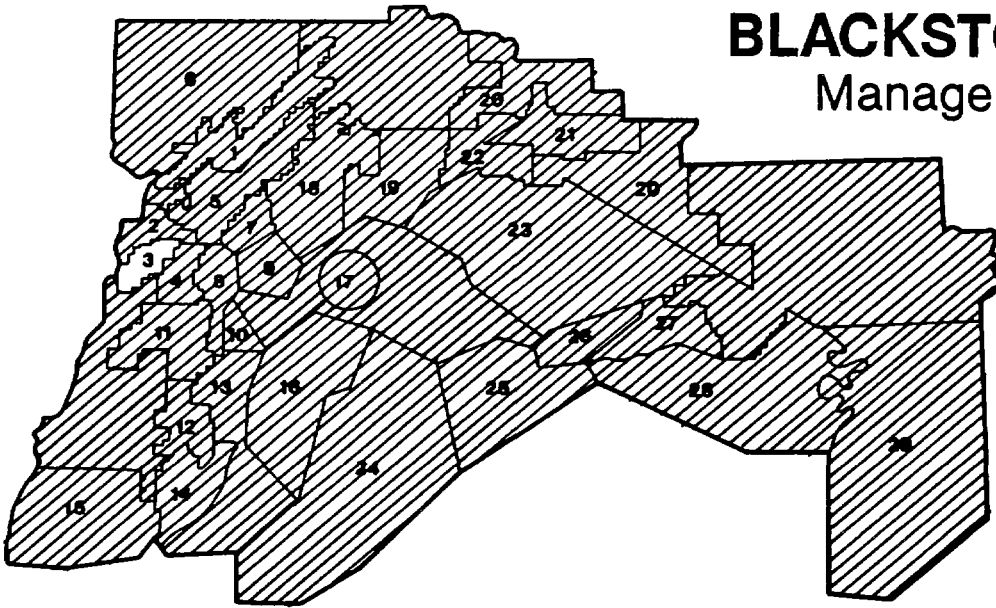


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# BLACKSTONE BAY

## Management Unit 3



### Background

All uplands within Blackstone Bay are managed by the USFS and are within an area proposed for wilderness. All federal land in the unit is currently open to mining but is likely to be closed if Congress acts on the wilderness proposal. The state owns the tidelands throughout the unit. The area has low value for minerals and forestry.

Blackstone Bay contains the tidewater glaciers closest to Whittier. The bay is a wild area with limited camping or anchorage opportunities. The area receives frequent kayak and zodiac use and modest powerboat and sailboat use. The bay is used by a few commercial day tours originating out of Whittier. The use of this area will increase extensively because of the area's spectacular glacial features and close proximity to Whittier including an increased tour boat use.

The unit's most important fish and wildlife resources include salmon spawning streams and seal concentrations in front of the tidewater glaciers and on the tideflats in front

of Tebenkof Glacier. Commercial purse seine fishermen use the waters at the mouth of the bay.

### Management Intent

State tidelands within this unit will be managed for fish and wildlife habitat and harvest, recreation, and wilderness values. Emphasis will be placed on protecting the scenic and wilderness resources, ensuring tourist and recreation use in its continued natural state, and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources. To achieve this management intent, floatlodes and similar commercial recreation facilities are prohibited throughout the unit.

The tideflats in front of Tebenkof Glacier are important for their fish and wildlife values. Tideland management should protect the existing estuarine habitat. The estuary in front of Tebenkof Glacier will be closed to new mineral entry to protect important salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with the resources. Remaining state

lands in this unit will remain open to mineral entry.

## **Management Guidelines**

**Authorization of Tideland Facilities Adjacent to the Proposed USFS Wilderness.** Tideland facilities will be authorized consistent with the recreation, habitat, and wilderness intent for this management unit. 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 or attract significant concentrations of public use are inconsistent with the wilderness intent and will not be sited in this 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 and fish and wildlife.

**Mineral Closure - Tebenkof Estuary.** The estuary in front of the Tebenkof Glacier (74) will be closed to new mineral entry to protect important salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with these resources. The boundary of the 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. Guidelines most likely to apply to this management unit are listed below:

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

## LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

### Management Unit 3: Blackstone Bay

<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>	
Entire Unit	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & Harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Most open; estuary closed	Within USFS proposed wilderness

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<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.

## Resource Information Summary<sup>1</sup>

<b>Management Unit: 3. Blackstone 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>
Entire Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries; seal haulouts; one bird rookery; sport fishing; bear use; bear hunting; commercial fishing	Closest tide-water glaciers to Whittier are recreation and tourism destinations	No known minerals	--	--

<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.