Common Resource Area Descriptions

MLRA Name	National CRA Name	National CRA	CRA Description
Alexander Archipelago-Gulf of Alaska Coast	Remainder of MLRA 220	220.1	The MLRA includes the coastal mountains and lowlands of the Alexander Archipelago and southern coast of Alaska. The MLRA is free of permafrost. The soils are dominantly formed in glacial till, residuum, colluvium, volcanic ash, and alluvium. Native vegetation consists primarily of coastal Sitka spruce and western hemlock forests and tall alder scrub and grasslands at higher elevations. Localized urban development, commercial fishing, timber harvesting, recreation, and subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering are common land uses.
Alexander Archipelago-Gulf of Alaska Coast	Seldovia Area	220.2	Temperate climate and higher rainfall support a coastal forest plant community dominated by Sitka/white spruce. Forests are found on rolling glacial moraines and steep mountain side slopes. Formed from a mantel of volcanic ashes over glacial till or colluvium, soils are either very deep or shallow based their location on the slope. Resource concerns are deforestation from insects, soil erosion and stream sedimentation caused by construction of recreational trails and roads for salvage logging.
Alexander Archipelago-Gulf of Alaska Coast	Lower Kenai Peninsula	220.3	Covered by well drained soils composed of volcanic ash deposited over glacial till or colluvium, level coastal moraines become hilly and steep as they merge into the high peaks. Harsh maritime influences, cause Sitka spruce forest to exist only in sheltered and low elevation. Higher elevations are shallow to deep with alpine vegetation. Stunted Sitka spruce, alder and grass dominate hillsides. Resource concerns are human issues related to commercial fishing and subsistence fishing and hunting.
Alexander Archipelago-Gulf of Alaska Coast	Seward Area	220.4	This area is located on alluvial and colluvial deposits at the head of a fiord. High rainfall and cool climate have created a lush coastal forest composed of white spruce and hemlock. High natural erosion and deposition rates associated with mountain stream bed loads enhanced by gravel extraction cause urban flooding. Localized insect outbreaks threaten local forests. Erosion from roads and trails; loss wetlands and bear habitat increased bear/human conflicts are a result of increased development.
Alexander Archipelago-Gulf of Alaska Coast	Inner Prince William Sound	220.5	This steep coastal mountain with some adjacent lowland zone is characterized by high rainfall and spruce-hemlock rainforest. Suitable sites receive intense pressure from development and urbanization with attending problems of shoreline erosion and watercourse sedimentation. Water quality and spill pollution issues from recreation, commercial fisheries and development can impact sensitive freshwater, wetland, estuarine and near shore human as well as fish and wildlife habitat.
Kodiak Archipelago	Kodiak Island Livestock Grazing Area	221.1	Rugged, steep mountains dissected by broad, flat valleys characterize this high rainfall area. Vegetation consists of expanses of grass–forb meadows interspersed with alder thickets. Beach sand dunes are erosive if plants are removed. Teeming salmon streams are common, meandering through the valleys. High bear populations must be considered when planning in this area. This area is becoming increasingly impacted by recreational users on 4 wheelers, hunters, anglers, and sub-urban interface.

Common Resource Area Descriptions

Kodiak Archipelago	Sitkinak - Chirikof Island Livestock Grazing Area	221.2	Steep mountains and broad valleys, both covered with grasslands and meadows, characterize this area. High elevation areas commonly support dwarf shrub and lichen communities. High winds and rainfall are common, and erosion can be an issue if ground is exposed, especially on beach dunes along the coast. Soils are formed in glacial till and residuum mantled in volcanic ash.
Southern Alaska Coastal Mountains	Remainder of MLRA 222	222.1	The MLRA includes the rugged mountains, ice fields, glaciers, and valleys of the south slopes the Coast, St. Elias, Chugach, and Kenai Mountains that drain into Alexander Archipelago and the Gulf of Alaska. Permanent snow and ice, and barren rock, are extensive. Most soils are formed in colluvium, slope alluvium, and glacial drift. Native vegetation consists primarily of dwarf scrub and herbaceous communities. Recreational activities such as mountain and glacier climbing, hiking, backpacking, and hunting, are the principal current land use.
Southern Alaska Coastal Mountains	Valdez Valley	222.2	Formed of rugged mountains and glaciated valleys, soils formed in glacial drift and alluvium at lower elevations in valleys. Upper elevation vegetation consists of dwarf scrub grading to heavily treed river valleys. Barren rock and talus are extensive. Various recreational activities contribute to degraded steam crossings, wetland trailing and habitat fragmentation. Urban erosion and waste from small horse lots negatively impact water quality. Developments in flood prone areas are increasing.
Cook Inlet Mountains	Remainder of MLRA223	223.1	The MLRA includes the rugged mountains, ice fields, glaciers, and valleys of the northern Aleutian and Alaska Ranges, and the Talkeetna, Chugach, and Kenai Mountains that drain into the Cook Inlet Lowlands and Cook Inlet. Most soils are formed in colluvium, slope alluvium, glacial drift, and alluvium. Native vegetation is mostly dwarf alpine scrub and herbaceous communities, with alder scrub and grasslands at lower elevations. Most of the area is used for recreation and subsistence hunting and gathering.
Cook Inlet Mountains	Turnagain Area	223.2	This area has high rainfall. Soils are colluviums and slope alluvium in glacially formed valley ending in a high silt estuary. Scrub alder and mixed willow shrub riparian zone is impacted by recreation uses and subsistence hunting and gathering. This introduces Streambank and shoreline erosion and increased sedimentation, wildlife habitat fragmentation and fresh and estuarine wetland and water quality impacts. This area also is subject to development pressures.
Cook Inlet Mountains	Chugach Mountain Valleys	223.3	High mountain valleys, ice fields and snow combine with steep slopes and thin colluviums and slope alluvium soils to present areas of unstable slopes when disturbed for home building, increasing recreational developments and some agricultural projects. Rain on snow events with easily saturated soils contribute high runoff, increased sedimentation and localized flooding conditions to area streams. Extended frozen periods also require specialized planting and planning alternatives.

Common Resource Area Descriptions

Cook Inlet Lowlands	Homer - Fox River Area	224.1	This area is composed of alluvial, colluvial river and bluff deposits. Soils are somewhat poorly drained except for coarse river deposits. The maritime climate favors agricultural and residential development. Spruce, few birch and populus species form a thrifty closed forest; Canada bluejoint grass and shrubs forest openings. Resource concerns are soil erosion; natural and human induced mass wasting associated with land clearing and development; deforestation from insects; and invasive species.
Cook Inlet Lowlands	MatSu Road Corridor	224.10	Road accessible area including floodplains, glacial outwash plains interspersed with bogs, and glacial till toeslopes of the Talkeetna Mountains. Soils are formed from windblown loess and volcanic ash. Sparse populations consist of remote homesites, recreation cabins and small hay/ livestock operations, border the many small rivers and streams that support large Salmon populations. Water quality, fish habitat and riverbank erosion are major concerns exacerbated by heavy snow and rain fall.
Cook Inlet Lowlands	Remote Cook Inlet Lowlands	224.11	The roadless portion of the Susitna River drainage and its tributaries includes; floodplains; alluvial terraces; and glacial till plains interspersed with many bogs and streams. Soils are predominately poorly to very poorly drained, volcanic ash and windblown loess. Large numbers of recreation boats are increasing riverbank erosion, and all terrain vehicles are degrading wetlands, riparian zones and stream crossings resulting in the loss of salmon spawning and rearing habitat.
Cook Inlet Lowlands	Small Rivers Area	224.2	Composed of proglacial lake terraces that are flat with gulches cut by streams, the soils are deep well drained with deep depressional areas of sphagnum-sedge communities. The forest cover is spruce with a closed canopy. Hay production and grazing are common. Resource concerns are deforestation due to insects and erosion from salvage harvesting, fish habitat degradations due to road and recreational trail construction. Invasive/exotic plants are an increasing agricultural concern in this area.
Cook Inlet Lowlands	Ninilchik Uplands	224.3	Located 800 ft above sea level these areas are composed of moderately deep to shallow well drained wind laden silts, greatly influenced by volcanic ash. Slopes range from 3 to 20%. Lower elevation spruce forests are dense but thin in upper elevations. Cool temperatures and shorter growing season favors natural grasslands of Canada blue joint grass, forbs and shrubs at highest elevations. Resource concerns are deforestation due to insects, soil erosion and stream siltation from road and trails.
Cook Inlet Lowlands	Kenai Coastal Lowlands	224.4	This area is characterized by a series of well drained fine sandy loams and silty wind deposited materials laid over glacial outwash plains. Slopes of 3 -15 percent typify the landscape in a series of rolling ridges and knolls. Cool and moist maritime climate produces a dense forest of spruce, birch and balsam popular. Understory vegetation includes alder and devils club. Resource concerns are mass wasting of coastal bluffs and soil & wind erosion from wave action, topography and strong winds.

Common Resource Area Descriptions

Cook Inlet Lowlands	Kenai Lowlands	224.5	Soils are well drained, moderately deep wind placed silts on a glacial outwash plain of gravely coarse sand. Minor relief is interspersed with depressions of peat, small lakes and slow sinuous waterways. Vegetation is white spruce and birch on dry areas; low areas have black spruce, shrubs and sphagnum as cover. Management is for wildlife, oil & gas exploration and extraction, recreation and logging. Resource concerns are erosion and habitat loss from recreational, industrial and development.
Cook Inlet Lowlands	Kenai Foothills	224.6	The area is formed of well drained wind laid silts, on gravelly sandy terraces. Soils are moderately deep to deep; slopes are flat to steep on long rolling glacial features. Higher inland temperatures and moderate rain all contribute to these areas having agricultural importance. Forest cover is spruce and birch with open canopies. Resource concerns are degradation of salmonid and brown bear habitat. Soil erosion concerns are minor due to hay land management but are a concern on steeper slopes.
Cook Inlet Lowlands	Anchorage Bowl	224.7	Urbanized and densely populated hillsides are dissected by numerous watercourses. Original wetlands, floodplains and stream terraces are occupied by dwellings and storm drain systems. Localized flooding aggravates typical urban water quality problems. Brush hillsides and private property are subject to catastrophic wildfires and revegetation challenges. Limited land availability and intensive recreational demands require areawide planning efforts. Potentially dangerous human/ wildlife conflicts.
Cook Inlet Lowlands	MatSu Lowlands	224.8	Nearly level outwash and till plains with undulating glacial deposits, borders on steep foothills of the Talkeetna and Chugach Mts. Closely aligned with the maximum loess deposits from major area river floodplains. Erosion from high seasonal winds on vegetable and potato fields and water erosion on steeper slopes are of concern. Historically the most productive agriculture area in the state, it is under increased development pressure from suburban sprawl resulting in loss of valuable farmland.
Cook Inlet Lowlands	Knik Lowlands	224.9	Level to undulating glacial outwash and level to steep glacial till, including steep mountain foothills. Soils are relatively shallow deposits of wind blown loess mixed with volcanic ash. Spruce-birch and spruce-aspen forests predominate with bogs in depressional areas. Large dairy and hay farms are located near Point Mackenzie with small hay, livestock, and potato farms scattered throughout the region. Suburban sprawl threatens farmland, water quality and fragments wildlife habitat.
Southern Alaska Peninsula Mountains	MLRA 225	225.1	The MLRA includes the southeast facing slopes of the southern Aleutian Range that drain into Cook Inlet, Shelikof Strait, and the North Pacific. Rugged mountains, glaciers, and narrow, high gradient valleys characterize the MLRA. Soils are dominantly formed in materials weathered from residuum, colluvium, and slope alluvium. Native vegetation consists primarily of scrub and some grasslands. Recreation and subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering are the predominant current land uses.

Common Resource Area Descriptions

Aleutian Islands-Western Alaska Peninsula	MLRA 226	226.1	The MLRA includes the treeless hills and plains, volcanic mountains, and coastal lowlands of the Aleutian Islands, Pribilof Islands, and the southwest portion of the Alaska Peninsula. The MLRA is free of permafrost. The soils are dominantly formed in volcanic tephra. Native vegetation consists of dwarf shrubs on mountains and exposed sites and grasses and forbs on rolling hills and coastal lowlands. Commercial and sport fishing; subsistence hunting and gathering; limited reindeer grazing, and recreation are the predominant land uses.
Copper River Basin	MLRA 227	227.1	The MLRA includes the broad Copper River basin, a glacio-lacustrine plain cut by narrow flood plains and stream terraces. Lowlands are dotted by lakes and interconnecting channels and wetlands. The MLRA is in the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Soils are formed in clayey and loamy lacustrine deposits, glacial drift, and alluvium. Silty loess covers extensive areas. Native vegetation consists primarily of boreal woodlands and forests. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering and recreation are the predominant current land uses.
Copper River Basin	Copper River Homesteads	227.2	This area includes foothills and lowlands along the Copper River. It is in the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Soils are formed in varying thicknesses of loess over clayey and loamy lacustrine deposits, glacial drift, and alluvium. Vegetation is primarily boreal woodlands and forests. Sedge and sedge-shrub meadows are common in lowlands. Subsistence and recreation are the predominant land uses. Agriculture and other development is concentrated along roadways.
Interior Alaska Mountains	Remainder of MLRA 228	228.1	The MLRA includes the rugged mountains, glaciers, valleys, hills, and plains of the northern Aleutian Range, Alaska Range, and Talkeetna, Chugach, and Wrangell Mountains that drain into the upper Tanana and Kuskokwim drainages and the Copper River Plateau. Soils are formed mostly in silt mantled colluvium, slope alluvium, and glacial drift. Native vegetation is mostly dwarf alpine scrub and herbaceous communities. Most of the area is used for recreation and subsistence hunting and gathering.
Interior Alaska Mountains	McCarthy Homesteads	228.2	This area includes the foothills, plains, valleys; stream terraces; and flood plains between the Chugach and Wrangell Mountains. It is in the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Soils are formed in varying thicknesses of loess over alluvium, and glacial drift. Vegetation is primarily spruce woodlands and scrub shrub. Most of the area is used for recreation and subsistence hunting and gathering. Homesteads and recreational properties are concentrated along roadways or are accessible by boat or air.
Interior Alaska Lowlands	Remainder of MLRA 229	229.1	The MLRA includes the flood plains, terraces, and plains along the upper Tanana and Kuskokwim Rivers and the middle Yukon River. Basins, terraces and plains contain lakes, sloughs, and wetlands. The MLRA is in the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Soils are formed mostly in silt mantled alluvium and outwash. Native vegetation is mostly boreal spruce, mixed, and hardwood forests. Common land uses includes urban development near towns and villages, agriculture, timber harvesting; subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering; and recreation.

Common Resource Area Descriptions

Interior Alaska Lowlands	Nenana Flats	229.2	Includes the RR and road corridor south of Nenana. The land is relatively flat flood plains and terraces. Lakes, sloughs, wetlands and permafrost are common. Soils formed in alluvium and thick organic deposits. Upland vegetation is spruce, mixed, hardwood and balsam poplar forests. Scrub shrub are common on lowlands with sedge/sedge-shrub meadows in wetlands. Land uses are subsistence, recreation, farming, timber harvest and mining. Settlement is a concern around towns and local high spots.
Interior Alaska Lowlands	Kobe - Browns Court Agricultural Area	229.3	Includes the area along the RR and road corridor north of the Alaska Range. Soils formed in varying thicknesses of loess over outwash with organic deposits in lowlands. Sloughs, wetlands and permafrost are common. Upland vegetation is spruce, mixed, hardwood and stunted aspen and poplar forests with scrub shrub and sedge/sedge-shrub meadows in wetlands. Land uses are mining, agriculture, military, subsistence and recreation. Erosion, harsh growing conditions and land use conflicts are concerns.
Interior Alaska Lowlands	Fairbanks Lowlands	229.4	Includes flood plains and terraces surrounding Fairbanks. Lakes, sloughs, wetlands and permafrost are common. Soils are formed in alluvium, loess and thick organic deposits. Upland vegetation is spruce, mixed, hardwood and balsam poplar forests. Scrub shrub are common on lowlands with sedge/sedge-shrub meadows in wetlands. Water quality, wetland functions, flooding, habitat and land use conflicts are concerns. Land uses are urban, agriculture, timber, military, industrial and gravel mining.
Interior Alaska Lowlands	Delta Homestead Area	229.5	Includes the nearly level flood plains, terraces and outwash plains along the upper Tanana River and is within the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Soils formed mostly in alluvium, loess over outwash and organic deposits. Vegetation is spruce, hardwood and mixed forests, balsam poplar and scrub shrub on flood plains and terraces and sedge/sedge-shrub meadows on lowlands. Land uses are timber harvest, recreation, small scale agriculture, settlement, hunting, fishing and gathering.
Interior Alaska Lowlands	Delta Agricultural Area	229.6	Includes the nearly level flood plains, terraces, and outwash plains along the upper Tanana River and is within the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Soils are formed mostly in alluvium and outwash often mantled with loess and thick organic deposits. Vegetation is spruce, hardwood and mixed forests, balsam poplar forest on flood plains and terraces, scrub shrub on flood plains, and sedge/sedge-shrub meadows on lowlands. Wind erosion is a primary concern on agriculture and other disturbed lands.
Yukon-Kuskokwim Highlands	MLRA 230	230.1	The MLRA includes the hills, mountains, and narrow valleys of western interior Alaska. The MLRA is in the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Soils are formed mostly in residuum, colluvium, and slope alluvium on slopes, and alluvium in the valleys. Silty loess mantles the surface in many valley bottoms and on lower mountain slopes. Native vegetation is mostly boreal spruce, mixed, and hardwood forests and woodlands. Scrub increases with elevation. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering and recreation are the predominant land uses.

Common Resource Area Descriptions

Interior Alaska Highlands	Remainder of MLRA 231	231.1	The MLRA includes the mountains, hills and valleys of eastern interior Alaska. The MLRA is in the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Soils are formed mostly in colluvium, slope alluvium and residuum, with alluvium on flood plains and terraces. Silty loess mantles many surfaces. Native vegetation is mostly boreal spruce, mixed, and hardwood forests and woodlands. Scrub increases with elevation. Urban development and small farms near towns and villages, subsistence hunting and gathering, placer mining, and recreation are the predominant land uses.
Interior Alaska Highlands	Fairbanks - Nenana Highlands	231.2	Comprised by the low mountains and hills north of Nenana and Fairbanks. Soils are formed in varying thicknesses of loess over gravelly colluvium, and residuum. Soils in valleys are formed in thick silt and organic deposits. Native vegetation is spruce, mixed, and hardwood forests and woodlands. Hunting, fishing, mining, timber harvest, farming, recreation and residential development are major land uses. Permafrost, karsting, water erosion, wetland functions and flooding are resource concerns.
Interior Alaska Highlands	Remote Interior Alaska Highlands	231.3	The mountains, hills and valleys northeast of the Alaska Range. Soils formed in loess over colluvium and residuum. Soils in valleys formed in thick silt and organic deposits. Flood plains and stream terraces are stratified alluvium. Permafrost is common. Vegetation is spruce, mixed, and hardwood forests with low scrub at higher elevations and alpine dwarf scrub and herbaceous communities at upper elevations. Subsistence, mining, timber harvest, recreation and remote settlement are land uses.
Yukon Flats Lowlands	Remainder of MLRA 232	232.1	This area includes the nearly level lowlands along the middle reaches of the Yukon River. These lowlands are dotted with lakes, sloughs, and wetlands. This area is in the discontinuous permafrost zone. Soils are formed in alluvium and loess. Native vegetation is spruce, mixed, and hardwood forest. Balsam poplar, alder and willow grow on flood plains and low terraces. Sedge and sedge-shrub meadows are found in wetlands. Subsistence, recreation and waterfowl brooding are the primary land uses.
Yukon Flats Lowlands	Yukon Flats Foothills	232.2	This area includes the low hills adjacent to the middle reaches of the Yukon River known localy as the Yukon Flats. The area is within the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Soils are formed mostly in colluvium or residuum mantled with loess. Native vegetation is boreal spruce, mixed, and hardwood forest. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering and recreation are the primary land uses. This area has greater slopes and is at higher elevation than the other area of the Yukon Flats Lowlands.
Upper Kobuk and Koyukuk Hills and Valleys	MLRA 233	233.1	The MLRA includes the lowlands, uplands and isolated hills and low mountains along the upper reaches of the Kobuk River and middle reaches of the Koyukuk River. Lowlands are dotted with lakes, channels and wetlands. Soils are formed mostly in glacial drift at lower elevations and colluvium and slope alluvium on the upper slopes, and alluvium on flood plains and stream terraces. Native vegetation is primarily boreal spruce, mixed, and hardwood forest. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering and recreation are the primary land uses.

Common Resource Area Descriptions

Interior Brooks Range Mountains	MLRA 234	234.1	The MLRA includes the mountains and valleys on the south slope of the Brooks Range that drain into the Yukon River system. Soils are formed mostly in residuum, colluvium, and slope alluvium on steeper slopes, with glacial drift on lower slopes, and alluvium on stream terraces and flood plains. Native vegetation is mostly boreal spruce, mixed, and hardwood forest and woodland. Scrub increases with elevation. Subsistence hunting and gathering, and recreation are the predominant land uses with limited placer and hard rock mining in a few locations.
Northern Alaska Peninsula Mountains	MLRA 235	235.1	The MLRA includes the northwest-facing slopes of the southern Aleutian Range. Rugged mountains and valleys characterize the MLRA. All rivers drain into the Bristol Bay-Northern Alaska Peninsula Lowlands and Bristol Bay. The soils are formed mostly in residuum, colluvium, and slope alluvium, with glacial drift found in valleys and lower slopes. Native vegetation consists primarily of scrub and some grasslands. Subsistence hunting and gathering and recreation are the predominant current land uses.
Bristol Bay-Northern Alaska Peninsula Lowlands	MLRA 236	236.1	The MLRA includes the lowlands, uplands, and isolated hills bordering Bristol Bay. The MLRA is in the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Lowlands contain hundreds of lakes and interconnected wetlands. The soils are formed mostly in glacial till and outwash, and alluvium. Volcanic ash mantles much of the area. Native vegetation consists of shrub and herbaceous tundra and boreal woodlands and forests. Urban development near towns and villages, subsistence hunting and gathering; commercial fishing; and recreation are the predominant current land uses.
Ahklun Mountains	MLRA 237	237.1	The MLRA includes the rugged low mountains and valleys of the Ahklun and Kilbuck Mountains. Interconnected lakes fill the valleys in the east. The MLRA is in the zone of discontinuous permafrost. The soils are dominantly formed in residuum, colluvium, alluvium, and glacial drift. Native vegetation consists of dwarf scrub communities on the uplands with boreal forests and woodlands and tall scrub communities in valleys and on lower slopes. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering and limited recreation are the predominant current land uses.
Yukon-Kuskokwim Coastal Plain	MLRA 238	238.1	The MLRA includes the expansive, nearly treeless coastal plain along the lower reaches of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Most of the MLRA is characterized by interconnected lakes, channels, and wetlands. The MLRA is in the zone of discontinuous permafrost. The soils are formed mostly in alluvial, marine, eolian, and organic deposits. Native vegetation consists of wet sedge and sedge-shrub tundra. Urban development near towns and villages, and subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering are the predominant current land uses.
Northern Bering Sea Islands	North Bering Sea Island Reindeer Range	239.1	Characterized by tall, rolling hills covered with tundra communities of dwarf shrubs, and lowlands of forb and grasslands, lichen communities are common, and sensitive to heavy grazing and breakage during times of hot and dry conditions. Soils are formed from weathered residuum, volcanic tephra, marine alluvium, and eolian deposits. Cloudy and foggy days are common in summer; winters are snowy and cold. Ice can encase snow along coastal areas, making access to winter feed difficult for reindeer.

Common Resource Area Descriptions

Nulato Hills-Southern Seward Peninsula Highlands	Remainder of MLRA 240	240.1	The MLRA includes the hills, low mountains, and valleys of the western slope of the Nulato Hills and southern Seward Peninsula that drain into Norton Sound. The MLRA is in the zone of discontinuous permafrost. Soils are formed mostly in colluvium and slope alluvium on steeper slopes, and in glacial drift and alluvium in valleys. Low and dwarf shrub tundra communities dominate with riparian forests and dwarf spruce woodlands in valleys. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering, and some reindeer herding, are the predominant land uses.
Nulato Hills-Southern Seward Peninsula Highlands	Nome Urban - Mining Area	240.2	Discontinuous permafrost upland soils of colluvium and slope alluvium is vegetated with low and dwarf shrub tundra communities. Historical and recent mining activities require critical area planting, tailings reclamation and water quality protection. Habitat fragmentation issues for waterfowl and moose combine with erosion control problems in subsistence wetlands from indiscriminate trails. Dry arctic climate conditions govern alternatives. Watershed level planning is increasingly important.
Nulato Hills-Southern Seward Peninsula Highlands	Nulato Hills-Southern Seward Peninsula Highlands Grazing Area	240.3	Rolling hills are covered with spruce stands, low shrublands, and meadow tundra communities. Lichen communities are productive and susceptible to disturbance during hot and dry conditions. Soils are formed in colluvium and slope alluvium on hills and mountains. Ice encases snow in coastal areas, making access to winter feed difficult at times. Predators, insect harassment, caribou migration pathways and extreme weather combined with a lack of road or trail access are considerations in planning.
Seward Peninsula Highlands	Seward Peninsula Highlands Grazing Area	241.1	Steep, rocky mountains and broad, rolling valleys characterize this arctic area. Soils are permafrost, formed in colluvium, residuum, slope alluvium, and loess. Vegetation includes spruce stands, low shrub-lands, and wet meadow tundra communities. Lichen communities are productive and susceptible to disturbance during hot and dry conditions. Predators, insect harassment, caribou migration pathways, and extreme weather combined with a lack of road or trail access are considerations in planning.
Northern Seward Peninsula-Selawik Lowlands	Northern Seward Peninsula-Selawik Lowlands Grazing Area	242.1	Coastal deltas and sloping uplands are covered with low shrublands and wet sedge tundra communities. Lowlands are extensive, with small lakes and wetland channels. Lichen communities are productive and prone to disturbance during windy, dry weather. Soils in lowlands are fluvial in origin; upland soils are formed in colluvium and slope alluvium. Predators, insect harassment, caribou migration pathways, and extreme winter weather, combined with a lack of road or trail access are planning issues.
Western Brooks Range Mountains, Foothills, and Valleys	MLRA 243	243.1	The MLRA includes the southern slopes of the DeLong and Baird Mountains, and the Noatak River and the lower Kobuk River drainages. This area is in the zone of continuous permafrost. Soils are formed mostly in residuum, colluvium, and slope alluvium, with glacial drift on lower slopes, and alluvium on floodplains. Native vegetation is mostly scrub and herbaceous tundra. Boreal forest occurs along the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers. Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering, and recreation are the predominant current land uses.

Common Resource Area Descriptions

Northern Brooks Range Mountains	MLRA 244	244.1	The MLRA includes the mountains and valleys on the north slope of the Brooks Range that drain to the Arctic Foothills, Coastal Plain, and Arctic Ocean. Soils are formed mostly in residuum, colluvium, and slope alluvium. On lower mountain slopes and in valleys, soils formed in glacial drift are common. Soils formed in stratified alluvium are on stream terraces and flood plains. Native vegetation consists of alpine dwarf scrub and herbaceous communities. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering and recreation are the predominant land uses.
Arctic Foothills	MLRA 245	245.1	The MLRA includes the hills, ridges, and valleys between the Arctic Coastal Plain on the north and the Brooks Range on the south. The MLRA is in the zone of continuous permafrost. Soils are formed mostly in colluvium, slope alluvium, and glaciofluvial deposits, with alluvium on floodplains. Organic deposits are extensive in depressional areas. Native vegetation consists primarily of scrub and herbaceous tundra. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering, recreation, and localized oil and gas extraction are the predominant current land uses.
Arctic Coastal Plain	MLRA246	246.1	The MLRA includes the coastal plain along the Arctic Ocean. Much of the area is dotted with a myriad of lakes, channels and wetlands. The MLRA is in the zone of continuous permafrost. Soils are formed mostly in marine and fluvial deposits; with thick organic deposits in depressional areas and alluvium along floodplains. Native vegetation is primarily mesic and wet herbaceous tundra and sedge and sedge-moss meadows. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering; oil and gas extraction; and recreation are the predominant current land uses.