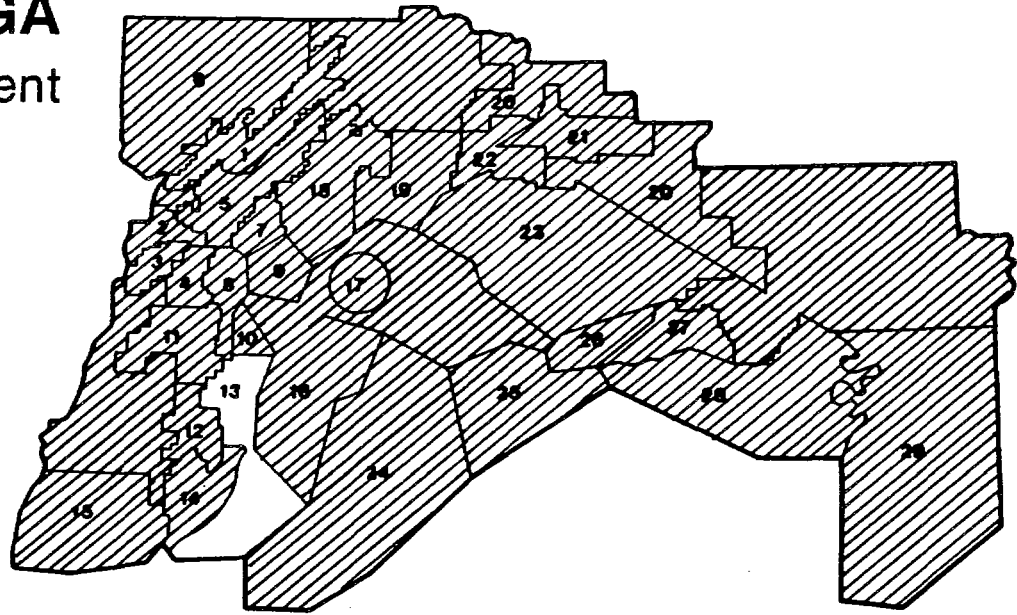

CHENEGA

Management Unit 13



Background

The Chenega management unit contains mostly privately owned uplands and state-owned tidelands. Most uplands have been selected by the local village or regional Native Corporations. The USFS manages the uplands on Elrington Island and on Evans Island south of Port San Juan. The USFS land-use plan indicates that they will not consider the area for timber harvest at least until Congress acts on the wilderness proposal. The federal land has limited timber-harvest potential, and harvest is not expected during the life of the plan. The federal land is open to mining.

In addition to the state's tideland ownership, there is a state marine park on Latouche Island, and a selection proposed for Fox Farm Anchorage on South Elrington island. The state previously selected a 40-acre camping site at the southwest tip of Latouche Island, and 290 acres on Bettles Islands adjacent to Chenega Bay. These two selections were relinquished because of conflicts with use by

Chenega Bay residents and the poor capability of the land (see chapter 5).

This unit, along with Knight Island, is one of the most highly mineralized areas in Prince William Sound. Between 1903 and 1930, approximately 6 million tons of copper ore were produced from Latouche Island. The island contains numerous mining claims, some of which have been examined as recently as 1984.

This large unit contains a variety of fish and wildlife resources. Chenega Bay residents rely on the area for a variety of subsistence resources including salmon, deer, waterfowl, bears, seals, and furbearers. In addition, The area is one of the most frequently used commercial purse seine areas in the Sound. Port San Juan is the location of the Armin F. Koernig hatchery operated by the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation. The unit also receives moderate use by recreation users, hunters, and sport fishermen, and contains two of the most-used sport fishing areas in the Sound, Jackpot Bay and Eshamy Lagoon. Land surrounding both areas is

owned or selected by The Chenega Corporation. The northern part of this unit and areas near Chenega Island receive somewhat more use than the southern part because of the distances from Whittier. The entire unit receives significant use during the shrimp and halibut seasons. Though fuel is sold in Chenega Bay, it is not widely known or publicized. Any development that increases access such as a ferry stop, or well-publicized fuel stop would result in a significant increase in public use.

A variety of commercial uses are likely on the private land during the life of this plan. The Chenega Bay Village Council and Chenega Corporation plan to improve the refueling station and construct an airstrip at Chenega. Other potential commercial development includes mariculture, lodges, sport hunting and fishing camps, and services for the set net fishery. Although some interest has been expressed in timber harvest in the area, large-scale harvesting is less likely here than in other areas the Sound.

Chugach Alaska Corporation owns most of Latouche Island including land surrounding other private parcels and the state marine park. Mineral development and settlement are possible uses on the island.

Management Intent

Tideland management will emphasize providing access to the uplands while protecting the important public resources such as fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas and access to public campsites, anchorages, and important sport-fishing sites. Most locations for tideland development are not sufficiently detailed to allow this plan to make specific land allocations. The final locations will be determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with plan management intent and guidelines.

Management of the state tidelands will recognize that the private lands within this unit are the most appropriate lands to accommodate the commercial needs of southeastern Prince William Sound.

Most state lands remain open to mineral entry except for tidelands in Subunit 13E and the existing marine park. Seven estuaries will be closed to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat. State tidelands near the fish hatchery in Sawmill Bay, Subunit 13E, will be closed to protect the habitat that supports fish from the hatchery.

Additional management intent is described below for nine subunits. The intent for **Subunit 13J**, the general use area, is reflected in the previous paragraphs.

Subunit 13A - Eshamy Lagoon and Jackpot Bay. Eshamy Lagoon and Jackpot Bay are two of the most important sport-fishing sites in western Prince William Sound. They receive substantial commercial fishing and sport fishing use during the salmon runs. Eshamy Lagoon is the most frequently used because it is closer to Whittier. In addition, Eshamy contains several sites used by the limited-entry set-net fishery. The private land in this subunit has been conveyed to The Chenega Corporation.

Management of state tidelands should accommodate development of adjacent uplands while not diminishing the capacity of the public anchorages, campsites, boat pullouts, or public access especially near the mouths of anadromous fish streams, or other commonly used sport-fishing areas. The only public campsites and boat pullouts above high tide are one-acre site easements reserved under section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Subunit 13B - Point Nowell. The uplands in this subunit have been conveyed to The Chenega Corporation. The Point Nowell area is used by commercial drift net fishermen and for shelter by recreational boaters. The anchorage is an important location for boaters awaiting good weather and receives higher use than other sites in the unit. The tidelands will be managed to provide access to the upland owner, to the existing 17(b) easement, and to maintain the capacity of the anchorage.

Subunit 13C - Dangerous Passage Bays.

These bays are an important part of the recreation resources of this area. The uplands are private land. Management will emphasize accommodating upland resource development and conservation needs including access for commercial recreation and mariculture. Public access to anchorages and the 17(b) easements (if any) will be maintained.

Subunit 13D - Old Chenega. Old Chenega is important for its cultural and historic value. Management of the tidelands will emphasize protecting cultural resources and discouraging activities inconsistent with the preservation of heritage resources. Public notice of permits and leases within this subunit will include the Chenega Bay Village Council and other representatives of the old village (see guidelines).

Subunit 13E - Sawmill Bay and Crab Bay.

This subunit includes the village of Chenega Bay, and the Armin F. Koernig hatchery operated by the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation. The tidelands in this subunit include most of the hatchery harvest area maintained by ADF&G for the salmon hatchery. Hatchery-released salmon are naturally separated from wild stock in this area and during fishery openings it receives concentrated commercial purse seine fishing use. The subunit also supports dense concentrations of rearing juvenile salmon when the hatchery releases smolts in the spring.

Tideland management will emphasize both the community development needs of Chenega Bay (including expansion of the marina, appropriate areas for economic development projects, etc), and maintaining the productivity of the habitat and use of the area for commercial fishing. The tidelands will be closed to mineral entry to protect the fish values that support the hatchery.

Subunit 13F - Latouche West. Privately owned uplands are presently being used for settlement and may be used for additional settlement or other purposes in the future. Tideland management should accommodate

shoreline access, including possible access for mineral or other development, while avoiding significant destruction of the intertidal vegetation or habitat used by wintering waterfowl that concentrate along shoreline.

Subunit 13G - Horseshoe Bay. This subunit is an established state marine park. Management will emphasize providing public camping, anchorages, and low impact public facilities as an alternative to the use of surrounding private land. DPOR will prepare a management plan pursuant to AS 41.21.302(c).

Subunit 13H - Elrington Passage. This subunit includes the most frequently used commercial fishing areas in Unit 13. Management will provide appropriate access to privately owned uplands, maintain fish and wildlife habitat, and protect commercial fisheries harvest areas.

Subunit 13I - South Elrington Island (Fox Farm Anchorage). State-selected land in this subunit will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on maintaining use of the anchorages by the fishing fleet, recreational boats, and other vessels. Fox Farm Anchorage is the first good anchorage north of Port Bainbridge; it is part of the system of anchorages that includes Safety Cove, Driftwood Bay, and Goat Harbor and links Resurrection Bay to the more protected areas of Prince William Sound. It is also used by boaters awaiting better weather in the Gulf of Alaska, by residents of Chenega Bay for community recreation and subsistence use, and by commercial fishing tenders servicing the commercial purse seine fishing fleet. Authorizations will not be given for facilities that would detract from those uses or compete for space within Fox Farm Anchorage.

Management Guidelines

Other sites for resource transfer facilities (all subunits). Throughout this management unit, tideland sites may be needed for resource transfer facilities. Examples of

where access may be needed include the shoreline of Dangerous Passage and Chenega Island, Bainbridge and Prince of Wales Passages including Flemming Island and Shelter Bay, and the shoreline of Latouche Island. Approval and final siting will be worked out on a case-by-case basis consistent with the management intent and guidelines of this unit and of Chapter 2.

Docks and Piers in Eshamy Lagoon and Jackpot Bay (Subunit 13A). To maintain the public sport and commercial fishing use of public tidelands, developed access points, such as docks and piers, should be designed to retain existing pedestrian access along the tidelands.

Mineral Closures (Subunits 13A, 13C, 13E, 13F, 13G, 13H, and 13J). The tidelands within Sawmill Bay, Subunit 13E (101), will be closed to new mineral entry because the hatchery and the fishery it supports are critically dependent on salmon habitat in these tidelands, including habitat for the growth of juvenile salmon. Any mineral extraction activity that could disrupt the habitat may jeopardize the significant state investment in the hatchery. In addition, thirteen estuaries will be closed to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with these resources. The estuaries are located in Eshamy Bay (89), Eshamy Lagoon (90), Paddy Bay (91), Ewan Bay (92), Jackpot Bay (93), two bays on Chenega Island (94 & 95), the mouth of Bjoro Creek (665), Shelter Island (661), and four on Latouche Island (102-105). The boundaries of the closures are described in Appendix D.

Permits and Leases near Old Chenega (Subunit 13D).

1. Public Notice. Because of the sensitive nature of the cultural resources at Old Chenega, public notice for permits and leases within Subunit 14C should include notice to the Chenega Village Council; North Pacific Rim, Ltd., the nonprofit corporation serving

Chenega Bay; and Chugach Alaska Corporation.

2. Conflicting uses. Because of the sensitive nature of the resources at Old Chenega, uses may be allowed in Subunit 13D if they will create insignificant human activity within the subunit, are compatible with historic preservation of the old townsite, or no feasible, prudent alternative site exists and the land manager determines that no harm is likely to the historic resources.

Conflicts with Hatchery Harvest Area (Subunit 13E).

1. Disease Pollution and Productivity. Because of the concentration of hatchery stock, the following uses will not be allowed in subunit 13E if there is a feasible and prudent alternative: uses with the potential to transmit disease to the concentrated hatchery stock; uses that significantly reduce the productivity of the salmon hatchery by competing with the available food supply or other means; and uses that risk introduction of significant water pollution into areas important for the salmon hatchery or harvest areas.

2. Interfering with the Commercial Fishery. Tideland facilities useful for the community development of Chenega Bay should be located to minimize or avoid significantly affecting the commercial fishing use of the hatchery harvest area.

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
- Forestry
- Mariculture
- Recreation, tourism, cultural, and scenic resources

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 13: Chenega

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<u>SUBUNIT</u>	<u>LAND OWNERSHIP</u>	<u>LAND USE DESIGNATIONS</u>			<u>COMMENTS</u>
		<u>Primary Surface Use²</u>	<u>Prohibited Surface Use</u>	<u>Subsurface¹</u>	
13A Eshamy Lagoon & Jackpot Bay	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation Shoreline development		Three estuaries closed	
13B Point Nowell	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation		Open	
13C Dangerous Passage Bays	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation Shoreline development		Part open; three estuaries closed	
13D Old Chenega	State-owned tidelands	Heritage resources		Open	Adjacent to Old Chenega
13E Sawmill & Crab bays	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Shoreline development		Estuary closed	Village of Chenega Bay; Site of Armin F. Koernig Hatchery; state selection was relinquished
13F Latouche West	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Shoreline development		Estuary closed	

¹All 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.

²Other 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.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 13: Chenega

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<u>SUBUNIT</u>	<u>LAND OWNERSHIP</u>	<u>LAND USE DESIGNATIONS</u>			<u>COMMENTS</u>
		<u>Primary Surface Use²</u>	<u>Prohibited Surface Use</u>	<u>Subsurface¹</u>	
13G Horseshoe Bay	State-owned uplands; state-owned tidelands	Existing marine park	Land offerings	Closed by existing legislation	Existing marine park (AS 41.21.300)
13H Erlington Passage	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation		Estuary closed	
13I South Erlington Island	State-selected uplands; state owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges Land offerings	Open	
13J Remainder of Unit	State-owned tidelands	General use		Most open; four estuaries closed	State selection was relinquished

¹All 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.

²Other 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.

Management Unit: 13. Chenega					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife²	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement³	Forestry³
13A Eshamy Lagoon and Jackpot Bay (tidelands)	Estuaries; sport fishing; bear use and hunt- ing; seals; deer; commercial fishing; deer hunting	Extremely high use sport and commercial fishing areas	No known minerals	--	--
13B Point Nowell (tidelands)	Deer; seals; commer- cial fishing; deer; deer hunting; bear use and hunting	Crossing points for small boats	No known minerals	--	--
13C Dangerous Passage Bays (tidelands)	Estuaries; seal haulout; deer; otter concentra- tions; commercial fishing; deer hunting; bear use and hunting	Dispersed recreation and sport fishing	Weakly mineralized; moderately mineralized near Junction Island	--	--
13D Old Chenega (tidelands)	Seals; deer; deer hunting; bear use and hunting	--	No known minerals	--	--
13E Sawmill and Crab bays (tidelands)	Estuary; seal haulout; bear use and hunting; deer; commercial fishing; deer hunting; hatchery harvest area	Dispersed recreation; community use by Chenega Bay	No known minerals	--	--
13F Latouche West (tidelands)	Estuaries; seasonal waterfowl concen- trations; deer concentrations; commercial fishing; deer hunting; bear use and hunting	Dispersed recreation	No known minerals	--	--

¹ This resource summary describes only the resources for state uplands and tidelands.

² 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.

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

Resource Information Summary (page 2 of 2)¹

Management Unit: 13. Chenega					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife ²	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement ³	Forestry ³
13G Horseshoe Bay (uplands and tidelands)	Estuary; seasonal waterfowl concen- trations; deer concentrations; commercial fishing; deer hunting; bear use and hunting	Isolated public land for anch- orage/camping	Moderately mineralized	Capable	High/moderate
13H Elrington Passage (tidelands)	Seals; commercial fishing; deer; deer hunting; bear use and hunting	Dispersed recreation; community use by Chenega Bay	No known minerals	--	--
13I South Elring- ton Island, Fox Farm Anchorage (uplands and tidelands)	Bird rookery; deer; seals; commer- cial fishing; deer hunting; bear and bear hunting	Important anchorage; community use by Chenega Bay	Weakly mineralized	Capable	High/moderate
13J Remainder of Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries; sea lion haulout; seal haul- out; two bird rooker- ies; deer concentra- tions; purse-seine hookoff; otter concentrations; commercial fishing; deer hunting; bear use and hunting	Dispersed recreation; whale watching	No known minerals	--	--

¹ This resource summary describes only the resources for state uplands and tidelands.

² 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.

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