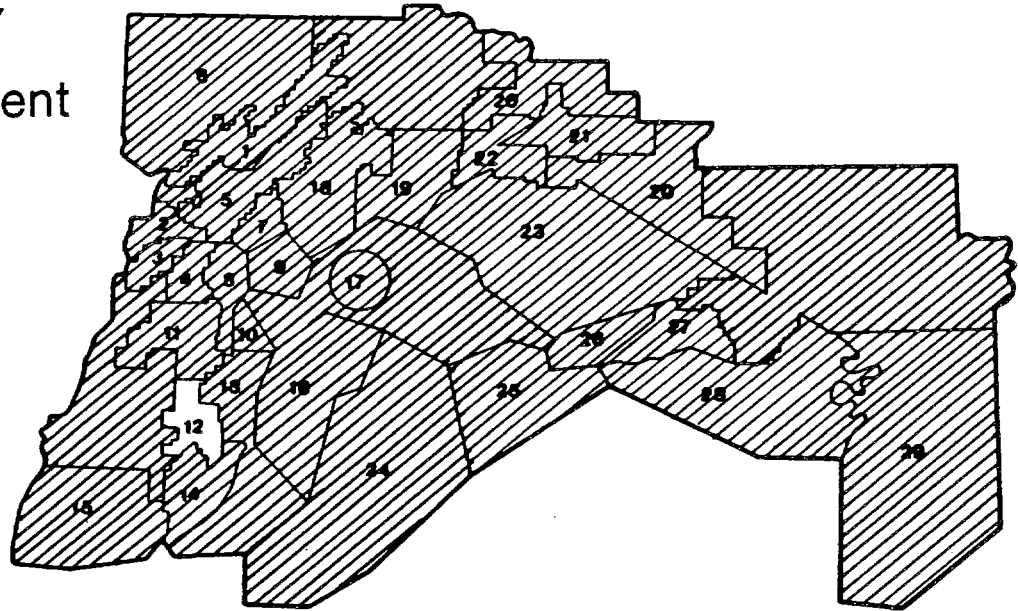


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# ICY BAY

## Management Unit 12



### Background

All uplands in this area are managed by the USFS. This unit is entirely within the proposed federal wilderness area. All federal land in the unit is open to mining but is likely to be closed if Congress acts on the proposal. The state owns the tidelands throughout the unit. The unit does not include any areas with significant known mineral values.

A state selection near Princeton Creek was relinquished. The selection would have been managed for dispersed recreation and a possible hatchery site. The parcel is within the proposed USFS wilderness area, and these uses could be accommodated under Forest Service management. In addition, the state's selection purpose was not consistent with the USFS interpretation of allowable selection purposes in section 6(a) of the Statehood Act (see Chapter 5).

This management unit contains some of the most sought-after tourist attractions in Prince William Sound. The unit provides excellent opportunities to watch wildlife and view

tidewater glaciers. Only its remoteness and frequent iceberg blockage have kept the area from becoming as popular as Harriman Fiord. Wildlife resources in the area include humpback whales, harbor porpoise, and numerous bird rookeries. Local names such as Whale Bay, Otter Cove, Puffin Cove, Minke Cove, and Humpback Cove attest to the wildlife values.

### Management Intent

The tidelands throughout the unit will be managed for their recreation, wildlife habitat and harvest, and wilderness values. Since isolation and the natural landscape are important components of the recreation in this unit, floatlodes and similar commercial recreation facilities are prohibited in this unit. A future hatchery, however, may be developed near Princeton Creek. This site was identified by the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation; it is on USFS land. Tideland leases will not be given for uses that foreclose the use of the site for a hatchery.

Most state lands remain open to mineral entry, though three estuaries will be closed to new mineral location to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat.

Additional management intent is described below for Subunit 12A, Tidewater Glacier. The intent for **Subunit 12B** is reflected in the previous paragraphs.

**Subunit 12A - Tidewater Glacier.** The tidewater glacier in this subunit is the primary tourist and recreation attraction for this unit. Mariculture is prohibited to protect these recreation resources. Permits and leases should not be given for uses that can feasibly be located elsewhere or that are visible from the water.

## Management Guidelines

**Authorization of Tideland Facilities Adjacent to the Proposed USFS Wilderness (Subunits 12A and 12B).** Tideland facilities will be authorized consistent with the recreation, habitat, and wilderness intent for this management unit. 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 sig-

nificant 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 Closures - Estuaries (Subunit 12B).** To protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with these resources, three estuaries in this management unit will be closed to new mineral entry. The estuaries are located at the southern tip of the two arms of Whale Bay (96 & 98) and at the mouth of Claw Creek (97). The boundaries of the mineral 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 to this management unit are listed below:

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

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

## Management Unit 12: Icy Bay

<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>	
12A Tidewater Glacier	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges Mariculture	Open	Within USFS proposed wilderness
12B Remainder of Unit	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Most open; three estuaries closed	Within USFS proposed wilderness; state selection was relinquished

<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>

Management Unit: 12. Icy Bay					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife <sup>2</sup>	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement <sup>3</sup>	Forestry <sup>3</sup>
12A Tidewater Glacier (tidelands)	Seal haulouts; bird rookeries; bear use and hunting; mountain goat winter range and mountain goat hunting	Tidewater gla- cier; recrea- tion destina- tion	No known minerals	--	--
12B Remainder of Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries; seals; four bird rookeries; whales; commercial hunting	Infrequently used because of distance from Whittier; many recreation and tourist attrac- tion	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.