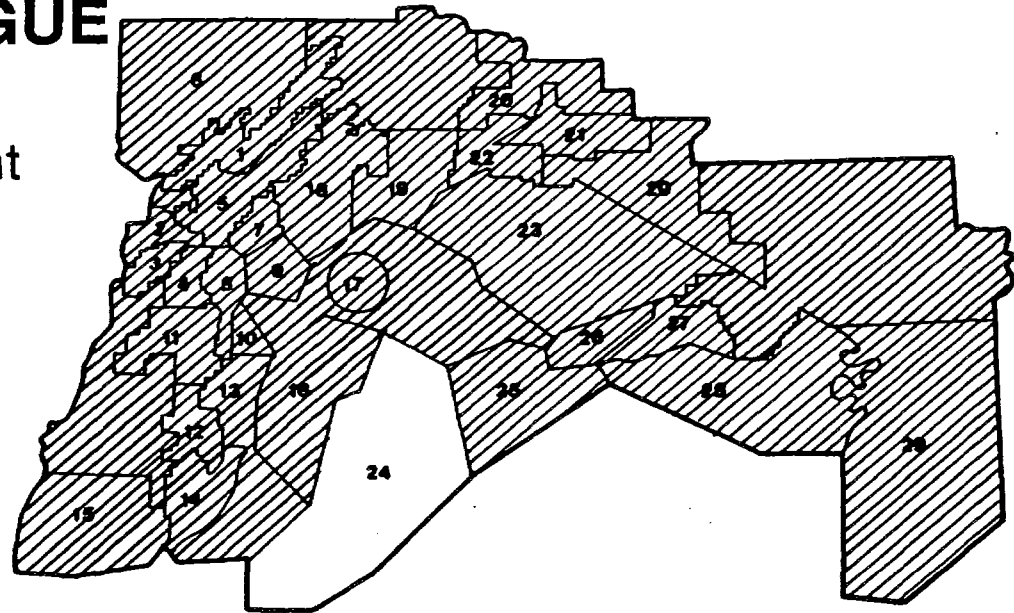


MONTAGUE ISLAND

Management Unit 24



Background

The uplands on Montague and Green Islands are managed by the USFS except for private lands around Patton Bay and MacLeod Harbor. The state has selected uplands in Port Chalmers and owns the tidelands surrounding the islands. The USFS land is open to mineral entry, though the unit contains no areas of significant known mineral potential.

Much of the federal land will be managed for timber production. A 36 MMBF timber sale scheduled for 1992 is included in the Forest Service's 1985 10-year timber-sale schedule. The private land near Patton Bay is also expected to be harvested during the life of the plan.

Most public use of the island is by hunters and fishermen. Access is by boat using the island's few safe anchorages and by wheel planes landing on beaches or on numerous short gravel strips scattered around the island. Floatplanes land at some of the anchorages and lakes. The best of the limited anchorages are in Port Chalmers, Stockdale Harbor, Mac-

Leod Harbor, and Rocky and Zaikof bays. Much of the use from Cordova and Valdez concentrates around the anchorages in the northern part of the island. The majority of use, however, is on the south and southwest portion. This use originates in Anchorage and Seward, most of it by plane. Patton Bay is also a popular area for fishing, hunting, and beach combing.

Management Intent

State uplands and tidelands throughout this unit will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use. Management will emphasize protecting existing access points on state land, anchorages, and beach landing strips; accommodating the resource development needs of the private and federal upland owners; and maintaining the fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas. Much of the public use is funneled through the existing anchorages and landing strips. Management will emphasize protecting their continued use and access from them to the surrounding uplands. Public use cabins receive very high

use during hunting seasons. The development of additional access and public facilities that increase access or the recreation or hunting carrying capacity are encouraged on state land in this unit. Examples include mooring buoys, airstrips (including beacon strips), and public use cabins.

Floatlodges may be authorized on state tidelands in this unit if, after consideration of the available upland services including outfitter or guide camps, the land manager in consultation with DPOR, ADF&G, and the USFS determines that the floatlodge services would provide public benefits. Floatlodges should be located where they will not displace existing public use. Therefore they will not be sited adjacent to existing anchorages or near frequently used hunting or public-use areas.

Areas for potential log transfer sites have been identified for timber management on federal and private lands. These are in subunits 24A, B, D, and E. The opportunity for the development of log-transfer facilities at appropriate locations will be protected.

Most state lands remain open to mineral entry. Four streams and thirteen estuaries will be closed to new mineral entry to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources.

Additional management intent is described below for six subunits. The intent for **Subunit 24G**, the general use area, is reflected in the previous paragraphs.

Subunit 24A & B - Rocky and Zaikof Bays. Management will emphasize the protection of salmon spawning and rearing habitat and the extensive recreation use of the existing anchorages. Within the area of the anchorages, mariculture, floatlodges, and other uses that diminish the capacity or detract from the recreational use will not be permitted. In addition, log transfer sites may be required within these bays. Opportunities for transfer sites will be protected at appropriate locations within the bays.

Subunit 24C - Port Chalmers. The area is extensively used by residents of Cordova for community recreation and hunting. It is a common anchorage for vessels tending the fishing fleet. The tidelands contain herring spawning habitat and extensive kelp beds. There is also a USFS recreation cabin in the southwest end of the selection.

The uplands in this subunit are selected to provide the state with a land base to meet a variety of future land management needs, should they occur. The uplands include a large area with the physical capability of supporting a variety of resource uses including settlement, recreation, or commercial or industrial uses such as a support base for the commercial fishing fleet. At present, the land does not appear to be needed for these purposes, but it may eventually be required for any of them.

For the 20-year planning period, the land will be retained in public ownership and managed to emphasize public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat and harvest including existing access for recreation and hunting, the continued public use of the anchorage, and continued use by the fishing fleet. Authorizations should not be given for activities that would displace these public uses.

Subunit 24D - MacLeod Harbor. The mouth of the bay is used by the commercial fishing fleet. This area has been identified as the site for a log-transfer facility. The site might serve the access needs for harvest from Forest Service lands on the island and the private lands near Patton Bay and MacLeod Harbor. There is also an existing recreation lodge on private land in the bay.

The opportunity to site a log-transfer facility at appropriate locations within the bay will be protected. Long-term permits or leases for uses that would foreclose the opportunity for such development should not be given.

Subunit 24E - Box Point. This area has been identified as an alternative log-transfer site to MacLeod Harbor for the private land in the

area. Long-term permits or leases for uses that would foreclose the opportunity for such development should not be given.

Subunit 24F - Gibbon Anchorage. Gibbon Anchorage provides the access to Green Island and is used by boats and floatplanes. The campsite south of the anchorage is the best camping beach on the island. There is also a USFS public-use cabin at the north end of Gibbon Anchorage. These access points will be protected for public recreation.

Management Guidelines

Access: Beach Landing Strips (all subunits). Activities authorized under tideland permits or leases will not block the use of beach landing strips in this management unit unless an alternative public landing strip is available nearby.

Access: Anchorages (Subunits 24A, 24B, 24C, and 24F). Tideland permits and leases will not be given for uses that will significantly diminish the capacity or change the natural character of the shoreline around critical anchorages unless no feasible and prudent alternative exists for the use. Critical anchorages include those mapped within the following subunits: Zaikof Bay, Rocky Bay, Port Chalmers, and Gibbon Anchorage.

Cultural Resources in Rocky Bay and Stockdale Harbor (Subunits 24B and 24C). Chugach Alaska Corporation is likely to nominate a portion of Stockdale Harbor and a portion of Rocky Bay as archaeological districts because of the number and significance of cultural sites. Portions of Port Chalmers also contain important cultural

resources. Management of the adjacent state lands will be consistent with the protection needs of the districts and the area's cultural resources.

Mineral Closures (Subunits 24A, 24B, 24C, 24D, and 24G). Four streams and thirteen estuaries will be closed to new mineral entry to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources. The stream closures are all within Subunit 24C, Port Chalmers. They include approximately 0.6 miles of the Chalmers River, approximately 0.1 mile of Schieman Creek, approximately 0.1 mile of Wild Creek, approximately 0.4 miles of Wildby Creek, and the state land within 50 feet of each side of those creeks. The estuaries are located on Green Island (139 - Subunit 24G), the southeast side of Zaikof Bay (118 - Subunit 24A), the head of Rocky Bay (117 - Subunit 24B), in Stockdale Harbor and Port Chalmers (113-116 - Subunit 24C), MacLeod Harbor (107 - Subunit 24D), Hanning Bay (108 - Subunit 24G), and four locations on the west side of the island (109-112 - Subunit 24G). The boundaries of the closures are described in Appendix D.

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

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 24: Montague Island

<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>	
24A Zaikof Bay	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation		Most open; estuary closed	Log transfer sites may be needed
24B Rocky Bay	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation		Most open; estuary closed	Log transfer sites may be needed
24C Port Chalmers	State-selected uplands; state-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Land offerings	Most open; four estuaries and three streams closed	
24D MacLeod Harbor	State-owned tidelands	Forestry		Most open; estuary closed	Log transfer site may be needed
24E Box Point	State-owned tidelands	Forestry		Open	Log-transfer site may be needed
24F Gibbon Anchorage	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & Harvest Public recreation		Open	
24G Remainder of Unit	State-owned tidelands	General use		Most open; six estuaries 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: 24. Montague Island					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife ²	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement ³	Forestry ³
24A Zaikof Bay (tidelands)	Estuaries; seals; seasonal waterfowl; deer concentrations; herring spawning; commercial fishing	Frequent use - mostly for hunting	No known minerals	---	--
24B Rocky Bay (tidelands)	Estuary; seals; seasonal waterfowl; deer concentrations; herring spawning; commercial fishing	Frequent use - mostly for hunting;	No known minerals	--	--
24C Port Chalmers (uplands and tidelands)	Estuaries; seals; seasonal waterfowl; deer concentrations; herring spawning; commercial fishing	Frequent use - mostly for hunting; important anchorage; USFS cabin	No known minerals	Capable	Low
24D MacLeod Harbor (tidelands)	Seasonal waterfowl concentrations; deer; commercial fishing	Frequent recreation during hunting season; anchorage	No known minerals	--	--
24E Box Point (tidelands)	Otters; deer; commercial fishing	Infrequent use, mostly hunting	No known minerals	--	--
24F Gibbon Anch- orages (tide- lands)	Estuary; bird rook- ery; deer; herring spawning; sport fishing; otter concentrations	Anchorage and campsite provide the access to the island; mod- erate hunting use	No known minerals	--	--
24G Remainder of Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries; seals; eight bird rookeries; deer; bear use; commercial fishing	Moderate hunting use; four USFS cabins on outer coast, & one in San Juan Bay	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.