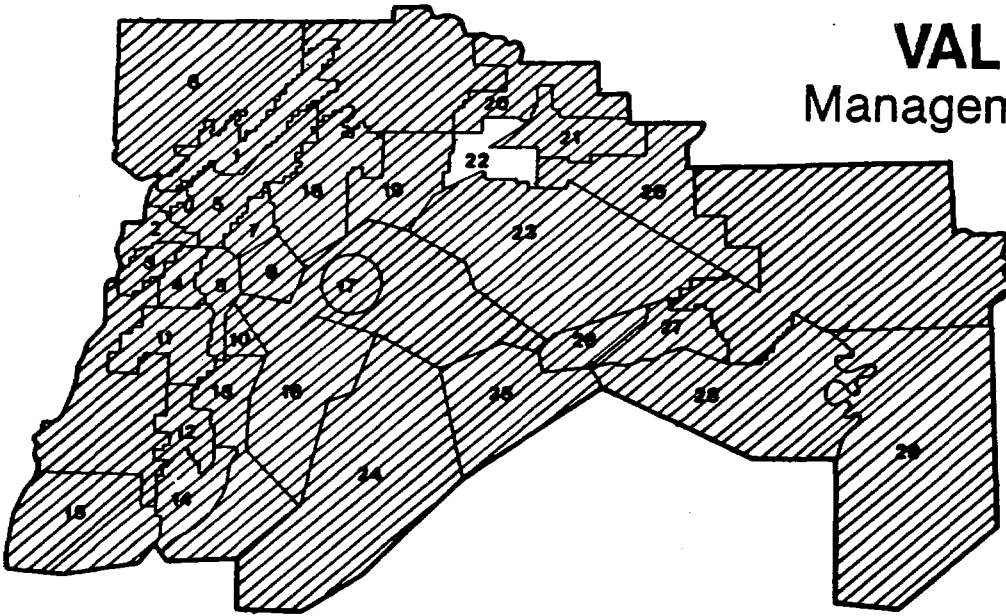


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# VALDEZ ARM

## Management Unit 22



### Background

Valdez Arm is the entrance to Valdez for waterborne freight and tourist traffic. Its steep forested shores rise sharply to snow-capped mountains with glaciers at tidewater.

The area receives a lot of use by traffic passing through the arm on the way to or from Valdez. The area also is frequently used for recreation by residents of Valdez and tourists. Watercraft include runabouts, sail boats, cruise ships, and tour boats. Sawmill, Shoup, and Jack Bays are especially important recreation and tourist destinations from Valdez. The Department of Fish and Game estimates that 40 percent of the sport salmon fishing in Prince William Sound occurs in Port Valdez and Valdez Arm. Tidelands in this subunit are also an important harvest area for the commercial salmon and herring fishery. Jack Bay is also a frequent hunting destination, especially for Tatitlek residents. The southern portion of the arm, the area between Jack, Sawmill, and Galena Bays, is one of the most heavily used commercial purse-seining areas in the Sound.

Sawmill and Shoup Bays have been designated by the Alaska Legislature as marine parks.

Gold mining in Prince William Sound began with the discovery of Cliff Mine, adjacent to Shoup Bay, in 1906. The hardrock mine was the Sound's richest gold mine and produced close to 52,000 ounces of gold. The remaining deposits at the site are being reevaluated and may go into full-scale production during the next few years.

A portion of the management unit contains federal land within Chugach National Forest. While limited harvest is allowed on federal land under the Chugach National Forest Plan, none is currently planned. The federal land is open to mining.

### Management Intent

In 1986, the state offered a land sale in Jack Bay. The remaining state uplands in Jack Bay should be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on public recreation and wildlife habitat.

Most state lands, remain open to mineral entry. The land sale area will be closed before disposal. The Jack Bay North area may be closed to mineral entry if designated as a state marine park. Four estuaries and three streams will be closed to mineral entry to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources.

Management of the remainder of the Valdez Arm unit will emphasize maintaining the existing quality of the scenic resources and habitat along Valdez Arm and protecting public access for sport and commercial fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing. The existing marine parks will be managed for their potential as local recreation and tourist destinations and other needs as directed in AS 41.21.300.

**Subunit 22A - Shoup Bay.** Shoup Bay is an existing state marine park. The Bays most important attraction is a large, impressive, tidewater glacier. Because of the glacier and its proximity to Valdez, the area has potential as a major tourist destination for visitors to Valdez. Management will emphasize its scenic quality and potential for tourist and community use. Management may include interpretive signs, trails, camping areas, or other low impact public facilities, or other facilities if allowed through a management plan. Uses that are inconsistent with this management intent or that would detract from this recreation attraction are not allowed. DPOR will prepare a management plan for this area pursuant to AS 41.21.302(c).

**Subunit 22B - Cliff Mine.** Cliff Mine is on private land, but the adjacent tidelands are state-owned. Tidelands adjacent to the mine will be reserved for off-loading and access to the mining claim. Tidelands not required for this purpose will be managed as specified in 22H (Valdez Arm tidelands).

**Subunit 22C - Sawmill Bay.** State land within Sawmill Bay is a state marine park, designated by the legislature in 1983. Native land is not part of the marine park. Management will emphasize its value for local recrea-

tion, hunting, sport fishing, and tourism. Low impact public facilities may be constructed in the park. Floatlodges and other commercial or settlement type uses are incompatible and prohibited. DPOR will prepare a management plan for this area pursuant to AS 41.21.302(c). The Tatitlek Corporation has selected land on the west side of Sawmill Bay. Tideland management must also provide reasonable access to the privately owned uplands. The management plan will address the upland access and support needs as well as land management for recreation.

1,762 acres adjacent to the Marine Park should be considered for state selection in order to give the state ownership of all lands with recreation potential and to provide for more efficient land management. This area is used for recreation by residents of Valdez and other communities. This is a "C Priority" selection (see Chapter 5).

**Subunit 22D - Tongue Point.** This subunit includes state-owned uplands on the steep slope adjacent to Valdez Arm. It is between the arm and University-owned land. The land will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on protecting the views from Valdez Arm and providing public lands for residents of the state's Jack Bay land sale and for people who eventually live on or use the University land. Selective cutting for firewood or houselogs will be permitted if it will not significantly affect the natural view from Valdez Arm.

**Subunit 22E - Jack Bay, Existing Land Sale.** In 1986, 12 parcels that total approximately 235 acres were offered for sale in this subunit. The remaining land will be retained in public ownership for public recreation and forestry. Timber harvest by permit or small commercial sale will be allowed to provide for timber needs including firewood, house logs, and other products.

**Subunit 22F - Jack Bay North.** This area will be retained in public ownership and managed for public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Access for hunting, fishing,

and recreation will be maintained. This area should be considered for designation by the legislature as a state marine park because of the community recreation use by Valdez residents and the unusual public recreation values. Public facilities such as public use cabins and low impact campsites are appropriate in this unit.

**Subunit 22G - Jack Bay Tidelands.** This subunit contains the tidelands inside Jack Bay. The tidelands in this area provide a variety of habitat types. Much of the shoreline provides important herring spawning and salmon rearing habitat. The bay is an important commercial and recreational fisheries harvest area. A bird rookery exists on the island in the bay; seven anadromous streams flow into the bay; and part of the bay is seal habitat. The tidelands will be managed to protect this wildlife habitat and harvest and provide public access to the settlement and public recreation areas.

The narrow finger of the bay that extends southwest from the existing land sale, Subunit 22E, is a sensitive estuary important for salmon and is used by bears in spring. Tideland leases and permits for activities that may impact this habitat should be located in the main part of the bay, away from these areas.

**Subunit 22H - Valdez Arm Tidelands.** This subunit includes the tidelands of Valdez Arm and a portion of Port Valdez. Most of the area south of Valdez Narrows is used for herring spawning; all of the area north of Sawmill Bay and Tongue Point are used for sport fishing. Most of this unit encompasses a major commercial fishing area. The tidelands in this subunit will be managed for public recreation and wildlife habitat with emphasis on protecting the natural visual quality along the well-traveled tourist route. In addition, management will emphasize protecting existing access for sport and commercial fishing.

Because of the important recreation and tourist traffic that travels through Valdez Arm, uses that visually intrude on the natural

landscape are not allowed in this subunit. For these reasons, floatlodges are prohibited.

## **Management Guidelines**

**Mineral Closures (Subunits 22D, 22F, and 22G).** In order to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources, three streams and four estuaries will be closed to new mineral entry. The areas to be closed include approximately 0.6 miles of Levshakoff Creek (Subunit 22D); approximately 0.6 miles of an unnamed Creek (Subunit 22D); approximately 0.5 miles of Vlasoff Creek (Subunit 22F); state land within 50 feet of those streams; the estuaries at the streams' mouths (31, 32, 34); and the estuary at the head of the bay (33).

**Mariculture in Jack Bay (Subunit 22E).** Mariculture may be allowed adjacent to the existing land sale area, Subunit 22E, provided it does not block access to trails and beaches, and important fishery harvest areas. Mariculture caretaker facilities should be concentrated in one or possibly two areas of the bay. The number and locations of the areas should be determined by the land manager. Suitable locations may include the tidelands adjacent to the existing or proposed land-sale area, or the university land.

**Tideland Development in Valdez Arm (Subunit 22H).** To the extent feasible and prudent, tideland development, including mariculture, will be sited and designed to avoid impacts to important fisheries habitat and harvest areas and scenic qualities of the well-traveled tourist route. Mariculture facilities that can be constructed consistent with this direction and with minimal visual impact (such as those that occur mostly underwater) may be allowed. Caretaker facilities, unless they can be visually screened by topography, vegetation, or other means are not allowed in this subunit unless no other feasible and prudent alternative exists.

The complete set of guidelines is presented in Chapter 2; any of these guidelines could apply

to uses within this management unit. Guidelines that are most likely to apply to this management unit are listed below:

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

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

## Management Unit 22: Valdez Arm

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SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
		Primary Surface Use <sup>2</sup>	Prohibited Surface Use	Subsurface <sup>1</sup>	
22A Shoup Bay	State-owned and selected uplands, state-owned tidelands	Existing marine park	Land offerings	Legislatively closed	Existing marine park (AS 41.21.300)
22B Cliff Mine	State-owned tidelands	Minerals		Open	
22C Sawmill Bay	State-selected uplands; state-owned tidelands	Existing marine park	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges Land offerings	Legislatively closed	Existing marine park (AS 41.21.300)
22D Tongue Point	State-owned uplands	Public Recreation	Land offerings	Open	
22E Jack Bay existing Land Sale	Private and state-owned uplands	Settlement		Closed (existing land sale)	Existing state land sale-approximately 235 acres; existing classifications unchanged
22F Jack Bay North	State-owned uplands and tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges Land offerings	May be closed if marine park	Possible marine park

<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 22: Valdez Arm

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>	
22G Jack Bay Tidelands	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation Shoreline develop- ment			Most open; four estuaries closed
22H Valdez Arm Tidelands	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Open	

<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.

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

Management Unit: 22. Valdez Arm					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife <sup>2</sup>	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement <sup>3</sup>	Forestry <sup>3</sup>
22A Shoup Bay (uplands and tidelands)	Two bird rookeries; mountain goat winter range; sport fishing	Important tourist destination; high scenic values	Moderately mineralized; mineral trans- fer site may be required; known placer deposits in McAllister Creek	unknown	Low
22B Cliff Mine (tidelands)	Herring spawning; sport fishing; bear use; mountain goat winter range	Adjacent to travel route	No known minerals	--	--
22C Sawmill Bay (uplands and tidelands)	Estuary; bear; herring spawning sport fishing; mountain goat winter range; goat hunting; seal haulout; commer- cial fishing	Dispersed recreation; anchorage	No known minerals	unknown	High/moderate
22D Jack Bay (uplands)	Sport fishing; mountain goat winter range; commercial fishing	Dispersed recreation, scenic area for traffic on Valdez Arm	No known minerals	Capable	High/moderate
22E Jack Bay Existing Land Sale (uplands)	Sport fishing mountain goat winter range; bear use; deer	Dispersed recreation, mostly from Valdez	Weakly mineralized	Capable	High/moderate

<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: 22. Valdez Arm					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife <sup>2</sup>	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement <sup>3</sup>	Forestry <sup>3</sup>
22F Jack Bay North (uplands)	Sport fishing; bear use; mountain goat winter range	Dispersed recreation, mostly from Valdez; anchorages	Weakly mineralized	Capable	High/moderate
22G Jack Bay Tidelands (tidelands)	Estuaries; herring spawning sport fishing; bird rookery; bear use; commercial fishing	Dispersed recreation, mostly from Valdez; USFS cabin on estuary in east end of bay	No known minerals	--	--
22H Valdez Arm Tidelands (tidelands)	Sport fishing; purse seine hookoffs; deer; bear use; mountain goat winter range; commercial fishing	Frequently travelled tourist route to and from Valdez	No known minerals	--	--

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