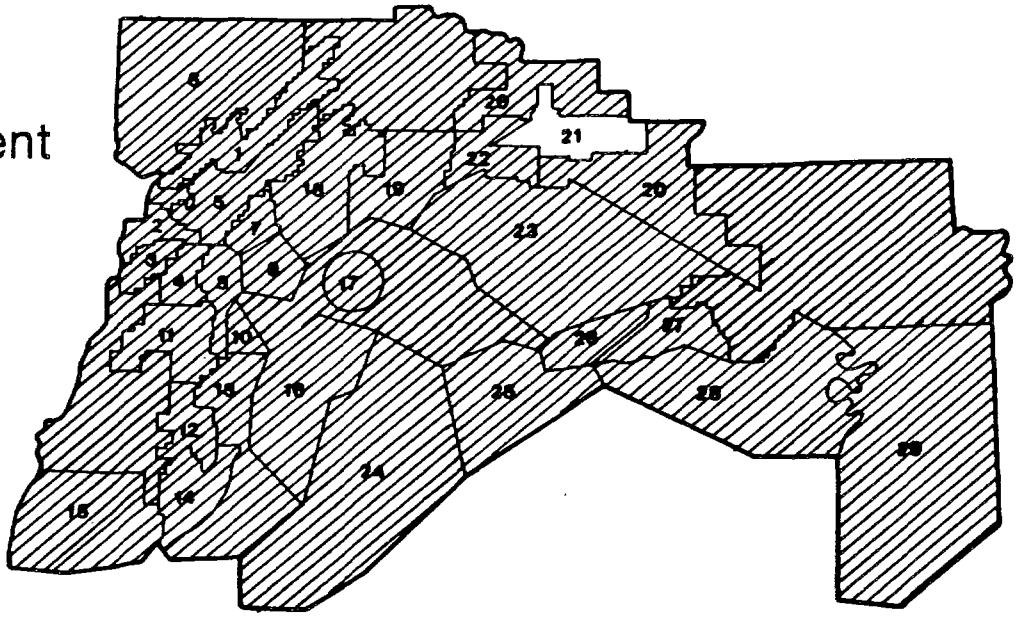
CITY OF VALDEZ

Management Unit 21



Background

This management unit contains the state-owned lands in and around Valdez. Much of the land in this area has been reserved for specific public uses such as the Valdez Glacier Campground. The unit is outside of the Chugach National Forest.

Management Intent

Most lands in this subunit will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use. Settlement is proposed for 720 acres in the Robe Lake West land sale area (Subunit 21K), Brown's Creek (Subunit 21O), and Wortmanns (Subunit 21Q). In addition, an undetermined acreage may be offered adjacent to the existing Robe Lake land sale area (Subunit 21J).

The state owns a number of small, isolated parcels of land in this management unit. Other parcels may be acquired through foreclosure, escheat or other means. Unless otherwise mentioned, the area plan has not considered the disposition of these parcels. Reclassification for sale or lease is allowed without a plan amendment where consistent with the Valdez Comprehensive Plan, the Valdez Coastal Management Plan, local land-use regulations and settlement guideline B2, Isolated Parcels of State Land, page 2-38.

The City Valdez has not yet filled its municipal land entitlement; approximately 515 acres remain to be selected. Under AS 29.65.130, most land in this unit is classified in categories that would be available for selection, but a few -- for example, land classified wildlife habitat or forestry -- are not selectable. None of the city's present selections include these lands. The plan has not specifically considered future selections by the city. For that reason, if land in an unselectable category is selected by the city, the departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game will do more detailed analysis of the resource values of the selected lands. If the analysis shows that these lands are suitable for local management either because the resource values do not merit state retention or because the land is not essential

to the overal management intent for the area, reclassification may occur through the special exception process outlined in Chapter 4. In these cases, reclassification would not require a plan amendment.

Most state lands remain open to mineral entry. Land sale areas would be closed before disposal. Six estuaries and parts of three streams will be closed to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources. In addition, the tidelands adjacent to the Solomon Gulch Hatchery will be closed to protect habitat requirements of the hatchery and the fishery it supports. A corridor is reserved for the proposed Trans Alaska Gas System (TAGS) pipeline. The pipeline corridor traverses Subunits 21B, M, N, O, P, R, S, and T.

Management intent is discussed below for twenty-two individual subunits.

Subunit 21A - Mountains. This unit includes mountains, glaciers and, in a few instances, a river headwater. Land in this unit will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use. Corbin-Robe (near Corbin Creek) has been suggested for a downhill ski area. Uses that might foreclose such development should not be authorized without prior consultation with the city. Recreation opportunities and access may be expanded.

Subunit 21B - Sugarloaf. Land in this unit is mountainous and above treeline. The unit includes Solomon Lake, the reservoir and the right-of-way for the Solomon Gulch Power Project and the water supply for the Solomon Gulch Fish Hatchery, and important mountain goat winter habitat. The area will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with appropriate protection for mountain goat habitat and the hatchery water supply.

Sugarloaf Mountain and mountainous land near Canyon Slough have been identified as potential sites for developed downhill ski areas. Uses that might foreclose such development should not be authorized without prior consultation with the city.

The TAGS and TAPS rights-of-way traverse this subunit. Management will be consistent with the needs of the TAPS and TAGS transportation corridors.

Subunit 21C - Mineral Creek Canyon. This area contains important recreation and mineral resources. The Valdez Coastal Management Plan (1986) states, "Already a popular summer recreation area, recreation use of Mineral Creek Canyon will increase with population growth. Winter use of the area is also heavy. A city-groomed ski trail attracts cross country skiers. Snowmobilers also make use of the area...Proximity to town make this a tourism and wilderness resource." The area has also been historically important for its mineral potential, and contains numerous mining claims, many of which are still active. Mineral Creek is also a salmon spawning stream.

The Coastal Management Plan designates this area as an Area Meriting Special Attention (AMSA) ". . . because of the importance of this area for recreation and the potential conflicts between this and other uses including mineral extraction."

State management intent will be consistent with the management intent of the AMSA, which is to allow continued mineral extraction while protecting salmon spawning and rearing habitat, and public use of the recreation resources including public access, hiking and skiing trails, and the scenic values.

Subunit 21D - Valdez Glacier. The Valdez Glacier is an important recreation area for the City of Valdez and a potentially important tourist attraction. This area will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on public recreation and tourism. Improvements likely to increase public access and increase the attraction for tourism development are appropriate.

Subunit 21E - Duck Flats Road Corridor. This area is just north of the Richardson Highway as it parallels the Duck Flats. It also includes Siwash Creek and an unnamed stream which are salmon spawning and rearing habitats. The corridor will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use. Management will emphasize protection of the scenic quality of the area and the fish habitats.

Subunit 21F - Duck Flats. This 1,000-acre intertidal area, of which 50 acres are state-owned, consists of 450 acres of mud flats and 460 acres of saltwater marsh. Tidelands in this subunit are owned by the City of Valdez. The Duck Flats are fed by six streams and provides habitat for rearing salmon and a wide variety of waterfowl. The area borders Valdez boat harbor and contains a port facility and grain terminal.

The Valdez Coastal Management Plan designated this area as an AMSA because "the many existing and proposed uses have created intense competition for use of this very productive and unique area. The area's use as a transportation corridor and port site, fishery, aquaculture site, scenic and nature viewing site will create conflicts which will require particular attention to ensure proper management." The Coastal Management Plan calls for creation of an AMSA task force with other agency membership.

Management will be consistent with the coastal plan policies and intent for this area including that developed by the AMSA task force.

Subunit 21G - Old Valdez Glacier Trail. This area contains the Old Valdez Glacier and Historic Trail used by the miners when Valdez was the entrance to the interior of Alaska. A reservation along the trail exists for recreation and historic purposes. The area will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on maintaining the historic, recreation, and visual qualities of the trail. Personal-use forestry, such as firewood cutting, is an allowed use in the area but the locations should be buffered from the trail to maintain the trail's visual, undisturbed qualities. Cutting will be designed to avoid creating a windthrow hazard on the trail.

Subunit 21H - Lowe River Mouth. This area includes the delta and estuarine areas around the mouth of the Lowe River, an important salmon spawning and rearing stream. The area will be maintained in public ownership and managed for multiple use. The primary management intent will be to protect the fish and wildlife habitat of the river's mouth; recreation and forestry are secondary uses.

Subunit 21I - Robe Lake. This subunit encompasses the AMSA designated by the Valdez Coastal Management Plan. The designation is caused by potential conflicts between the lake's recreation and habitat value (important coho and sockeye salmon spawning and rearing habitat) and "a number of different and possibly incompatible uses." The coastal plan recommends the creation of an AMSA task force with DNR and other agency membership.

Management will be consistent with the coastal plan policies and intent for the area including that developed by the AMSA task force.

Subunit 21J - Existing Robe Lake Land Sale. This area contains 34 lots sold by DNR in 1980 and adjacent land. The adjacent land is of moderate to poor quality and will be managed for multiple use. It can be offered for sale only if the City has a significant need for more settlement land that cannot be met from other settlement areas in this management unit.

Subunit 21K - Proposed Robe Lake West Land Sale. This subunit is between Robe Lake and the Richardson Highway. Approximately 250 acres will be offered for sale. A vegetative buffer should screen the settlement area from the road and Robe Lake.

Subunit 21L - Richardson Road Corridor. This area will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use. The management intent is to protect the anadromous fish

habitat in the sloughs of the Lowe River, the scenic character of the Richardson Highway, and to encourage commercial use or personal use forestry that is compatible with those goals.

Subunit 21M - Lowe River Floodplain. The active floodplain of the Lowe River includes important salmon habitat and a concentration of bald eagle nests. The area will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use that emphasizes the protection of salmon habitat and eagle nesting. This unit also includes a small part of the TAGS right-of-way. Management will be consistent with the needs of the right-of-way.

Subunit 21N - Lowe River Bench. This area contains the Trans-Alaska Pipeline (TAPS), the Trans-Alaska Gas Pipeline (TAGS) rights-of-way, the highest volume timber resources near Valdez, a past state land sale, and provides winter moose habitat. The area will be retained in public ownership and managed for these various resources. The TAPS rights-of-way are currently closed to mineral entry. Management will encourage commercial timber harvest consistent with the needs of the TAPS and TAGS transportation corridors. The area provides the long-term land base to supply local timber needs and develop a small, locally oriented timber industry in Valdez.

Subunit 21O - Brown's Creek. This and the adjacent Subunit 21N, Lowe River Bench, will provide the commercial forest lands to supply local timber needs and develop the timber industry in Valdez. A timber sale has been executed for some of the timber in the unit. This subunit also has good settlement capability. Access for any purpose requires crossing the Lowe River and TAPS. A portion of the TAGS right-of-way traverses this unit. Management will be consistent with the needs of the right-of-way.

Management of this area will emphasize transportation corridors, forestry, and settlement. For most of the 20-year planning period, timber harvest in this unit will be a higher priority than the land sale. Approximately 350 acres will be offered for settlement, but the sale is to be the lowest priority among all the state land sale areas identified near Valdez. Therefore, the land sale is not expected to occur until the latter part of the 20-year planning period to allow the timber harvest to be completed and to allow for possible construction of the TAGS line. The land sale may be offered sooner than the completion of the timber harvest if the Commissioner determines that there is a significant lack of available recreational or residential land for the population of Valdez and a land sale is warranted. In addition, legal, long-term, practical access to the land sale area must be established before a land sale offering.

Future land sales in this subunit will not preclude commercial or other timber harvest. However, the timber harvest and road design will take into account future residential uses of the area.

To reflect the management intent, this subunit will have a joint forestry, settlement, and transportation classification. Areas offered for sale may be reclassified settlement without a plan amendment.

Subunit 21P - Keystone Canyon. This famous canyon is a scenic highlight in an already scenic area. The narrow canyon and steep cliffs are important attractions for residents and tourists. The canyon is traversed by the Richardson Highway and may be traversed by TAGS. This area will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on maintaining the scenic qualities of the area and accommodating the right-of-way needs of existing and future transportation corridors.

The Alaska Legislature should consider designating the Keystone Canyon and the Thompson Pass area for long-term retention by the state for protection and maintenance of the recreation and tourism resource, especially the scenic quality. The area would be suitable for designation as a state recreation area. This legislative designation is discussed fur-

ther under Subunit 21S (Thompson Pass), and in Chapter 4. A similar recommendation is also made for adjacent land in the Copper River Basin Area Plan.

Subunit 21Q - Wortmanns. Approximately 120 net acres will be offered for sale in this subunit. The proposed sale area includes a narrow band of suitable land between the Richardson Highway and the steep mountains to the north. The area would be closed to mineral entry before sale.

Subunit 21R - Heiden View. This area contains the Heiden View Subdivision, offered for sale by DNR in 1987. The unit also includes the TAGS line right-of-way.

Subunit 21S - Thompson Pass. This unit includes mountain peaks, glaciers, deep glacier-carved valleys that provide much of the recreation opportunities of the Thompson Pass area. The unit provides the scenic backdrop for the Richardson Highway. The area extends past the boundaries of the Prince William Sound planning area and into the Copper River Basin planning area. The designations and management guidelines for this unit are the same as those in Unit 15 (Thompson Pass), of the Copper River Basin Area Plan, adopted by DNR and ADF&G in 1986.

This management unit should be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on expanding recreation opportunities. A corridor for future transportation and utility routes will be retained through the area. Certain recreation activities (particularly winter recreation and off-road vehicle use) also need, or soon will need, more active management for public safety and for avoiding conflicts between users. To provide more active recreation management, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) and the Division of Land and Water Management (DLWM) should enter into a cooperative agreement to give DPOR authority to construct and manage recreation facilities and manage visitor activities in the area. DPOR will review all land-use activities proposed for this area.

Wortmann Creek west has been suggested as a downhill ski area. Uses that might foreclose such development should not be authorized without prior consultation with the city.

The Alaska Legislature should consider designating the Thompson Pass and the Keystone Canyon area for long-term retention by the state. This area would be suitable for designation as a state recreation area. Establishment of a legislative designated area and subsequent development of visitor facilities in the Thompson Pass area would encourage visitors to spend more time in the area, which would help the local economy.

The study area for the legislative designation should include this and the Keystone Canyon subunits.

The TAPS and TAGS rights-of-way are currently closed to mineral entry. The plan does not recommend administrative closures for other state land in the Thompson Pass area; however, the state legislature may consider closing areas included in a legislative designation.

Timber harvest is allowed in the area for salvage, disease control, and other forest management that is consistent with maintaining public recreation values. Any legislation should allow for such activities.

Subunit 21T - Anderson Bay - TAGS Terminal. Land (including tidelands) in this area may be required for the construction of the pipeline and terminal for the Trans-Alaska Gasline System. The land will be reserved for this use unless a different terminal site is developed. Much of the state land in this area was closed to mineral entry when DNR accepts the final right-of-way application. Lower Salmon Creek, Lower Solomon Gulch, and state owned tidelands at the fish hatchery on Solomon Gulch will be closed to new mineral entry (see mineral closing guideline).

The state should select an additional 960 acre area identified as a buffer area for the proposed Liquid Natural Gas terminal site. State ownership of the entire terminal site would facilitate development. The additional selection will also be closed to mineral entry to protect the continued availability of the site.

The anchorage in this subunit is situated so wind blows past rather than into it, and the anchorage provides a safe refuge for small boats traversing Port Valdez when the weather is bad enough that they cannot cross to the city harbor. Also, the shoreline from Entrance Point to Anderson Bay contains herring spawning habitat.

Subunit 21U - Solomon Gulch Hatchery Harvest Area. The tidelands in this subunit are adjacent to the Solomon Gulch Fish Hatchery and include the hatchery harvest area maintained by ADF&G for the salmon hatchery. In this area returning hatchery stock is naturally separated from wild stock. During fishery openings, it receives concentrated commercial-purse-seine fishing. The subunit also supports dense concentrations of rearing juvenile salmon when the hatchery releases smolts in the spring. Tideland management will maintain the productivity of the habitat and the use of the area for commercial and sport fishing.

Subunit 21V - Remainder of State Tidelands. State-owned tidelands not included with another subunit will be managed to support community and resource development on adjacent uplands in a manner consistent with the Valdez Comprehensive Plan, Valdez Coastal Management Plan and the guidelines in Chapter 2 of this plan.

Management Guidelines

Coastal Zone Plans (all subunits). State actions within the boundaries of the Valdez Coastal Management Plan will be consistent with that plan.

Gravel Pits (all subunits). Existing gravel pits will be retained in public ownership for material sales.

Transportation and Utilities (all subunits). Future transportation and utility lines are allowed throughout this unit. Provision should be made for these purposes in any area proposed for legislative designation. Only essential facilities needed to support transportation and utility uses should be allowed between Keystone Canyon and Thompson Pass to protect the recreation and scenic resources of the area. Supportive operations that can be located outside of the Keystone Canyon - Thompson Pass area, such as gas stations, are not allowed.

Crucial Mountain Goat Habitat (Subunits 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D, and 21S). Near crucial mountain goat winter range, activities will avoid or minimize damage to important components of the habitat including important vegetation or topographic features, and avoid or minimize visual or audible disturbances sufficient to disrupt mountain goat use of the habitat.

Timber Harvest and Visual Management (Subunits 21B, 21E, 21H, 21K, 21L, 21N, 21O, 21P, 21Q, 21R, and 21S).

1. Road Corridors. Along road corridors (including the Richardson Highway and Dayville Road) timber management, where allowed, will maintain the natural appearance from the road by maintaining a natural vegetative buffer or other means.

2. Lowe River Bench (Subunits 21N and 21O). Timber harvest in the Lower River Bench and Brown's Creek subunits will be designed to minimize impacts on views from the highway. Management tools to accomplish this goal might include those listed below:

a. Restrictions on the size and amount of clear-cutting.

b. Using topography or vegetation to buffer views of yarding areas and roads.
c. Designing cuts to resemble avalanche chutes, meadows, and other natural breaks in the vegetation.
d. Other measures as appropriate.

Mineral Extraction in Mineral Creek Canyon (Subunit 21C). The following guidelines apply to mineral extraction within Mineral Creek Canyon.

1. Visual Impact of Mining Operations. Mining operations must be designed and conducted to the extent practicable to minimize their visual impacts, especially when viewed from the Mineral Creek Road. During mining, the lessee must follow specific requirements:

a. Stabilize the disturbed area to prevent un necessary erosion.
b. Properly dispose of solid wastes.
c. Clear vegetation only where necessary.
d. Use existing vegetation to screen mining operations where possible.
e. Keep camp areas, roads, and mining sites compact and orderly.

2. Rehabilitation of the Mining Site. The mining site must be returned to a natural appearance after use, unless other rehabilitation requirements are specified in the approved plan of operations. Rehabilitation shall be an ongoing part of the mining operation. The disturbed area must be graded as necessary to be compatible with the surrounding undisturbed area and rehabilitated, using stripping, tailings, and fines, to provide conditions suitable for fast, natural revegetation of the disturbed area.

3. Public Access. No facilities or activities may be located where they would block public access to navigable and public waters. Public access to and within the mineral claim may not be restricted, except to protect public safety or to prevent unreasonable interference with the rights of the lessee, and only if authorized under an approved plan of operations.

4. Mineral Creek Road. Mineral claims within the Canyon are subject to the Mineral Creek Road right-of-way. If mining is requested within the road right-of-way (including underground mining within 100 feet of the surface of the right-of-way) or a new access road needs to be constructed from the mining operation to the Mineral Creek Road, a permit must be obtained from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Any proposed road construction must be included in the plan of operations and be designed to minimize erosion, runoff, and sedimentation.

Mineral Closures (21E, 21F, 21G, 21H, 21M, 21P, 21S, 21U, and 21V). In order to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources, three streams and four estuaries will be closed to new mineral entry. Also, tidelands adjacent to the Solomon Gulch Hatchery will be closed because the hatchery and the fishery it supports are critically dependent on the marine environment of those tidelands for salmon habitat including the growth of juvenile salmon. The boundaries of the closures are described in Appendix D and are summarized below.

1. Streams (Subunits 21E, G, H, M, P, and S). The closures include three streams: approximately 2.0 miles of Siwash Creek on the east side of the Duck Flats, approximately 0.2 miles of Crooked Creek on the west side of the Duck Flats, and approximately 17.4 miles of the Lowe River, and the state land within 50 feet of each side of those streams.

2. Estuaries (Subunits 21F and 21V). Six estuaries are proposed for closure. They are lo cated at the mouths of the three streams listed above and at the mouth of Mineral Creek (35-40).

3. Hatchery Tidelands (Subunits 21U). The closure includes tidelands adjacent to the Solomon Gulch Hatchery on the south side of Port Valdez.

Vegetation and Public Land Requirements for the Settlement near the Richardson Highway and around Robe Lake (Subunits 21J and 21K). In addition to the public land and vegetated buffers required by the Settlement guidelines in Chapter 2, a vegetated buffer of 75 feet will be maintained in public ownership along the Richardson Highway and one of 100 feet will be maintained around Robe Lake.

Settlement and Timber Harvest at Brown's Creek (Subunit 21O).

1. Access. Land will not be offered for sale until legal, long-term, practical access is established across the Lowe River and across the TAGS and TAPS rights-of-way.

2. Visual Protection. The land sale will be designed as much as practical to maintain the natural appearance of the area as seen from the Richardson Highway. The following measures should be considered to implement this guideline:

- **a.** Retain a publicly owned buffer.
- **b.** Using vegetation or topography to buffer road and residential lots.
- **c.** Restrictions on the building location.
- **d.** Other measures as appropriate.

DOF road and harvest plans will be completed in consultation with DLWM

Conflicts with Hatchery Harvest Areas (Subunit 21U).

1. Disease, Pollution, and Productivity. Because of the concentration of hatchery stock, the following uses will not be allowed if there is a feasible and prudent alternative: uses with the potential to transmit disease to the concentrated hatchery stock; uses that significantly reduce the productivity of the salmon hatchery by competing with the available food supply or by other means; and uses that could cause significant water pollution.

2. Interfering with the Commercial Fishery. Because hatchery harvest areas, particularly the nearshore areas, receive dense concentrations of purse seine commercial fishing activity, any tideland facility (rafts, floats, mooring systems, etc.) should be located and designed to maintain the continued use of the area.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are listed below:

- Fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas
- Forestry
- Materials
- Recreation, tourism, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Transportation and utilities

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 21: City of Valdez

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
		Primary Surface Use[2]	Prohibited Surface Use	Subsurface[1]	
21A Mountains	State-owned uplands	Resource management, low value	Land offerings	Open	
21B Sugarloaf	State-owned uplands	Resource management, low value; For the area that drains into Solomon Lake: Water resources	Land offerings	Open	
21C Mineral Creek Canyon	State-owned uplands	Minerals Public recreation	Land offerings	Open	AMSA in Valdez Coastal Management Plan
21D Valdez Glacier	State-owned uplands	Public recreation	Land offerings	Open	
21E Duck Flats Road Corridor	State-owned uplands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Land offerings	Most open; Crooked and Siwash Creeks closed	
21F Duck Flats	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Two estuaries closed	AMSA in Valdez Coastal Management Plan

[1]All areas are available for leasing of leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals.

[2]Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits that are not specifically prohibited, may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, management guidelines of this unit, and relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2. See Chapter 2, pages 2-11 and 2-12, for floathome policies. Trapping Cabin and Remote Cabin permits will not be given in the planning area. See guideline B-3, page 2-39.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 21: City of Valdez

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
		Primary Surface Use[2]	Prohibited Surface Use	Subsurface[1]	
21G Old Valdez Glacier Trail	State-owned uplands	Forestry Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Land offerings	Most open; Siwash Creek closed	
21H Lowe River Mouth	State-owned uplands and tidelands	Habitat & harvest Secondary use: Forestry Public recreation	Land offerings	Lowe River closed	
21I Robe Lake	State-owned uplands	Forestry Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Land offerings	Open	AMSA in Valdez. Coastal Management Plan
21J Existing Robe Lake Land Sale	State-owned uplands; private lands	Settlement		Closed (existing land sale)	Past land disposal area and adjacent land; existing classifications unchanged
21K Robe Lake West, Proposed Land Sale	State-owned uplands	Settlement Secondary use: Public recreation Forestry Habitat & harvest		Closed before sale	Estimated net land offering 250 acres
21L Road Corridor	State-owned uplands	Forestry Habitat & harvest Transportation	Land offerings	Open	

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[2]Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits that are not specifically prohibited, may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, management guidelines of this unit, and relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2. See Chapter 2, pages 2-11 and 2-12, for floathome policies. Trapping Cabin and Remote Cabin permits will not be given in the planning area. See guideline B-3, page 2-39.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 21: City of Valdez

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
		Primary Surface Use[2]	Prohibited Surface Use	Subsurface[1]	
21M Lowe River Floodplain	State-owned uplands	Habitat & harvest	Land offerings	Lowe River closed	
21N Lowe River Bench	State-owned uplands	Forestry Transportation Secondary uses: Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Land offerings	Open	
21O Brown's Creek	State-owned uplands	Forestry Settlement Transportation		Closed before sale	Estimated net land offering is 350 acres
21P Keystone Canyon	State-owned uplands	Public recreation Transportation	Land offerings	Uplands open to mineral entry unless legislatively closed; Lowe River closed to mineral entry	Part of study area for Thompson Pass legislative recommendation (with Subunit 21S)
21Q Wortmanns	State-owned uplands	Settlement Secondary use: Forestry		Closed before sale	Estimated net land offering 120 acres
21R Heiden View	State-owned uplands	Settlement		Closed (existing land sale)	Existing land sale; existing classifications unchanged

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[2]Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits that are not specifically prohibited, may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, management guidelines of this unit, and relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2. See Chapter 2, pages 2-11 and 2-12, for floathome policies. Trapping Cabin and Remote Cabin permits will not be given in the planning area. See guideline B-3, page 2-39.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 21: City of Valdez

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
		Primary Surface Use[2]	Prohibited Surface Use	Subsurface[1]	
21S Thompson Pass	State-owned uplands	Public recreation	Land offerings	May be closed if legislatively recommended; Lowe River below Wortmann Creek closed	Part of the study area for potential Thompson Pass legislative recommendation (with Subunit 21P)
21T Anderson Bay TAGS	State-owned and selected uplands. State-owned tidelands	Transportation	Land offerings	Closed	Reserved for TAGS Terminal
21U Solomon Gulch Hatchery Harvest Area	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest		Closed	Adjacent to Solomon Gulch Hatchery
21V Remainder of Unit	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Shoreline development		Most open; adjacent to TAPS terminal, four estuaries, and hatchery tidelands closed	Includes TAPS docking facilities

[1]All areas are available for leasing of leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals.

[2]Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits that are not specifically prohibited, may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, management guidelines of this unit, and relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2. See Chapter 2, pages 2-11 and 2-12, for floathome policies. Trapping Cabin and Remote Cabin permits will not be given in the planning area. See guideline B-3, page 2-39.

Management Unit: 21. Valdez

SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife[2]	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement[3]	Forestry[3]
21A Mountains (uplands)	Bear use; mountain goat summer and crucial winter range	Infrequent use	Moderately mineralized	Incapable	Low
21B Sugarloaf (uplands)	Mountain goat summer range and crucial winter range; bear use; goat and bear hunting	Infrequent use; potential city ski area	Known placer deposits in Solomon Gulch and Sulphide Gulch	Incapable	Low
21C Mineral Creek Caynon (uplands)	Crucial mountain goat winter range; bear use; goat and bear hunting	Ski and scenic area frequently used by Valdez residents	Active Placer mining	Incapable	Low
21D Valdez Glacier (uplands)	Crucial mountain goat winter range; bear use	Community and tourist recreation site	Moderately mineralized	Capable	Low
21E Duck Flats Road Corridor (uplands)	Bear use	Wildlife viewing; transportation corridor through viewshed	Moderately mineralized	Incapable	Low
21F Duck Flats (tidelands)	Estuary; essential waterfowl habitat; seasonal waterfowl concentrations; bear use	Viewshed for transportation corridor and city	Moderately mineralized	--	--
21G Old Valdez Glacier Trail (uplands)	Bear use; goats	Tourist and recreation site for Valdez	Moderately mineralized	Capable	High/moderate

[1] This resource summary describes only the resources for state uplands and tidelands.
[2] Resource list includes Crucial, Prime, and Important habitats as defined by ADF&G (see Appendix E). Anadromous fish streams are not listed; they exist in most subunits. See ADF&G anadromous fish stream catalogue.
[3] Land offering and timber harvest do not occur on tidelands. Therefore, settlement and forestry resources are not rated for tideland subunits.

Resource Information Summary (page 2 of 4)[1]

Management Unit: 21. Valdez

SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife[2]	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement[3]	Forestry[3]
21H Lowe River Mouth (uplands and tidelands)	Estuary; essential waterfowl habitat; eagle nesting concentrations; bear use; commercial fishing	Community recreation	Known placer deposits in Lowe River	Incapable	High/moderate
21I Robe Lake (uplands)	Sport fishing; waterfowl habitat	Community recreation	No known minerals	Incapable	High/moderate
21J Existing Robe Lake Land Sale (uplands)	Bear use	Community recreation	No known minerals	Capable	Low
21K Robe Lake West Proposed Land Sale (uplands)	Waterfowl habitat; bear use	Community recreation	No known minerals	Capable	High/moderate
21L Richardson Road Corridor (uplands)	Eagle nesting concentrations; bear use; mountain goat winter range	Scenic transportation corridor	Known placer deposits in Black Bear Creek	Capable	High/moderate
21M Lowe River Floodplain (uplands)	Eagle nesting concentrations; sport fishing; bear use	Community recreation	Known placer deposits in Lowe River	Incapable	Low

[1] This resource summary describes only the resources for state uplands and tidelands.
[2] Resource list includes Crucial, Prime, and Important habitats as defined by ADF&G (see Appendix E). Anadromous fish streams are not listed; they exist in most subunits. See ADF&G anadromous fish stream catalogue.
[3] Land offering and timber harvest do not occur on tidelands. Therefore, settlement and forestry resources are not rated for tideland subunits.

Management Unit: 21. Valdez

SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife[2]	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement[3]	Forestry[3]
21N Lowe River Bench (uplands)	Eagle nesting concentrations; bear use; bear and goat hunting	Scenic area for Richardson Highway corridor	Known placer deposits in Sulphide Gulch	Capable	High/moderate
21O Brown's Creek (uplands)	Eagle nesting concentrations; winter goat	Scenic area for Richardson Highway corridor	Known placer deposits in Brown's Creek	Capable	High/moderate
21P Keystone Canyon (uplands)	Eagle nesting concentrations; sport fishing	Tourist Attraction; important scenic area	Known placer deposits in Lowe River	Incapable	Low
21Q Wortmann (uplands)	Eagle nesting concentrations	Adjacent to transportation corridor	No known minerals	Capable	High/moderate
21R Heiden View (uplands)	Eagle nesting concentrations; bear use	None identified	No know minerals	Capable	Low
21S Thompson Pass (uplands)	Eagle nesting concentrations; crucial mountain goat winter range	Frequent dispersed recreation use; very important public use area	Known placer deposits in Heiden, Bench, Wortmann, Brown's Creeks and Lowe River	Incapable	Low
21T Anderson Bay TAGS Terminal (uplands and tidelands)	Estuary; sport fishing; commercial fishing; herring spawning	Some community recreation use from Valdez	Known placer deposits in Salmon Creek	Capable	Low

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[3] Land offering and timber harvest do not occur on tidelands. Therefore, settlement and forestry resources are not rated for tideland subunits.

Resource Information Summary (page 4 of 4)[1]

Management Unit: 21. Valdez

SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife[2]	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement[3]	Forestry[3]
21U Solomon Gulch Hatchery Harvest Area (tidelands)	Estuaries, sport fishing; commercial fishing; herring spawning	Sport fishing; community recreation	No known minerals	--	--
21V Remainder of Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries, sport fishing; commercial fishing; herring spawning	Sport fishing; community recreation	No known minerals	--	--

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[2] Resource list includes Crucial, Prime, and Important habitats as defined by ADF&G (see Appendix E). Anadromous fish streams are not listed; they exist in most subunits. See ADF&G anadromous fish stream catalogue.
[3] Land offering and timber harvest do not occur on tidelands. Therefore, settlement and forestry resources are not rated for tideland subunits.