

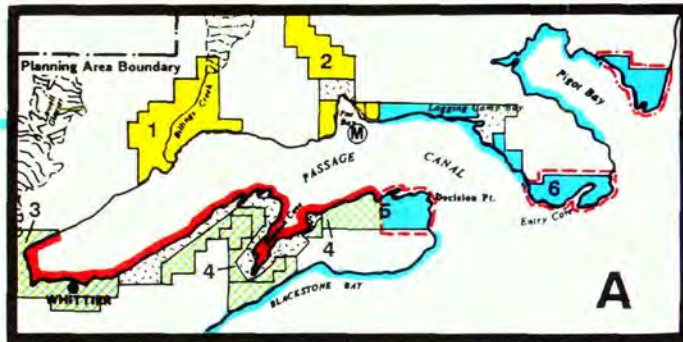
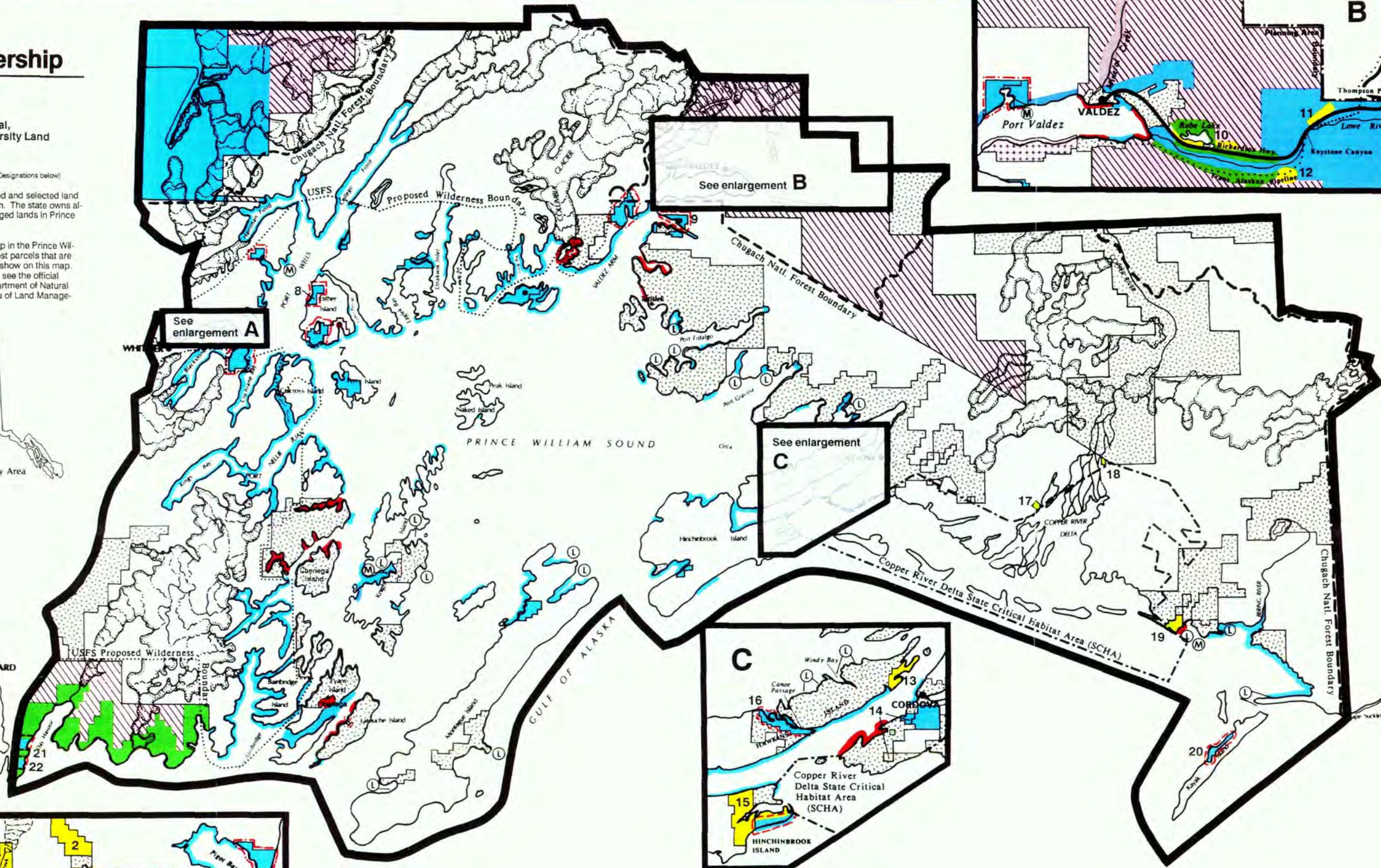
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PLAN

Land Ownership

- Federal Land
- Native, Municipal, Private or University Land
- State Land
(See proposed Land Use Designations below)

State land includes state-owned and selected land and land proposed for selection. The state owns all tidelands and submerged lands in Prince William Sound.

The map shows land ownership in the Prince William Sound planning area. Most parcels that are smaller than 640 acres do not show on this map. For more detailed information, see the official status plats at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and federal Bureau of Land Management.



Proposed Land Use Designations

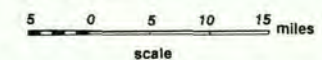
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settlement Areas 1. Billings Cove 2. Poe Bay 7. Esther Bay (potential) 10. Robe Lake West 11. Wortmanns Creek 12. Brown's Creek 13. Shipyard Bay 15. Boswell Bay 17. Flag Point (comm./ind. lease) 18. Bering River Rd. Jct. (comm./ind.) 19. Katalla (comm./ind.) Settlement/Public Recreation 3. Head of Passage Canal 4. Shotgun Cove and vicinity 14. Heney Creek | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Recreation/Habitat and Harvest Existing State Marine Park Proposed State Marine Park Proposed Site for Commercial Recreation Facilities Shoreline Development/Public Recreation/Habitat and Harvest Mining/Public Recreation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry/Public Recreation/Habitat and Harvest Possible Log - Transfer Site Possible Mineral - Transfer Site Resource Management, High Value Resource Management, Low Value Transportation |
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Areas Closed to New Mineral Entry

Most state lands are open to new mineral entry. Portions of 27 streams and 143 estuaries and tidelands next to four fish hatcheries will be closed to new mineral entry to protect the most productive state-owned stream and estuarine salmon habitats. Most of the areas to be closed are too small to be shown on this map. See the plan for a map and listing of areas to be closed. A map showing the mineral closures is on display at the Department of Natural Resources public information office in Anchorage.

This map shows generalized land use designations. Only the primary surface designations are shown. The primary uses are not the only uses that will be permitted; most lands retained in state ownership are multiple use areas where a variety of other uses, including mining, are allowed. The map includes designations for land selected by both the state and Native corporations. These land use designations apply if the land is conveyed to the state. The plan does not apply to private or federal land. State tidelands not showing a designation are designated general use areas. Here, uses are allowed if they conform to the management intent and guidelines of the plan. See the plan for management intent information.

June 1988



PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PLAN FOR STATE LANDS



June 1988



WHAT IS THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PLAN?

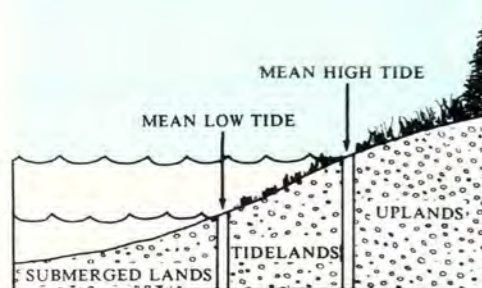
State lands in Prince William Sound can be used for recreation, fish and wildlife, places to live, access for mineral and timber development, and mariculture. Although some uses conflict with each other, many uses can occur in the planning area, provided the uses are carefully managed.

To decide how state land should be managed, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prepared a land use plan for state lands. The plan identifies areas for sale and establishes guidelines for managing state lands and tidelands for the next 20 years. Some of the state-selected land is also selected by Native corporations and may not become state land. The plan will apply only to the use of land the state eventually owns.

The plan does not direct the use of federal, Native, or private lands; nor does it change fish and game regulations.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Most uplands in the planning area are within Chugach National Forest and are managed by the U.S. Forest Service, or are private lands managed by Native corporations. The state owns approximately 984,000 acres of uplands. Most of this land is located in the Chugach Mountains, some is found along the coast. The state also owns all submerged lands three miles seaward and all tidelands. There are four million acres of state-owned tidelands and submerged lands.



Tidelands include the land between mean high tide and mean low tide. Submerged lands are seaward of mean low tide. In this plan, the word "tidelands" is used to include both tidelands and submerged lands.

SUMMARY OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Policies and guidelines for the management of each resource are summarized in the following sections. The map on the other side of this brochure shows the land use designations for state lands.

Recreation

State tidelands adjacent to proposed U.S. Forest Service wilderness areas will be managed for recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and harvest, and wilderness values. These areas include College Fjord, Blackstone Bay, Cochrane Bay, Culross Passage, Port Nellie Juan, Icy Bay, and Port Bainbridge. Recreation is a primary use in other areas including commonly used fishing and wildlife harvest sites and frequently used recreation areas. Except for settlement areas, recreation is a primary use for most coastal state uplands in the planning area. The plan contains guidelines to protect the capacity and natural appearance of most anchorages and regionally important campsites, and to provide design and siting criteria for recreation facilities.

Commercial Recreation Facilities. Commercial recreation facilities are concentrated along commonly used recreation routes, so that most of the Sound will retain its current natural qualities. These facilities may be located along the Whittier to Valdez Marine Route, the Whittier to Seward Marine Route, and in other areas where existing recreation and fish and wildlife harvest uses are not displaced. Floatlodes and similar facilities are prohibited from state lands adjacent to U.S. Forest Service proposed wilderness areas, and on most of Hinchinbrook Island because they would be incompatible with existing public use and federal management for these lands. Public notice of a proposed permit or lease for commercial recreation facilities will be sent to affected parties.

Public Recreation Facilities. Public recreation facilities such as public use cabins, cleared tent sites, and mooring buoys are appropriate on state uplands within Passage Canal, Surprise Cove, Siwash Bay, Shoup Bay, Boswell Bay, Canoe Passage, near commercial recreation facilities, and near or within state settlement areas.

Proposed Legislative Designations

Marine Parks. Nine locations are recommended for consideration by the legislature for designation as state marine parks. These areas have outstanding scenic and recreation values, and generally receive a high level of public use. In some cases, active recreation management is also required.

Potential Marine Parks

Map No.	Name	Location	Acreage
5	Decision Pt.	Passage Canal	460
6	Entry Cove	Passage Canal	370
8	Granite Bay	Port Wells	2,015
9	Jack Bay North	No. Valdez Arm	811
15	Boswell Bay	Hinchinbrook Is.	799
16	Canoe Passage	Hawkins Is.	1,455
20	Kayak Island	Katalla	1,427
21	Safety Cove	Day Harbor	660
22	Driftwood Bay	Day Harbor	840
TOTAL			9,337 acres

The marine park number corresponds to the number on the brochure map. By referring to the map, you can find the location of the proposed park.

Other. The plan also recommends legislative consideration of the Thompson Pass - Keystone Canyon area because of the area's spectacular alpine scenery and frequent recreation use. This recommendation was also made in the Copper River Basin Area Plan.

The area surrounding Lake George is recommended to be considered for addition to Chugach State Park because of its unique scenic, geologic, and glacial features. This addition was recommended by the 1981 Chugach State Park Master Plan. Finally, the Mount Eccles - Heney Creek area near Cordova is recommended for legislative designation to support the recreation and tourism needs of the City of Cordova. The exact type of legislative designation, whether park or other category, will be determined in coordination with the City.

Cultural and Historic Resources

All DNR authorizations of land use activities are reviewed by the Office of History and Archaeology (within DNR). The Office determines if there may be an adverse effect on cultural resources and makes recommendations to mitigate those effects. Guidelines in the plan also give direction for cultural resource surveys; review of authorizations; and cooperation with other agencies, Native Corporations, nonprofit groups, and individuals.

Land Disposals

The Prince William Sound Area Plan determines what state land will be offered for private ownership over the next 20 years. In addition, the plan establishes guidelines to protect sensitive habitats and scenic features, reserve recreation resources within settlement areas, and ensure adequate public access, especially to tidelands and stream corridors.

Residential settlement is concentrated near Valdez, Cordova, and Whittier. This provides enough land for settlement while allowing most of the Sound to remain in its natural state. All residential settlement areas included in the plan meet criteria that address the quality of land, accessibility, ownership, potential conflicts with other uses, and public support.

Fourteen settlement areas totalling over 1,970 acres will be offered for sale or lease over the next twenty years. Also, there are a few small parcels of state land surrounded by private land near the developed areas of Valdez and Cordova. These small parcels may be offered for sale if compatible with adjacent land uses. They are not shown in the table below.

Esther Bay is designated resource management in the plan. If after other settlement areas have been offered there is a need for additional settlement in western Prince William Sound, Esther Bay can be offered for sale. Interim management will not foreclose potential use for either a land sale or public recreation.

Some state land at Shotgun Cove (including Neptune Point) may be appropriate for settlement. If so, land offerings will be coordinated with proposed municipal and private development there. Similarly, state land at Heney Creek near Cordova and Poe Bay in Passage Canal will be coordinated with the adjacent land owner, the University of Alaska.

State land at Katalla, Flag Point, and Bering River Road Junction is reserved for commercial or industrial settlement. At Katalla, land may be used for port development as required to support nearby resource development projects. At the road junction, state land is reserved for commercial development related to the two roads.

Settlement Areas Net Acreage

1. Billings Cove	500
2. Poe Bay**	*
3. Head of Passage Canal	*
4. Shotgun Cove & vicinity	*
7. Esther Bay	*(possible settlement area)
10. Robe Lake West	250
11. Wortmanns Creek	120
12. Brown's Creek	300
13. Shipyard Bay	400
14. Heney Creek**	*
15. Boswell Bay	400
17. Flag Point (commercial/industrial lease)	*
18. Bering River Rd. Jctn. (commercial/industrial)	*
19. Katalla (commercial/industrial)	*

SUBTOTAL..... Approximately 1,970 acres

*Net acreage undetermined. See final plan.

**Most of Poe Bay and Heney Creek are managed by the University of Alaska. The state is the minority landowner in these areas. State land sales will be coordinated with University land management.

Remote Cabins, Trapping Cabins, and Floathomes. Because the state owns only a limited amount of uplands and there is significant competition for its use, the state will not issue remote cabin or trapping cabin permits within the Prince William Sound planning area. Floathomes are allowed only within the municipal boundaries of Cordova, Whittier, and Valdez because of conflicts with existing public uses and strong objections by the upland owners. Within these municipalities, floathomes must be sited according to the regulations of the municipality, where public services and facilities can be efficiently extended, and where consistent with the fish and wildlife and other guidelines of the plan.

Mariculture

Each type of mariculture has its own set of environmental and processing requirements and creates its own unique impacts, problems, and opportunities. Because of the difficulty in identifying areas suitable for the variety of mariculture types, the plan does not designate areas for mariculture. Rather, the plan indicates the management intent for each area. Mariculture is allowed on state tidelands if it can be made consistent with the management intent of that area. In this way, mariculture is allowed in most of Prince William Sound, though it sometimes must meet strict guidelines.

Subsurface Resources

Approximately 94%, or 1.4 million acres, of state lands are open to mineral entry. While a few active mining operations exist on state lands, most known economically valuable subsurface resources are located on private or federal land. Approximately 42,000 acres of uplands in the Day Harbor area previously closed to mineral entry are re-opened. The area re-opened does not include land staked for settlement under the Blying Sound remote disposal program.

Approximately 17,900 acres of uplands and 70,800 acres of tidelands are closed to new mineral entry. Upland mineral closures include 4,100 acres of the most important salmon habitats in state-owned streams, and 13,800 acres in settlement areas, to be closed prior to sale. Tideland closures encompass the most important salmon habitats in 143 estuaries and adjacent to existing fish hatcheries, in the Copper River Delta State Critical Habitat Area, and in Shotgun Cove. Mineral closures do not affect valid existing claims, nor apply to private or federal lands.

Mineral Transfer Sites. Access across state-owned tidelands for mineral transfer sites is protected at five locations where mining exploration on private or federal land is likely to occur: Poe Bay, Granite Mine, Drier Bay, Cliff Mine, and Katalla.

Additional transfer facilities may be sited at other locations on state land where needed and consistent with the plan.

Oil & Gas. All state uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands are available for oil and gas exploration. The plan defers any decisions concerning leasing for oil and gas to DNR's Five-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program. No areas in Prince William Sound are currently proposed for lease.

Leases for other leasable subsurface resources such as coal will be offered on a case-by-case basis consistent with the management intent and guidelines of the unit.

Fish and Wildlife

The most important habitat and harvest areas will be retained in public ownership and managed to maintain fish and wildlife production and related public uses.

Fish and wildlife habitat and harvest are identified as a primary use of state tidelands adjacent to the U.S. Forest Service proposed wilderness areas, in important fishing and harvest areas, and in other sensitive habitats. In areas identified for land offerings, buffers are required along streams and wetlands to protect fish and wildlife resources and public use.

To protect important salmon spawning habitat, certain streams and estuaries will be closed to new mineral entry. In other areas, permit stipulations will be used to protect species and habitat productivity. Mineral closures do not apply to valid existing claims.

The plan contains guidelines to protect the continued commercial fishing use of set-net, gill-net, purse-seine and herring harvest areas, and hatchery harvest areas. The plan does not change fish and game regulations that govern commercial fishing or other harvest activities.

Forestry

Forestry on State Uplands. Almost all the high value forest resources in Prince William Sound are located on private land or land managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The state owns one high-value forest area, about 7,700 acres, which will be a long-term source of timber resources for the commercial forest industry.

Small commercial and personal-use timber sales are allowed on state lands near communities and within land disposal areas to supply local needs for firewood, houselogs and other products.

Log Transfer Sites. Harvests on U.S. Forest Service and private lands require state tidelands for log-transfer sites. Opportunities to site future log-transfer facilities on state tidelands are protected at the locations shown on the summary map: on Knight Island (Eastern Drier, Marsha, and Lower Herring Bays); in Port Fidalgo (Two Moon Bay, Snug Harbor, and Landlocked Bay); in Port Gravina (St. Matthews and Olson Bays); on Montague Island (MacLeod Harbor and Box Point); and near Katalla (Katalla and Okalee Spit).

Additional sites will be required adjacent to private land between Tatitlek and Cordova, along the northern shore of Hawkins Island, and adjacent to federal land on north Montague Island (most likely in Rocky or Zaikof Bays). These and other log transfer facilities will be sited where consistent with the plan.

HOW WAS THE PLAN DEVELOPED?

DNR began working on this plan in 1985. In that year, public meetings were held to learn about important issues in the Prince William Sound and to gather ideas on how state lands should be managed. Data on each resource type was inventoried and mapped. From all this information, the Prince William Sound planning team developed alternative uses for state lands. The planning team consisted of representatives from state agencies and the U.S. Forest Service. These alternatives were reviewed at public meetings held in 1986 in each of the Sound's communities and in Anchorage. Based on comments from these meetings and a public survey also conducted in 1986, the planning team developed proposals for a draft plan. The draft plan was reviewed in another round of public meetings in November 1987 and January 1988. The resulting comments were used to make final changes to the plan. The plan was adopted by the Commissioners of Natural Resources and Fish and Game in June of 1988.

HOW THE PLAN IS MODIFIED

The plan must be flexible to respond to changes in information, technology, economics, and public opinion. After the plan is adopted, it may be amended upon approval by the Commissioner of DNR, with public review and consultation with affected agencies. The plan will be reviewed approximately every five years to see if it needs to be updated.

Minor changes to the plan, such as clarifications or corrections, do not require public review. Special exceptions to the plan are also possible, in cases where it is impossible or impractical to comply with the plan, and when an alternative course of action can meet the plan's purpose.

SELECTIONS AND RELINQUISHMENTS

Selections. The state can choose more land for state ownership from federal lands. The plan nominated 37 parcels totalling 7,867 acres from the Chugach National Forest. Most of the selections are within 25 miles of an existing community in the Sound. The selection recommendations are prioritized and will be compared with recommendations in other regions of the state.

Relinquishments. The plan recommends relinquishing previously made selections: 22,240 acres in 21 parcels. These parcels are either ineligible for selection or can be managed as well by the U.S. Forest Service.

WHERE TO GET A COPY OF THE PLAN

Copies of the complete plan have been sent to municipal offices, libraries, village councils, and interest groups in the Prince William Sound area. Additional copies can be purchased for \$5.00 at the following address:

Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
Resource Allocation Section
P.O. Box 107005
Anchorage, Alaska 99510.



The church at Tatitlek, in front of Copper Mountain. Tatitlek is near the entrance to Valdez Arm.