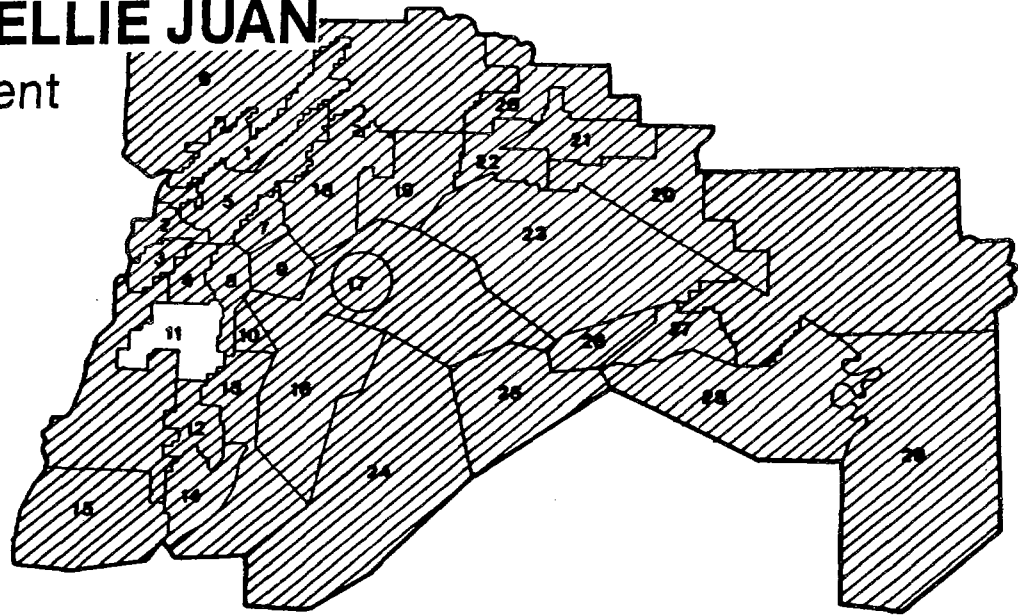


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# PORT NELLIE JUAN

## Management Unit 11



### Background

All uplands within the Port Nellie Juan unit are managed by the USFS and are within the area proposed for wilderness. All federal land within this unit is open to mining but may be closed if Congress acts on the wilderness proposal. The state has not selected uplands in the area, but owns the tidelands throughout the unit. The USFS is considering constructing a trail from the Seward Highway to the head of King's Bay to provide hiking access to Prince William Sound. The unit contains no areas with significant known mineral values.

This unit, along with College-Harriman Fiord and the Columbia Glacier, is one of three main destinations for cruise ships, outside of communities. From its entrance to Derickson Bay, Port Nellie Juan receives moderate public use by all types of recreation water craft. Use is less frequent in the area past Derickson Bay. Cruise ships use the entire area, all the way to King's Bay.

Areas of particular importance to the recreation use include the Derickson Bay to Nellie

Juan Glacier area and the frequently used anchorage near Mink Island. The upland area around Derickson Bay is one of the only areas in Prince William Sound that has good hiking. The waterways on the south side of Port Nellie Juan between McClure Bay to and including Blue Fiord get little use, except for transit.

Important habitat includes waterfowl nesting and molting habitat in the headwaters of King's Bay and the seal habitat throughout much of the unit. King's Bay is used for subsistence seal hunting by residents of Chenega Bay.

Chugach Alaska Corporation has selected land with hydroelectric potential just outside the unit boundary. The closest surface access to the selection would be from the head of King's Bay.

### Management Intent

State lands within this unit will be managed for fish and wildlife habitat and harvest, recreation, and wilderness values. Emphasis will be

on maintaining the area's isolated and scenic landscape. Uses that create significant permanent visual intrusion or concentrate public use are not compatible with this intent. For that reason, floatlodes and similar commercial recreation facilities are prohibited in the unit. Most state lands remain open to mineral entry, though four estuaries are closed to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat.

## **Management Guidelines**

### **Authorization of Tideland Facilities Adjacent to the Proposed USFS Wilderness.**

Tideland facilities will be authorized consistent with the recreation, habitat and harvest, and wilderness intent for this management unit. For this reason tideland facilities are allowed if they are mostly underwater and cause only limited impact on the unit's fish and wildlife, recreation, tourism, and wilderness values. Tideland facilities that present significant, long-term visual impact or attract significant concentrations of public use are inconsistent with the wilderness intent and will not be sited in this unit. Tideland

authorizations may be issued if the land manager determines no feasible alternative location exists outside this unit and that the benefits outweigh the impacts to the wilderness, and fish and wildlife.

**Mineral Closure - Estuaries.** To protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with these resources, four estuaries will be closed to new mineral entry. The estuaries are in East and West Finger Inlets (83 & 84), behind Mink Island (82), and at the mouth of Most Creek (85). The boundaries of the closures are described in Appendix D.

The complete set of guidelines is presented in Chapter 2; any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit. Guidelines most likely to apply in this management unit are listed below:

Fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas  
Recreation, tourism, cultural, and scenic  
resource

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

## Management Unit 11: Port Nellie Juan

<u>SUBUNIT</u>	<u>LAND OWNERSHIP</u>	<u>LAND USE DESIGNATIONS</u>			<u>COMMENTS</u>
		<u>Primary Surface Use<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Prohibited Surface Use</u>	<u>Subsurface<sup>1</sup></u>	
Entire Unit	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Most open; four estuaries closed	Within USFS proposed wilderness

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<sup>1</sup>All areas are available for leasing of leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals.

<sup>2</sup>Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits that are not specifically prohibited, may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, management guidelines of this unit, and relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2. See Chapter 2, pages 2-11 and 2-12, for floathome policies. Trapping Cabin and Remote Cabin permits will not be given in the planning area. See guideline B-3, page 2-39.

## Resource Information Summary<sup>1</sup>

<b>Management Unit: 11. Port Nellie Juan</b>					
<b>SUBUNIT</b>	<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Minerals</b>	<b>Settlement<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Forestry<sup>3</sup></b>
Entire Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries; seals; seasonal waterfowl concentration; bear use areas; goats; commercial fishing	Recreation and tourism destinations; dispersed recreation	No known minerals	--	--

<sup>1</sup> This resource summary describes only the resources for state uplands and tidelands.

<sup>2</sup> Resource list includes Crucial, Prime, and Important habitats as defined by ADF&G (see Appendix E). Anadromous fish streams are not listed; they exist in most subunits. See ADF&G anadromous fish stream catalogue.

<sup>3</sup> Land offering and timber harvest do not occur on tidelands. Therefore, settlement and forestry resources are not rated for tideland subunits.