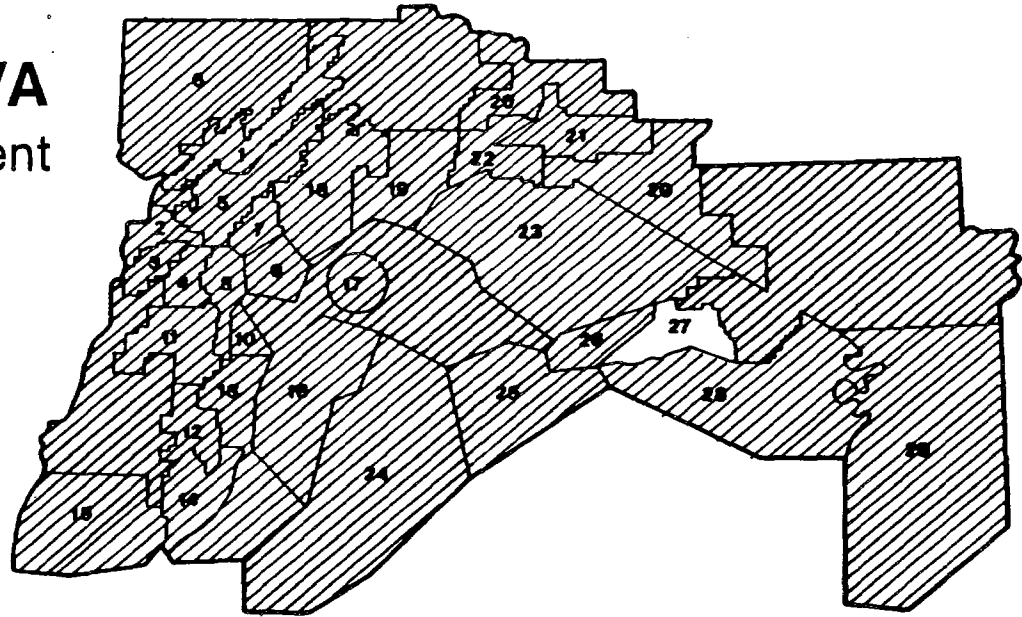

CITY OF CORDOVA

Management Unit 27



Background

This management unit includes state-owned and state-selected land near the City of Cordova and state tidelands of Orca Inlet. Land suitable for community development near Cordova is limited because of topography. Most suitable land is privately owned or owned by the City of Cordova.

State-owned land includes much of Eyak Mountain, steep tracts south of Eyak Lake and Whitshed Road, and a relatively large tract of land that surrounds Eccles Lagoon and Three Mile Bay. State-owned land suitable for community development near Eccles Lagoon and 76 acres adjacent to Eyak Lake were transferred to the University of Alaska as part of the University land settlement. State land around Tripod Hill on the south side of Eyak Mountain is used as a recreation area by the city, including a small ski area. Mavis Island in Eyak Lake is owned by the state. The island is linked to the mainland by a short causeway and is a popular recreation site for local residents. The state sold many small lots near Three Mile Bay in

the early 1970s. The state has selected approximately four sections of land inland from Three Mile Bay. The City of Cordova acquired some of the more accessible state land as its municipal entitlement.

Approximately four square miles of state land that includes Cordova Airport and the Cordova City Airport on Eyak Lake are managed by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities under Interagency Land Management Agreements with DNR.

The state owns most tidelands of Orca Inlet in this unit, although some tidelands within the city limits are patented to the City of Cordova. The state also owns land under Eyak River and Lake as these are navigable waterbodies.

Management Intent

Subunit 27A - City of Cordova and Eyak Lake. This subunit includes state-owned land within and to the east of Cordova's municipal boundaries. Land around Tripod Hill and Eyak Mountain will be retained in state ownership

and managed for multiple use with primary emphasis on public recreation.

Eyak River and Eyak Lake contain important recreation and fisheries resources. Management will protect these existing values. State land adjacent to Eyak Lake and submerged lands of Eyak Lake will be managed according to the guidelines contained in the Cordova Coastal Management Plan and the Eyak Lake Area Meriting Special Attention (AMSA) plan. Management of state land in and around Eyak Lake will be consistent with these AMSA guidelines. Mavis Island in Eyak Lake will be retained in public ownership and managed for public recreation. Flemming Spit is a developing sport fishery area and potential fish enhancement site. Tideland management near the spit will be consistent with those uses.

The City Cordova has not yet fulfilled its municipal land entitlement. Several small parcels of state land have been selected by the city under AS 29.65 to fulfill their land entitlement. Within the city limits all classifications made by the plan are in categories that can be conveyed to the city under AS 29.65. State land not conveyed to the city will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use consistent with the Cordova Coastal Management Plan and Comprehensive Plan. Reclassification or the sale, lease, or municipal conveyance is allowed without a plan amendment consistent with the municipal and coastal management plans, local land-use regulations, and settlement guideline B2, Isolated Parcels of State Land, page 2-38. Most state land is not suitable of community development because of lack of access or steep slopes. Forest resources on state land will be available for personal-use harvest.

All state land in this management unit is open to mineral entry. The state retains subsurface ownership of land transferred to the City of Cordova.

Subunit 27B - Hartney Bay Back Lot. This unit is 240 acres of state-selected land near

Hartney Bay, surrounded by Native-owned and Native-selected land. It is relatively flat, somewhat wooded, and without road access. If the state receives title to the land it should be managed for public recreation. Settlement may also be allowed if DNR determines that there is a need for community expansion land and if the settlement is compatible to adjacent land uses.

Approximately one-fourth mile of Hartney Creek traverses the state land in this subunit. That portion of the creek and state land within 50 feet of each side of the creek will be closed to mineral entry to protect salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources. The boundary of the closure is described in Appendix D. Recreation (or possible settlement) management will also protect the creek's habitat and public use values.

Subunit 27C - Mount Eccles. State-selected land in this subunit overlaps selections by The Eyak Corporation, but most will be conveyed to the state. Land along Whitshed Road is owned by the University of Alaska.

The area is important because it is one of the few areas of public land left near Cordova with good views and varied topography. It has the potential for recreation development (hiking and ski trails), and includes part of the Heney Creek watershed. Heney Creek provides water for the City of Cordova. It should be considered for legislative designation to support the recreation and tourism needs of Cordova. The exact type of legislative designation should be determined in coordination with the city. Final boundaries of the legislative recommendation may require resolution of overlapping land selections. It may also include other state land near Cordova outside this subunit if consistent with the management intent of the plan.

Most state lands in this unit remain open to mineral entry. Approximately 0.2 miles of Eccles Creek, state land within 50 feet of each side of the creek, and the estuary at the stream's mouth will be closed to new mineral

entry to protect the salmon spawning rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources.

Subunit 27D - Cordova Airport Vicinity.

The state has two land selections near Cordova airport. A 98-acre parcel adjacent to the airport along the road is likely to be conveyed to the state. This land will be managed for commercial or industrial uses.

A much larger state selection north of the airport near Lake Elsner is also selected by Eyak Native Corporation. The land was originally nominated for state selection by the city of Cordova for light industrial purposes, residential development, sanitary landfill purposes, and sand and gravel. Much of the original selection has been conveyed to the Eyak Corporation; additional parts may also be conveyed. Eventual use or disposal of this parcel will be determined after land ownership patterns are better defined. If all but small, unmanageable remnants are conveyed to Eyak, the remnants may be relinquished.

Subunit 27E - Tidelands Outside Cordova City Limits.

This subunit consists of the state-owned tidelands and navigable waterbodies outside of the City of Cordova. The tidelands will be managed to protect public access and wildlife habitat and to accommodate access needs for shoreline and resource development. Humpback Creek is an important sport-fishing site and a potential hydroelectric project site for the City of Cordova. Tideland access for both uses will be protected.

Most tidelands remain open to mineral entry; however, three estuaries will be closed to protect salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflict with those resources.

Management Guidelines

Mineral Closures (Subunits 27A, 27B, 27C, 27E). Two streams and four 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 include approximately 0.25 miles of Hartney Creek (Subunit 27B), approximately 0.2 miles of Eccles Creek (Subunit 27C), and the state land within 50 feet of each side of those creeks. The estuaries are located at the mouths of Hartney (1), Eccles (2), and Flemming (13), Humpback Creeks (4) in Subunit 27E. The boundaries of the closures are described in Appendix D.

The complete set of management 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
- Recreation, tourism, cultural, and scenic resources
- Shoreline development
- Settlement

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 27: Cordova

<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>	
27A City of Cordova, Eyak Lake	State-owned uplands, Eyak Lake and tidelands	Public recreation		Estuary closed	Some land will be transferred to the City of Cordova to fulfill its land entitlement; isolated parcels may be available for sale
27B Hartney Bay Back Lot	State-selected uplands	Public recreation Settlement		Open	
27C Mt. Eccles	State-owned and selected uplands; state-owned tidelands	Public recreation Water Resources	Land offerings	Estuary closed	Heney Creek is Cordova watershed; possible legislative designation
27D Cordova Airport Vicinity	State-selected uplands	Resource Management, high value		Open	
27E Remainder of Unit	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation Shoreline development		Most open; two 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: 27. City of Cordova					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife ²	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement ³	Forestry ³
27A City of Cordova, Eyak Lake (uplands and tidelands)	Otter concentrations; essential waterfowl habitat; seasonal waterfowl concentra- tions; essential swan habitat; eagle nest concentrations; sport fishing; eagle concentrations; deer	Ski area on Tripod Hill; picnic areas on Eyak Lake, Mavis Island	Weakly mineralized	Most is inca- pable, scat- tered areas may be capable	Low but accessible
27B Hartney Bay Backlot (uplands)	Deer; bear use	Community rec- reation from Cordova	No known minerals	Unknown	Low
27C Mount Eccles (uplands)	Mountain goat winter range	Potential for hiking; cross- country skiing; trails; pic- nicking	Copper occur- rences, quarry	Unknown, gen- erally steep	Low
27D Cordova Airport Vicinity (uplands)	Deer; bear use; mountain goat winter range	None identified; potential for hiking, skiing	Some sand and gravel deposits	Unknown, probably capable	Unknown
27E Remainder of Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries; clams; otter concentrations; otters; two bird rookeries; essential waterfowl habitat; seasonal waterfowl concentrations; essential swan habi- tat; winter moose con- centrations; moun- tain goat winter range; sport fishing; waterfowl hunting	Community rec- reation from Cordova	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).

³ 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.