

CHAPTER 3

LAND MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR EACH MANAGEMENT UNIT

Introduction

This chapter presents land management policy for specific sites within the planning area. The area is divided into management units; each unit is generally homogeneous with respect to resources, topography, and land ownership. The following land management information is presented for each management unit.

- **Background** - An explanation of the land ownership pattern, the main resources, and major uses introduces each unit. Access to the unit is summarized.
- **Statement of Management Intent** - A statement of management intent defines short-term and long-term management objectives for the management unit and the methods to achieve these objectives.
- **Management Guidelines** - Management guidelines that apply to specific management units are listed. The area-wide management guidelines in Chapter 2 that will most likely apply to each unit also are identified.
- **Land-Use Designation Summary** - Charts are included that list primary and secondary surface land-use designations, prohibited uses, subsurface resource management policy and land ownership. These land-use designations provide a quick picture of planned uses within a unit, but they must be used with the statement

of management intent for the complete explanation of management policy.

- **Resource Information Summary** - A chart is provided that summarizes resource values in each unit.
- **Maps of Land Ownership and Management Unit and Subunit Boundaries** - map of each management unit and its subunits is provided. The map also shows resource information that is important for the management guidelines (see discussion of resource information on page 3-3).

Surface and Subsurface Land Use Designation

The plan presents separate land-use designations for surface and subsurface resources. It also designates the **primary and secondary surface land uses** for which an area will be managed. A primary surface use is one that is of major importance in a management unit or subunit. The unit will be managed to encourage this use and its conservation or development. A secondary surface use is permitted within a management unit or subunit when its occurrence will not adversely affect achieving the objectives for the primary uses. A secondary use may be the main use for a limited area of the management unit. For example, within a management unit where the primary uses are forestry and public recreation, a small area may be identified for land disposal and private recreational development.

The plan also identifies **prohibited surface uses** within each unit. These are uses that will not be permitted anywhere in the unit without a plan amendment. In an area identified as critical habitat, for example, construction of cabins may be prohibited. Uses that are not specifically prohibited may be permitted on an individual basis if the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) determines that the proposed uses are consistent with the statement of management intent for the unit in question and applicable management guidelines.

Resource designations such as 'minerals' or 'oil and gas' generally are not applied as primary or secondary surface 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 can be applied to surface resources like timber. A surface designation for primary-use minerals is made in certain cases where intensive subsurface resource exploration or development exists. Most state land within Prince William Sound is open to mineral location and available for leasing. Where a management unit is open to mineral location and has a primary surface designation such as wildlife habitat, this surface designation will not be construed to prevent mineral development.

DNR will provide access to the upland owner across state tidelands. Upland access across state tidelands, including developed facilities may be allowed within all land use designations where DNR determines that the proposed facilities are consistent with the management intent statements that accompany the land use designation and with the applicable guidelines of the plan. For example, the presence of a fish and wildlife or public recreation designation for an area will not be taken to preclude upland access facilities if the proposed facilities are consistent with the management intent statements for the unit and the applicable management guidelines.

Resource Management Areas

Several areas are designated for resource management rather than a more specific designation such as settlement or forestry. The resource management designation means the land will be retained in public ownership until the plan is revised (approximately every 5 years) or until new roads, new information, or development proposals require a more suitable designation. At that time, a permanent classification such as public recreation or forestry can be assigned. Under the resource management designation, the land will be managed for existing public use. Changes in the resource management designation are amendments to the plan and must be reviewed by an interagency planning team and the public.

Two types of resource management areas exist. "Resource Management - High" applies to lands that could support a variety of uses or to lands where fish and wildlife values are unknown. Existing information is inadequate to determine the best long-range use of these lands. The second category is "Resource Management - Low". This designation applies to remote lands where no highly valuable resources have been identified. Mountainous areas and glaciers are the types of lands that might be placed in the "Resource Management - Low" category.

General Use Areas

Many of the tidelands in the planning use area are designated "general use". This designation reflects the fact that these tidelands have recreation and habitat value, and also settlement value in the form of access for the upland owner - shoreline development, resources transfer sites, and other developed or undeveloped access needs. Therefore, these lands will have a three-way joint classification: Public Recreation Land/Settlement Land/Wildlife Habitat Land. The exact management intent can only be determined from the management intent statement of the individual management unit.

Areas Proposed for Legislative Designations

A few areas in this plan are recommended for legislative designation for recreation. The areas recommended for these special designations are lands and waters with outstanding public values that should remain in public ownership permanently. Legislative designations must be established by the Alaska Legislature. For more information on specific proposals for special designations see Chapter 4.

Management Guidelines

Almost all state land addressed by this plan will be managed for multiple use. Exceptions are lands that will be offered for private ownership and recreation sites that are less than 640 acres. For this reason, the plan establishes management guidelines that will 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, timber harvests along anadromous streams will be designed to protect habitat values in the stream corridors.

Resource Information

Management unit maps in this chapter show certain common recreation, and fish and wildlife resources. The resources show the locations where important area-wide guidelines apply from Chapter 2. For the most part, the resources shown on the map are not referenced in the individual management unit discussions because the management prescriptions are given by Chapter 2. Management intent statements for individual subunits protect the important locations for less common resources such as log or mineral transfer sites.

The resource information is shown only for state uplands and tidelands. While important resources exist on private and federal lands, state management prescriptions do not apply

to these areas, and the resources are not shown.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest Areas. Fish and wildlife habitat areas within the planning area have been classified into three categories: crucial, prime, and important. An additional category lists harvest areas. Appendix E lists the habitat and harvest areas within these categories. Each management unit map shows the **crucial habitats** within that unit. Guideline B, *Allowing uses in Mapped Crucial Fish and Wildlife Habitats*, page 2-5, describes how activities may occur in crucial habitats. The maps also show certain **harvest areas**, primarily harvest areas important for commercial fishing. Guidelines D through H, page 2-7, direct activities within those harvest areas. The resource summary charts for each unit list the habitat and harvest areas that occur within that unit. Complete maps for all habitat and harvest categories are contained in the *Fish and Wildlife Element*, a separate document available from the Department of Natural Resources.

Recreation Information. The maps within this chapter also show **anchorages** and **regionally important campsites**. Not all campsites are shown, only those with areawide or local importance because of their large size, the lack of nearby sites, or frequent use. In addition, the maps show only legally available campsites. Thus, no campsites are shown on private land. A separate publication (forthcoming) will show the locations of public camping easements and reservations on private land. See guideline D, *Anchorages, Regionally Important Campsites, and Frequently Used Recreation Areas*, page 2-25.

Minerals. The management unit maps show tidelands closed to new mineral entry. For maps of streams closed to new mineral entry, see Appendix D. More detailed boundaries of the tideland closures are available for review on state status plats and 1:63,360-scale maps at the Department of Natural Resources offices at 3601 C Street; Box 107005; Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

Other Resource Information such as for forestry or settlement is given in the background elements of the plan. A complete list of publications related to the plan is in appendix B.

Flexibility of the Plan

The land-use designations shown on the maps and charts in this chapter are intended to be flexible. Uses not shown may be permitted on an individual basis 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, as long as modifications adhere to the plan's intent. In addition, through implementation of the plan, uses not originally designated may be permitted if they are consistent with the management 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 of the site-specific issues frequently encountered by state land managers. A plan that deals with a region the size of Prince William Sound cannot provide a predetermined answer to all questions. The plan can, however, clarify the general management objectives for the area and thereby provide the basis for a more informed decision.

University Land Settlement

Some state land in Prince William Sound has been transferred from DNR management to the University of Alaska. The Prince William Sound area plan did not determine which land was transferred to the University.

The Statehood Act granted certain lands in Alaska to the State in trust for the University of Alaska. Some of these trust lands within the Municipality of Anchorage were conveyed to the Municipality under a former state municipal entitlement law. Two lawsuits resulted. As part of the legal settlement, the State is obligated to give the University land of approximately the same value (\$24,752,000) as that given to the Municipality.

During early spring 1987, DNR issued its preliminary decision to consider a large pool of lands the University had nominated to fulfill the court settlement. Those parcels within the Prince William Sound planning area are listed in **Table 3-1**.

DNR asked for public comment on the proposed land transfer during spring 1987. The comment period closed in late summer. Lands transferred to the University are depicted on the management unit maps in this chapter, but DNR management intent and guidelines do not apply.

Table 3-1. University Settlement Lands in Prince William Sound

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Subunit</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Poe Bay	Passage Canal	2B	240
Logging Camp Bay	Passage Canal	2C	360
Dayville Rd	Dayville Rd (Vdz)	21V	275
Jack Bay	Valdez Arm	22D	1250
Copper River Hwy	Near Eyak Lk (Cdv)	27A	76
Heney Crk & Saddle Point	South of Cordova	27C	237