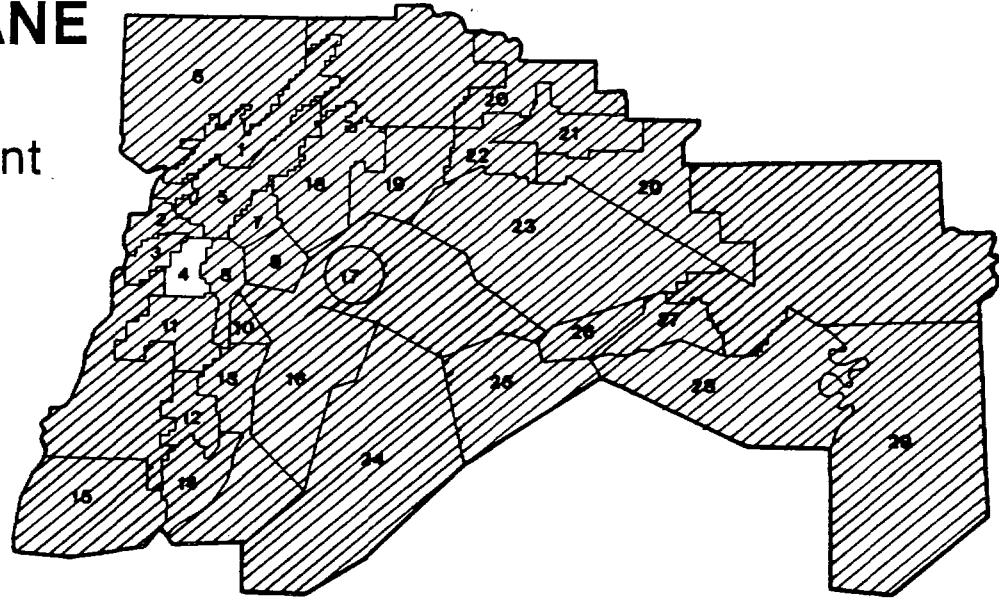

COCHRANE BAY

Management Unit 4



Background

The USFS manages most of the uplands within this management unit; all of the federal land is within the proposed wilderness area. The federal land is currently open to new mineral entry but it is likely to be closed if Congress acts on the proposal. The unit contains no significant known mineral values.

State-owned land in Surprise Cove is a marine park. The state owns the tidelands throughout the unit.

Surprise Cove receives frequent public use, but the remainder of the bay receives significantly less use. The area is valuable for its recreation and wildlife resources. It is used for commercial purse seine and sport fishing and supports a variety of other wildlife resources.

Management Intent

Tideland management will emphasize protecting recreation opportunities and

wildlife habitat. This area has the ability to absorb some of the frequent public use in Port Wells and Passage Canal areas. Management intent is to increase the recreational capacity of the unit while protecting the undeveloped nature of the landscape and the wildlife resources. Most state tidelands in this unit remain open to mineral entry. Four estuaries will be closed to protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with these resources. State uplands are discussed in subunit 4A.

To protect the wilderness recreation and the natural landscape, floatlodges and similar commercial recreation facilities are prohibited throughout the unit.

Additional management intent is described below for two subunits. The intent for **Subunit 4C** is reflected in the previous paragraphs.

Subunit 4A - Surprise Cove. State lands and waters have been legislatively designated as a state marine park. Cleared tent sites,

trails, and other low-impact public facilities are appropriate increase the area's recreation capacity. This unit will serve as a stopping point or access site for public use and enjoyment of the nearby proposed federal wilderness lands. However, the area should be managed to be compatible with the adjoining federal wilderness designation. DPOR will prepare a management plan for this area pursuant to AS 41.21.302(c).

Land north of Point Cochrane sometimes provides a pullout for small boats that cross from Decision Point (Subunit 2E) or Pigot Point (Subunit 5D) trying to escape the weather. This area will be managed to protect its continued use as a pullout and campsite.

Approximately 800 acres of federal land adjacent to the park should be selected by the state and added to the park. This land is part of the Surprise Cove watershed and will be managed consistent with the marine park. If the state acquires title to this land the legislature should add this area to the park. This is a "C Priority" selection (see Chapter 4). If added to the park, the legislature may close the area to new mineral entry.

Subunit 4B - Anchorages. State-selected uplands near Three Finger Cove will be relinquished. This land is within USFS proposed wilderness area and would have been managed for dispersed recreation. The recreation use can be accommodated under Forest Service management. The cove is frequently used by small boats for anchorage. A trail from the anchorage leads to nearby Lake Shrode. State tideland management should protect anchorage capacity and the undeveloped nature of the coastline. Unless no other feasible and prudent alternatives exist, mariculture and other developed facilities will not be sited in this subunit because of incompatibility and conflicts with the recreational use of the anchorage.

Tideland management near Shallow and Paulson Coves should emphasize access for sport

fishing and maintain the capacity of the two anchorages as well as the natural appearance of the coastline.

Management Guidelines

Authorization of Tideland Facilities Adjacent to the Proposed USFS Wilderness (Subunits 4B and 4C). Tideland facilities will be authorized appropriate to the recreation, habitat and wilderness intent for this management unit. Accordingly, tideland facilities are allowed if they are mostly underwater and cause only limited impact on the unit's fish and wildlife, recreation, 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 unit. Tideland authorizations may be issued if the land manager determines no feasible alternative location exists outside this unit and that the benefits outweighs the impact to the wilderness, and fish and wildlife.

Mineral Closure - Estuaries (Subunits 4B and 4C). To protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with these resources, four estuaries within this management unit will be closed to new mineral entry. They are Shallow Cove, Paulson Cove (75) and two in Cochrane Bay (76 and 77). 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 4: Cochrane Bay

<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>	
4A Surprise Cove	State-owned and selected uplands; state-owned tidelands	Existing marine park	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges Land offerings	State-owned land legislatively closed; new selections closed by legislature if added to park	Existing marine park (AS 41.21.300); new selection may be added to park.
4B Anchorages	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Part open; estuary closed	Within USFS proposed wilderness; state selection was relinquished.
4C Remainder of Unit	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Most open; three estuaries closed	Within USFS proposed wilderness

¹All areas are available for leasing for 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: 4. Cochrane Bay					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife²	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement³	Forestry³
4A Suprise Cove (uplands and tidelands)	Estuaries; seals; sport fishing; bear use; bear hunting; deer; deer hunting; goose nesting	Marine Park; common desti- nation, anch- orage, and campsite	No known minerals	Unknown	Unknown
4B Anchorages (tidelands)	Estuaries; seals; sport fishing; bear use; bear hunting	Frequently used anchorages	No known minerals	--	--
4C Remainder of Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries; seals; sport fishing; bear hunting; bald eagle concentrations; commercial fishing	Dispersed recreation; USFS cabin and mooring buoy in Paulson Bay; USFS cabin on Lake Schrode	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.