. The BLM also has the same responsibility, as manager of the public lands. Resource protection requirements of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Federal Land

Policy Management Act (FLPMA), Endangered Species Act, (ESA), the Sikes Act, and the Master Memorandum of Understanding, (May 14, 1976) between BLM and the State of Alaska developed in accordance with the Public Administration Act (P.L. 86-649), directly involves the BLM in conservation responsibility for the fishery.

Action 7.2: The watershed of the Unalakleet River will be protected through stipulation and/or mitigation of any permitted activity with potential to disturb the watershed.

Discussion

Maintaining existing water quality and seasonal water levels are essential for protection of salmon spawning grounds, non-migratory fish species and other water dependent flora and fauna. The entire drainage of the wild river above the Chiroskey River, except for navigable portions, is on BLM lands. Any proposed developments or activities involving surface disturbing activities that might affect water quality or flow will be closely evaluated to develop stipulations for mitigating any adverse impacts.

ITEM 8 - LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

Action 8.1: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to request establishment of a local work group in the village of Unalakleet to serve as a point of contact through which local individuals and groups can voice their ideas and concerns and take part in management of the Unalakleet River.

Discussion

Organized involvement could be coordinated through the Unalakleet Native Corporation, traditional village council, City of Unalakleet the Bering Straits Native Corporation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, or the local subsistence advisory committee. The Unalakleet Native Corporation has made recommendations on what groups they feel should be represented in the work group.

ITEM 9 - NAVIGABILITY

Action 9.1: The nature and extent of uses allowed by the State of Alaska on navigable waters should be determined and those activities that might be damaging to wild river resource values be curtailed or prohibited through a cooperative agreement with the State of Alaska.

Discussion

Isolation of activities that are expected to cause adverse impacts will allow more specific treatment of the impact without unnecessary restriction of compatible activities. Since the State of Alaska controls navigable waters and the uses of these waters, an agreement will be needed to control incompatible activities.

ITEM 10 - FIRE MANAGEMENT

Action 10.1 - Fire management for the wild river corridor will be established and incorporated into the Kuskokwim-Iliamna Interagency Fire Management Plan when it is developed. The policy will be compatible with the differing suppression requirements of surrounding areas and private property.

Discussion

Interagency Fire Management Plans are being developed for most of Alaska. The river corridor will be addressed in the Kuskokwim-Iliamna Interagency Fire Management Plan which is scheduled for completion by May 1984. Until the completion and approval of the new Fire Management Plan, fires within the corridor will be handled in accordance with the established Alaska Protection standards (BLM Alaska State Fire Plan, BLM Manual 9210).

Action 10.2: The use of heavy equipment and chemical retardants and the placement of fire lines will be regulated according to the BLM Alaska State Fire Plan.

Discussion

The BLM Alaska State Fire Plan will be the guide for fire suppression in the wild river corridor and will incorporate, where practical, any special management requirements of the wild river corridor.

Action 10.3: Prescribed fire can be used for the improvement of wildlife habitat if investigations by the BLM and Alaska Department of Fish and Game reveal the need for such action.

Discussion

The use of prescribed fire as a management tool within the corridor is consistent with the resource management provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Any prescibed fire plan will be prepared for approval of the BLM State Director approval prior to natural or intentional ignition.

ITEM 11 - CULTURAL RESOURCES

Action 11.1: Inventory will be conducted prior to surface-disturbing projects and will be oriented toward finding sites representative of early prehistoric occupation and sites representing the theme of transportation and trade.

Discussion:

Sites related to the Iditarod National Historic Trail have been identified and evaluated as lacking sufficient integrity to warrant structural preservation effort. Sites representing Russian or Native transportation and trade have not been identified. Other identified sites represent seasonal occupation related to use of the river fishery, a common theme in this part of Alaska.

PART IV – APPENDIX

The legal descriptions are based on the unsurveyed 1 inch = 1 mile scale boundary maps appended to this river management plan. In case of discrepancy, these maps will control.

Legal Description

Lands included within wild, scenic, and recreational river boundaries.

WILD RIVER BOUNDARIES

Kateel River Meridian

T. 13 S., R. 3 W.	Unsurveyed
Section 26	All
Section 27	SE¼
Section 33	NE¼, S½
Section 34	All
Section 35	N½
T. 14 S., R. 3 W.	Unsurveyed
Section 3	NW¼
Section 4	All
Section 5	NE¼, S½
Section 7	NE¼, S½
Section 8	All
Section 9	W½
Section 17	W½
Section 18	All
Section 19	All
Section 30	W½
Section 31	W½
T. 14 S., R. 4 W.	Unsurveyed
Section 13	SE¼
Section 24	E½
Section 25	All
Section 36	All
T. 15 S., R. 3 W.	Unsurveyed
Section 6	NW¼
T. 15 S., R. 4 W.	Unsurveyed
Section 1	All
Section 2	NE¼, S½
Section 11	All
Section 12	W½
Section 13	W½
Section 14	All
Section 15	SE¼

The legal descriptions are based on the unsurveyed 1 inch = 1 mile scale boundary maps appended to this river management plan. In case of discrepancy, these maps will control.

WILD RIVER BOUNDARIES, continued

Section 22	All
Section 23	NE¼, W½
Section 26	NW¼
Section 27	All
Section 28	SE¼
Section 33	NE¼, S½
Section 34	All
T. 16 S., R. 4 W.	Unsurveyed
Section 3	All
Section 4	All
Section 5	NE¼, S½
Section 7	NE¼, S½
Section 8	All
Section 9	N½, SW¼
Section 17	N½, SW¼
Section 18	All
Section 19	NW¼
T. 16 S., R. 5 W.	Unsurveyed
Section 13	All
Section 14	All
Section 15	NE¼, S½
Section 16	S½
Section 17	SE¼
Section 19	SE¼
Section 20	All
Section 21	All
Section 22	All
Section 23	NE¼, W½
Section 24	N½
Section 28	NE¼, W½
Section 29	All
Section 30	NE¼, S½
Section 31	All
Section 32	NE¼, W½
T. 16 S., R. 6 W.	Unsurveyed
Section 25	SE¼
Section 35	SE¼
Section 36	All

The legal descriptions are based on the unsurveyed 1 inch = 1 mile scale boundary maps appended to this river management plan. In case of discrepancy, these maps will control.

WILD RIVER BOUNDARIES, continued

T. 17 S., R. 5 W.,	Unsurveyed
Section 6	NW¼
T. 17 S., R. 6 W.,	Unsurveyed
Section 1	SW¼, N½
Section 2	All
Section 3	S½
Section 8	NE¼, S½
Section 9	All
Section 10	All
Section 11	NE¼, W½
Section 16	SW¼, N½
Section 17	All
Section 18	NE¼, S½
Section 19	All
Section 20	SW¼, N½
Section 30	All
Section 31	NW¼
T. 17 S., R. 7 W.	Unsurveyed
Section 24	NE¼, S½
Section 25	All
Section 26	All
Section 33	NE¼, S½
Section 34	All
*Section 35	All
*Section 36	SW¼, N½
T. 18 S., R. 7 W.	Unsurveyed
Section 2	N½
Section 3	All
Section 4	All
Section 5	SE¼
*Section 7	All
*Section 8	All
Section 9	All
Section 10	NW¼
*Section 18	All
Section 19	NW¼

* Occurrence of one or more Native Allotments or regional corporation selections.

The legal descriptions are based on the unsurveyed 1 inch = 1 mile scale boundary maps appended to this river management plan. In case of discrepancy, these maps will control.

WILD RIVER BOUNDARIES, continued

T. 18 S., R. 8 W.	Unsurveyed
*Section 12	SE¼
*Section 13	E½
*Section 14	N½
*Section 15	NE¼, S½
*Section 16	All
*Section 17	All
*Section 18	All
*Section 19	N½
*Section 24	N½

The area as described, excluding areas between ordinary high water marks for designated streams, contains approximately 45,000 acres subject to adjustment to lines of public lands surveys.

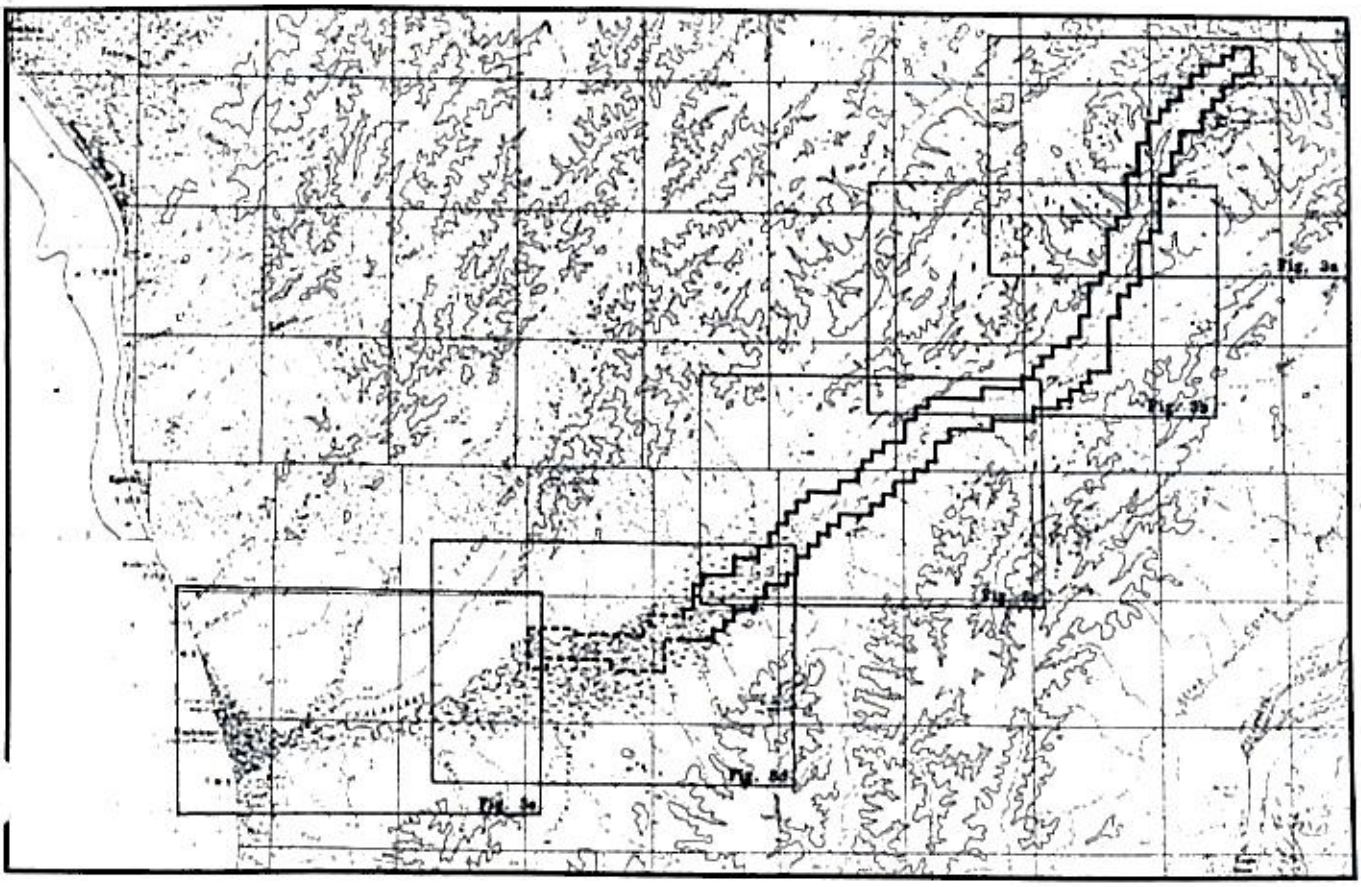


Figure 3

INDEX MAP

to

Figures 3a, 3b,3c,3d &3e

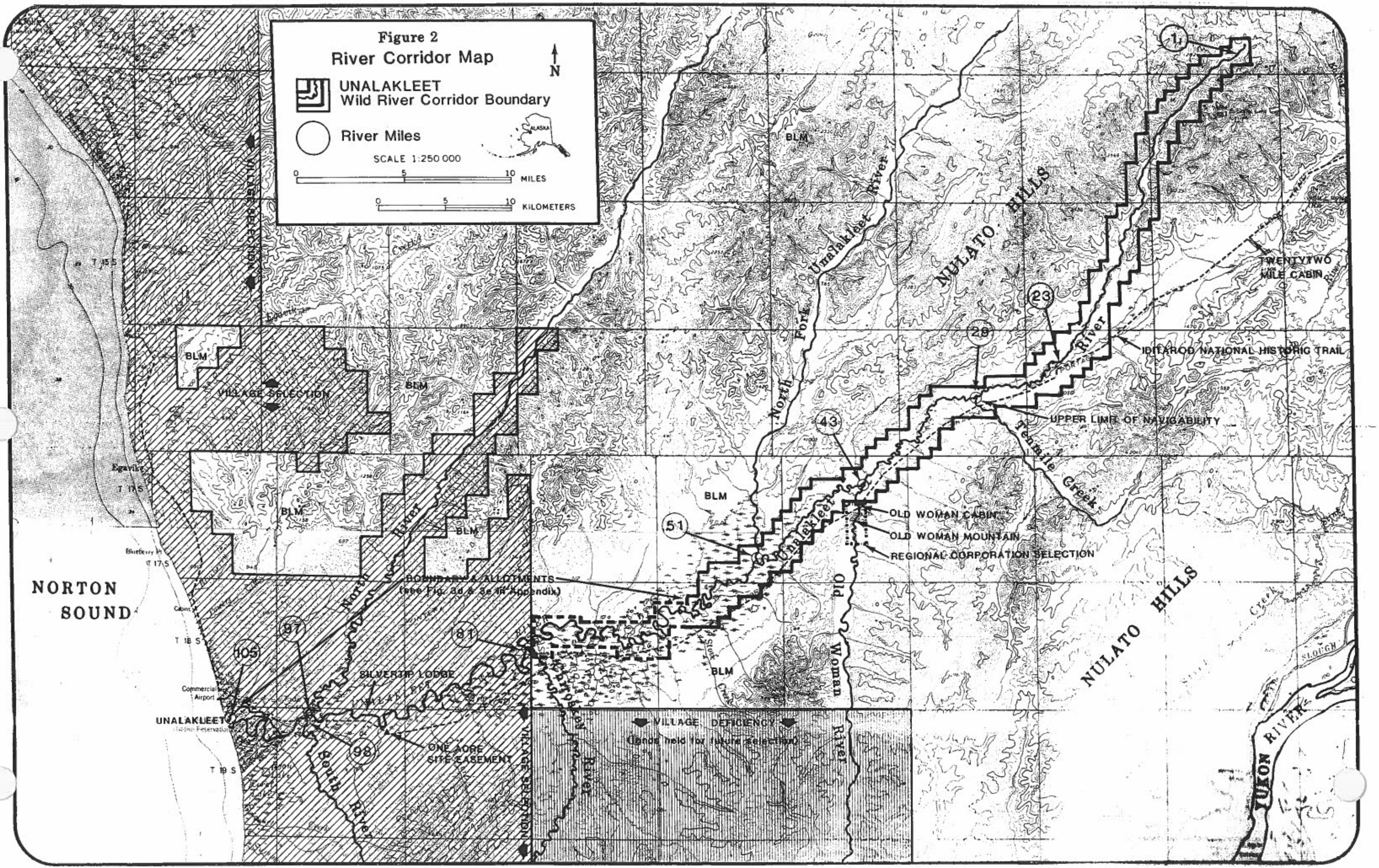
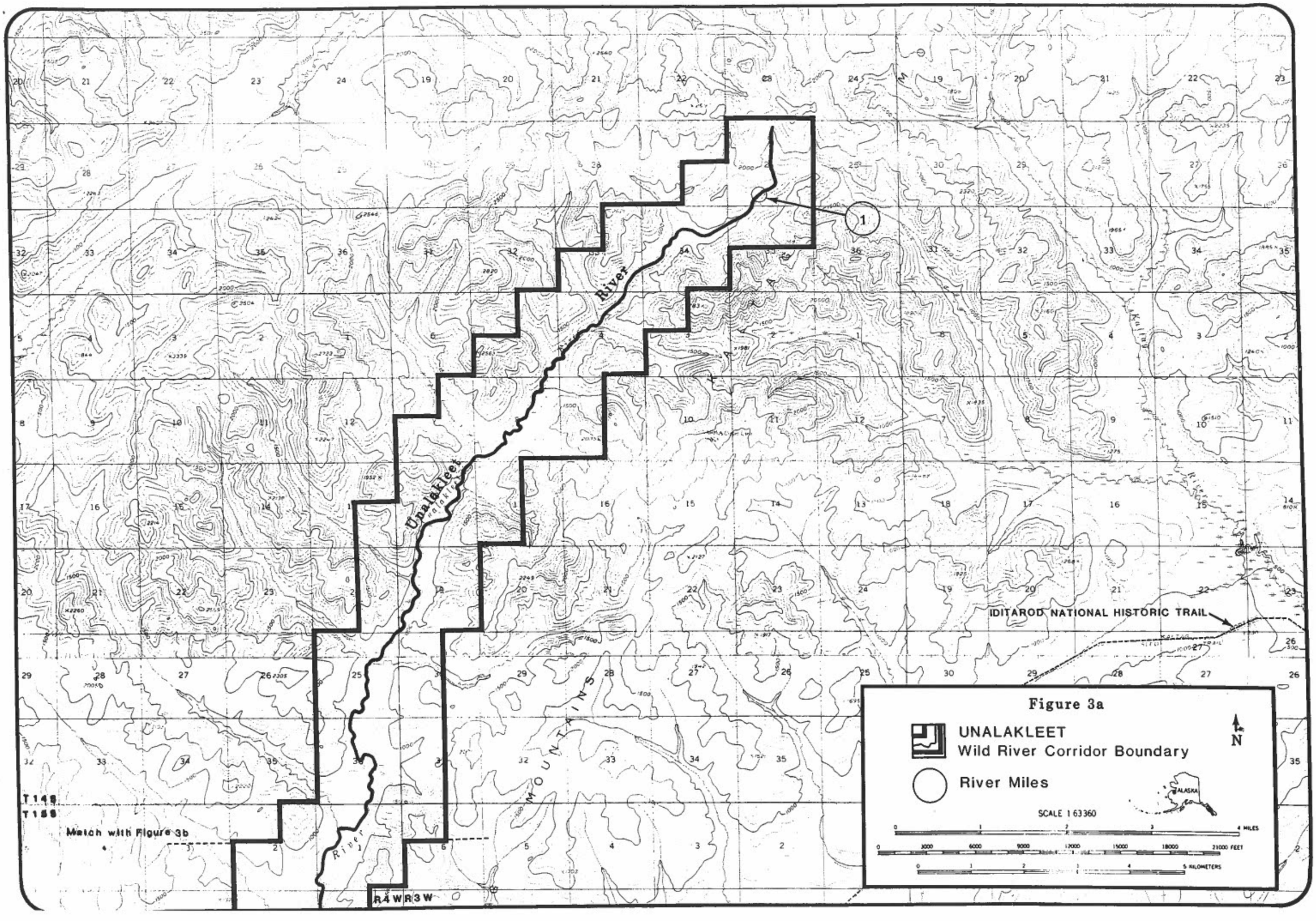


Figure 2
River Corridor Map
N
UNALAKLEET
Wild River Corridor Boundary
River Miles
SCALE 1:250 000
0 5 10 MILES
0 5 10 KILOMETERS
ALASKA
NORTON SOUND
NULATO HILLS
BLM
VILLAGE SELECTION
Egavik
T 17 S
T 18 S
T 19 S
Blueberry Pt
Commercial Airport
UNALAKLEET
Native Reservation
North River
South River
Unalakleet River
North Fork
Old Woman River
Tenmile Creek
Chirokey River
YUKON RIVER
TWENTYTWO MILE CABIN
IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
UPPER LIMIT OF NAVIGABILITY
OLD WOMAN CABIN
OLD WOMAN MOUNTAIN
REGIONAL CORPORATION SELECTION
BOUNDARY & ALLOTMENTS
(see Fig. 3d & 3e in Appendix)
SILVERTIP LODGE
ONE ACRE SITE EASEMENT
VILLAGE DEFICIENCY
(lands held for future selection)
1
23
29
43
51
81
97
98
105


Unalakleet River
Unalakleet River
MOUNTAINS
IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
1
T14S
T15S
Match with Figure 3b
R4W R3W
Figure 3a
UNALAKLEET
Wild River Corridor Boundary
River Miles
N
ALASKA
SCALE 1 63360
0 1 2 3 4 MILES
0 3000 6000 9000 12000 15000 18000 21000 FEET
0 1 2 3 4 5 KILOMETERS

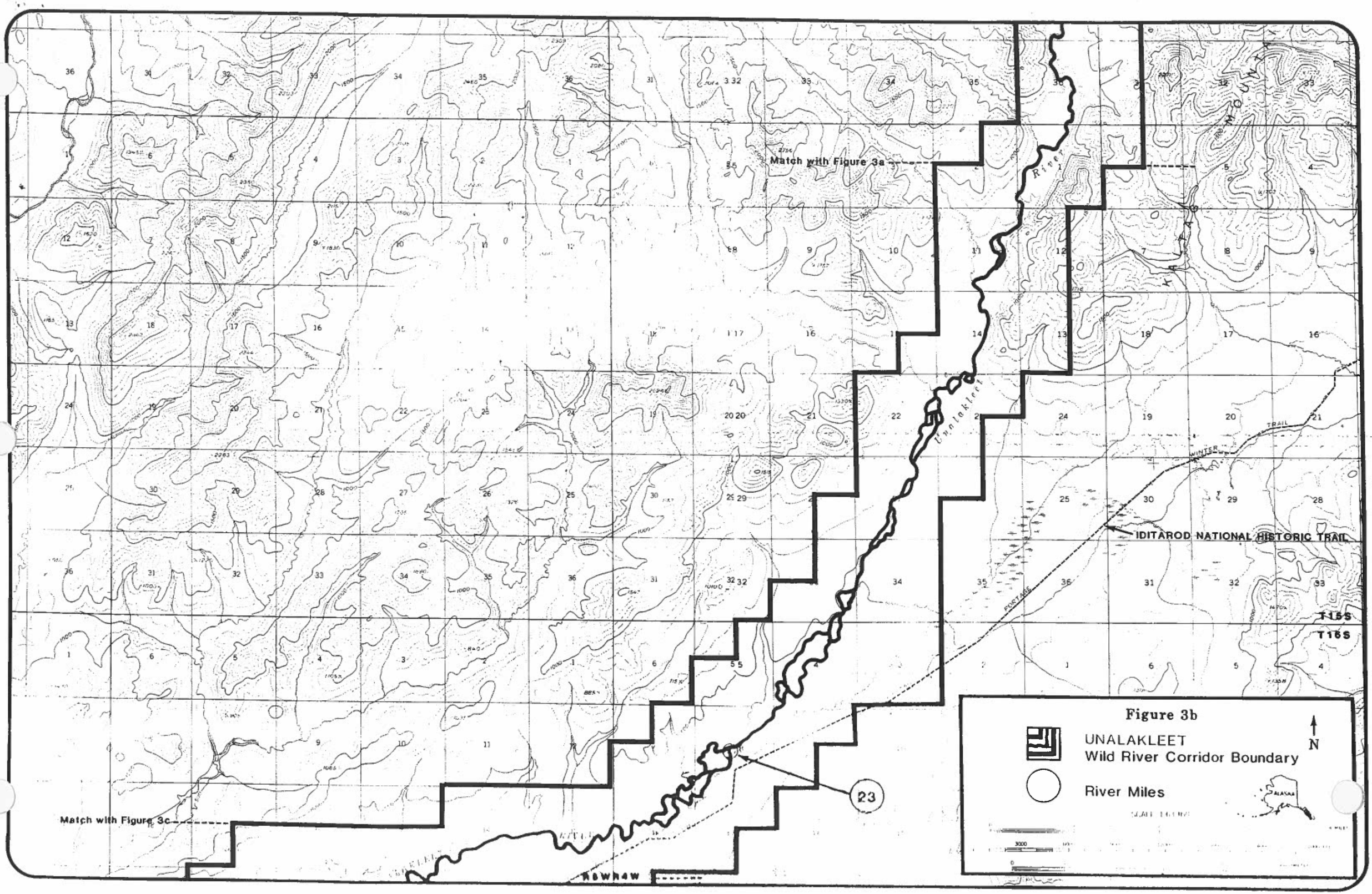

Match with Figure 3a
Match with Figure 3c
Unalakleet River
IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
WINTER TRAIL
PORTAGE
T15S
T16S
R5WR4W
23
UNALAKLEET
Wild River Corridor Boundary
River Miles
N
ALASKA

Figure 3b

Match with Figure 3b

UPPER LIMIT OF NAVIGABILITY

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

OLD WOMAN CABIN

OLD WOMAN MOUNTAIN

REGIONAL CORPORATION SELECTION

Match with Figure 3d

Unalakleet River

North Fork Unalakleet River

Old Woman River

Tenmile Creek

T16S

T17S

29

43

61

Figure 3c

UNALAKLEET
Wild River Corridor Boundary

Regional Corporation Selection

River Miles

N

T17S
T18S

Match with Figure 3e

Mile 80 lower end of
Wild River Corridor Boundary

81

Match with Figure 3a

Unalakleet River

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Chirosky River

R9W R8W

Figure 3d

UNALAKLEET
Wild River Corridor Boundary

Regional Corporation Selections

Native Allotments

River Miles

N

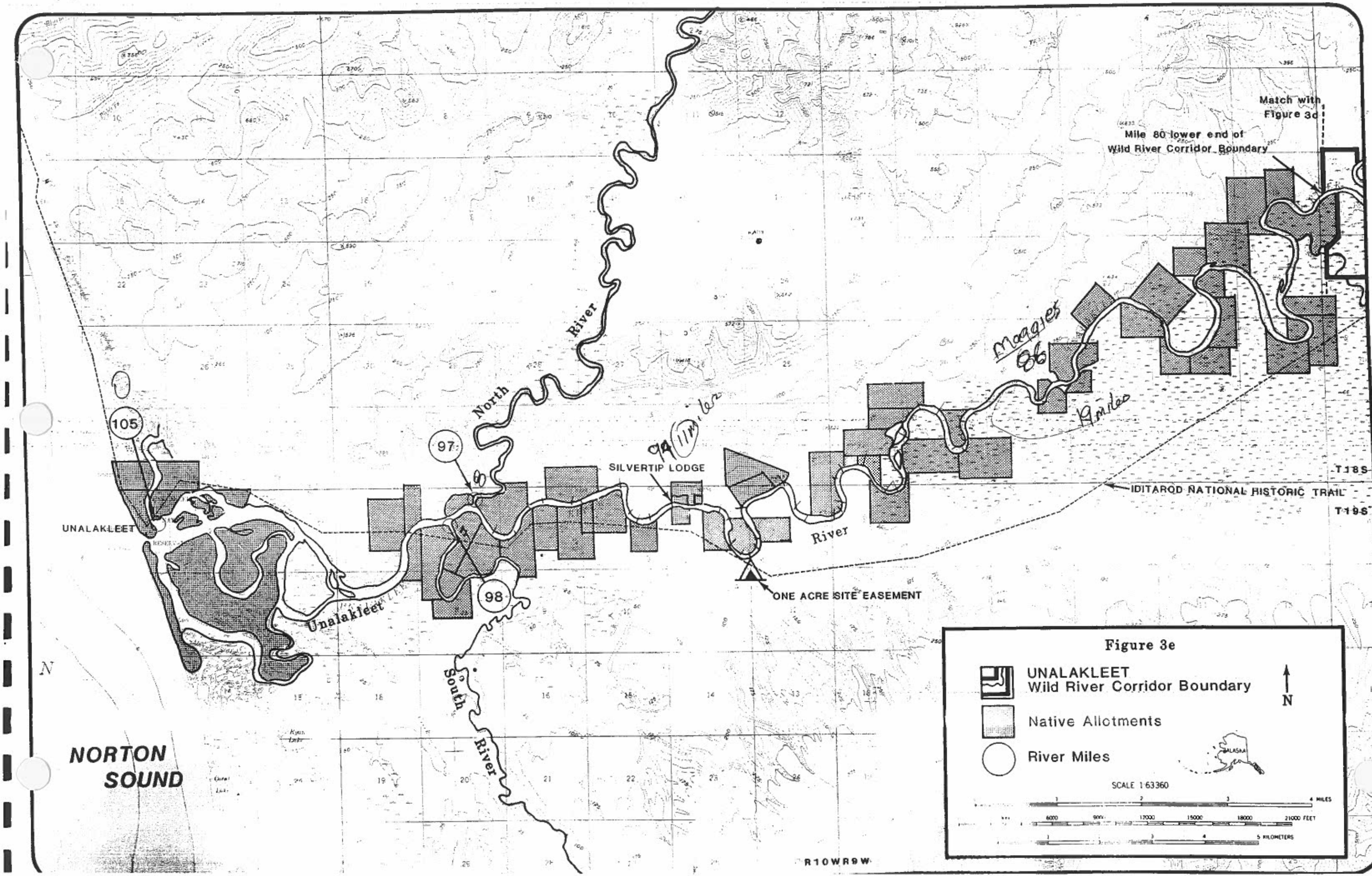

Match with Figure 3d
Mile 80 lower end of Wild River Corridor Boundary
North River
Maggies 86
19 miles
94 11 miles
105
97
98
SILVERTIP LODGE
UNALAKLEET
Unalakleet
River
ONE ACRE SITE EASEMENT
IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
T18S
T19S
South River
NORTON SOUND
R10WR9W
N
UNALAKLEET
Wild River Corridor Boundary
Native Allotments
River Miles
SCALE 1:63360
4 MILES
21000 FEET
5 KILOMETERS

Figure 3e