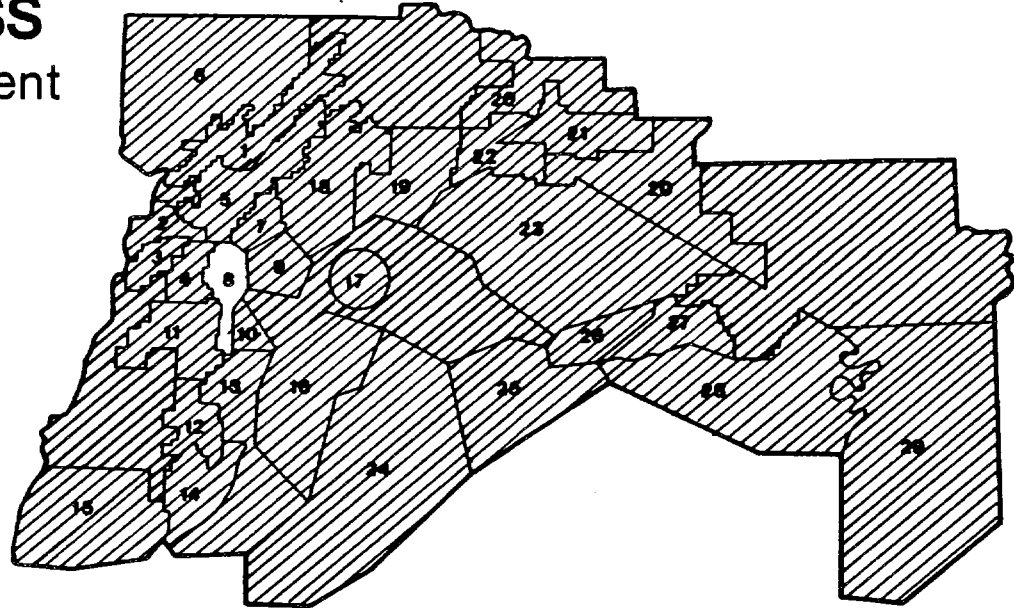

CULROSS

Management Unit 8



Background

Uplands in the Culross Management unit are owned by the USFS; most are within their proposed wilderness area. The federal land is presently open to mining, but the land inside the wilderness boundary is likely to be closed if Congress approves the wilderness proposal. Some of the federal land outside the proposed wilderness area, near Culross Cove and Culross Bay, are moderately mineralized, but development is not expected in the near future.

The state owns the tidelands throughout this unit. The state had selected uplands surrounding Long Bay and West Gable Cannery but relinquished both selections. Land near Long Bay was relinquished because the parcel is within the Forest Service's proposed wilderness area and the state's management intent, dispersed recreation, could be achieved under Forest Service management. The West Gable Cannery Selection was relinquished because its purpose, dispersed recreation and a fish hatchery, can be accommodated under Forest Service management, and the state's selection

purpose is not consistent with the USFS interpretation of the allowable selection purposes in section 6(a) of the Statehood Act (see Chapter 5).

The heart of this unit is Culross Passage. It is a narrow, scenic waterway, and a protected shortcut between the Whittier - Passage Canal area and the southern Sound. The Passage receives the highest public use in the Sound outside of Passage Canal and is used by all types of watercraft smaller than the state ferry. McClure Bay also gets frequent use. Use of McClure Bay focuses on the West Gable Cannery ruins. The outside of Culross Island receives moderate use. The shoreline along the east side of Culross Island is used for deer hunting. Commercial purse seine fishing occurs along the east shore of Culross Island and at the mouth of Port Nellie Juan.

Management Intent

State tidelands will be managed for multiple use with emphasis on maintaining public recreation. Management will emphasize

maintaining the existing natural appearance of the waterway for the extensive public traffic that traverses it and expanding the anchorage capacity where appropriate.

Because of the important public-use values and the amount of public use, floatlodes and similar commercial recreation facilities are prohibited throughout this unit. Most state lands 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 those resources.

Additional management intent is described below for six individual subunits. The intent for **Subunit 8G**, the general use area, is reflected in the previous paragraphs.

Subunit 8A - Culross Cove. This anchorage is one of the most frequently used anchorages in the Sound. State management of the tidelands will be for public recreation. The capacity of the anchorage and the natural appearance of the tidelands will be maintained.

Subunit 8B - North Culross Dive Sites. The two locations in the north part of this management unit are frequently used sport-diving sites. Activities should avoid decreasing the quality and safety of the sites.

Subunit 8C - M. Lynne Point. Small boats often pull up in this crossing point for protection from bad weather before or after they cross Cochrane Bay. No large single campsite exists, but state tideland management should avoid tideland activities that might decrease the campsite-pullout capacity of the small beaches or significantly detract from the natural appearance of the entire unit.

Subunit 8D - Applegate Island. The Applegate Island area is frequently used as a camping and anchorage spot. The area affords scenic views and is a protected anchorage that lets boaters scout the longer crossing of Port Nellie Juan and wait out bad weather. There is a frequently used campsite on the southern tip of Culross Island, just across from Applegate Island. A common sport-diving

site exists just west of Applegate Island. The tidelands will be managed to maintain the campsite and anchorage capacity of the area. Management should protect the natural appearance of this subunit.

Subunit 8E - Culross Passage. Management should emphasize maintaining the natural appearance of the waterway for the considerable boat traffic that traverses the passage. Expansion of the anchorage capacity with mooring buoys or other means may be appropriate.

Subunit 8F - West Gable Cannery. The abandoned cannery on the state-selected uplands is a frequent recreation destination. The cannery is also important as a potential hatchery site. The tidelands offshore are a common sport diving site. The state will relinquish its selection in this subunit.

Tideland management will protect access to this recreation destination and sport-diving site. If a prudent and feasible alternative exists, permits and leases should not be granted in this subunit if they are not consistent with recreation use or with the use of the uplands as a hatchery.

Management Guidelines

Authorization of Tideland Facilities Adjacent to the Proposed USFS Wilderness (all subunits). This guideline applies only to subunits 8A through 8F and to that portion of 8G within the proposed federal wilderness area. In this area, tideland facilities will be authorized consistent with the recreation, habitat, and wilderness intent for these subunits. For this reason, mariculture and other 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 outweigh the impacts to the wilderness and fish and wildlife.

Mineral Closures - Estuaries (Subunits 8E and 8G). To protect valuable salmon spawning and rearing habitat and to prevent conflicts with those resources, five estuaries will be closed to new mineral entry. They are: Long Bay (80); the northern end of Culross Passage (79); the southern end of Culross Passage (81); and the southern end of McClure Bay (86 & 87).

The complete set of guidelines is presented in Chapter 2; any of these 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 8: Culross

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SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
		Primary Surface Use ²	Prohibited Surface Use	Subsurface ¹	
8A Culross Cove	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Open	
8B North Culross Dive Sites	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Open	Within USFS proposed wilderness
8C M. Lynne Point	State-owned tidelands	Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Open	Within USFS proposed wilderness
8D Appelgate Island	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Open	Within USFS proposed wilderness
8E Culross Passage	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Most open; three estuaries closed	Within USFS proposed wilderness
8F West Gable Cannery	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Open	Within USFS proposed wilderness; potential hatchery site; state-selection was relinquished

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.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 8: Culross

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<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>	
8G Remainder of Unit	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Most open; two estuaries closed	Most of subunit within proposed USFS wilderness

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: 8. Culross					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife ²	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement ³	Forestry ³
8A Culross Cove (tidelands)	Deer; bear use	Very high use anchorage	No known minerals	--	--
8B North Culross Dive Sites (tidelands)	Deer; bear use	Commonly used sport diving sites	No known minerals	--	--
8C M. Lynne Point (tidelands)	Bear use; sport fishing	Crossing point provides shelter for small boats	No known minerals	--	--
8D Applegate Island (tidelands)	Deer; sport fishing; purse-seine hookoff; bear use	Very frequently used crossing point--used by boats of all types	No known minerals	--	--
8E Culross Passage (tidelands)	Estuaries; sport fishing; commercial fishing; deer; deer hunting; bear use and hunting	Most frequent public use outside of Passage Canal; one USFS cabin and two mooring buoys	No known minerals	--	--
8F West Gable Cannery (tidelands)	Bear use	Frequent recreation and tourism destination; planned USFS mooring buoy	No known minerals	--	--
8G Remainder of Unit (tidelands)	Estuaries; deer; purse-seine hookoff; bear use; commercial fishing	Frequent dispersed recreation	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.