

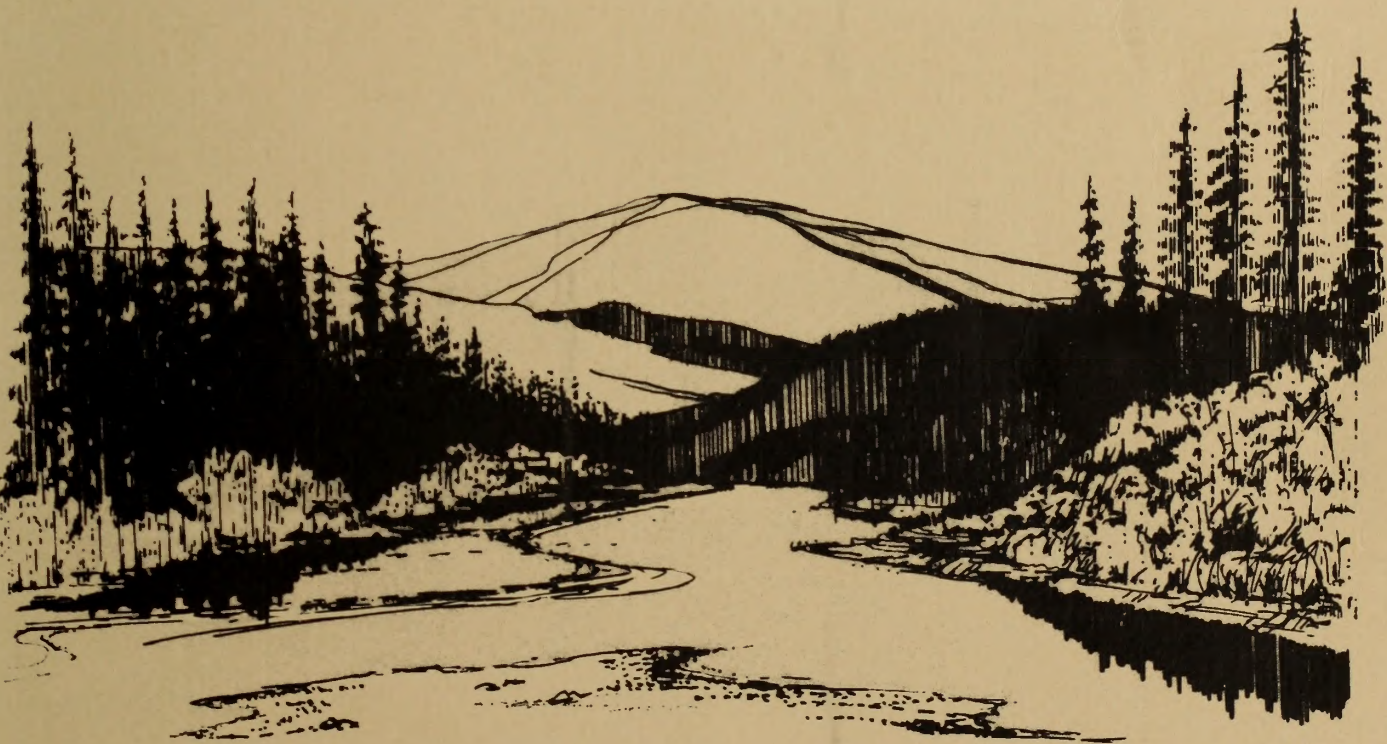


# River Management Plan

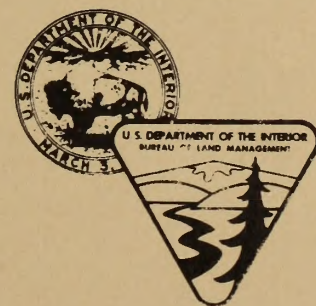
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## Birch Creek

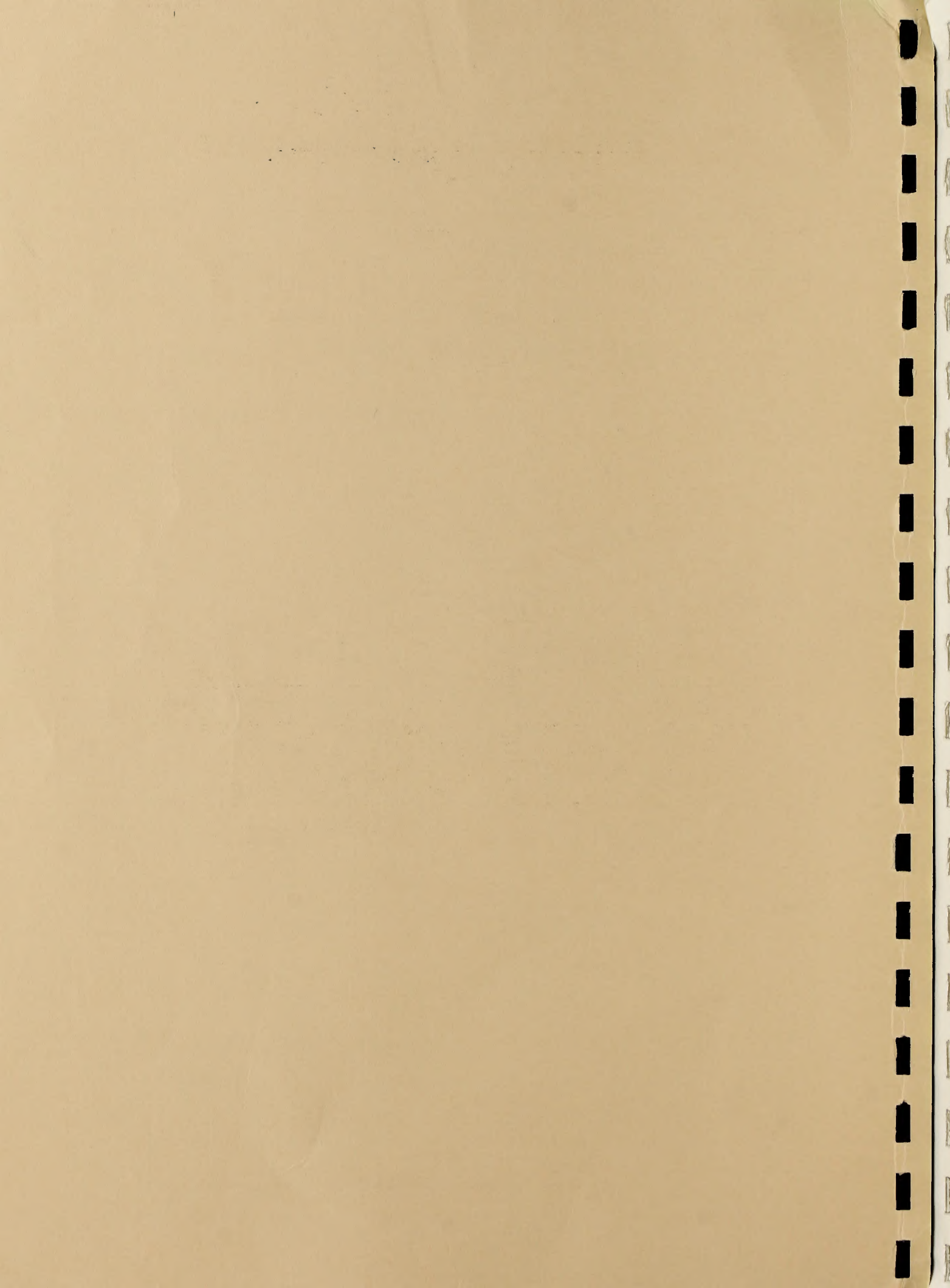
A Component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System



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



December, 1983

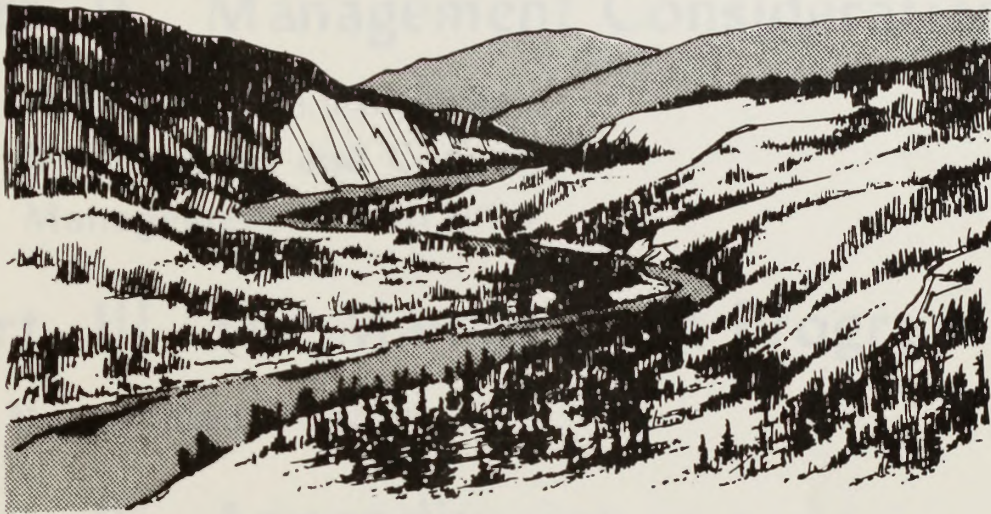


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# River Management Plan for the Birch Creek National Wild River



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

Recommended by: Carl Johnson 10/6/83  
Fairbanks District Manager Date

Approved by: Curtis McVee 10/11/83  
Alaska State Director Date

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Birch Creek National Wild River



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Princeton, Oregon, Alaska

Recommended by: [Signature]  
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Approved by: [Signature]  
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# Part I Introduction

## Background

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of December 2, 1980 (ANILCA, PL 96-487) established the upper portion of Birch Creek as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Subject to prior existing rights, ANILCA classified and designated approximately 126 miles of Birch Creek as a "wild" river pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA, PL 90-542).

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

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

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

ANILCA also directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish detailed boundaries, to prepare a management and development plan, and to present this information to Congress by December 2, 1983. In response to this directive, this river management plan establishes the detailed boundaries and develops the management policies for Birch Creek 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 Birch Creek National Wild River" and "A Proposal for Protection of Eleven Alaskan Rivers," were approved by the Department of the Interior in 1975 and 1980 respectively. The EIS's addressed the impact of designating a portion of Birch Creek as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

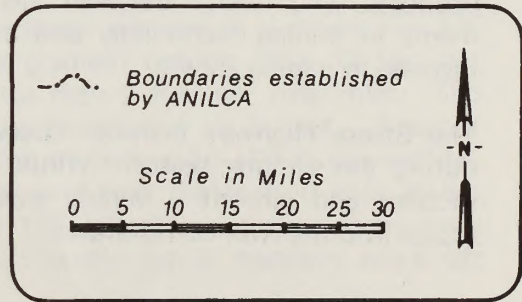
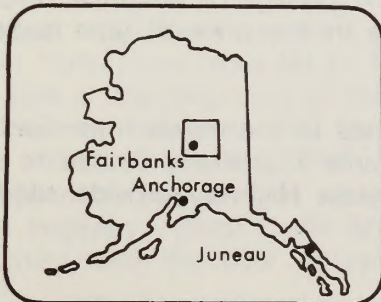
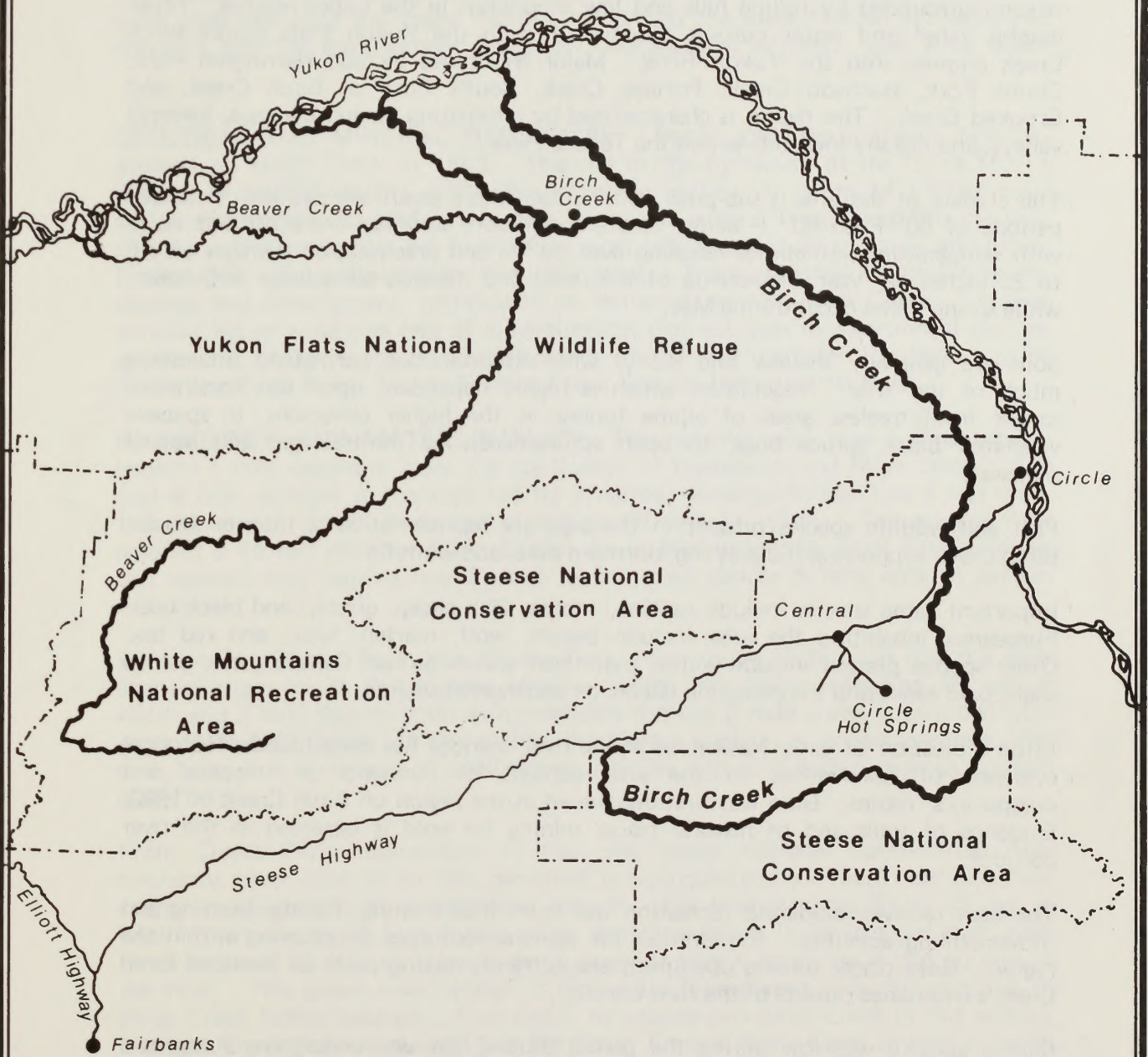
In addition, this plan has been developed in compliance with Title VIII of ANILCA so that the management policies will cause the least possible adverse impact to local residents who depend upon the river corridor for subsistence needs.

Approximately 77 miles of Birch Creek National Wild River flows through the Steese National Conservation Area (NCA) established by ANILCA. The Steese NCA is administered by the Bureau of Land Management and managed pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Special values to be considered in planning and management of the area are caribou habitat and Birch Creek National Wild River (ANILCA Section 401). A comprehensive land use plan for the Steese NCA is currently under preparation by the BLM, and is scheduled for completion by December 2, 1984. The land use plan is being developed in conjunction with this river management plan. River management policies developed for Birch Creek National Wild River reflect this combined planning effort.



# Birch Creek National Wild River

# Regional Map



## The Setting

Birch Creek is located in Interior Alaska, approximately 75 air miles northeast of Fairbanks (See Regional Map.) It is a 344 mile long, moderately swift, shallow stream surrounded by rolling hills and low mountains in the upper reaches. Topographic relief and water current diminish through the Yukon Flats before Birch Creek empties into the Yukon River. Major tributaries include Harrington Fork, Clums Fork, Harrison Creek, Portage Creek, South Fork of Birch Creek, and Crooked Creek. The region is characterized by alternating upland plateaus, forested valleys, and marshy lowlands within the Tanana Hills.

The climate of the area is sub-polar continental, where severe winters with extended periods of 50° F to 60° F below zero are common, summers are short and warm with temperatures sometimes reaching over 80° F, and precipitation averages only 5 to 20 inches per year. Freeze-up of the rivers and marshes takes place in October, while spring thaws occur during May.

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

Fish and wildlife species present in the area are representative of Interior Alaska. Birch Creek supports arctic grayling, northern pike, and whitefish.

Important game species include caribou, moose, Dall sheep, grizzly, and black bear. Furbearers inhabiting the area include beaver, wolf, marten, lynx, and red fox. Other species present include willow ptarmigan, spruce grouse, Canada geese, golden eagle, bald eagle, and the peregrine falcon, an endangered species.

Little indication of early Native use of the river corridor has been found. Historical evidence of non-Natives in the area consists of remnants of trappers' and prospectors' cabins. Gold was first discovered in the region on Birch Creek in 1893. Evidence of trails and of historic placer mining for gold is observed in the river corridor.

The area receives moderate recreation use from float-boating, fishing, hunting and snowmobiling activities. Exploration for mineral resources is occurring within the region. Gold placer mining operations are currently taking place on many of Birch Creek's tributaries outside of the river corridor.

Mining activity was low during the period Birch Creek was undergoing study as a proposed wild river. Between this period and the passage of ANILCA, improvements in mining technology and a significant rise in the price of gold caused an increase in mining activity.

The Steese Highway provides overland public access to the region from Fairbanks during the summer season. Winter access to the area is generally limited to snowmobiles and aircraft. Mining trails from the Steese Highway provide additional access into the river corridor area.

## River Corridor Description

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

**GEOLOGIC AND MINERAL RESOURCES.** Placer gold deposits were first discovered on Birch Creek in 1893. This led to the formation of the Circle Mining District, a mining district which has remained active. In terms of known value and production levels, gold is the most important mineral resource within the river corridor. Placer deposits are located on most tributaries of Birch Creek and recent interest has led to exploration into new areas. There is potential for future discoveries and development, particularly on the south side of Birch Creek. The river corridor lies in a regional belt of mineralization that occupies this portion of Interior Alaska. A major tungsten deposit south of the river corridor has been located in the vicinity of Puzzle Gulch, Caribou Creek, and the Upper Salcha River.

**HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.** The national wild river begins approximately 1 mile upstream from the confluence of Twelvemile and Birch Creeks. The first 9 mile segment is characterized by a narrow winding channel 1 to 4 feet deep, flowing over a gravel streambed averaging 50 feet in width. The average river gradient is 14 feet per river mile. Except during high water the initial 3 to 4 miles of this segment may require river-floaters to drag their canoes or rafts through shallow riffle areas.

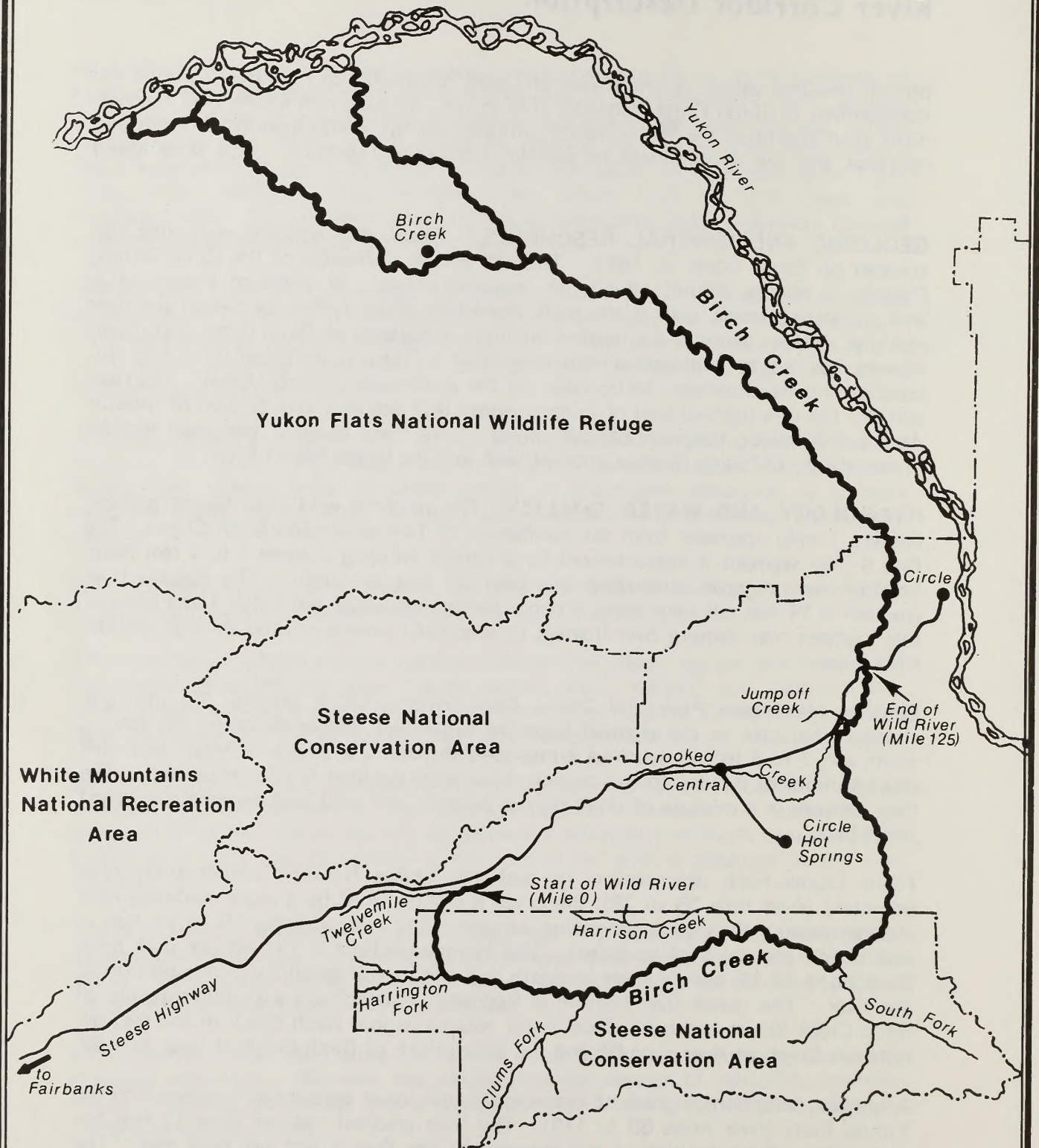
Between Harrington Fork and Clums Fork (river miles 9 through 33) the river changes character as the channel becomes wider and deeper averaging 75 feet in width and 2 to 6 feet in depth as it meanders through a wide gravel stream bed with short sections of rapids. In this section the average gradient is 12 feet per mile. The river bottom is a mixture of small stones, pebbles, and sand with numerous exposed gravel bars.

From Clums Fork downstream to past the Steese National Conservation Area boundary (river mile 35 to 78), the creek is distinguished by a more confining river channel passing through a narrowing canyon. The river averages 50 to 75 feet in width, with depths of 4 to 8 feet. The average gradient is 13 feet per river mile. Deep pools of 15 feet or more in depth occur at several locations in this portion of the river. The gravel river bottom is frequently interspersed with outcroppings of Birch Creek Schist bedrock. Two major tributaries join Birch Creek in this section, Harrison Creek at river mile 55 and the South Fork of Birch Creek at river mile 69.

A gradual reduction in gradient characterizes the lower segment as it enters into the Yukon Flats (river miles 80 to 113). The river gradient reduces from 13 feet per river mile at the beginning of this segment to less than 2 feet per river mile. The river channel widens to 150 feet with water depths from 4 to 8 feet. Another major tributary, Crooked Creek, joins Birch Creek at river mile 109 in this section. Thirteen miles beyond this section, the national wild river designation ends at the Steese Highway - Birch Creek Bridge (river mile 126). Broad gravel bars occur more frequently, and the river bottom, while predominantly gravel, contains more silt

# Birch Creek National Wild River

# Area Map



--- Boundaries established by ANILCA

Scale in Miles

0 5 10 15

A legend box containing a dashed line symbol for 'Boundaries established by ANILCA', a scale bar labeled 'Scale in Miles' with markings at 0, 5, 10, and 15, and a north arrow pointing upwards with the letter 'N' at the tip.

material than the initial 85 miles. Sufficient water depth and volume is available for small shallow-bottomed motorized boats to travel the lower end of this segment (river mile 80 to 126). After the bridge at river mile 126, Birch Creek continues for 219 miles in the Yukon Flats before emptying into the Yukon River.

Water quality in Birch Creek has historically been variable due primarily to the fluctuation of placer mining activities in the watershed. During periods of active placer mining activity water quality has been poor. During the period of low mining activity (1940's through 1960's), water quality improved to near natural conditions for Interior Alaska streams. Presently, water quality is poor, again due to a resurgence of placer mining activity in the headwaters area and other tributaries to Birch Creek (Harrison Creek, Crooked Creek). High turbidity and suspended solids levels are evident throughout the entire length of the river.

Besides this historic variation in turbidity and suspended solids levels, turbidity and suspended solids also vary depending on time of year and location on the river. During the winter months, water quality is much improved over summer levels as evidenced by less turbid water visible in open leads. This is attributable to the cessation of mining activities, low flow conditions, which reduces channel and river bank scouring, and lack of runoff from the surrounding watershed.

During breakup and early spring, water quality again becomes poor. High levels of suspended solids and turbid water are natural during these periods on most Interior streams, but on Birch Creek this condition is compounded by erosion primarily from areas disturbed by mining. With the start-up of mining activities in the summer, water quality continues to be poor throughout the entire length of the wild river.

This situation is expected to improve as technologies to control sediment additions to the river are developed and as the State and Federal governments continue to work with the miners to reduce the turbidity and suspended solids levels entering the river.

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

Valley bottoms frequently have soils formed in deep loamy sediment washed from the adjacent uplands. Permafrost is often near the surface on north slopes, south facing toe slopes, and valley bottoms. These soils are frequently poorly drained. This characteristic is reflected in vegetation such as sedge tussocks, low shrubs, and stunted black spruce woodlands. Better drained south facing slopes support open forests of spruce, white birch, and quaking aspen. Gravelly soils immediately adjacent to the river are commonly free of shallow permafrost and support open stands of white spruce, quaking aspen, balsam poplar, and willows. Surface disturbance of areas underlain by permafrost will change the balance of heat flow, causing thaw and resulting in erosion, surface slumping, and thermokarst formation where ice lenses or wedges are found.

**RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.** Birch Creek provides for a wide variety of primitive-based recreation opportunities. Float-boating in canoes or rafts, nature observation, fishing, and hunting are the major recreational activities within the river

corridor. Attractive, natural campsites are abundant along the river, including the many gravel bars as well as upland forested areas.

Birch Creek is easily accessible from Fairbanks via the State-maintained Steese Highway. Most recreational floaters park their vehicles at the end of a short access road at Steese Highway Milepost 94 and line their boats down Twelvemile Creek 1000 feet to its confluence with Birch Creek. River groups generally travel an average of 10 to 15 river miles per day, requiring 7 to 10 days to float the national wild river portion of Birch Creek. Take-out is usually at the Steese Highway - Birch Creek Bridge (milepost 147, river mile 126). Floaters have also used the vicinity of Jumpoff Creek (milepost 139, river mile 109) for take outs. During the winter months, Birch Creek receives limited recreational activity, primarily from snowmobile users.

Scenic viewing opportunities are one of the region's most valuable recreational resources. Occasional cliffs and outcroppings of bedrock contrast with the green mosaic formed by surrounding vegetation on low rolling hills. The view from the river averages 4 miles wide, extending up to 8 miles at some locations.

**FISHING, HUNTING AND TRAPPING.** Birch Creek is known to have supported an excellent sport fishery for Arctic grayling. The existing turbid water has significantly reduced and restricted the sport fishing opportunities to the clearwater tributaries of Birch Creek. Downstream residents of Birch Creek Village have indicated that their fishing success has deteriorated in recent years. Opportunities for wildlife observation and hunting occur throughout the area. While float-boating provides access for some hunters, most hunting occurs in the lower portion of the national wild river, where hunters use river boats for access. Trapping also occurs within the river corridor, and is regulated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Access for trapping is primarily by snowmobile. The BLM manages land occupancy activities related to trapping such as authorizing the construction of trapper's cabins or shelters within the river corridor.

**HISTORIC USES.** Little indication of early Native use of the river corridor has been found. Evidence of historic use by non-Natives consists of trappers' and prospectors' cabins, roadhouses, and trails. The log structures are in various stages of disrepair; most are probably beyond rehabilitation. Although gold was first discovered along Birch Creek in 1893, most of the mining activity since has taken place on the tributary creeks. The river initially provided access to the mining areas on the creeks, but a trail system quickly developed due to the difficulties of water transportation. The Circle to Fairbanks Historic Gold Rush Trail is being considered for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places but it has not yet been nominated. A short portion of this trail occurs in the river corridor in the vicinity of the start point of the wild river.

**SUBSISTENCE.** Subsistence use of the Birch Creek area, including the adjacent flats and uplands, has been documented by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Caribou and moose traditionally have been hunted by Kutchin and Han Athabaskans in the area. Caribou were hunted in the flats near Medicine Lake until the mid-1960s when the Fortymile herd began a dramatic decline. Residents of Circle have trapped extensively for beaver in the flats and lakes near Birch Creek. Whitefish have been taken with nets from Medicine Lake and Birch Creek, by individuals from Circle and as

far away as Eagle, since the turn of the century. Subsistence use of the area is currently being studied by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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

Past use of timber in the area included harvesting wood which was supplied to local mining operations and a mill at the mouth of Jumpoff Creek. Present day use includes a few trees being cut for local use as firewood and for the construction of cabins. Future use is probably limited due to the generally low forest density of the area along with the moderately steep topography, and difficult access.

## Boundary Determination

### LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS

ANILCA classified and designated that, subject to valid existing rights, 126 miles of Birch Creek from the south side of the Steese Highway approximately one mile upstream from the confluence of Birch and Twelvemile Creeks (Township 7 North, Range 10 East, section 33, F.M.) downstream to the south side of the Steese Highway-Birch Creek Bridge (Township 10 North, Range 16 East, section 11, F.M.) shall be administered as a "wild" river pursuant to the WSRA.

ANILCA further amended the WSRA to authorize the establishment of a river corridor boundary which may include an average of not more than 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. This directive applies to the land on both sides of the river from approximately river mile 113 to 126 which is owned by Doyon Limited by virtue of a previous Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) withdrawal. (See maps 12 and 13).

### BLM POLICY

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

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

- Those portions of Birch Creek National Wild River, which in their natural and ordinary condition were used or were capable of being used as a "highway of commerce" as of Alaska statehood in 1959, are considered navigable for title purposes. A final determination of navigability has been made by BLM which finds that Birch Creek was susceptible to navigation as of statehood from the Yukon River upstream to the township line common to T6N, R17E and T7N, R17E (northern boundary of the Steese NCA). For those portions determined to be navigable, the State of Alaska retains ownership of the riverbed between ordinary high water marks and such lands are not included within the boundary of the river corridor.

- While islands in the river corridor are not used to determine the total acreage for the navigable section of the river, islands which are stable, vegetated, and not subject to flooding are included within the boundary. All islands in the non-navigable section of the river are also included in the boundary.

- A review of State land selections and Federal mining claims has been made. If current BLM land records identify a land parcel as non-Federal or identify a prior right which will result in the transfer of a land parcel from Federal ownership, these parcels and their traditional access routes are excluded from the river corridor boundary. Examples of such prior rights are State and Native land selections, settlement claims, and Native allotments.

- Under this river management plan and consistent with the regulations found in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 3809 (43 CFR 3809), reasonable access for miners to reach properly located and maintained mining claims will be provided. Inclusion of mining claims within the river corridor boundary of Birch Creek National Wild River should not be construed as being an administrative action challenging the rights of claim holders under the U.S. Mining Laws. Lands within one-half mile of the bank of any Alaskan river designated a "wild" river have been withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and the mineral leasing laws by Section 606 of ANILCA. When mineral patent has been applied for and requirements for patent met, the rights patented and reasonable access to enjoy those rights will be provided in accord with Section 9(a)(ii) of the WSRA (16 U.S.C. 1280(a)(ii)).

- Should any privately claimed or State selected lands not pass from Federal ownership, these lands and their access routes shall be encompassed by the adjacent river corridor boundary so long as such inclusions do not exceed the acreage limitations contained in Section 103(b) of ANILCA.

- Where private lands are adjoining, they will be excluded from the river corridor boundary 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 have been identified on maps appended to this report.

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



included within this boundary. This proposal in combination with the one-half mile withdrawal established by Section 606 of ANILCA will maintain the withdrawal of all Federal lands within the final river corridor boundary.

## **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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

Therefore, based upon the designated beginning and ending points, and the legislative controls, policies, and considerations described herein, the acreage contained within the Birch Creek National Wild River corridor boundary is approximately 66,000 acres.

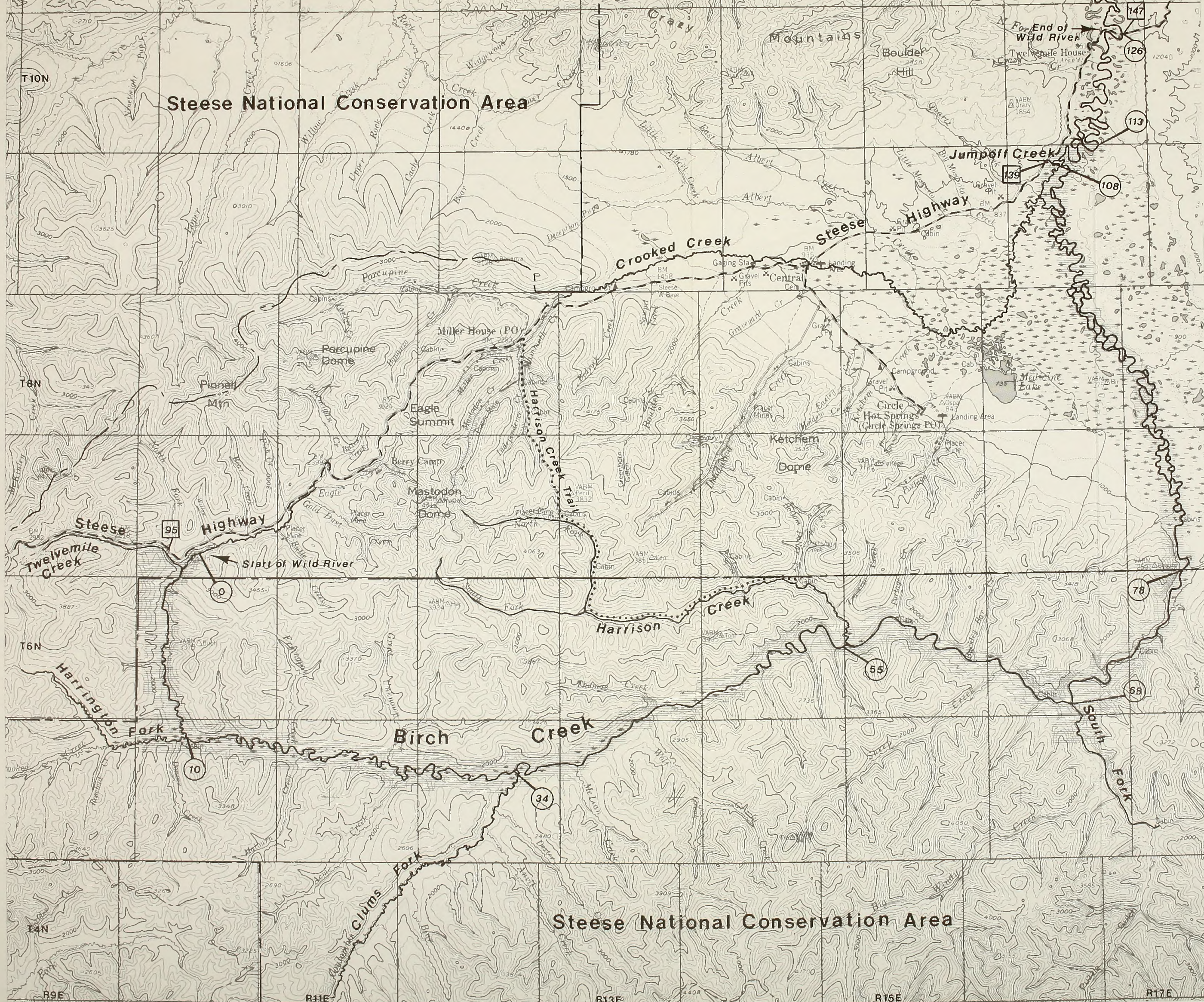
For further information on the boundary, see the legal description and the detailed maps in the appendix of this report.



Steese National Conservation Area


Birch Creek  
National Wild River

River Corridor Map

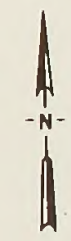


 Wild River Boundary

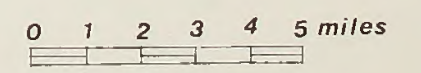
 Boundaries established by ANILCA

 River Miles

 Milepost Miles



Scale 1:250000





# Part II Management Considerations

## Introduction

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

## Management Objectives

When Congress through ANILCA designated Birch Creek as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, they intended that Birch Creek National Wild River be preserved in a free-flowing condition and that the river and its immediate environment be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Congress mandated that Birch Creek remain a vestige of primitive America, free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines primitive and waters unpolluted (WSRA Section 2).

To this end, Birch Creek National Wild River in its entirety will be managed under the following long-term objectives:

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

# Major Issues and Concerns

## Item 1 - SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

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

SITUATION: The Steese Highway provides the principal access to the region from Fairbanks. The road access is one of the attractions of a Birch Creek float trip, since both the put-in and take-out points are accessible via a State highway. Spur roads have been developed from the Steese Highway into tributaries of Birch Creek to provide access for mineral development. Mining equipment has been driven within the river corridor to access claims located both inside and outside the river corridor. Mining access takes place primarily in winter and early spring, but may also occur during other times of the year along Portage Creek and Harrison Creek roads which are State maintained. Recreationists have driven all-terrain vehicles across or through segments of the river corridor during both the summer and winter months. Riverboats have traveled on the lower portion of Birch Creek.

### CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that wild rivers are generally inaccessible except by trail, and that wild rivers are to represent vestiges of primitive America (WSRA Section 2).
- Management of the river corridor is influenced by the types and degree of surface access to the area.
- The existing limited surface access to or across the river corridor in summer has been an important factor in maintaining the primitive setting.
- ANILCA allows for the development of new transportation systems in and across components of the National Wild and Scenic River System provided certain requirements are met (ANILCA Section 1107).
- Valid existing rights-of-way and easements into or across the river corridor must be recognized.
- ANILCA provides for such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate and feasible access for economic or other purposes to State or privately-owned land or a valid mining claim or other valid occupancy, subject to reasonable regulations to protect the natural and other values of the national wild river (ANILCA Section 1110).
- ANILCA provides for the use of snowmobiles, motorboats, and nonmotorized surface transportation for traditional activities and for travel to and from villages and homesites, subject to reasonable regulations to protect the natural and other values of the national wild river (ANILCA section 1110).

- An increase in visitor participation might occur if surface access to a midpoint along the river corridor were to be upgraded. In that event, the opportunity for a float trip would be available to a larger segment of the public because the time and cost involved would be reduced. Additional potential for improved road access occurs along the Portage Creek Trail.

- A rise in use levels will increase the likelihood of visitor interaction and may reduce the opportunity for a primitive visitor experience.

- The use of airboats generates noise levels which are disruptive to some recreationists and may, for short periods, diminish the present primitive experience expected by those recreationists on a national wild river.

- As mineral development increases in the area, additional road access will likely be required.

- Access routes to some mining claims may not presently be feasible without crossing the river corridor.

- Surface disturbance caused by vehicle use is minimized by frozen ground and protective snow and ice during the winter and early spring. Winter equipment moves reduce the potential for user conflicts between recreation and mining. However, it may not always be possible to transport the equipment and supplies required for an entire mining operation's field season during this time period.

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

## Item 2 - AIRCRAFT USE

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

SITUATION: Few recreationists use aircraft to access the river because road access is available at both the put-in and take-out for float-boaters and no public airstrips are located within the river corridor. Occasionally, small aircraft land on broad gravel bars or on long, straight segments of the river with floats or skis during the winter. In addition to providing river access for float-boating, aircraft are used to provide access for hunting and fishing.

CONSIDERATIONS:

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

- Enhancing aircraft access may allow for shorter float trips than are presently available. However, because of the existing easy surface access, it is unlikely that public use on the river will increase significantly if aircraft access improvements are constructed.

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

### Item 3 - MINERALS MANAGEMENT

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

SITUATION: Placer mining activity occurs in the headwaters of Birch Creek on Butte, Gold Dust, and Eagle Creeks, and also on tributaries to Birch Creek including Harrison, Deadwood, Crooked, Bottom Dollar, and Ketchum Creeks. During the last decade, improvements in mining technology and a significant rise in the price of gold has caused an increase in mining activity in the area. Mining activities have caused localized surface disturbances along these creeks. The effluent from these placer mining operations drains into Birch Creek, the only drainage for the Circle Mining District. Placer mining operations provide employment and a base for service industries located in Fairbanks.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Valid rights shall be protected.
- Mining in the Circle District was a major economic factor to the Fairbanks economy in the 1982 mining season.
- There are approximately 5,000 placer claims located within the drainages of Birch Creek, of which approximately 1400 are within the southern portion of the Steese NCA. There are three known placer claims located within the boundary of the wild river.
- There are approximately 1300 lode claims within the southern portion of the Steese NCA. No lode claims are located within the boundary of the wild river.
- During 1982, 62 wastewater discharge permits were issued by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for operations in the Birch Creek watershed.
- Present state of the art for treatment of placer effluent can eliminate most settleable solids but not turbidity.
- Conflicts, such as access and water quality, may arise between mining and recreationists using the wild river.

### Item 4 - WATER QUALITY

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

SITUATION: Placer mining activities and erosion from disturbed areas degrades the water quality of Birch Creek to the extent that many water quality contaminant levels are exceeded. Although most of the placer mining activity is located outside of the river corridor, water effluent from placer mining operations discharging into these tributaries has created turbid conditions throughout Birch Creek's entire length. Birch Creek periodically supplies water for domestic use to residents of Birch Creek Village.



## CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that the water quality of rivers within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System are to be protected and unpolluted (WSRA Sections 1 - 2).

- Turbid water adversely affects recreational opportunities by reducing the aesthetic appeal of the river, decreasing water visibility, and creating safety problems for floaters.

- Turbid water may adversely affect the fishing within Birch Creek. The degree and extent of this adverse impact is unknown.

- Turbid water adversely affects the use of Birch Creek as a domestic water supply by residents of Birch Creek Village.

- The public has generally supported improving water quality through existing regulations to minimize adverse effects on the wild river.

- The administration of water quality regulations is primarily the responsibility of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

- Most placer mining operations within the watershed are working with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to minimize the water quality impacts of their effluent discharges into tributaries of Birch Creek.

- Achievement of existing water quality standards for turbidity is difficult using commonly employed placer mining techniques.

## Item 5 - WATER RIGHTS

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

SITUATION: Water rights within the watershed of Birch Creek have been assigned to some individuals by the State of Alaska primarily for mining purposes. These water allocations generally result in minor reductions in quantity. There have been no allocations of water for recreation or other purposes.

## CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that watersheds are to be essentially primitive, with waters free-flowing and unpolluted (WSRA Section 2).

- Reservations on available surface water have the potential to reduce the quantity of water available for recreation and other purposes.

- Applications for water uses other than recreation will likely increase in the future.

- The designation of Birch Creek as a national wild river established a Federal reserved water right to protect the values for which Birch Creek was established.

- The Federal reserved water right has priority over all allocations occurring after passage of ANILCA.

## **Item 6 - FACILITY MANAGEMENT**

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

SITUATION: Birch Creek provides a primitive recreational opportunity due to the overall lack of facilities or other evidence of human use. No visitor facilities exist within the river corridor. A small number of historic cabins are known to exist within the river corridor. The present levels of dispersed recreation use have not created identifiable resource degradation or sanitation problems.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Increased public use of the river area may require the development of shelters, cabins, toilets, trails, small campgrounds, or other facilities to protect visitor health and safety and resource values.

- The development or authorization of facilities may conflict with the primitive setting expected by the public on a national wild river.

## **Item 7 - VISITOR MANAGEMENT**

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

SITUATION: Current interaction between recreation users is low, and evidence of recreation users is minimal. This situation has minimized potential user conflicts. No on-site recreation management controls are evident. No commercial river guides or outfitters are currently operating within the river corridor.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Primitive areas are characterized by low interaction among users and minimal evidence of other visitors or user controls.

- As interaction between users, signs of other users, or evidence of on-site management controls increase or become apparent, the primitive recreation opportunities expected by the public on a national wild river may be impaired.

- As visitor use increases, human-bear conflicts will probably increase.

## **Item 8 - NON-FEDERAL LANDS**

ISSUE: How can the Bureau of Land Management cooperate with non-Federal land owners within or affecting the river corridor in order to better fulfill the purposes of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act?

SITUATION: All State or private lands have been excluded from the river corridor. The two parcels of private land in the vicinity of Birch Creek have been excluded from the river boundary. The last 13 miles of the wild river within T. 10 N., R. 16 E., have been selected, interim conveyed, or patented by Native Corporations or have Native Allotment applications, and have also been excluded from the river corridor.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- The State of Alaska will retain ownership of the river bed between ordinary high water marks from the Yukon River upstream to the township line common to T. 6 N., R. 17 E. and T. 7 N., R. 17 E. (northern boundary of the Steese NCA). These lands are excluded from the river corridor.
- Consideration should be given to establishing a cooperative agreement with adjacent non-Federal landowners.

#### Item 9 - FISH AND WILDLIFE

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

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

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Fish and wildlife contribute greatly to the recreational values of the river corridor and should be managed for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations (WSRA Section 1).
- The Endangered Species Act mandates that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the BLM should not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or modification of the species' habitat (Endangered Species Act Section 7).
- The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), an endangered species, has been observed nesting in the river corridor.
- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires that inventories of fish, wildlife, and habitat on public lands be prepared and maintained.
- BLM and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have completed a memorandum of understanding for cooperative and coordinated management of fish, wildlife, and habitat.
- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has listed Birch Creek as an anadromous fish stream. Permit authority over activities affecting anadromous fish streams is the responsibility of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

- A specific activity plan called a Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Steese NCA which will include lands within the river corridor.

### **Item 10 - HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING**

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

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

#### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides guidelines for the management of fish and wildlife resources within a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (WSRA Section 13).

- Wildlife habitat can be improved for certain species, such as moose, through proper management. Improved habitat conditions may, in turn, enhance human use opportunities (consumptive and nonconsumptive).

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulates the harvest of species utilized for fishing, hunting, and trapping in the river corridor.

### **Item 11 - SUBSISTENCE**

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

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

#### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

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

### **Item 12 - FIRE MANAGEMENT**

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

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

## CONSIDERATIONS:

- Total suppression of fires over the long-term will conflict with the river management plan objective to preserve the river and its immediate environment in its natural, primitive condition.

- Aggressive and continued suppression action will be taken on fires which threaten human life or private property.

- In the absence of a specific fire management plan for the region, the Alaska State Fire Plan dictates that all fires should be suppressed to the maximum extent possible.

- Fire is a natural component of the boreal forest ecosystem in Interior Alaska.

- Continued full fire suppression activities will result in a loss of the vegetative mosaic, resulting in monotypic fuel types which, when ignited, could result in large, severe fires.

- Exclusion of wildfire has resulted in deterioration and loss of wildlife habitat.

- The Upper Yukon-Tanana Interagency Fire Management Plan is under preparation for the region encompassing the Birch Creek National Wild River as directed by the Alaska Land Use Council.

## Item 13 - HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

SITUATION: Remnants of trappers' and prospectors' cabins and associated artifacts are located within the river corridor. The structures are in various stages of disrepair and most are beyond rehabilitation. A portion of the Circle to Fairbanks Historic Gold Rush Trail, which has been submitted for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, passes through the river corridor.

Only a few isolated archaeological artifacts have been discovered in the region. Visitors have been known to remove or vandalize cultural resource objects found within the river corridor. Cultural resources are also subject to deterioration due to the natural elements.

## CONSIDERATIONS:

- Historic and archaeological values within the Birch Creek river corridor should be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations (WSRA Section 1).

- The Antiquities Act of 1906, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 require that cultural resources on public lands be protected.

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires that an inventory of cultural resources values be prepared and maintained.

- Viewing historic resources has been cited by the public as an important recreational opportunity while visiting the river corridor.

#### **Item 14 - SCENIC QUALITY**

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

SITUATION: The view from the river averages four miles wide, extending up to eight miles at some locations. A significant portion of this view is located outside the river corridor and within the Steese National Conservation Area.

CONSIDERATIONS:

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

#### **Item 15 - WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

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

SITUATION: Small dams, reservoirs, and related projects have been proposed by commercial mining operations within or otherwise affecting the wild river. In these instances, water utilized for sluicing operations would be temporarily retained in settling ponds and then reintroduced into the creek. There are presently no impoundments within the Birch Creek National Wild River corridor.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- National wild rivers are to be free of impoundments, with free-flowing waters preserved (WSRA Sections 1 - 2).
- Water impoundment in Birch Creek proper would conflict with the river management plan objective to preserve the free-flowing condition of the river.
- The free-flowing water of Birch Creek is a basic resource value expected by the public on a national wild river.

#### **Item 16 - NEW PIPELINE AND ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES**

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

SITUATION: No pipelines or electrical transmission lines are located in the river corridor, and there are no proposals pending.

CONSIDERATIONS:

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

**Item 17 - FORESTRY AND VEGETATIVE RESOURCES**

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

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

CONSIDERATIONS:

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

## Management Constraints

Constraining factors which influenced the development of this plan include:

- Recognition of valid existing rights.
- The provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the National Environmental Protection Act, the 1872 Mining Law (as amended), the Endangered Species Act, and the Alaska Statehood Act. These and other laws provide a framework for the regulations and policy that direct the decision process leading to management actions.
- The existing situation, including past and present uses of the area by man (such as development of mining claims or roads, agency capability for management of the resources and resource users), the biotic resources of the region (such as threatened or endangered species), and the physical attributes of the area (to include soils, topography, and mineral deposits).
- The existing management authorities of the State of Alaska, including fish and game management, surface water quality, mining under State mineral law, the public roads of the area, and management of the navigable portion of Birch Creek.



# Part III The Management Program

## Introduction

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

## Management Actions

### ITEM 1 - SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

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

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

**Action 1.2:** Access to mining claims located prior to ANILCA and with acceptable proof of discovery will be managed under existing regulations in 43 CFR 3809.

**Discussion:** 43 CFR 3809 requires a "plan of operations" from all mining claimants planning surface disturbing activities within the Steese NCA or the river corridor. These plans must include a detailed description of access needs. The Bureau will specify vehicle types, season of use, reclamation and mining plans to minimize adverse impacts.

**Action 1.3:** Use of vehicles weighing less than 1,500 pounds GVW is authorized without a permit. Use of vehicles weighing more than 1,500 pounds GVW is prohibited without authorization or approved plan of operations.

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

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

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

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

**Action 1.5:** The 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:** 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 1.6:** Use of motorized boats is permitted without specific authorization.

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

## **ITEM 2 - AIRCRAFT USE**

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

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

**Action 2.2:** Landing of fixed-wing or rotary wing aircraft is permitted in the river corridor without specific authorization.

**Discussion:** Present use has not created significant adverse affects upon the river corridor. In the future specific areas may be closed to such access to facilitate resource protection (such as to protect peregrine falcon critical habitat).

## **ITEM 3 - MINERALS MANAGEMENT**

**Action 3.1:** Mining claims properly located and maintained prior to inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System will be managed under the mining laws and 43 CFR 3809. Plans of operations required under 43 CFR 3809 will address a logical sequence of mineral development and extraction. Changes may be made at any time subject to approval of an amended plan of operations.

**Discussion:** The Bureau will assess each proposed plan with the intention of achieving an optimum balance between reasonable and necessary operations and their effects on the environment. A plan of operations should present a logical sequence of discrete stages from exploration through development to extraction and

ensuing reclamation for a period of five years or mine life, whichever is less. Professional evaluation of the development of a mine, especially operations utilizing mechanized earth-moving equipment, necessitates the emphasis on pre-development exploration. Activities to establish and delineate mineral reserves will be stressed by the BLM before plans involving large-scale mechanical stripping operations within the river corridor will be authorized.

Continued implementation of existing surface management regulations within the river corridor shall be a BLM priority for minerals management. A minimum of one field visit will be made for each operation in the river corridor annually.

Mining operations in the Steese National Conservation Area outside the river corridor will be addressed in the Land Use Plan now being prepared.

**Action 3.2:** Minerals rights-of-way applications will be administered as described in 43 CFR 2880.

**Action 3.3:** Improperly located mining claims will be adjudicated in a timely fashion.

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

**Action 3.4:** The area manager shall cooperate with private landowners, mining operators, and the State of Alaska to ensure that mineral exploration and development on non-Federal lands which may affect the river corridor are developed to minimize adverse effects on the national wild river.

**Action 3.5:** Mineral collection for personal recreation using only a gold pan, shovel, or other nonmotorized means is allowed in areas where there are no existing claims or private lands.

#### ITEM 4 -- WATER QUALITY

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

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

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

#### ITEM 5 -- WATER RIGHTS

**Action 5.1:** A reservation of minimum water flows sufficient for public recreation use and to support the values for which the wild river was designated will be

determined in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management.

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

## ITEM 6 - FACILITY MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

Consideration will be given in the Steese National Conservation Area Land Use Plan to ensure continued surface access via the Steese Highway and to the establishment of developed recreation facilities outside the river corridor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Item 7 - VISITOR MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

## Item 8 - NON-FEDERAL LAND

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

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

**Discussion:** The cooperative agreement should include the following topics:

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

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

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

#### Item 9 - FISH AND WILDLIFE

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### ITEM 11 - SUBSISTENCE

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

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

#### ITEM 12 - FIRE MANAGEMENT

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

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

## ITEM 13 - HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

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

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

## ITEM 14 - SCENIC QUALITY

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

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

## ITEM 15 - WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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

**Discussion:** These types of developments will be subject to such conditions as may be necessary to assure that the stream flow of, and transportation on Birch Creek is not interfered with or impeded and that the system is located and constructed in an environmentally sound manner.

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

## ITEM 16 - NEW PIPELINE AND ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES

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

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

## ITEM 17 - FORESTRY AND VEGETATIVE RESOURCES

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

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

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

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



# Part IV Appendix

*(The following table contains a list of sections and their descriptions, which are mostly illegible due to the quality of the scan. The text is mirrored and appears to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.)*

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Section 92	...
Section 93	...
Section 94	...
Section 95	...
Section 96	...
Section 97	...
Section 98	...
Section 99	...
Section 100	...



## Legal Description

The following lands are included within the Birch Creek National Wild River Boundary. All descriptions are given from the Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska. River bottom acreages have been subtracted for each section, based upon water and island acreages given in Master Title Plats. 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.

### T. 7 N., R. 10 E., Unsurveyed

Section 28	that portion of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying south of the Steese Highway;
Section 29	that portion lying south of the Steese Highway;
Section 30	that portion lying south of the Steese Highway;
Section 31	All;
Section 32	that portion lying south of the Steese Highway;
Section 33	that portion of the W $\frac{1}{2}$ lying south of the Steese Highway.

### T. 6 N., R. 10 E., Unsurveyed

Section 4	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 5	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 6	E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 7	E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 8	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 17	All;
Section 18	E $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 19	E $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 20	W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 29	All;
Section 30	E $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 31	E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 32	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 33	W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

### T. 5 N., R. 10 E., Unsurveyed

Section 1	S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 2	S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 3	E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 4	All;
Section 5	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 6	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 7	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 8	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 9	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 10	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 11	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 12	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

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

T. 5 N., R. 11 E., Unsurveyed

Section 1	$W\frac{1}{2}E\frac{1}{2}, W\frac{1}{2};$
Section 2	$E\frac{1}{2}E\frac{1}{2}, S\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 3	$S\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 4	$S\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 5	$S\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 6	$NE\frac{1}{4}, E\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 7	All;
Section 8	All;
Section 9	All;
Section 10	All;
Section 11	All;
Section 12	$NW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}, NW\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 13	$N\frac{1}{2}, SW\frac{1}{4}, N\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 14	$N\frac{1}{2}, SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 15	$N\frac{1}{2}N\frac{1}{2};$
Section 16	$N\frac{1}{2}N\frac{1}{2};$
Section 17	$N\frac{1}{2}N\frac{1}{2}, SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 18	$NE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 23	$N\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}.$

T. 5 N., R. 12 E., Unsurveyed

Section 7	$S\frac{1}{2}N\frac{1}{2}, S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 8	$SW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 9	$S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 10	$S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 11	$S\frac{1}{2}N\frac{1}{2}, S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 12	$E\frac{1}{2}, S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 13	$N\frac{1}{2};$
Section 14	$N\frac{1}{2}, N\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 15	All;
Section 16	All;
Section 17	$N\frac{1}{2}, N\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 18	$N\frac{1}{2}, N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}, SE\frac{1}{4}.$

T. 5 N., R. 13 E., Unsurveyed

Section 2	$W\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 3	$N\frac{1}{2}, NW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 4	$N\frac{1}{2}, SW\frac{1}{4}, N\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 5	$E\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}, SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 7	$E\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}, NW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 8	$N\frac{1}{2}, SW\frac{1}{4}, N\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 9	$N\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, NW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 17	$W\frac{1}{2}W\frac{1}{2};$
Section 18	$N\frac{1}{2}, E\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}.$

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

T. 6 N., R. 13 E., Unsurveyed

Section 25       $S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 33       $SE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}, E\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 34       $E\frac{1}{2}, SE\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 35      All;  
Section 36      All.

T. 6 N., R. 14 E., Unsurveyed

Section 11       $S\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Section 12       $S\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Section 13      All;  
Section 14      All;  
Section 15       $E\frac{1}{2}, SW\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 16       $S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 20       $E\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 21       $E\frac{1}{2}, E\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 22       $N\frac{1}{2}, SW\frac{1}{4}, N\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 23       $N\frac{1}{2}, N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}, SE\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 24       $N\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Section 27       $NW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 28      All;  
Section 29       $E\frac{1}{2}, E\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 30       $S\frac{1}{2}N\frac{1}{2}, S\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Section 31       $N\frac{1}{2}, NW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 32       $N\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Section 33       $NE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 6 N., R. 15 E., Unsurveyed

Section 7       $S\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Section 8       $S\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}, SE\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, E\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}, SE\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 9       $SW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}, W\frac{1}{2}, NW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
less 40 acre Native Allotment (F-7569) and trail thereto;  
Section 10       $SW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 13       $S\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Section 14       $SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Section 15      All;  
Section 16      All;  
Section 17      All;  
Section 18      All;  
Section 19       $N\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Section 20       $N\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 21       $E\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$ ;

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

T. 6 N., R. 15 E., Unsurveyed (cont'd)

Section 22	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 23	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 24	All;
Section 25	E $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 26	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 6 N., R. 16 E., Unsurveyed

Section 19	All;
Section 20	S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 23	S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 24	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 25	All;
Section 26	All;
Section 27	All;
Section 28	S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 29	All;
Section 30	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 32	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 33	All;
Section 34	All;
Section 35	All;
Section 36	W $\frac{1}{2}$ .

T. 5 N., R. 16 E., Unsurveyed

Section 2	W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 3	E $\frac{1}{2}$ .

T. 6 N., R. 17 E., Unsurveyed

Section 4	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 5	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 8	E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 9	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 16	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 17	All;
Section 18	E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 19	All;
Section 20	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 30	N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ .

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

T. 7 N., R. 17 E., Unsurveyed

Section 5	$N\frac{1}{2}, E\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}, SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 6	$NE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 8	$E\frac{1}{2}E\frac{1}{2}, NW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}, NE\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 9	$W\frac{1}{2}W\frac{1}{2};$
Section 16	$NW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 17	$E\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}, SW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}, SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 20	$E\frac{1}{2};$
Section 21	$W\frac{1}{2}E\frac{1}{2}, W\frac{1}{2};$
Section 28	$W\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}, W\frac{1}{2};$
Section 29	$E\frac{1}{2};$
Section 32	$E\frac{1}{2};$
Section 33	$S\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}, W\frac{1}{2}, SE\frac{1}{4}.$

T. 8 N., R. 17 E., Unsurveyed

Section 18	$SW\frac{1}{4}, W\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 19	$W\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}, SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}, W\frac{1}{2}, SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 20	$SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, W\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 29	$W\frac{1}{2};$
Section 30	$E\frac{1}{2}E\frac{1}{2};$
Section 31	$E\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}, SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 32	$W\frac{1}{2}.$

T. 8 N., R. 16 E., Unsurveyed

Section 1	$SW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 2	$W\frac{1}{2}, S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4};$
Section 11	$E\frac{1}{2}, N\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 12	$W\frac{1}{2}W\frac{1}{2};$
Section 13	$S\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}, NW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}, S\frac{1}{2};$
Section 14	$E\frac{1}{2}.$

T. 9 N., R. 16 E., Unsurveyed

Section 2	$NW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 3	$N\frac{1}{2}, W\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4};$
Section 4	that portion lying south and east of Steese Highway;
Section 5	that portion lying to the south and east of the Steese Highway, less 3 of the 5 acre private land parcel (USS 2768) and trail thereto;
Section 8	$E\frac{1}{2}$ , less 2 of the 5 acre private land parcel (USS 2768) and trail thereto;
Section 9	$W\frac{1}{2};$

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

T. 9 N., R. 16 E., Unsurveyed (cont'd)

Section 16	W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 17	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 20	E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 21	W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
Section 27	W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 28	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 29	E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 33	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
Section 34	W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ .

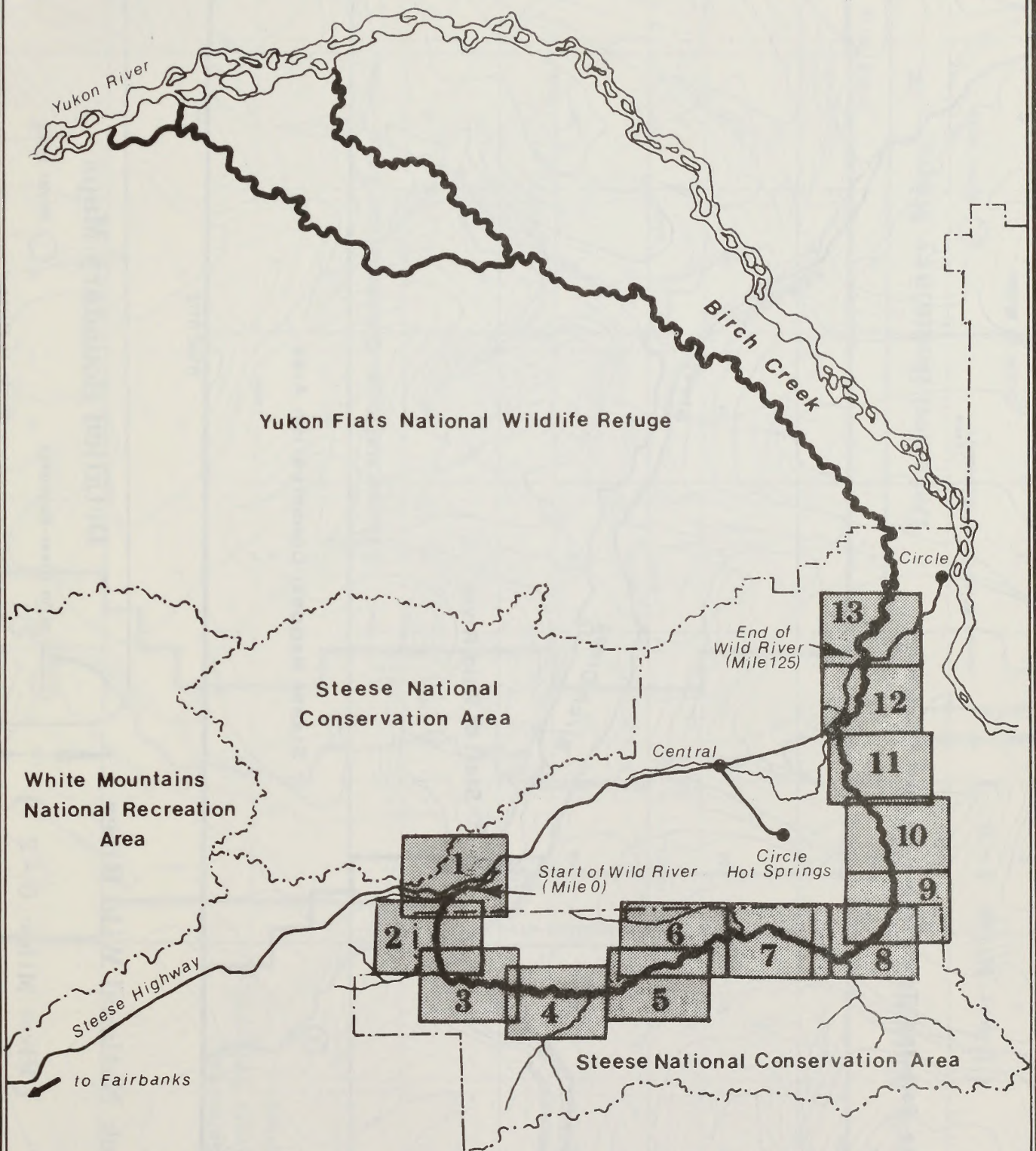
The area as described, excluding areas between ordinary high water marks for designated streams, contains approximately 66,000 acres subject to adjustment to lines of public land surveys.







# Birch Creek National Wild River

# Index Map

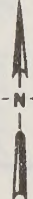


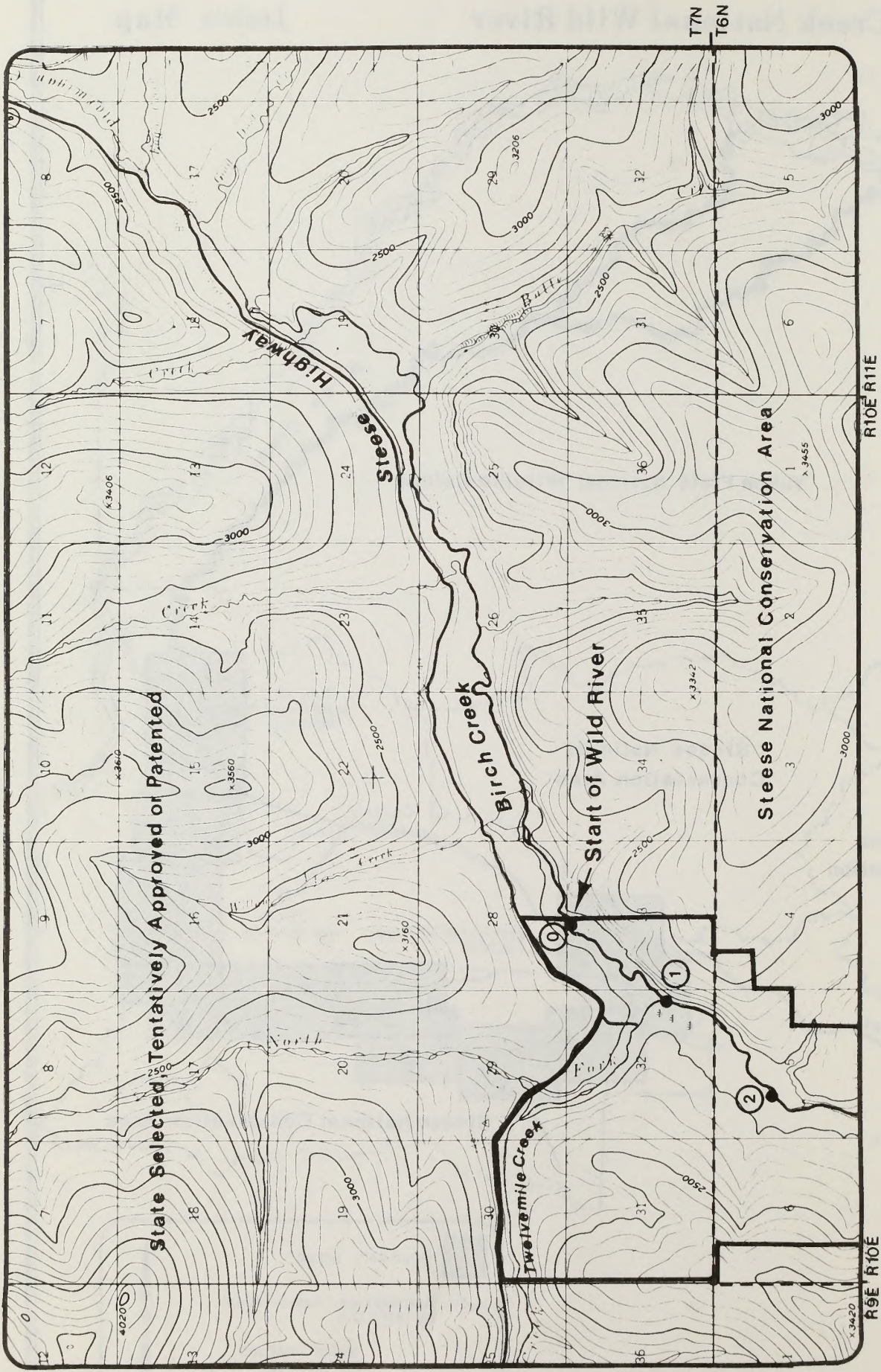
 Boundary Maps

 Boundaries established by ANILCA

Scale in Miles

0 5 10 15



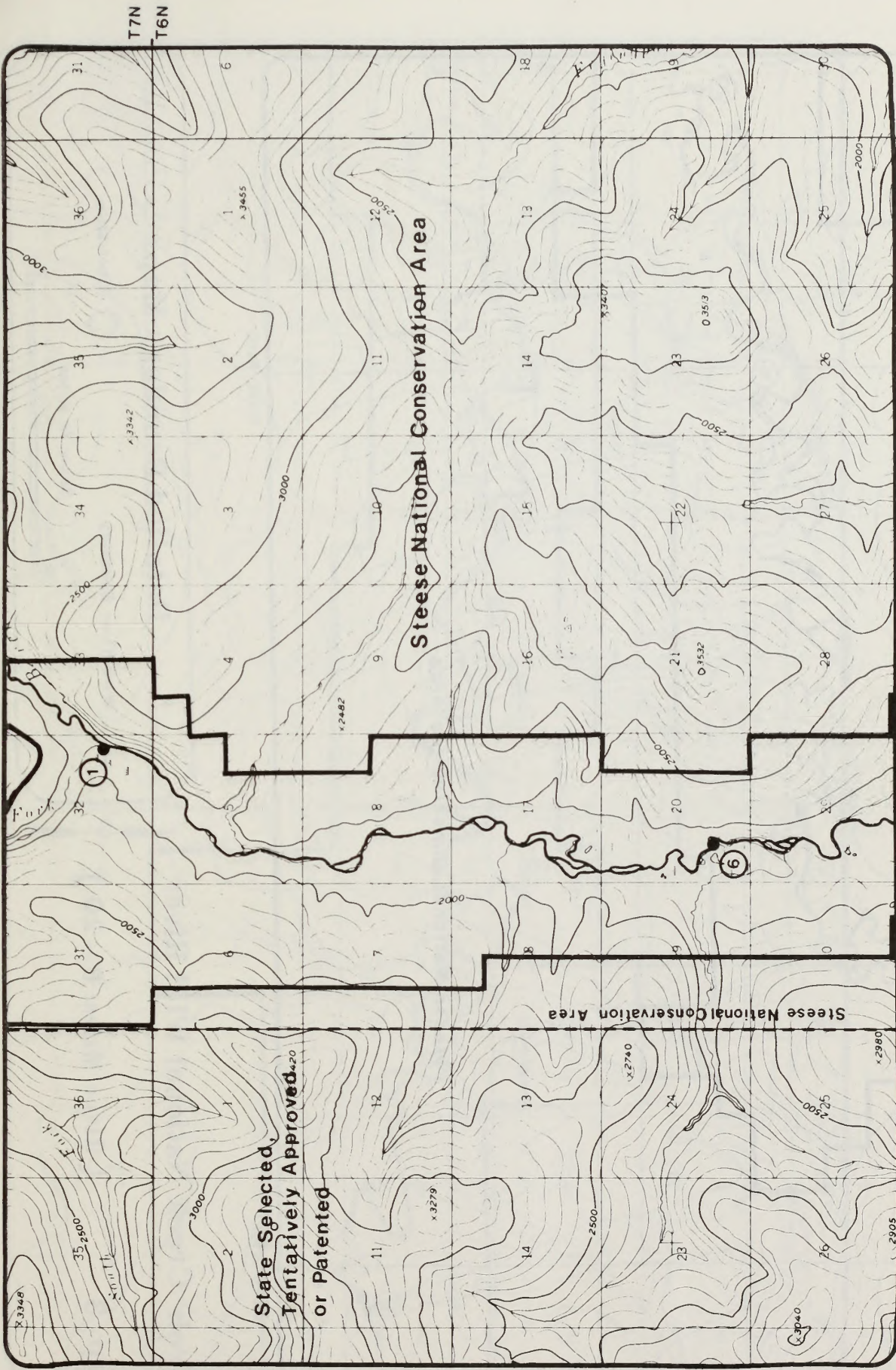


**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 1 (River Miles: 0 - 2)**

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

Wild River Boundary
  River Mile

Scale In Miles



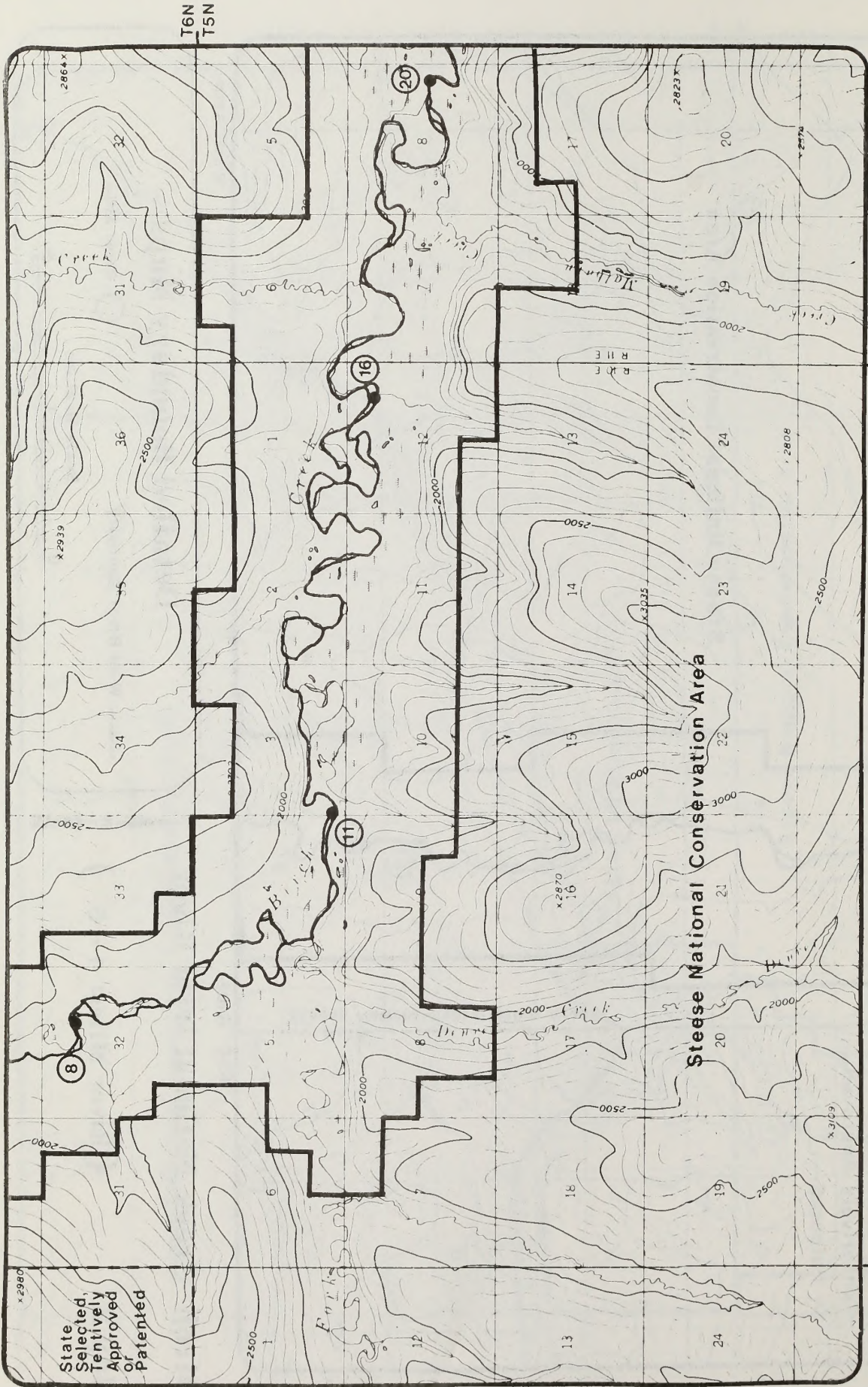
**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 2**  
**( River Miles: 1 - 6 )**

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

— Wild River Boundary      ○ River Mile

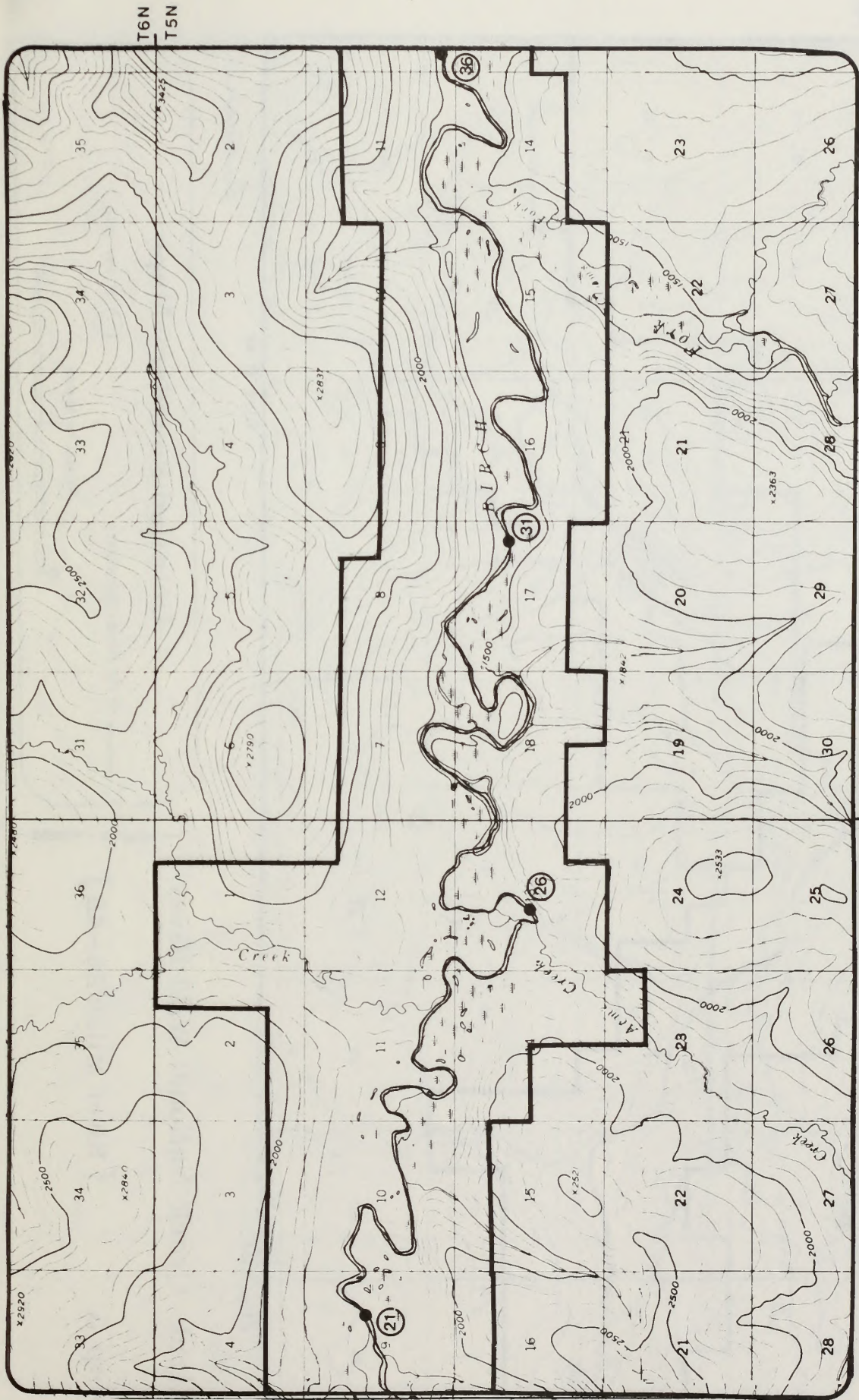
Scale in Miles

0 1 2



**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 3 (River Miles: 8 - 20)**

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

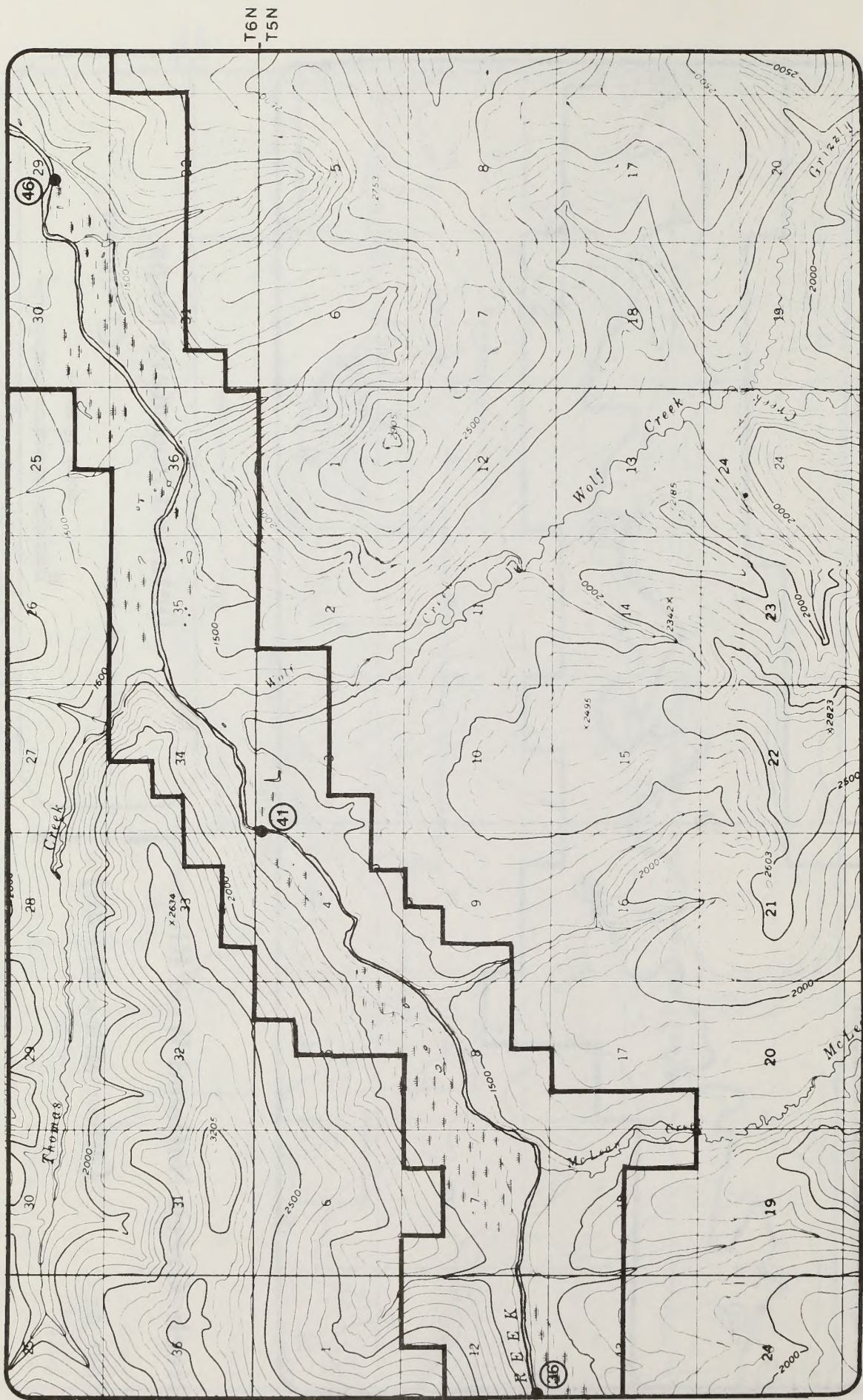


**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 4 (River Miles: 21 - 36)**

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

— Wild River Boundary      ○ River Mile

Scale in Miles  
 0 1 2



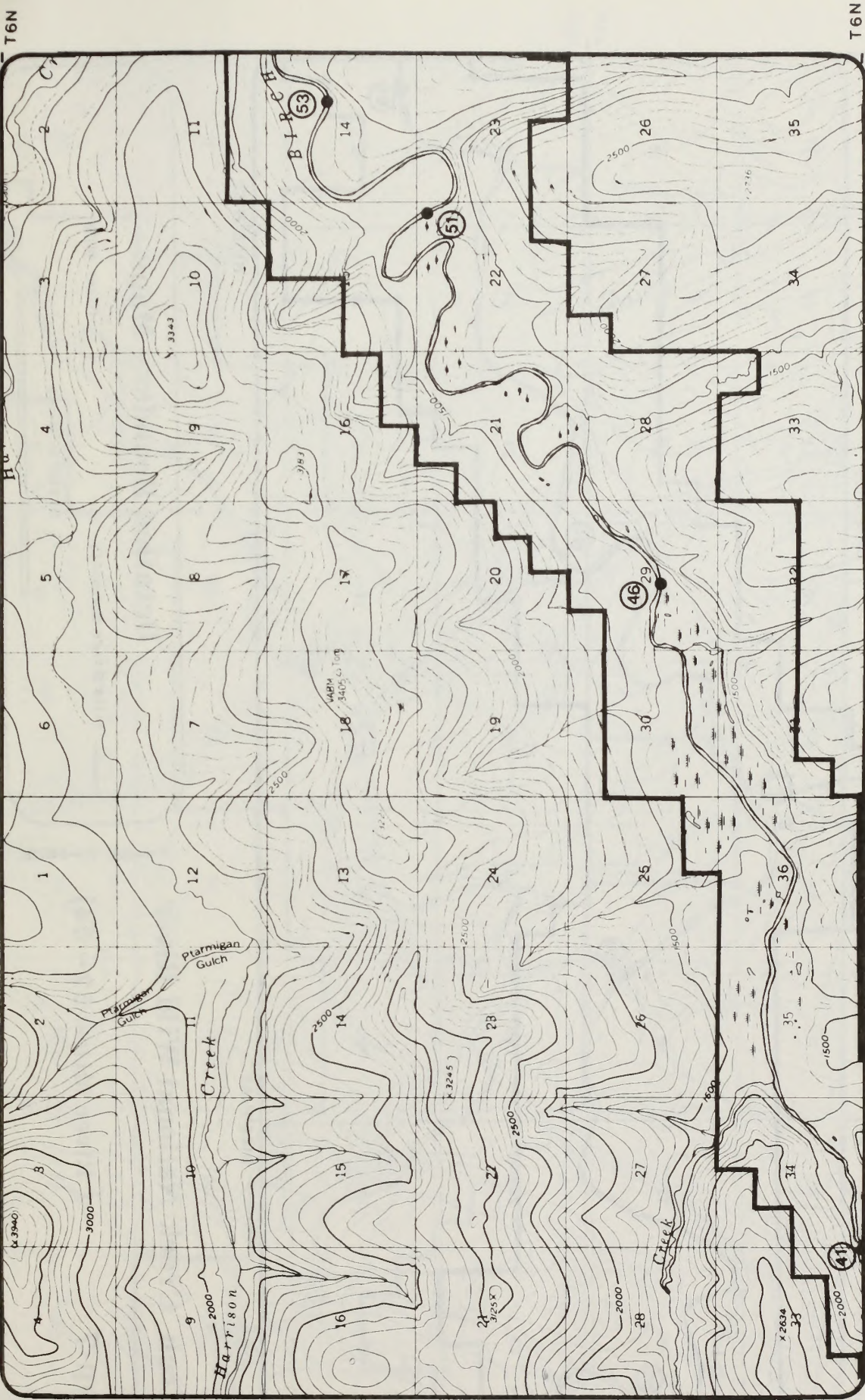
**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 5 (River Miles: 36 - 46)**

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

— Wild River Boundary      ○ River Mile

Scale in Miles

0 1 2



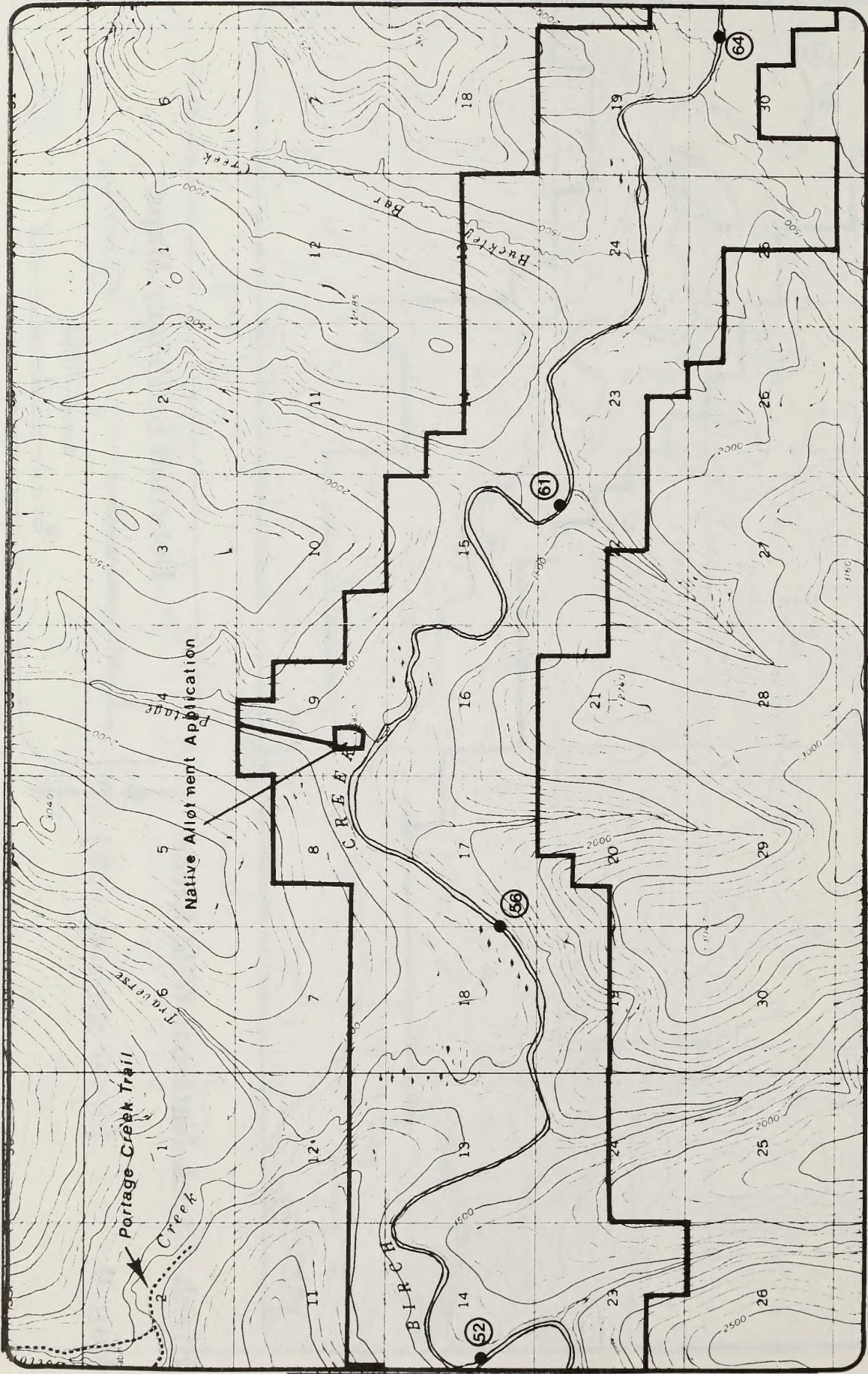
**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 6 (River Miles: 41 - 53)**

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

— Wild River Boundary      ○ River Mile

Scale in Miles  
 0 1 2

T7N  
T6N



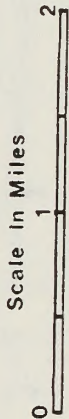
R15E R16E

R14E R15E

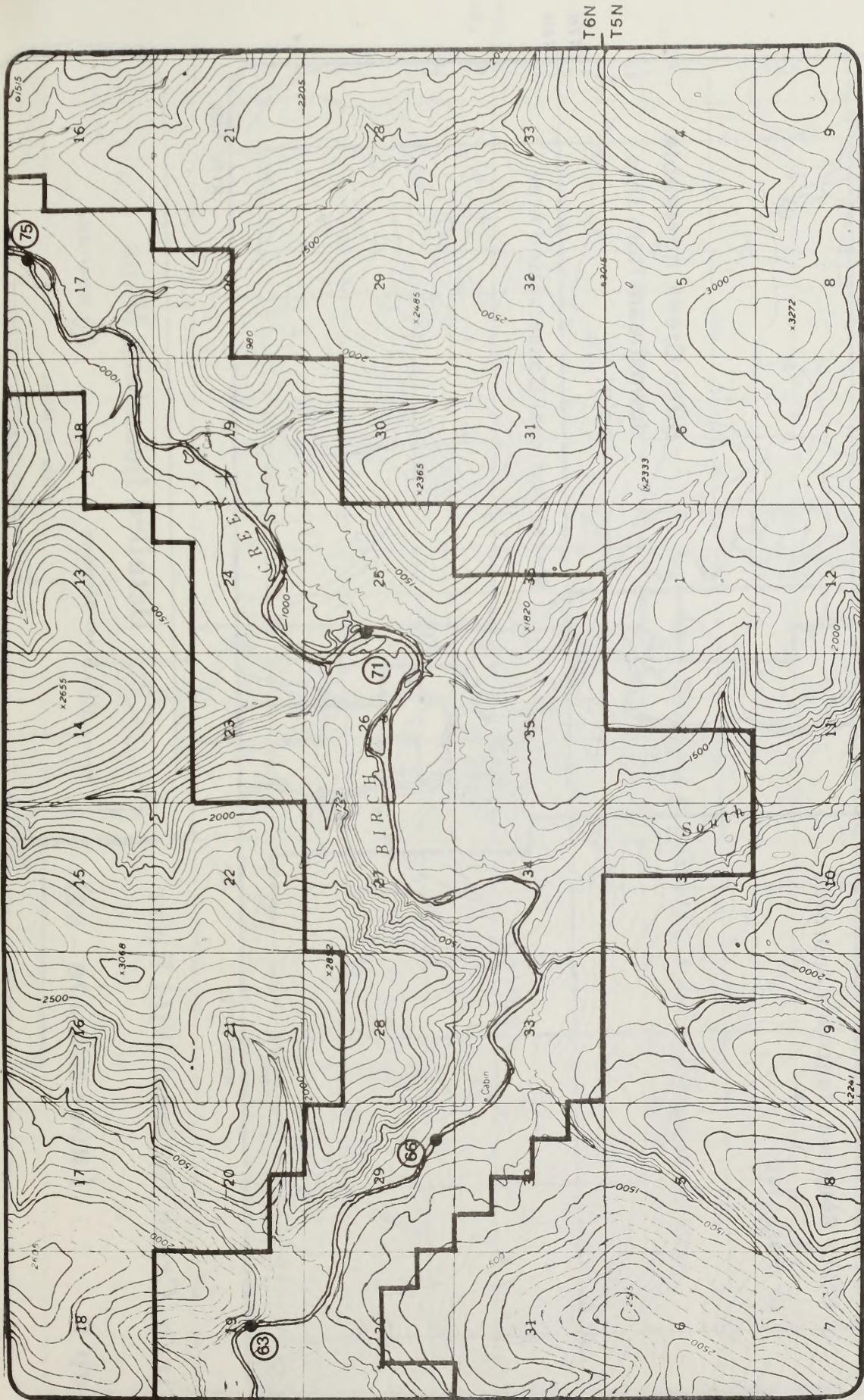
**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 7 (River Miles: 52 – 64)**

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

— Wild River Boundary      ○ River Mile







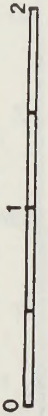
R16E R17E

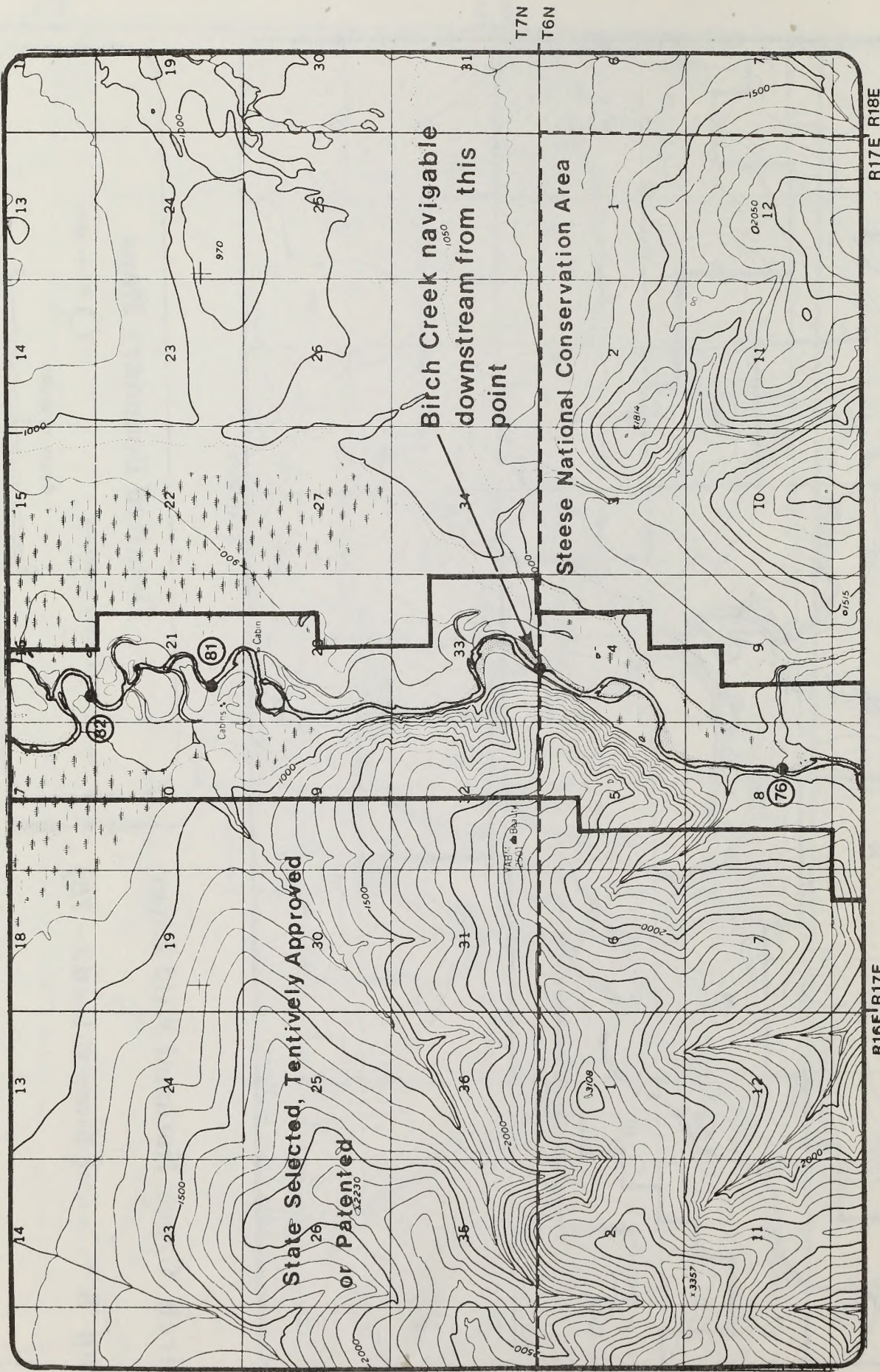
**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 8 (River Miles: 63 - 75)**

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

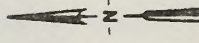
— Wild River Boundary      ○ River Mile

Scale in Miles





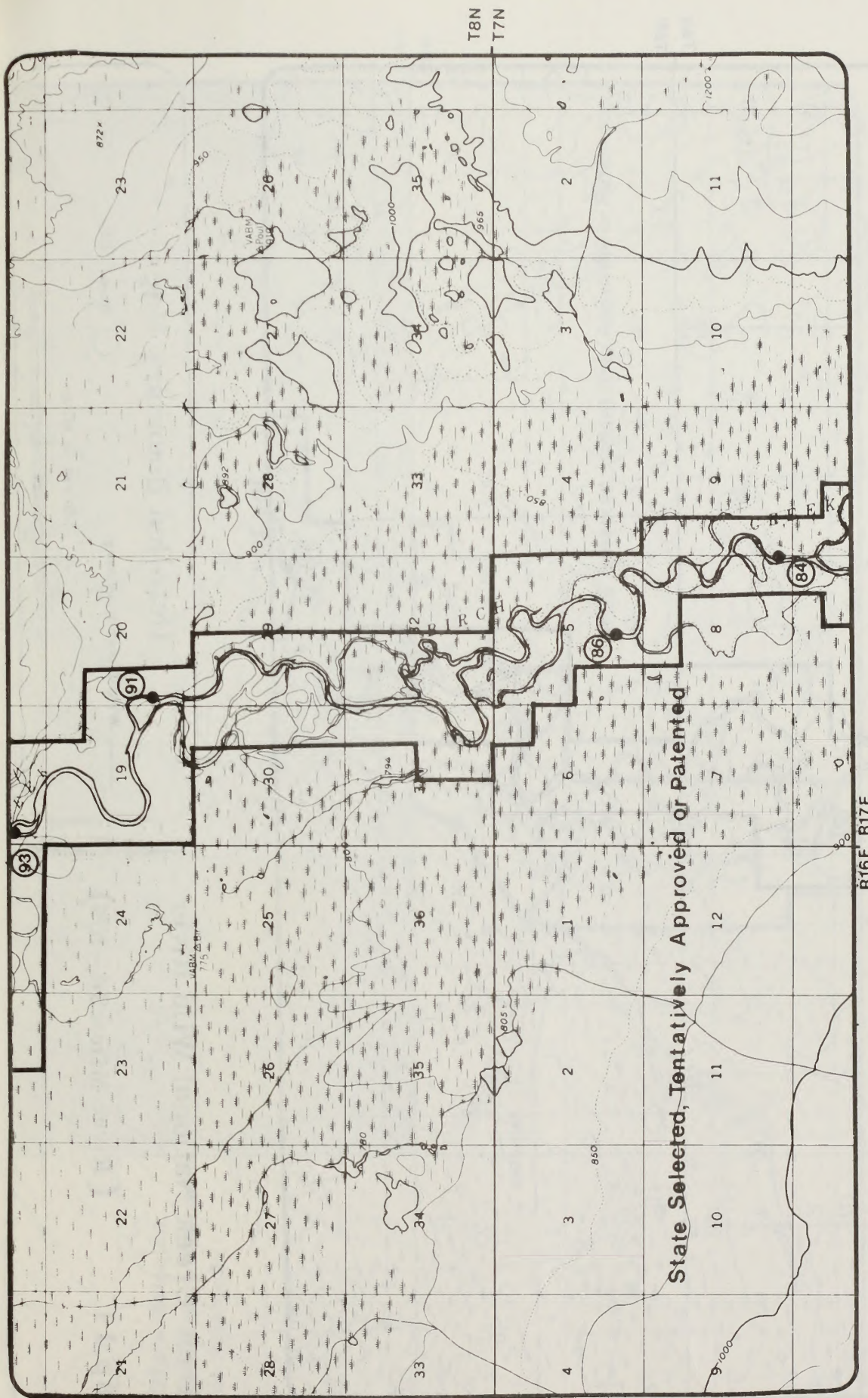
**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 9 (River Miles: 76 – 82)**



**Detailed Boundary Maps**

- Wild River Boundary
- River Mile

Scale in Miles



State Selected, Tentatively Approved or Patented

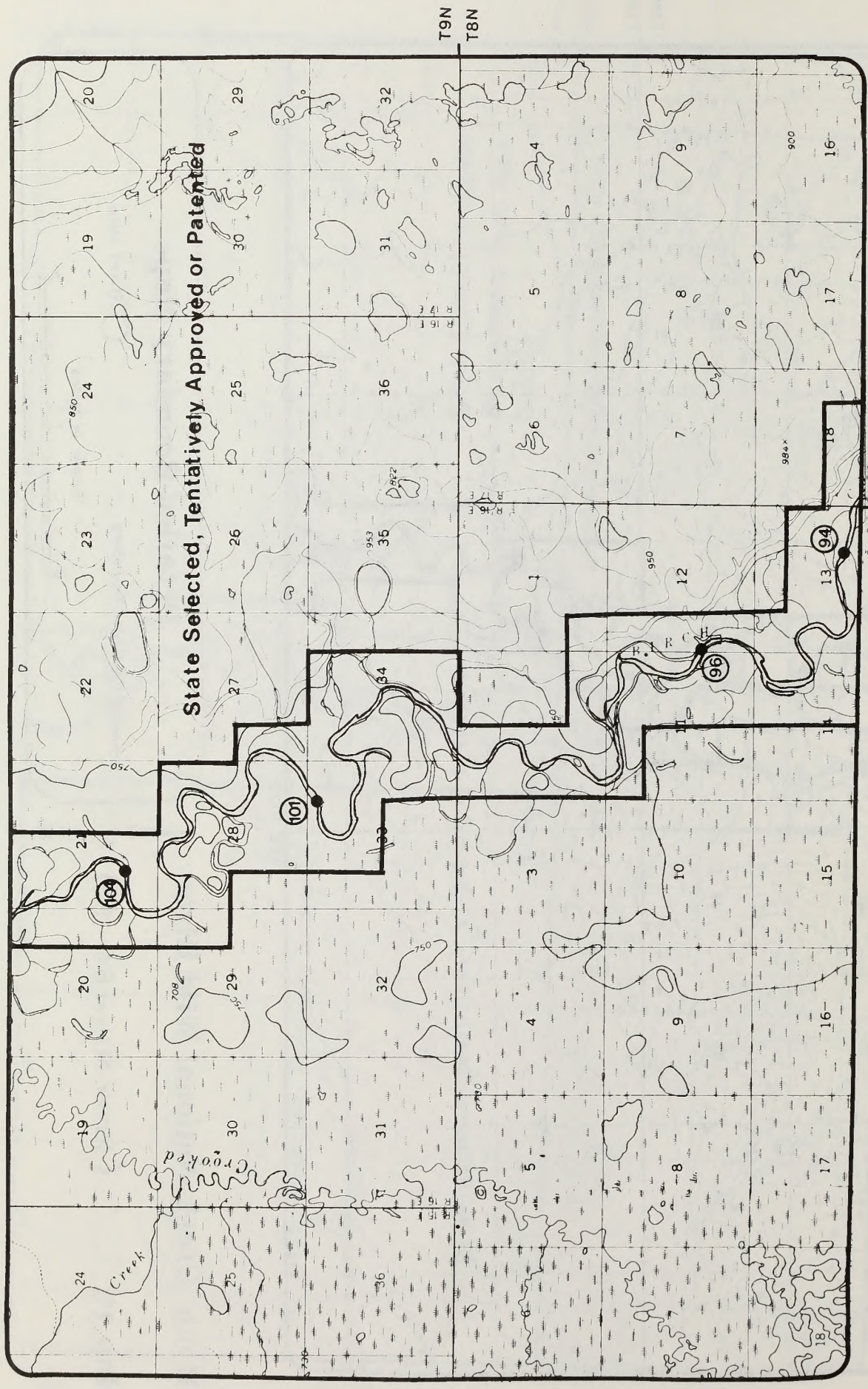
**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 10 (River Miles: 84 - 93)**

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

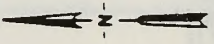
— Wild River Boundary      ○ River Mile

Scale in Miles

0 1 2

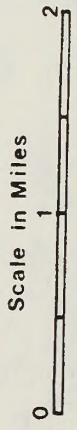


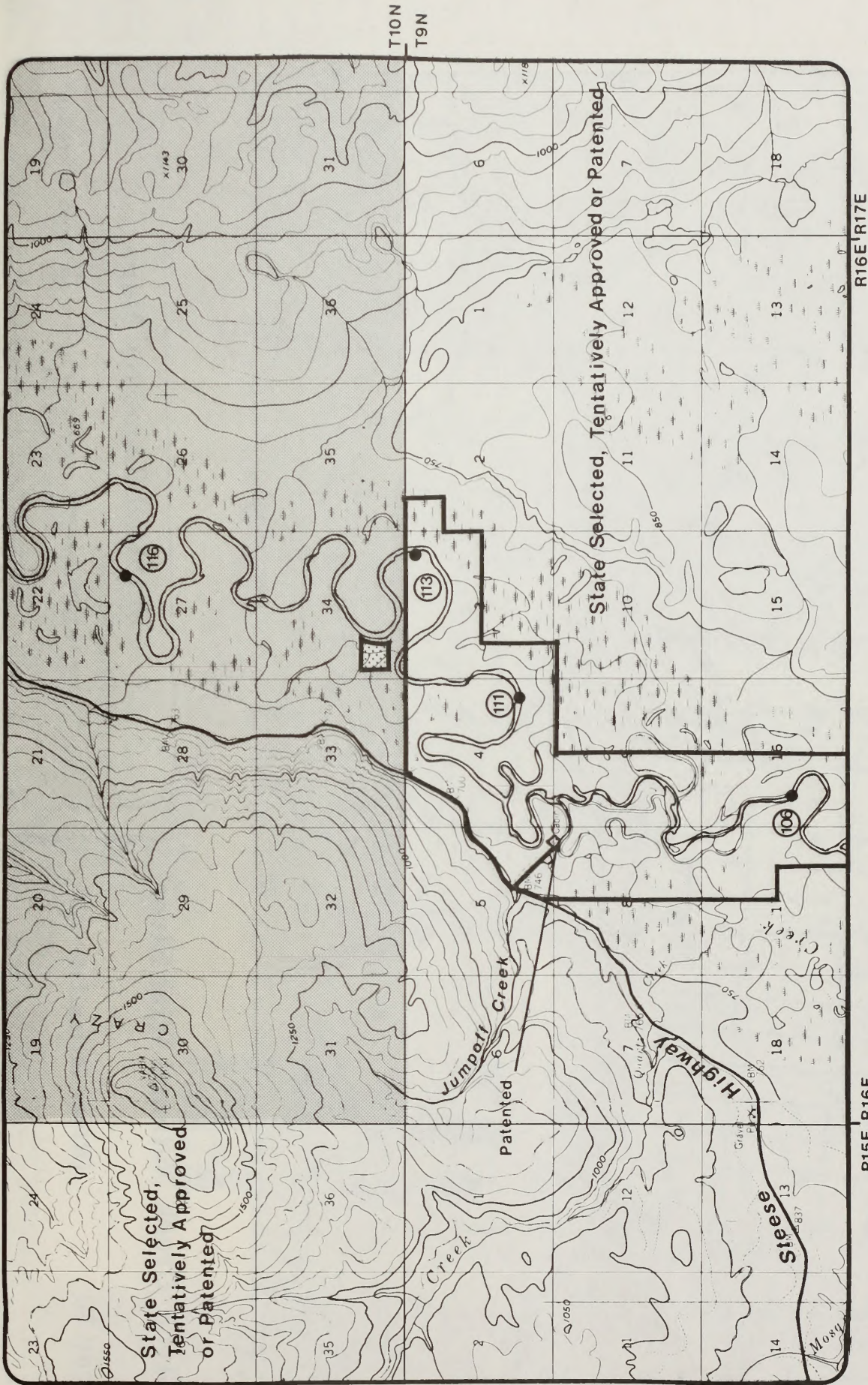
**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 11**  
**( River Miles: 94 - 104)**



**Detailed Boundary Maps**

— Wild River Boundary      ○ River Mile



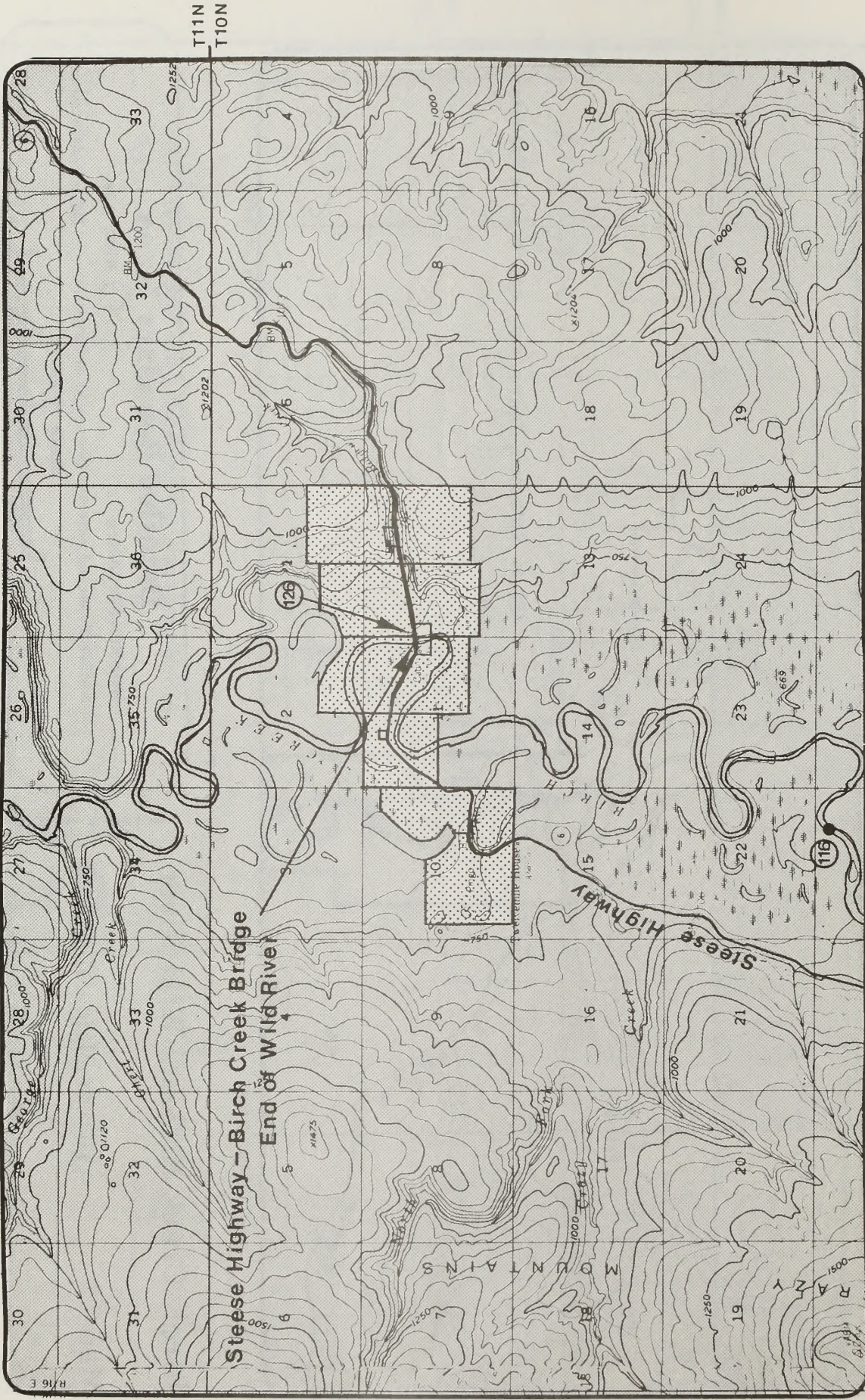


**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 12 (River Miles:106-116)**

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

- Wild River Boundary
- Native Selected, Interim Conveyed or Patented
- Native Allotment
- River Mile

Scale in Miles  
 0 1 2



**Birch Creek National Wild River**  
**Map 13** (River Miles:116 -126)

**Detailed Boundary Maps**

- Wild River Boundary
- ▨ Native Selected, Interim Conveyed or Patented
- ▤ Native Allotment
- River Mile

Scale in Miles  
 0 1 2

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POWER'S

**RECENT ADDITIONS**

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