Land Ownership

- Federal Land
- Native, Municipal, Private or University Land
- State Land

State land includes state-owned and selected land and land proposed for selection. The state owns almost all lands 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 plots at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and federal Bureau of Land Management.

Proposed Land Use Designations

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 to the land 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.

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. Bering 11 Bay
17. Flag Point (comm./ind. lease)
18. Bering River Rd. Jet. (comm./ind.)
19. Katalta (comm./ind.)

Public Recreation/Habitat and Harvest

- Public Recreation/Habitat and Harvest
- Forest/Pubic Recreation/Habitat and Harvest
- Resource Management, High Value
- Resource Management, Low Value
- Transportation

Areas Closed to New Mineral Entry

Most state lands are open to new mineral entry. Portions of 27 streams and 112 estuaries and tidelands next to four fish hatcheries will be closed to new mineral entry to protect the most productive 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.

June 1988
WHAT IS THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PLAN? State lands in Prince William Sound can be used for recreation, fish and wildlife, and mineral development, and mining. Some uses conflict within the planning area, provided the uses are carefully managed.

HOW WAS THE PLAN DEVELOPED? The plan contains guidelines and policies for the management of each resource type. The plan will be reviewed every five years to accommodate changing resource needs and conditions. The plan provides a framework for decision-making, and the plan will be reviewed at public meetings held in 1986 in each of the Sound's communities. The plan is reviewed by the Commissioner of Natural Resources and Fish and Game in June of 1986.

HOW WAS THE PLAN DEVELOPED? DNR began working on this plan in 1983. In 1985, public meetings were held to learn about issues important to Prince William Sound and to gather ideas on how state lands should be managed. Data on environmental interactions was mapped. From all the information, the Prince William Sound planning team developed alternative uses for state lands. The plan combines results from state agencies and the U.S. Forest Service. The plans were reviewed at public meetings held in 1986 in each of the Sound's communities. Based on comments from these meetings and a public survey also conducted in 1986, the planning team developed a draft plan. The draft plan was reviewed in another round of public meetings in November 1986 and January 1986. The resulting comments were used to final changes to the plan. The plan was approved by the Commissioner of Natural Resources and Fish and Game in June of 1986.

HOW THE PLAN IS MODIFIED The plan must be modified to respond to changes in information, technology, economics, and public opinion. After the plan is adopted, it may be amended upon approval of the Commissioner of DNR, with public review and consultation with affected agencies. The plan should 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 allowed in cases where it is impossible or impractical to comply with the plan, and when an alternative course of action can meet the purpose of the plan.

SELECTIONS AND REVOCATIONS Selections. The state can choose more land for state ownership from federal lands. The plan nominates 77,686 acres from the Chugach National Forest. Most of the selections are within 20 miles of state-owned land. The final selections are expected to be made. Special exceptions to the plan are possible, in cases where it is impossible or impractical to comply with the plan, and when an alternative course of action can meet the purpose of the plan.

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 17890 Anchorage, AK 99521

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.

Land Disposals

Residential settlement is concentrated near Valdez, Cordova, and Whittier. This provides enough land for settlement while allowing other areas in the plan to maintain their natural state. The state also owns all submerged lands three miles seaward and all tidal wetlands. Most uplands in the planning area are within Chugach National Forest and state-managed lands. The area around Lake George is recommended to be conserved by the U.S. Forest Service. 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, the November 1984 timber sales program and the plan's regulations for limited withdrawal of mineral entries are located on state or federal land. Approximately 42,000 acres of tidelands are in the Day Harbor area, previously closed to mineral entry, are recommended to be opened to mineral entry. The area is recommended to be leased for recreation under the Blystone Remote Recreation Area. Approximately 17,900 acres of uplands and 7,900 acres of tidal wetlands are closed to mineral entry. Most mineral entries are classified as "safety transfers", permitting transfers of mineral entries to other locations on state land. Additional mineral entries will be sited at other locations on state land where needed and consistent with the plan. Additional transfer facilities may be sited at other locations on state land where needed and consistent with the plan. Oil & Gas. All state uplands, tidal wetlands, and submerged lands are available for oil and gas exploration. The plan may allow oil and gas exploration in most of Prince William Sound, though it sometimes must be geologically identified by the U.S. Forest Service.

Submerged Lands

The area surrounding Lake George is recommended to be conserved by the U.S. Forest Service. Most of Poe Bay and Hender Creek are managed by the University of Alaska. Public access will be provided to areas designated for recreation, hunting, and fishing. The plan also recommends legislative consideration of land sales to the U.S. Forest Service for mineral development. These alternatives were reviewed at public meetings held in 1986 in each of the Sound's communities. The plan is reviewed by the Commissioner of Natural Resources and Fish and Game in June of 1986. Additional mineral entries may be sited at other locations on state land where needed and consistent with the plan. The plan is reviewed approximately every five years to see if it needs to be updated. Additional mineral entries may be sited at other locations on state land where needed and consistent with the plan. Where to get a copy of the plan?

Cultural and Historic Resources

ADNRE's authorizations of land use activities are reviewed by the Office of History and Archaeology (within DNR). The Office of History and Archaeology recommends policies for the management of each resource type. The plan will be reviewed every five years to accommodate changing resource needs and conditions. The plan provides a framework for decision-making, and the plan will be reviewed at public meetings held in 1986 in each of the Sound's communities. The plan is reviewed by the Commissioner of Natural Resources and Fish and Game in June of 1986.

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

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