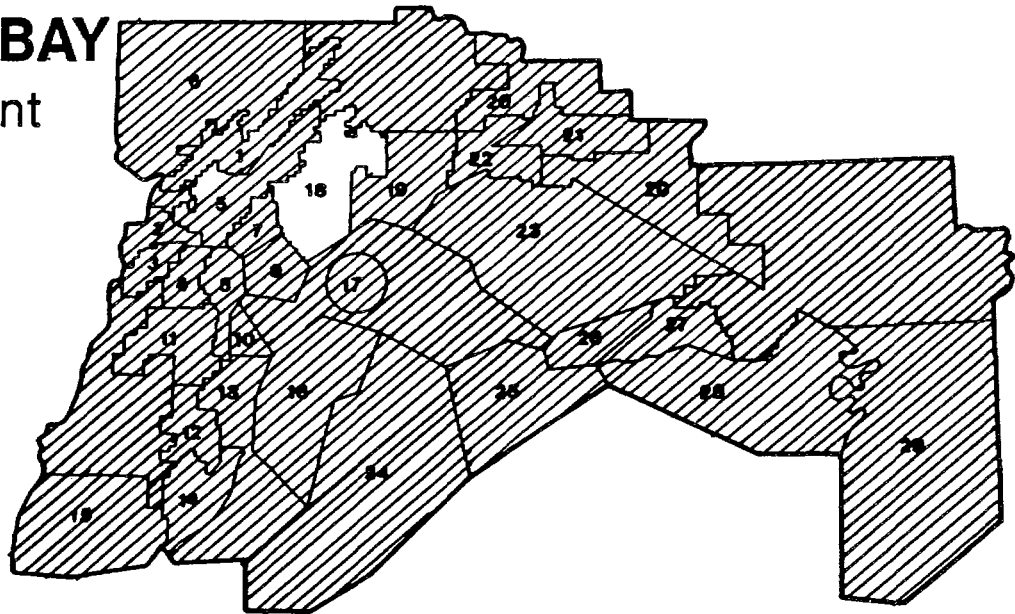


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# EAGLEK BAY

## Management Unit 18



### Background

Most uplands within this unit are managed by the U.S. Forest Service. A portion of this unit, the east side of Wells Bay and Unakwik Inlet north of Miner's Bay, is within the USFS wilderness proposal. The Forest Service's land use plan indicates that they will manage all uplands without timber harvest. All federal land within this unit is open to mineral entry, but the area inside the wilderness proposal is likely to be closed if Congress acts on the proposal. The unit does not include any mineral areas likely to be developed within the next 20 years.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game operates a hatchery at Cannery Creek. State selections at that site and at Cascade Creek were relinquished because the selection's purposes, for fish hatcheries, are not consistent with the USFS interpretation of allowable purposes of section 6(a) of the Statehood Act. (See Chapter 5). A state selection at Siwash Bay includes a large area that is physically capable of supporting a variety of resource uses, including settlement (new community

development), commercial development and recreation. The state owns the tidelands throughout this unit.

The area has abundant recreation, commercial-fishing, and sport-fishing resources. The area currently receives significant seasonal use by commercial salmon and herring fishermen. The area receives only moderate recreational use because the distance from Whittier and Valdez exceeds the present fuel range for many small powerboats.

### Management Intent

State lands in this unit will be retained in public ownership and most will be managed for multiple use. The uplands will be managed to emphasize the recreation and fish and wildlife resources. This includes access points such as anchorages, campsites, areas of seasonal waterfowl concentrations, and fishery resources.

Most state lands in this unit remain open to mineral entry. Three streams and thirteen es-

tuaries will be closed to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with these resources. The tidelands on the east side of Unakwik Inlet adjacent and south of the Cannery Creek hatchery will be closed to new mineral entry to protect habitat requirements of the fish hatchery and the fishery it supports.

There is an existing, valid, oyster mariculture operation located across from Fairmont Island just east of Wells Bay. The operation is under permit to the USFS and the state. Management should allow for its continued operation.

Additional management intent is described below for six subunits. The intent for **Subunit 18G**, the general use area, is reflected in the previous paragraphs.

**Subunit 18A - Marine Route.** Along the heavily traveled tourist route, state tidelands will be managed for multiple use with emphasis on protecting the scenic resources. Tideland facilities in this unit should be located and designed so that their use is visually hidden from the tourist route.

Axel Lind and Little Axel Lind Islands contain regionally important campsites. Important commercial fishing harvest occurs near these two islands and near Kiniklik. Tideland facilities should not foreclose use of these campsites and should be located and designed so their use does not detract from the natural appearance of the campsites.

**Subunit 18B - Important sport-fishing sites.** The tidelands in Miner's, Squaw's, and Derickson Bays, as well as the Cowpens anchorage and Cowpens Lake, are important access points for sport fishing and general exploring. The anchorage and campsite capacities, and public access will be maintained.

**Subunit 18C - Sites of Seasonal waterfowl concentration.** Jonah Bay, the northeast and northwest arm of Wells Bay, and the east side of Unakwik Inlet include habitat that is

important to waterfowl in the winter. The use of this habitat will be maintained by minimizing the disruption of intertidal vegetation and habitat.

**Subunit 18D - Cannery Creek.** The tidelands in this subunit are adjacent to the Cannery Creek Hatchery and include the hatchery harvest area maintained by ADF&G. In this area returning hatchery salmon are naturally separated from wild stock. During fishery openings, it receives concentrated commercial, purse-seine fishing. The subunit also supports dense concentrations of rearing juvenile salmon when the hatchery releases smolts in the spring. Tideland management will maintain the productivity of the habitat and the unobstructed use of the area for commercial fishing.

**Subunit 18E - Siwash Bay.** The uplands in this unit are selected to provide the state with a land base to meet a variety of future land management needs, should they occur. The selection includes a large area with the physical capability of supporting a variety of resource uses including settlement, recreation, or commercial or industrial development such as seafood processing. The land is not needed for these purposes at the present time, but may be required for such use after the 20-year planning period of this plan. Any development will protect an access corridor to the USFS land north and south of the selection.

For the 20-year planning period, the land will be retained in public ownership and managed to emphasize public recreation and wildlife habitat. Low impact public recreation facilities such as public use cabins or minimum development campsites may be appropriate to complement the two proposed developed recreation centers along the Whittier to Valdez marine route at Glacier Island and at Esther Island.

The tidelands on the Unakwik Inlet of this subunit provide important habitat for waterfowl during the winter and spring. The

tidelands will be managed to minimize disruption to the intertidal vegetation and habitat important for spring and winter waterfowl use.

**Subunit 18F - Cascade Creek.** This subunit boasts the largest and one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Prince William Sound. The area is also important as a potential hatchery site. Long-term tideland leases or permits for uses that would foreclose its eventual use for a hatchery or would detract from the scenic quality of the area will not be given. Public access to the waterfall and surrounding uplands will be protected.

## **Management Guidelines**

**Mineral Closures (Subunits 18B, 18C, 18D, 18E, and 18G).** In order to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources, three streams and thirteen estuaries will be closed to new mineral entry. Also, the tidelands on the east side of Unakwik Inlet adjacent to and south of the Cannery Creek hatchery will be closed. The hatchery and the fishery it supports are critically dependent on the marine environment of those tidelands for salmon habitat including the growth of juvenile salmon. The boundaries of the closures are described in Appendix D and are summarized below.

**1. Streams in Siwash Bay (Subunit 18E).** The closures include three streams: approximately 0.75 miles of Siwash River, approximately 0.25 miles of Schappe River, and approximately 0.2 miles of Waterfall Creek, and the state land within 50 feet of each side of these streams.

**2. Estuaries (Subunits 18B, 18C, 18D, 18E, and 18G).** Thirteen estuaries are proposed for closure. They are located in Derickson Bay (61), Eaglek Bay (58, 58a, 60), Siwash Bay (54), Wells Bay (50-52), the west side of Unakwik Inlet (53), Jonah Bay (55), and Eagle Bay (57, 59, 138).

**3. Hatchery Tidelands (Subunits 18C and 18D).** The closure includes tidelands in Subunits 18C and 18D, and south of Subunit 18C in T10N R11E, SM.

**Authorization of Tideland Facilities Adjacent to the Proposed USFS Wilderness (Subunits 18B, 18C, and 18G).** This guideline applies to the part of the unit within the proposed USFS wilderness. The only parts of this management unit within the proposed wilderness area are the head of Unakwik Inlet and the eastern shore of Wells Bay. In this area, tideland facilities will be authorized consistent with recreation, habitat, and wilderness intent. 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 are inconsistent with the wilderness intent and will not be sited in this part of the 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, fish, and wildlife.

**Conflicts with Hatchery Harvest Areas (Subunit 18D).**

**1. Disease, Pollution, and Productivity.** Because of the concentration of hatchery stock, the following uses will not be allowed 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 by other means; and uses that could cause significant water pollution.

**2. Interfering with the Commercial Fishery.** Because hatchery harvest areas, particularly the nearshore areas, receive dense concentrations of purse seine commercial fishing activity, any tideland facility (rafts, floats, mooring systems, etc.) that would obstruct the commercial fishing use of the area should not

be located in these areas if there is a feasible and prudent alternative.

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

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

## Management Unit 18: Eaglek Bay

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<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>	
18A Marine Route	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Open	
18B Sport Fishing Sites	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Most open; estuary closed	
18C Seasonal Waterfowl Concentration Areas	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Two estuaries closed	
18D Cannery Creek	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges Land offerings	One estuary and hatchery tide-lands closed	State-operated fish hatchery; state selection was relinquished
18E Siwash Bay	State-selected uplands; state-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges Land offerings	Most open; three creeks and estuaries closed	

<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.

## LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

### Management Unit 18: Eaglek Bay

Page 2 of 2

<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>	
18F Cascade Creek	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & Harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Open	Potential hatchery site; state selection was relinquished
18G Remainder of Unit	State-owned tidelands	General use	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Most open; six estuaries closed	

<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.

<b>Management Unit: 18. Eaglek Bay</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>
18A Marine Route (tidelands)	Seal haulouts; herring spawning; purse-seine hook- offs; bear use; deer; commercial fishing	Frequently used recreation and tourist route between Valdez and Whittier	No known minerals	--	--
18B Sport Fishing Sites (tidelands)	Estuaries; sport fishing; bear use; deer; commercial fishing	Sport fishing; dispersed recreation	No known minerals	--	--
18C Seasonal Waterfowl Concentrations (tidelands)	Estuaries; seals; seasonal waterfowl concentrations; bear use; commercial fishing	Dispersed recreation	No known minerals	--	--
18D Cannery Creek (tidelands)	Estuaries; bird rookery; bear use; commercial fishing	Dispersed recreation	Weakly mineralized	--	--
18E Siwash Bay (uplands and tidelands)	Estuary; bird rookery; seasonal waterfowl concen- trations; bear use; commercial fishing	Dispersed recreation	Known placer deposits in Siwash Bay Creek, other- wise, no known minerals	Capable	Low

<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.

Resource Information Summary (page 2 of 2)<sup>1</sup>

Management Unit: 18. Eaglek Bay					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife <sup>2</sup>	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement <sup>3</sup>	Forestry <sup>3</sup>
18F Cascade Creek (tidelands)	Estuary; potential hatchery site	Waterfall is a tourist and recreation destination	No known minerals	--	--
18G Remainder of Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries; seal haulouts; seals; seasonal waterfowl concentrations; purse-seine hook-off; herring spawning; five bird rookeries; bear use; mountain goats; mountain goat hunting; commercial fishing	Dispersed recreation; planned USFS mooring buoy in Eaglek Bay just north of Point Pellow	No known minerals	--	--

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