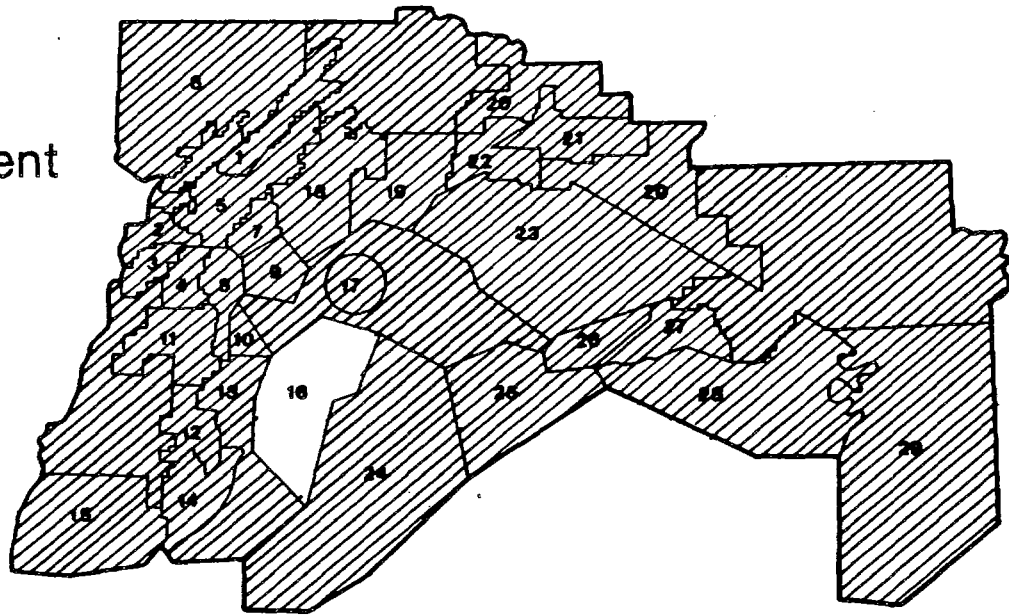

KNIGHT ISLAND

Management Unit 16



Background

The U.S. Forest Service manages most of the land on Knight Island. However, isolated pockets of private land exist in a few locations on the island. Regional and village Native corporations own land near the Bay of Isles and on the southern tip of the island. The state previously selected uplands in Drier Bay, in Marsha Bay, and on Disk Island and owns the tidelands throughout the unit. All three upland selections were relinquished. The proposed uses could be accommodated under Forest Service management, and the state's selection purposes were not consistent with the allowable selection purposes of section 6(a) of the Statehood Act (see Chapter 5).

Most resource types present in the Sound are on Knight Island including timber, minerals, and a wide variety of recreation and fish and wildlife resources.

The USFS has not included any land on Knight Island in their 1985 10-year timber-sale schedule. Harvest from federal land is unlikely during the next 20 years. Timber will

probably be harvested from a significant portion of the Native lands near the Bay of Isles and Marsh Bay during the next 20 years. Federal land in this unit is open to mineral entry. Knight Island contains many copper mines that were active in the early 1900s, especially the area near Marsha Bay. The island still contains many mining claims.

Recreation resources on Knight Island are representative of the recreational resources found throughout the Sound, including an especially beautiful, complex coastline, protected waters, good anchorages, abandoned cannery and mining ruins to explore, sport-diving sites, and good fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing. A 1977 Division of Parks publication rates Knight Island as possibly the most scenic island in the Sound and notes that its numerous bays create a shoreline length that exceeds the shoreline length of the much larger Montague Island. The west side of Knight Island has abundant anchorages but few campsites. In contrast, the east side has few anchorages and many campsites.

Wildlife is abundant. The island provides habitat for numerous bird rookeries, sea lion and seal haulouts, deer, and a variety of waterfowl.

Management Intent

State tideland management will emphasize the protection of recreation and wildlife resources and ensure access to the uplands. Most state land in this unit remains open to mineral entry. One estuary in Snug Harbor will be closed to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with the resource.

The uplands on Knight Island are mostly public. The private uplands on Knight Island and in the Chenega unit, (Unit 13) to the west and south, will likely be used to provide commercial recreation opportunities including lodges and fuel stops. The private landowners, including the Native corporations, intend to develop their land for these purposes. To insure that an adequate amount of undeveloped land exists for public use, management of the state tidelands adjacent to public lands will give the highest priorities to public uses. For this reason, commercial recreation facilities, such as floatlodges, will not be authorized on state tidelands adjacent to public uplands in this unit. This policy may be re-evaluated after 1992. After that date, one or more commercial facilities may be permitted on the tidelands adjacent to public uplands of Knight Island if adequate facilities are not available in the Chenega and Knight Island management units, or increased competition would benefit the public. Commercial recreation facilities would be allowed only if the department finds they will benefit public recreation in western Prince William Sound. If allowed, the location should be determined by consultation with DPOR and the USFS. A decision to allow commercial recreation facilities will require a plan amendment.

Additional management intent is described below for six subunits. The intent for **Subunit**

16G, the general use area, is reflected in the previous paragraphs.

Subunit 16A - Crossing Points. These areas are important crossing points for recreational boaters traveling to and from Knight Island. Nearby campsites and anchorages are used by boaters waiting for good weather. These anchorages receive somewhat higher use than other sites. Any tideland development should avoid diminishing the capacity, disturbing the natural character, or blocking access to these anchorages.

Subunit 16B - Disk Island. The island contains a small but scenic, well-used anchorage. Tideland authorizations should not be given for activities that will diminish the capacity of the anchorage or change the natural character of the landscape, including mariculture and floatlodges.

Subunit 16C - Drier Bay and Vicinity. This area contains a variety of recreation, fish, and wildlife resources. Nearby uplands contain moderate mineral potential. Port Audrey, at the head of Drier Bay is a frequently used sport-diving site and an important access point where recreationists explore an abandoned cannery located on federal land. Copper Bay provides some of the only large campsites on the southwest side of the island. Access to these resources will be maintained. Tideland uses that are not compatible with sport diving and recreational access will not be allowed unless no feasible and prudent alternative exists.

The state-selected uplands in the Drier Bay area will be relinquished. The land should be managed by the state for dispersed recreation. That management is likely to occur under Forest Service management.

The subunit also contains abundant fish and wildlife resources. The rocks outside the entrance of Drier Bay provide habitat for several small bird rookeries. Drier and Johnson Bays contain habitats used extensively by waterfowl during the winter. Facilities should not significantly increase human ac-

tivity or create significant acoustical disturbance directly adjacent to the bird rookeries. Tideland leases or permits will minimize disturbance to the intertidal vegetation important to winter waterfowl use.

Subunit 16D - Timber Access. This subunit contains state-owned tidelands adjacent to the private land in Drier Bay, Bay of Isles, and lower Herring Bay. During the next 20 years, access to timber and mineral resources will be required in one or more of these locations. Developed access sites such as log transfer facilities should be combined in one location, preferably in the Bay of Isles area unless it is not feasible and prudent. However, the option for access to both locations will be maintained.

Subunit 16E - Marsha Bay. Federal land at the head of Marsha Bay has been identified by ADF&G as a potential site for a fish hatchery using the lake just west of the bay as the source of freshwater. Long-term tideland leases or permits that would foreclose the use of the site for a fish hatchery will not be given. Access for timber or mineral transfer sites across state-owned tidelands will be available to serve mineral, timber or other resource development on nearby private land. If feasible and prudent, developed access such as log transfer facilities should be combined with those proposed in Subunit 16D.

Subunit 16F - Snug Harbor. The head of Snug Harbor is an important dive site and access point for exploration of the island. The harbor is also the first anchorage south of Louis Bay on the east side of the Island. Public recreation and access to the anchorage and uplands will be maintained. Tideland development that is incompatible with these recreational resources will not be authorized in this unit unless no feasible and prudent alternative exists.

Management Guidelines

Mineral Closure - Snug Harbor Estuary (Subunit 16F). To protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with these resources, the estuary in Snug Harbor (106) will be closed to new mineral entry. The boundary of the mineral closure is 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; however, 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 16: Knight Island

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SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
		Primary Surface Use ²	Prohibited Surface Use	Subsurface ¹	
16A Crossing Points	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities ³ Floatlodges ³	Open	
16B Disk Islands	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities ³ Floatlodges ³	Open	State selection was relinquished
16C Drier Bay & vicinity	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities ³ Floatlodges ³	Open	State selection was relinquished
16D Timber Access	State-owned tidelands	Forestry Habitat & harvest Public recreation		Open	Log or mineral transfer facility may be needed
16E Marsha Bay	State-owned tidelands	Forestry Habitat & harvest		Open	Potential hatchery site. Log or mineral transfer facility may be needed. State selection was relinquished
16F Snug Harbor	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation		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.

³Floatlodge and commercial recreation facility prohibition may be reevaluated after 1992, see text.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 16: Knight Island

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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>	
16G Remainder of Unit	State-owned tidelands	General use	Commercial recreation facilities ³ Floatlodges ³	Open	

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.

³Floatlodge and commercial recreation facility prohibition may be reevaluated after 1992, see text.

Resource Information Summary¹

Management Unit: 16. Knight Island					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife ²	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement ³	Forestry ³
16A Crossing Points (tidelands)	Sea lion haulout; seal haulout; deer	Crossing point for small boats	No known minerals	--	--
16B Disk Island (tidelands)	Deer concentrations	Lovely anchor- age; planned USFS mooring buoy	Weakly mineralized	--	--
16C Drier Bay and Vicinity (tidelands)	Estuary; seal haul- out; otters; many bird rookeries; seasonal waterfowl concentrations; deer concentrations	Moderate use for dispersed recreation; dive site	Weakly to moderately mineralized	--	--
16D Timber Access (tidelands)	Estuaries; seal haul- out; seasonal water- fowl concentrations (Drier Bay only); deer; bird rookery	Moderate use for dispersed recreation	No known minerals;	--	--
16E Marsha Bay (tidelands)	Estuary; potential hatchery site; deer; deer hunting	Moderate use for dispersed recreation	Moderately mineralized	--	--
16F Snug Harbor (tidelands)	Estuary; deer con- centrations; commer- cial fishing	Dispersed recreation; dive site	No known minerals	--	--
16G Remainder of Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries; seal haulout; otter con- centrations; four bird rookeries; deer concentrations; sport fishing (Bay of Isles); herring spawning; purse seine hookoff; commercial fishing	Dispersed recreation; dive site	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.