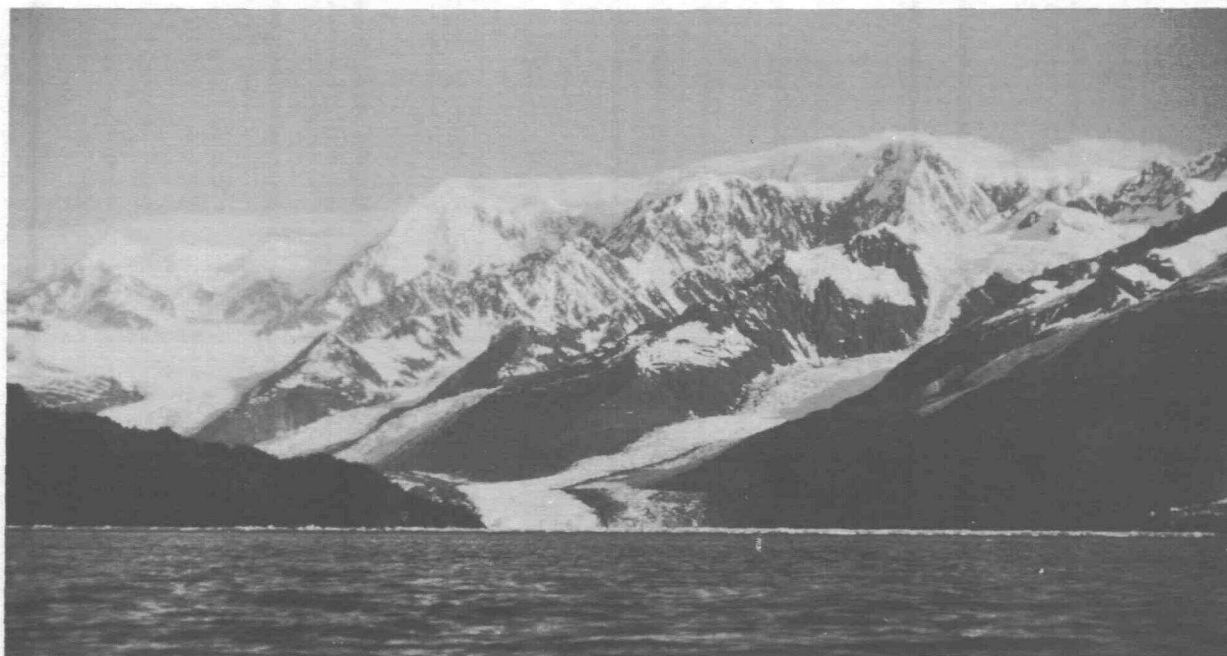


CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Summary of Purpose.....	1-1
Why Plan for Public Land?.....	1-1
The Planning Area and Land Ownership.....	1-2
How was the Plan Developed?.....	1-5
Public Participation.....	1-6
Summary of Plan Actions.....	1-6
Applicability of the Plan to Units of the Alaska State Park System.....	1-7
Summary of Plan Implementation.....	1-7
Summary of Plan Modification Process.....	1-8



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Summary of Purpose

The Prince William Sound Area Plan (PWSAP) describes how the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will manage state-owned uplands and tide and submerged lands in Prince William Sound. The plan also provides general guidance for managing units of the Alaska Marine Park system that are located in the planning area. The plan deter-

mines land-use classifications, land disposal locations, administrative designations, land selections and relinquishments, and guidelines for leases and permits on state land. The plan does not make decisions for federal, Native, private, or municipal land.

Why Plan for Public Land?

Prince William Sound is rich in natural resources, and there are many different ideas as to how these natural resources should be used. Although some uses are in direct conflict with each other, many different uses can occur throughout the planning area providing the uses are properly managed.

The planning process is a way of openly reviewing resource information and public concerns before making long-range decisions about public land management. The planning process resolves conflicting ideas on land use and informs the public about what choices were made and why. Decisions are made on a comprehensive basis, not case by case, providing consistency and consideration of all resources for the whole planning area. This process enables a more efficient use of the Sound's resources.

With a plan, state permit and permit review processes become more efficient for both the government and the public. The plan guides DNR decisions; it provides guidelines for

leases, sales, and permits that authorize use of state lands. Preparation of land-use plans for state lands (except for State Park system land) is required under Title 38 of the Alaska Statutes.

State agencies responsible for implementing the plan use a variety of methods such as permits, leases, land sales, or negotiated agreements with adjacent landowners to manage the land and its resources. Once the plan is adopted, DNR's actions will be based on the plan.

The plan also establishes general guidance for units of the Alaska Marine Park system in the planning area. AS 41.21.302(c) requires that separate management plans be prepared for units of the Alaska Marine Park system. These more detailed plans will be developed for individual state park units by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR), consistent with the management intent described in this plan.

The Planning Area and Land Ownership

The planning area includes 5.3 million acres of uplands around Prince William Sound in Southcentral Alaska (see Map 1-1). Most of these uplands, 3.8 million acres, are owned by the federal government and are part of the Chugach National Forest. Approximately one million acres of uplands are owned or have been selected by the state and will be managed according to the policies in this plan. Additional land can be selected by the state in the Chugach National Forest. These selections are described in Chapter 5. Native corporations established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act own or are entitled to a conveyance of approximately 540,000 acres of uplands. Other private land includes numerous small tracts of land scattered throughout the Sound. The Cities of Valdez and Cordova also own some uplands within city boundaries.

The state owns almost all of the 3.8 million acres of tide and submerged lands in the planning area. The tide and submerged lands include all land between the mean high tide line and three miles offshore. Each management unit discussion in Chapter 3 includes land-use designations for these tide and submerged lands. Figure 1-1 depicts the tide and submerged lands. In this plan, the word "tidelands" is used to include both tide and submerged lands.

The state also owns all land beneath navigable lakes and streams. These lands are called shorelands. Few navigability determinations have been made in the planning area, but the provisions of this plan apply to shorelands in the planning area.

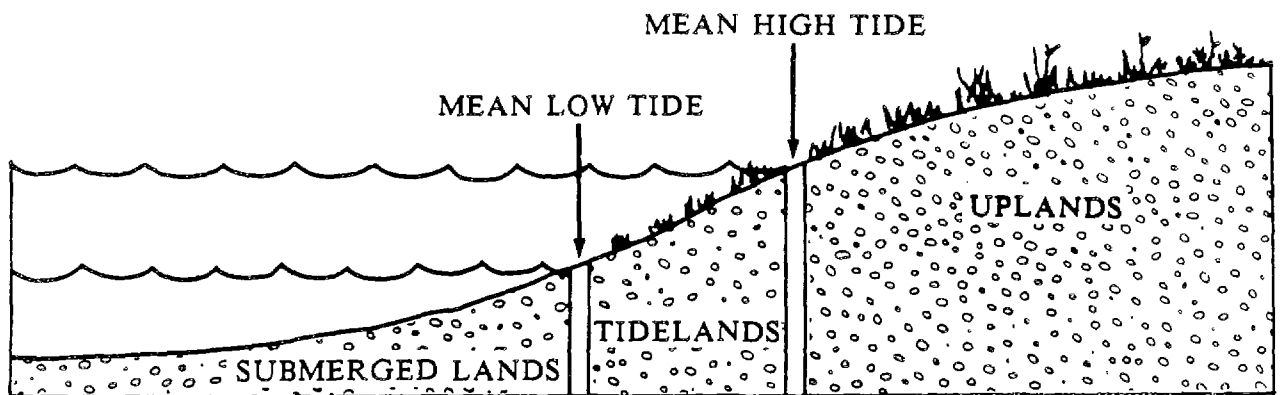
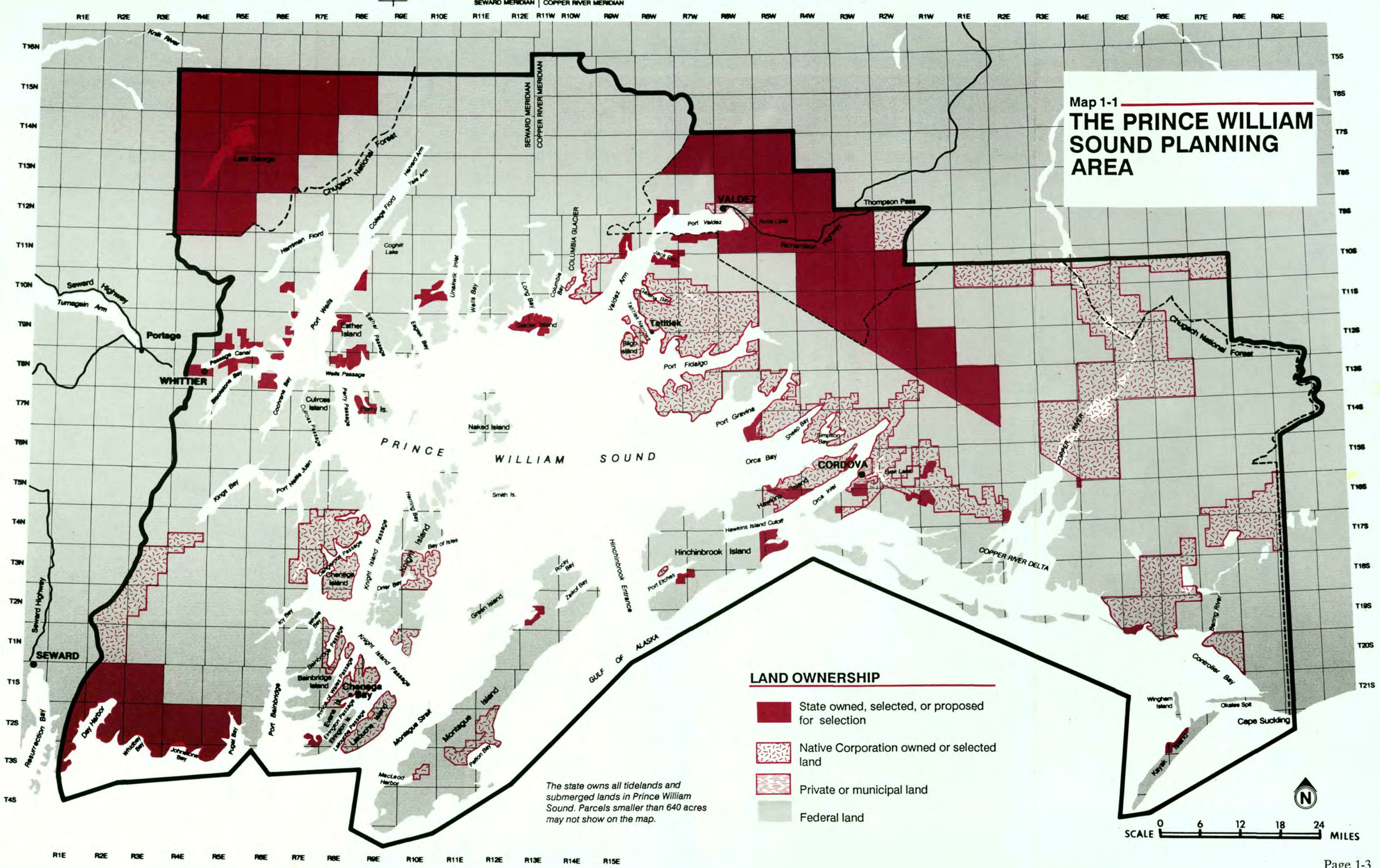






Figure 1-1. Tidelands include the land between mean high and mean low tide. Submerged lands are seaward of mean low tide. The state owns almost all tidelands in Prince William Sound and owns the submerged lands out three miles from shore. In this plan, the word "tidelands" is used to include both tidelands and submerged lands.



Map 1-1
**THE PRINCE WILLIAM
SOUND PLANNING
AREA**

LAND OWNERSHIP

-  State owned, selected, or proposed for selection
-  Native Corporation owned or selected land
-  Private or municipal land
-  Federal land

The state owns all tidelands and submerged lands in Prince William Sound. Parcels smaller than 640 acres may not show on the map.

SCALE 0 6 12 18 24 MILES

How was the Plan Developed?

The Prince William Sound Area Plan is the product of over two years of work by state and federal agencies, other land owners, local governments, interest groups, and the general public. Twenty-one public meetings, and numerous work sessions, were held in Anchorage, Valdez, Cordova, Whittier, Tatitlek, Chenega Bay, and Seward. (See Figure 1-2.)

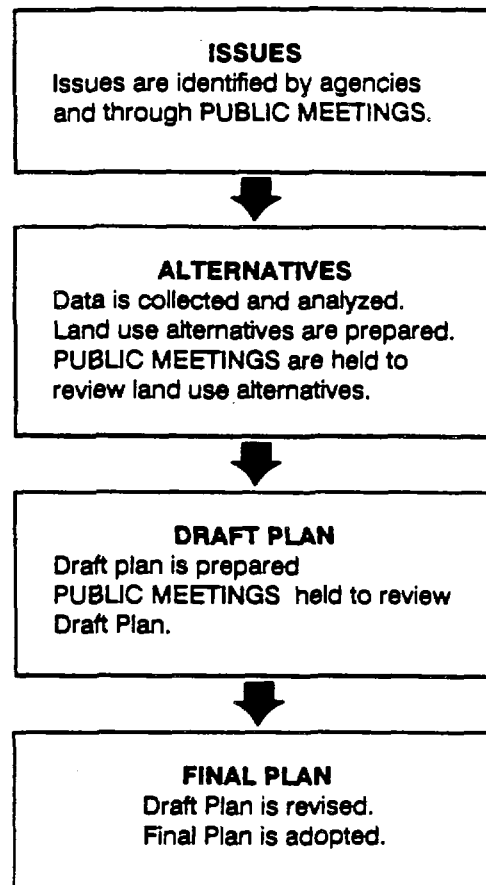
This plan was developed by the Prince William Sound planning team. The planning team is made up of state agencies that manage state land and resources in the Sound and the U.S. Forest Service, the agency that manages the federal land in the planning area. The planning team is composed of representatives from the following agencies:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Land and Water Management
Division of Forestry
Division of Mining
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

An advisory board was created to review and provide comments on major products of the plan, providing technical information, and advising the planning team on local concerns and other major concerns of the Sound. The advisory board met only once as an entire group. Contact was through letters, individual meetings, and phone conversations. The advisory board is composed of representatives from the groups listed in the next column:

City of Whittier
City of Valdez
City of Cordova
Chugach Alaska Corporation
The Eyak Corporation
The Tatitlek Corporation
The Chenega Corporation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Pacific Rim, Ltd.
Tatitlek Village Council
Chenega Bay Village Council
Public Interest Groups

Figure 1-2 THE PLANNING PROCESS



CURRENT STEP

Public Participation

Citizens, citizen groups, private organizations, and state, federal, and local agencies participated in the planning process by attending public and special meetings, providing comments at those meetings, and by submitting written comments. Twenty-one public meetings were held during the planning process. Seven public meetings were held in December 1985 to identify issues. A second set of seven public meetings was held in June 1986 to solicit comments on the land-use alternatives. A brochure summarizing the alternatives and a questionnaire was distributed to solicit ad-

ditional comments about the alternatives. A public attitude survey of railbelt residents and users of Prince William Sound was conducted in September 1986 to determine the viewpoint of those residents and users who did not attend the meetings or return a questionnaire. A final round of seven public meetings were held in November and December 1987, and January 1988 to collect comments on the draft plan. Summaries of public comment are available from DNR (see Appendix B).

Summary of Plan Actions

Prince William Sound offers a wealth and variety of recreation and fish and wildlife opportunities unique in Alaska. These characteristics, in combination with the area's proximity to the state's major population centers, make this area a recreation and fisheries area of major significance. The area is also unique in that it provides high value mineral and timber resources near tidewater. These resources will provide significant economic development opportunities for the state and its citizens. Consequently, the plan emphasizes providing recreation opportunities, protecting habitat and environmental quality, making land available for settlement, and using state land to facilitate access to and the development of upland timber, mineral and other developable resources in Prince William Sound, including mariculture.

The plan balances many disparate and competing interests. It represents the department's effort to reach a fair accommodation of all interests. The balance struck by the plan can be summed up as ensuring multiple use and reasonable access for resource development while protecting other important resources, uses, and values.

More specifically, this plan ensures the following:

1. Where upland resource development is planned, there will be reasonable access across state tidelands.
2. If a proposed use is designated as a primary or secondary use in a given area, the use can, according to existing information, be permitted somewhere within the area designated. Exactly where and how a designated use will occur within a specific area will be resolved through agency review, using the management intent statement for the unit, guidelines of the plan, and information gathered as part of the site-specific review of the proposed project.
3. Uses that are neither designated nor specifically prohibited may be allowed if they are consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of the unit and subunit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in this chapter.

4. With some exceptions, the most significant fish and wildlife habitat, harvest areas, and

recreation areas are protected from incompatible uses.

Applicability of the Plan to Units of the Alaska State Park System

State marine parks are established under the authority of Article VIII, Section 7 of the Alaska Constitution which authorizes the legislature to withdraw lands from the public domain for special purposes. The legislative act that establishes each park withdraws them from the public domain and removes these lands from the leasing, sale, and other provisions of Title 38.

Area plans are usually prepared for large areas of public lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management. These lands are sometimes called "public domain lands" and are managed under the provisions of Title 38. Areas such as state parks, forests, or refuges are either fully or partially withdrawn from the public domain and managed under the provisions of Title 41. Plans for these reserved lands are typically prepared by the agency or division responsible for their direct management (Division of Parks, Forestry, or the Department of Fish and Game).

Conceptual planning for state marine parks are included in this plan for several reasons. First, recreation and tourism use occurs on park and non-park areas; therefore, activities and developments in marine parks affect the management of state-owned non-park lands, and vice-versa. Second, the existing and proposed marine park areas are a significant portion of the state's upland holdings in the Sound. Third, planning costs are saved by a joint planning effort. The recommendations of this plan for state park areas are intended to establish the general management intent for management of particular marine parks. Detailed management plans for marine parks, as required by AS 41.21.302(c), will be prepared by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The plans will be prepared in conformance with the recommendations of this plan and AS 41.21. However, nothing in this plan will be construed to require the department to act contrary to the letter or intent of AS 41.21 for lands administered as units of the state park system.

Summary of Plan Implementation

This plan area plan will be implemented through administrative actions such as land sales; leases and permits; land selections and relinquishments; land classification orders; mineral orders; and leasehold location orders. Land-use classification orders and mineral orders have been prepared for state lands in Prince William Sound. These orders are the

formal record of primary land uses allowed on state land and are recorded on state status plats. This plan serves as the final finding for state land classifications and for the mineral orders (see Chapter 4 and Appendix D). In addition, DNR makes recommendations to the state legislature on potential legislative designations. Chapter 4 presents the details of these plan implementation procedures.

Summary of Plan Modification

Economic and social conditions in Alaska and in the Prince William Sound planning area are sure to change, and the plan must be flexible enough to change with them. The plan will be reviewed approximately every five years to determine if revisions are needed. A meeting of planning team representatives will be called each year to review progress on implementing this plan and to identify problems that may re-

quire amendment or modification. In addition, minor changes or special exceptions to the plan may be made at any time that conditions warrant them, though a request for a these changes must follow certain procedures. See Chapter 4 for a more detailed description of plan amendments, minor changes, and special exceptions.