

## Population Density

**Indicator:** Population density (number of people per square mile) in 1997, mapped by census tract. Population density is calculated by normalizing an area's population by its geographic extent (in square miles). Census tracts are small, relatively permanent geographic entities within counties. Generally, they have between 2,500 and 8,000 residents and boundaries that follow visible features.

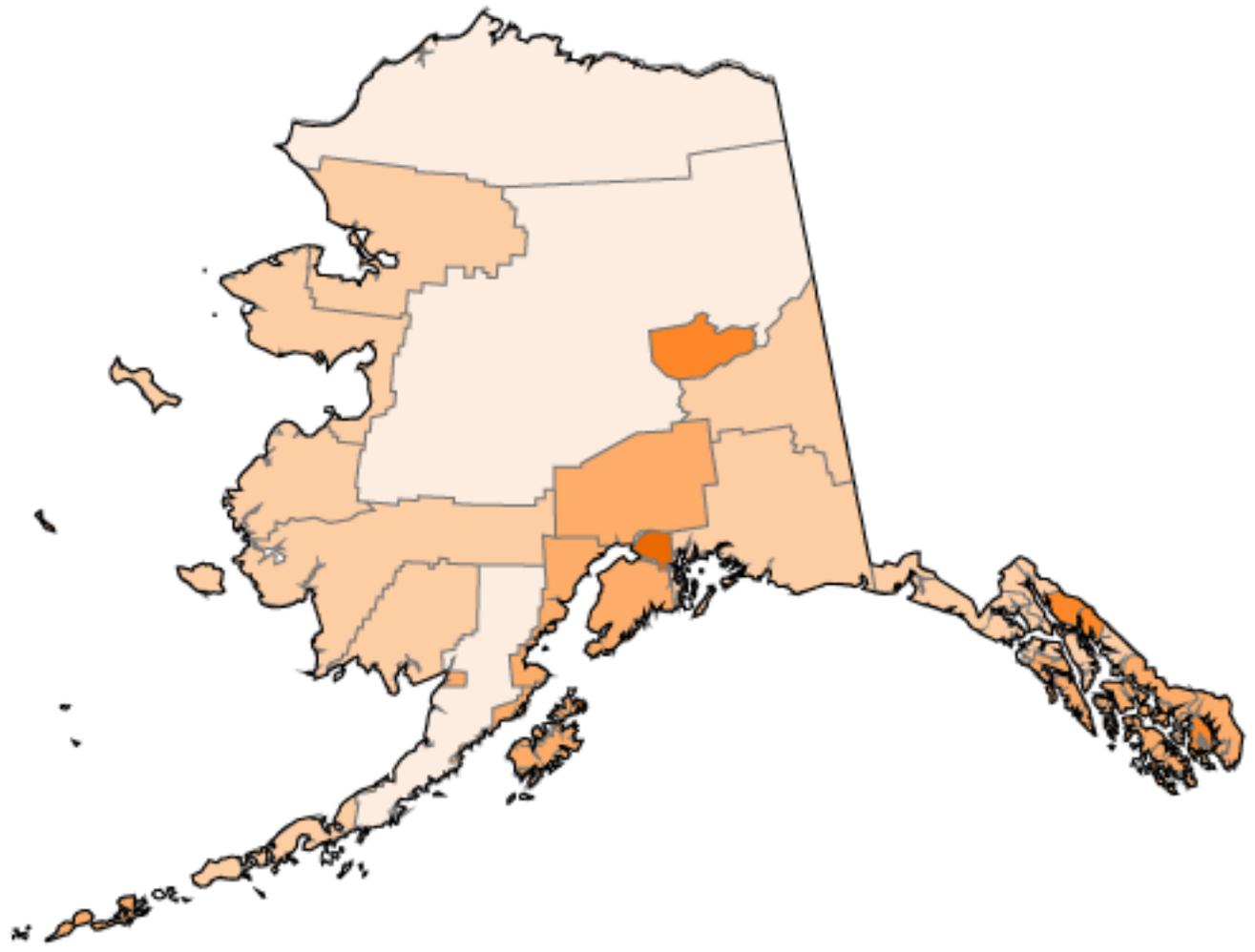
**Key Findings:** BLM lands are almost exclusively located in areas of low population density. Such conditions can provide opportunities for wildlife, recreation, and consumptive use not generally possible in more populated areas. There are exceptions, however, that offer opportunities of their own. For example, in northeastern Utah, watershed units with 60-80 percent BLM land lie adjacent to areas of high population density. Under such circumstances, BLM lands may be especially important for recreation, as a haven for special status species, or simply for the esthetic value. As such, higher population concentrations may reflect a higher potential for conflicts among uses.

**Limitations:** These data are considered to be of very good quality and are easily obtainable on an annual basis. In isolation, this information provides a general picture of the intensity of human settlement. Many analyses are possible with this information.

**Source:** Census CD+Maps by Geolytics, available from: <http://www.geolytics.com>. Decennial Census: available in National Atlas of the United States at: <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/atlasftp.html> and in hard copy at local libraries; also found at the Government Sharing Project: <http://govinfo.kerr.orst.edu>. City and County Data Book, available for order at: <http://www.census.gov/statab/www/ccdb.html> or in the library reference section.

**Comments:** This information comes from the decennial census. During the later part of a decade, current estimates may be found at the sources above.

# Population Density



People Per Square Mile  
By Census Tract, 1997

- 0 - 0.1
- 0.1 - 1
- 1 - 10
- 10 - 100
- 100 - 1,000

Scale 1:15,000,000  
[NEXT SECTION >>](#)

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)