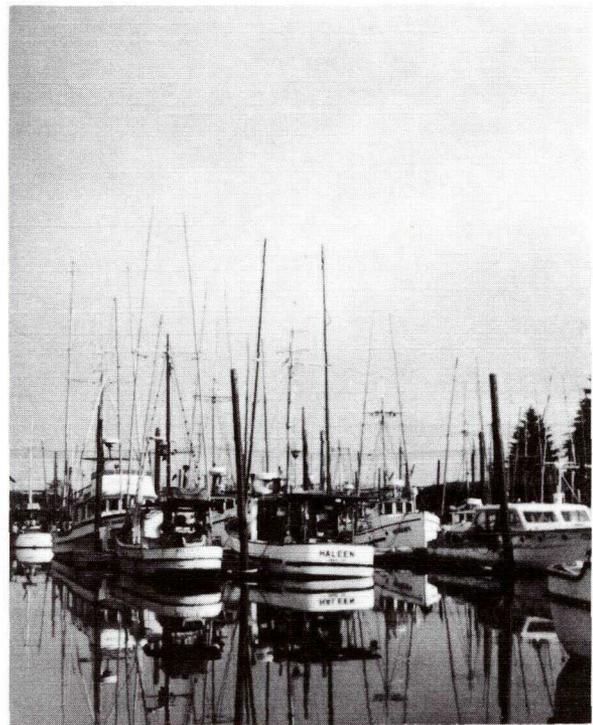


CHAPTER 3

Land Management Policies for each Management Unit

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CHAPTER 3

LAND MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR EACH MANAGEMENT UNIT

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents specific land management policy for each of thirty-one management units. Management units are generally homogeneous in resources and land ownership. Large bay systems and waterways are usually grouped together.

The land management information for each management unit includes:

- a statement of management intent
- a list of designated or prohibited uses
- management guidelines specific to the unit
- miscellaneous background information useful to the land manager for making informed decisions
- a land use designation map

Management intent statements for each unit refer only to state lands. While these statements refer to accommodating certain proposed uses on tidelands and submerged lands, there is no guarantee that other regulatory agencies will issue permits necessary for the proposed use. All proposed development uses referenced in the management intent statements are expected to employ best management practices to site and operate the proposed use. Finally, it must be emphasized that state tideland use designations do not give the public access rights to adjacent private uplands.

PRIMARY & SECONDARY DESIGNATIONS & OTHER USES AS ADDRESSED BY THE PLAN

The Land Use Designation maps display combinations of primary and secondary uses on state lands. If a proposed use is designated as either primary or secondary in a given area, existing information indicates that activities meeting provisions of the plan will be permitted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) somewhere within the area designated. Exactly where and how a designated use will occur within the designated area will be resolved through existing review procedures, using the management intent, guidelines of the plan, and information gathered as part of the site-specific review of the proposed project.

Uses for which no designation has been made and that are not specifically prohibited in the plan may be proposed any time in any area. The DNR land manager will use management intent, guidelines of the plan, and information gathered during the site-specific project review, to decide whether the use can take place within the proposed location, and if so, where and how the use can occur.

The definitions of the terms "primary," "secondary," and "other," as used in the plan, further clarify the relationship between primary, secondary, and other uses.

Primary use: A primary use is of major importance for a particular area. The designated area will be managed to encourage this use and its conservation or development. Where a designated area has two or more primary uses that could conflict, guidelines of the plan and existing regulations or procedures will direct how these potentially conflicting primary uses are to be managed.

Secondary use: A secondary use is considered important, but is given less management emphasis than a primary use because: 1) it is of lower importance; or 2) its occurrence is very site-specific. In site-specific situations where the secondary use has a higher value than the primary use, a secondary use may take precedence over the primary use. Generally, secondary uses are permitted when they will not adversely affect the objectives for the primary uses.

Other uses: Uses for which there is no designation will be allowed if they do not conflict with the management intent, designated uses, and the management guidelines. If the "other use" conflicts with the management intent or designated uses, and cannot be made compatible by following the management guidelines, it may be allowed only through a plan amendment.

Prohibited use: A prohibited use would have significant conflicts with other uses or resources and will not be permitted without a plan amendment. Few uses are prohibited.

Subsurface resource designations such as "Minerals" or "Oil and Gas" are not applied as land use designations. The problems in locating and measuring subsurface resources make it difficult and potentially misleading to apply primary and secondary designations in the same way they are applied to surface resources such as fish and wildlife habitat. Tidelands and submerged lands have a primary use "mining" surface designation in many cases where resource information suggests access for mineral exploration or development is likely to be needed.

Most state tidelands and submerged lands in the planning area are open to mineral location. For areas open to mineral entry, the surface designation of habitat will not be construed to prevent mineral development. Limited areas are closed to mineral entry where significant conflicts occur between mining and crucial habitat.

Upland access across state tidelands, including developed access facilities, may be allowed within all land use designations where DNR determines the proposed facilities are consistent with the management intent and applicable guidelines of the plan. An explanation of the Public Trust Doctrine is in Chapter 1.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREAS

In some offshore areas, state submerged lands have a Resource Management designation instead of a more specific land use designation. The Resource Management designation is used where existing information is inadequate to establish the highest values of the areas, and resource development (other than continued commercial fisheries in some areas) is unlikely in the next ten to twenty years. The Resource Management designation will be retained until the plan is revised (approximately every five years), or until new information or development proposals make it necessary to review the Resource Management designation and assign a different designation. Until the designation is reviewed, the lands will be managed consistent with the management intent and guidelines of this plan.

GENERAL USE AREAS

The designation "General Use" applies to uplands selected from the Tongass National Forest that, although generally suitable to meet eventual settlement needs, current resource information is presently insufficient to warrant a specific designation, or development is unlikely during the 20-year life of the plan. General Use lands will be retained in public ownership until the plan is revised (approximately every five years) or until new roads, new information, or development proposals make it necessary to review the designation. A permanent classification such as Settlement or Public Recreation can be assigned then. Until the General Use designation is reviewed, the land will be managed for existing public uses and development consistent with the management intent and guidelines of the plan. Changes in designations are amendments to the plan.

LAND USE DESIGNATIONS ADJACENT TO SMALL ISLANDS IN CRUCIAL AND PRIME FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT & HARVEST AREAS

Small islands of less than fifty acres are scattered through the planning area. Some of these islands support stands of commercial timber. Some tidelands next to these islands have significant fish and wildlife values, such as herring spawning or concentrations of shellfish or eelgrass beds that are rated either crucial or prime habitat or harvest areas.

The decision to designate tidelands adjacent to small islands for A-frame logging varies according to policies of the upland manager. Under the Tongass Land Management Plan, annual harvest calculations do not include islands smaller than fifty acres. However, timber from these islands will be salvaged because of certain events such as disease, blow-down, or insect infestation. Because of this Forest Service policy, this plan does not designate tidelands adjacent to small islands managed by the Forest Service for floating A-frame logging. A tideland permit application by the Forest Service to "A-frame" a small island will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis using procedures outlined in Chapter 4.

Private landowners wish to retain the option to harvest timber from some of their small islands if they decide timber harvest is feasible and consistent with their management objectives. Therefore, tidelands adjacent to small private islands are designated for floating A-frame logging. Fish and wildlife habitat and harvest values will be addressed as outlined in Forestry Guideline J in Chapter 2.

RESOURCE INFORMATION

Management unit maps in this chapter reflect certain resource and use information. The unit narratives give additional information. Resource information is shown only for state lands. While important resources exist on private and federal lands, the plan's management prescriptions do not apply to these areas.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Most state lands will be managed for multiple use. Exceptions are lands that will be offered for private lease or ownership, and recreation sites that are less than 640 acres. The plan establishes management guidelines that allow various uses to occur without serious conflicts. Management guidelines can direct the timing, amount, or specific location of different activities to make the permitted uses compatible. For example, land disposals near anadromous fish streams will be designed to protect habitat and harvest values in the stream corridors.

DESIGNATIONS ON MANAGEMENT UNIT MAPS

The following land-use designations are used on the Management Unit maps:

D - Shoreline development: Areas on tidelands and submerged lands where development facilities for private, public, commercial, or industrial purposes may be located. Shoreline development excludes log or resource transfer facilities, log storage, floating A-frame logging, and camps or other resource development support facilities associated with forestry or mineral development.

f - Forestry (floating A-frame): Areas where floating A-frame timber harvest operations may be located.

F - Forestry (except floating A-frame): Areas where all timber harvest support facilities except floating A-frame logging may be located.

GU - General use: Upland areas that are generally suitable to meet settlement needs, but may presently be inaccessible or remote. These lands may have many resources, but lack of adequate resource, economic, or other relevant information combined with the unlikelihood of development within the next 20 years makes a specific resource allocation decision unnecessary.

H - Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest: Areas that meet the criteria for one of the four classes of habitat and harvest areas; crucial, prime, important, or range. (See Glossary, Appendix A, for the criteria for each class.)

M - Mining (transfer or development): Areas where mineral exploration and development activities and facilities may be located.

m - Mining (access or exploration): Areas where mineral exploration and access activities and facilities may be located. This designation does not allow development facilities or transfer activities unless they are determined compatible through review procedures.

R - Recreation (access or anchorages): Areas where developed recreation facilities, access to trailheads, or anchorages may be located.

r - Recreation (dispersed): Areas where dispersed recreation uses requiring no developed facilities take place.

RM - Resource Management: Tidelands and submerged lands that may have many resources, but lack of adequate resource, economic, or other relevant information, combined with the unlikelihood of development within the next 20 years makes a specific resource allocation decision unnecessary.

S - Settlement: Upland areas suitable for development to meet settlement needs.

FLEXIBILITY OF THE PLAN

The land use designations shown on the maps in this chapter are intended to be flexible. Uses not shown may be permitted if DNR determines they are consistent with the statement of management intent for the management unit in question and consistent with applicable management guidelines.

Boundaries of land use designations shown on the following maps may be modified through on-the-ground implementation activities, such as site planning or disposal, if modifications follow the intent of the plan. Uses not originally designated may be permitted if they are consistent with the intent for a particular management unit.

This plan should not be construed to preclude site decisions that comply with the management intent and guidelines. This plan will not provide direct answers to many site-specific issues frequently encountered by state land managers. The plan can clarify the general management objectives for the area and thereby provide the basis for a more informed decision.

DEFINITIONS

Definition of terms used in this chapter are in the Glossary in Appendix A.

