STATE OF ALASKA

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The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources finds that the Plan Amendment to the Prince William Sound Area Plan, described more fully in the Attachment, meets the requirements of AS 38.04.065 and 11 AAC 55.010-55.030 for land use plans, and hereby adopts the Amendment. The Department of Natural Resources will manage state land consistent with this amendment.

The date of issuance for this decision shall be

Commissioner

April 3, 2007
Date

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ATTACHMENT

PLAN AMENDMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PLAN
MANAGEMENT UNIT 22: VALDEZ ARM
4/03/07

(The following replaces the current text for the overall management intent for Valdez Arm on pages 3-183 & 184 in the Prince William Sound Area Plan. The attached map supersedes the current map of Subunit 22a and 22B in this plan)

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Except for the land disposal area in Jack Bay, the remaining state uplands should be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple-use with emphasis on public recreation and wildlife habitat and, within the state land adjoining Valdez Arm south and east of the Shoup Bay State Marine Park, for both public recreation and mining uses. Authorizations are to ensure the existing quality of scenic resources and habitat along Valdez Arm are maintained and that public access for sport and commercial fishing is protected. The existing marine parks will be managed for their local recreation potential and as tourist destinations and with the requirements of AS 41.21.030. State land adjoining these parks will be managed to ensure consistency with park management objectives and to retain the scenic and recreational resources of areas that act as points of entry into these parks. In the case of the Shoup Bay marine park, these areas will also be managed to allow both recreational and mining uses. All state lands will remain open to mineral entry.

(The following replaces the current management intent for Subunit 22A Shoup Bay on page 3-184)

Subunit 22A – Shoup Bay. The Shoup Bay Subunit consists of state land west of and adjacent to the marine park. This includes the areas of Shoup Glacier, the ILMA, and the remaining uplands west of Shoup Bay. State lands are to be managed for their recreational and scenic values and all authorizations are to be compatible with the management objectives of the state marine park and with its master development plan. Mining is an allowed use but any authorizations must ensure that impacts to recreation and scenic values are avoided or minimized to the maximum extent feasible. Activities within the ILMA are to be consistent with this management intent and any specific requirements identified in the management agreement.

The Shoup Bay State Marine Park is to be managed to be consistent with the general requirements for such parks in AS 41.21.300 and with the specific requirements of a park

management plan developed under the authority of AS 41.21.302(c)[1]. Area plan requirements under AS 38.04.065(b) do not apply. Mineral development, including access to mineral properties, is specifically allowed under AS 41.21.302(h) within state marine parks. Continued operation and development of the Cliff Mine is therefore considered appropriate.

(The following replaces the current management intent for Subunit 22B- Cliff Mine on page 3-184)

Subunit 22B – Cliff Mine. Cliff Mine is on private land and a state mining claim, but adjacent uplands and tidelands are state-owned. These areas will be reserved for off-loading and access to adjacent mineral properities. Tidelands not required for this purpose will be managed as specified in subunit 22H (Valdez Arm Tidelands). This area is designated Minerals.

(The following adds new management intent language for Port Valdez Uplands, Subunit 22I)

Subunit 22I – Port Valdez Uplands. This Management Subunit consists of state owned land and state-selected land (ANILCA top-filed) on the north shore of Port Valdez between Shoup Bay State Marine Park on the west and the City of Valdez on the east. An area northeast of the state marine park is also included. The main part of this subunit is topographically steep and is important for its mineral, recreation, and scenic resources. These lands are prospective for lode and placer gold deposits; the lode potential is for high-grade fissure veins similar to those at the Cliff Mine. The subunit contains a trail that accesses the State Marine Park and portions are used for a variety of dispersed recreation uses. It is immediately visible from Port Valdez. The area to the northeast of the state marine park is very steep and is not used for recreational purposes, but it is valuable for its mineral and scenic resources.

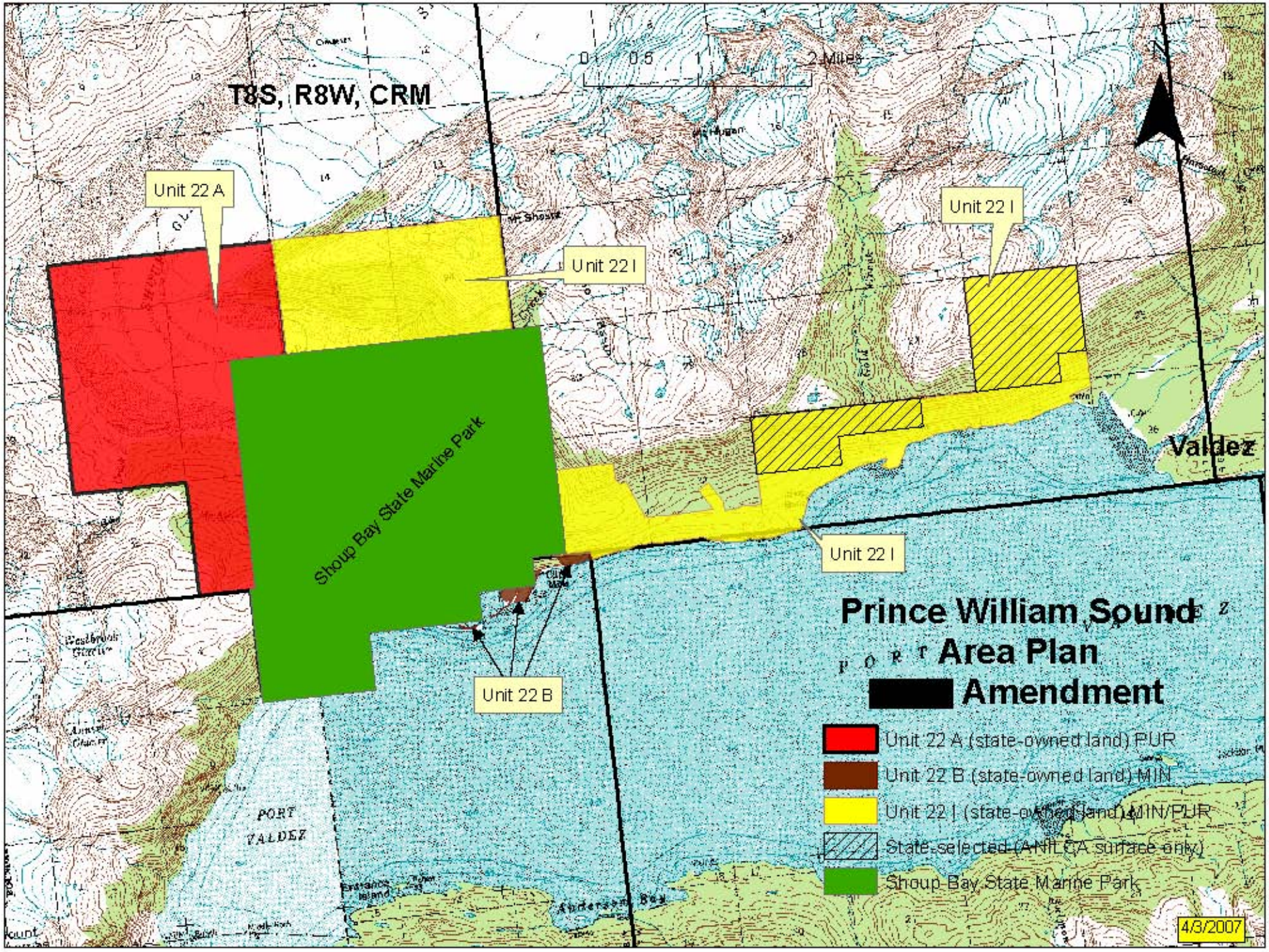
The subunit is co-designated Minerals and Public Recreation and is to be managed so that both uses can occur and co-exist on a long term basis. Mineral exploration, development, operations and facilities are appropriate within this subunit. In the siting and design of mineral facilities, consideration shall be given to their effect upon recreational uses, and authorizations should ensure that mining plans and development avoid or minimize impacts to recreational uses where practicable. The visibility of mining structures from Valdez Arm should be minimized. Similarly, recreation uses are appropriate and, although recreational facility development is expected to be limited given the topography of the area, low-impact facilities are appropriate. Other uses and structures may that also be allowed if consistent with this management intent and if these uses are compatible or can be made compatible with this management intent through the use of stipulations.

[1] Note: this Plan Amendment does *not* affect the state marine park.

(The following revises specific parts of the current Land Use Designation Summary)

REVISIONS
LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY (Pp. 3-187 & 188)
Management Unit 22: Valdez Arm

SUBUNIT	**LAND OWNERSHIP**	**LAND USE DESIGNATIONS**			**COMMENTS**
		Primary Surface Use	**Prohibited Surface Use**	**Subsurface**	
22A Shoup Bay	State Owned Uplands	Public Recreation, Dispersed	Land Offerings	Open	See management intent for detail on authorized uses.
22B Cliff Mine	State owned uplands and tidelands	Minerals	Land Offerings	Open	
22I- Port Valdez Uplands	State Owned and state-selected Uplands	Public Recreation and Minerals	Land Offerings	Open	See management intent for detail on authorized uses.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Unit 22 A
Unit 22 I
Unit 22 I
Unit 22 I
Shoup Bay State Marine Park
Valdez
Unit 22 B
Prince William Sound
Area Plan
Amendment
Unit 22 A (state-owned land) PUR
Unit 22 B (state-owned land) MIN
Unit 22 I (state-owned land) MIN/PUR
State selected (ANILCA surface only)
Shoup Bay State Marine Park
PORT VALDEZ
Anderson Bay
4/3/2007

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

LAND CLASSIFICATION ORDER
NO. SC-88-004A01

I. Name: Shoup Bay and North Port Valdez (uplands)

II. The classifications in Part III are based on a plan amendment (see date below) which affected the general management intent for the Valdez Arm Management Unit, and the specific management intent and designations of Management Subunits 22A, 22B, and 22I.

Area Plan: Prince William Sound Area Plan
Adopted ( ) Revised (x) Dated 4-3-07

Management Plan:
Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated _____

Site Specific Plan:
Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated _____

III.

Legal Description	Acreage	Acquisition Authority	Existing Classification	Classifications by this action
See Map	7,840	CG 96	None	Public Recreation, Mineral See Part IV

IV. The classification of subunit 22A is Public Recreation Land. Subunit 22I is classified Public Recreation Land and Mineral Land. Subunit 22B is classified Mineral Land.

V. This classification order also affects the land within the boundary of Shoup Bay State Marine Park (AS 41.21.304) by deleting the classification of Public Recreation Land and Wildlife Habitat Land, originally done in SC-88-004, from these lands.

VI. This order is issued under the authority granted by AS 38.04.065 and AS 38.05.300 to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. The above described lands are hereby designated and classified as indicated. Nothing shall prevent the reclassification of these lands if warranted in the public interest.

Classified: _____ Date: April 3, 2007

Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources