

# UNIT 3: CRAIG

## MANAGEMENT INTENT

State lands will be managed for fish and wildlife habitat and harvest uses and recreational values while accommodating shoreline development opportunities, and mineral and forestry resource development. Because of its proximity to Craig and Klawock, intensive sport and subsistence harvest of fish and wildlife resources and intensive recreational use take place. Except for the coastline between Klawock Island and Crab Bay, the entire unit is crucial or prime habitat because of extremely productive eelgrass beds (especially along the east side of Wadleigh Island and the west side of Peratrovich Island), herring spawning areas, extensive tideflats that support intertidal salmon spawning, and wetlands that provide habitat for high densities of waterfowl. Many archaeological sites are located in this unit.

Habitat is designated a secondary use in some important fish and wildlife habitat or harvest areas (Hc). This will be considered in siting and managing all activities directly related to shore-attached facilities where there are primary designations for forestry and mining. Appropriate siting or operating stipulations (which may include timing restrictions) will be considered to mitigate negative impacts on the habitat resources and to meet the management intent for this unit. Even where habitat is designated a secondary use in important fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas (Hc), it will be managed as a primary use when reviewing proposals for uses that are not directly related to or necessary for the operation of a shore-attached facility where there is a primary designation of forestry or mining. The important habitat resources in this unit are king crab subsistence harvest areas and areas heavily used by waterfowl and seabirds. Managers should check the habitat maps for specific locations of these areas.

Tidelands and submerged lands have been leased for log transfer facilities on the west side of Klawock Island in conjunction with an upland log sort and storage yard. A dock and a log storage area are at the Alaska Timber Mill just south of Klawock Island. These areas will continue to be managed for log transfer and other timber harvest support facilities.

Approximately 10 to 12 MBF of timber may be harvested from Wadleigh Island over a period of about two years. Tidelands adjacent to northeast Wadleigh Island are designated for a future transfer site. There is an existing log storage area at the site, and an additional log storage area on southeast Wadleigh Island. The northeast site will be available for mineral transfer (principally limestone) if that resource is developed.

Access across tidelands may be needed for A-frame logging on Fish Egg Island. The area is crucial habitat for herring spawning. Therefore, any proposal for A-frame logging on Fish Egg Island will require a determination of compatibility through siting procedures.

Small private islands in this unit are generally designated for floating A-frame logging.

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY USES

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Refer to land use designation map for primary and secondary uses and fish and wildlife ratings.

## PROHIBITED USES

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

## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

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Refer to Chapter 2 for guidelines common to this and all management units. The following guidelines apply to this specific unit.

- **Mineral Exploration Activities.** In areas where mining is designated a secondary use, mineral exploration activities are allowed. Permanent resource transfer sites and tailings disposal are not allowed in those areas unless they are determined compatible through the review procedures.
- **Developed Recreation Facilities in Crucial Habitat and Harvest Areas.** Based on available information, developed recreation facilities are initially determined incompatible within mapped crucial fish and wildlife areas. A specific proposal for a developed recreation facility may be considered for compatibility based on its design or on new habitat information.
- **Access to Private Uplands.** Private landowners are guaranteed access rights across state tidelands. However, fill used to enhance access will not be allowed in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas unless determined compatible through review procedures.
- **Consolidation and Joint Use of Resource Transfer Site at Wadleigh Island.** Only one site will be used for transfer of both timber and mineral resources from Wadleigh Island unless it is determined that using more than one site is a feasible and prudent alternative considering overall impacts to habitat.

## NOTES

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- The City of Klawock has patent to all tidelands and submerged lands within the original city limits. Applicants for activities on city tidelands should contact the City of Klawock. Both Klawock and Craig have approved coastal management programs. Therefore, the department has not made designations for state tidelands within the Craig or Klawock coastal management district boundaries. There are some state tidelands within the coastal management district boundaries of the City of Craig. The department's actions will be consistent with the communities' coastal management programs.

- The City of Craig has the following coastal management policy for floathouses in the Craig Land Development Code:

"Existing floathomes are a grandfathered use, assuming there is not illegal activity associated with the use. Existing, non-conforming floathomes, their location and current owner, will be inventoried to establish grandfather rights. As the existing floathomes, *outside of the designated floathome area*, within the City of Craig are moved, sold, or rebuilt, they will lose their respective grandfather rights. Any abandoned floats or rafts will be salvaged when possible, and the owner (if known) assessed a fee by the city.

"All future floathomes will be located in the city designated floathome zone. This zone will be located in water off-shore of city property on the north side of East Craig, facing Crab Bay as indicated in Figure 16. This zone will be provided municipal sewer and water, and moorage slips will be leased when development monies are available and when city, state and federal permits are issued.

"Existing floathomes will be permitted when located in the designated floathome area or in areas where upland owners grant permission and when city, state, and federal permits are issued and when consistent with the Craig CMP.

"The designated Floathome Area will preclude industrial and commercial uses in Craig which are consistent with the Craig CMP."

- Heritage sites within the unit include:

AHRS CRG-6	Craig
AHRS CRG-16	Klawock Burial
AHRS CRG-24	Craig Petroglyph
AHRS CRG-31	Klawock
AHRS CRG-45	Salmonberry Island
AHRS CRG-93	Alberto Islands Burial
AHRS CRG-97	Clam Island Village
AHRS CRG-100	Craig Burial
AHRS CRG-103	Fish Egg Village and Burial
AHRS CRG-118	Klawock Inlet Burial
AHRS CRG-119	Klawock Village
AHRS CRG-127	Peratrovich Island Village
AHRS CRG-146	Wadleigh Island Garden & Burial
AHRS CRG-147	Klawock Totem Park
AHRS CRG-148	Klawock Cannery

- The state relinquished approximately 600 acres around the existing Klawock airport.
- Management of tidelands on both ends of the existing Klawock airstrip was transferred to DOT/PF.

### **FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION**

Craig and Klawock residents use the entire area in all seasons for sport and subsistence harvests of many intertidal and offshore resources including king crab, clams, sea cucumbers, cockles, herring eggs, and bottomfish. Commercial harvests of crab also occur. The extensive eelgrass beds in the area are among the most productive in Alaska. Herring spawn regularly in several areas. Thirteen anadromous fish stream outlets are in this unit. Many of these stream mouths have extensive tideflats that support intertidal spawning. Coastal wetlands exist in Crab Bay, along the shore north of Klawock including the low-lying area north of Klawock airport, and the tideflats in Shinaku Inlet. These areas support very high densities of migrating and breeding waterfowl and shorebirds and are also used for waterfowl sport harvest. Sea otters use Shinaku Inlet throughout the year.

The Crab Bay - False Island area is a critical staging ground for some 10,000 shorebirds, for overwintering waterfowl, for rearing juvenile Dungeness crab, and for herring spawning. A dive by USFWS and NMFS in 1979 documented an eelgrass bed and productive invertebrate populations on the west side of False Island.

Shinaku Creek, in Section 21, is a pink salmon pre-emergent fry sample site.