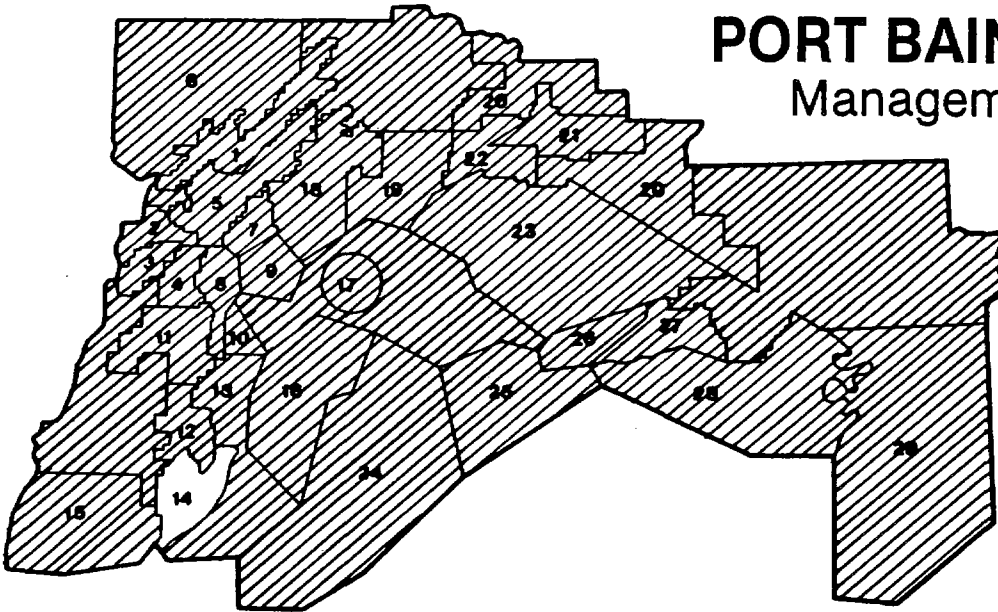

PORT BAINBRIDGE

Management Unit 14



Background

All uplands in this management unit are managed by the US Forest Service as a proposed wilderness area. Some have been selected by the Native village corporation. The state owns the tidelands throughout the area. The federal land is open to mineral entry, but may be closed if Congress acts on the wilderness proposal. The unit contains no area with significant known mineral values.

This management unit, remote and open to the Gulf of Alaska, has intricate, steep coastlines and is distant from populations centers. It is a major summer feeding area for humpback whales and receives infrequent human recreation or sport use because of its distance from population centers and the rough waters. Purse seine commercial fishing occurs throughout the area.

Management Intent

Subunit 14A - USFS Wilderness. Tidelands within this unit will be managed for fish and

wildlife habitat and harvest, public recreation, and wilderness values consistent with the management practices intended by the federal wilderness designation for the uplands. For those reasons, floatlodges and similar commercial recreation facilities are prohibited throughout the unit.

Some of the most important areas in this unit include Puffin Cove and the route of the Alaska state ferry, including Bainbridge Passage. Puffin Cove, a shallow estuary, provides a safe anchorage and receives some public use for sport-fishing, general recreation, and exploring. The Alaska state ferry traverses the unit and travels through Bainbridge Passage. Therefore, management of state tidelands along the narrow portion of Bainbridge Passage should maintain the natural landscape.

Most state lands in the subunit remain open to mineral entry. One estuary will be closed to new mineral location to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources.

Subunit 14B - Tidelands adjacent to ANCSA Lands. Native-owned uplands in this subunit are not part of the proposed federal wilderness area. Tidelands adjacent to these lands will be managed for fish and wildlife, public recreation, and access and support of upland development. Tidelands adjacent to those Native-selected lands that remain in USFS ownership and do not become Native-owned, will be managed as part of the wilderness subunit, Subunit 14A.

Management Guidelines

Mineral Closure - Hogg Creek Estuary (Subunit 14A). To protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with these resources, one estuary at the mouth of Hogg Creek (in Hogg Bay, 100) and one estuary in Bainbridge Passage (99) will be closed to new mineral entry. The boundaries of the mineral closures are described in Appendix D.

Authorization of Tideland Facilities Adjacent to the Proposed USFS Wilderness (Subunits 14A and 14B). Tideland facilities will be authorized consistent with the recreation, habitat, 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, 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 impact to the wilderness, and fish and wildlife. The guideline applies to all tidelands within Subunit 14A, and those tidelands within Subunit 14B adjacent to public uplands that will be managed as part of the wilderness subunit.

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

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

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 14: Port Bainbridge

<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>	
14A USFS Wilderness	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Most open; estuary closed	Within USFS proposed wilderness
14B Adjacent to ANCSA uplands	State-owned tidelands	General use		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.

Resource Information Summary¹

Management Unit: 14. Port Bainbridge					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife ²	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement ³	Forestry ³
14A USFS wilderness (tidelands)	Estuaries (four small bays); seal haulout; four bird rookeries; deer; whale summer feeding area; bear use; commercial fishing	Dispersed recreation	No known minerals	--	--
14B Adjacent to ANCSA uplands (tidelands)	Estuary; deer; purse seine hookoff; commercial fishing; mountain goat winter range; mountain goat 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.