

UNIT 15: SODA BAY

MANAGEMENT INTENT

State lands will be managed for fish and wildlife habitat and harvest, and resource development support facilities outside crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.

State Uplands: During the 20-year life of the plan, the selection at Soda Bay will be managed for undeveloped recreation. The natural soda springs along Soda Creek are unique and will be protected from adverse impacts from development. State retained buffers along Soda Creek should be greater than the minimum size, to protect the unique recreation and habitat values. The long-term management intent may be reconsidered after 20 years for uses such as land disposal, or commercial or public recreation development. See Chapter 4 for additional selection information.

State Tidelands and Submerged Lands: A designation has been made for a resource transfer site on the south shore of Shelikof Island. A-frame breakouts are allowed on the east shore of Shelikof Island. However, consolidating log transfer at the site on the south shore is preferable to A-frame logging in that area.

A designation has been made for a resource transfer site on the south shore of Soda Bay. However, if feasible and prudent, transporting the timber by road to the Saltery Point transfer facility is preferred.

Tidelands of small private islands have a general designation for A-frame logging. The uplands north of Soda Bay have mineral potential, and a designation has been made for access for mineral exploration.

Soda Bay contains very productive habitat including geoduck beds, eelgrass, and kelp beds next to many of the shallow areas around the rocky islands in Soda Bay.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY USES

Refer to the Land Use Designation Maps for primary and secondary and fish and wildlife ratings.

PROHIBITED USES

- Mineral location in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.
- Filling state tidelands and submerged lands for residential purposes.
- Floathomes

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- **A-frame Logging on the East Side of Shelikof Island.** To the extent feasible and prudent, timber will not be harvested by A-frame from the east side of Shelikof Island, but will be transported by road to the approved permanent resource transfer site on the south shore of the Island.

- **Permanent Resource Transfer Site on the South Shore of Soda Bay.** Timber harvested from this area should be transferred by the most feasible and prudent method that considers impacts to upland and marine fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas. The following alternatives for transfer are in order of preference.
 1. Transport timber by road to existing Saltery Point log transfer facility.
 2. Transfer timber from one of two areas proposed for forestry on the south shore of Soda Bay.
 3. Transfer timber from both areas designated for forestry on the south shore of Soda Bay.

- **Mineral Exploration and Transfer Activities on the North Shore of Soda Bay.** Access for mineral exploration will be allowed in the area designated for minerals on the north shore of Soda Bay. However to the extent feasible and prudent, minerals will be transported by road to the Saltery Point transfer site, or to another existing transfer site. Permanent mineral transfer facilities or tailings disposals will not be allowed at the designated area on the north shore unless determined compatible through review procedures.

- **Evaluation of Cumulative Impacts of A-frame Logging.** Before granting a permit for an A-frame breakout point, the DNR land manager will, in consultation with ADF&G, determine the cumulative impacts of the A-frame breakout points proposed for that operating season. A-frame breakout points will be permitted if:
 1. There is no significant cumulative impact to high value fish and wildlife resources; or
 2. the benefits of developing the facilities outweigh the cumulative negative impacts; or
 3. there is no feasible and prudent alternative; and
 4. all feasible and prudent measures have been taken to minimize the cumulative negative impacts of the facilities.

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Eleven anadromous fish stream outlets are located in the unit. There are shallow, productive areas with eelgrass beds near Shelikof Island, the unnamed island to the northeast, and outer Soda Bay-Tlevak Straits.

Soda Bay receives very high use by waterfowl and seabirds, and has productive coastal wetlands associated with stream deltas. The islands in outer Soda Bay and the shoreline are abalone harvest areas.