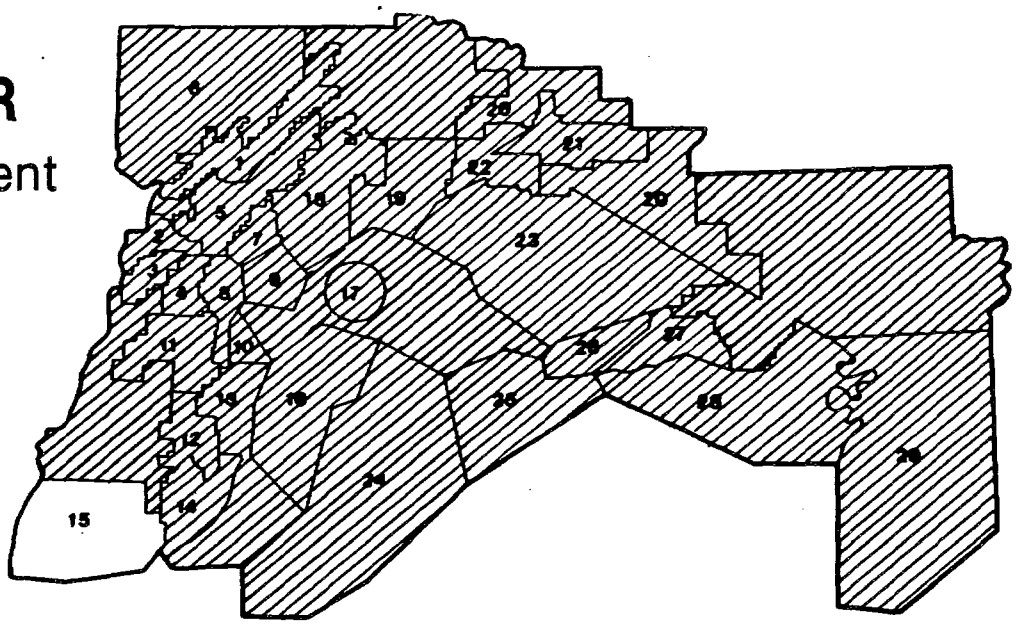
# DAY HARBOR

## Management Unit 15




## Background

This management unit contains mostly state-owned uplands and tidelands. The eastern portion of the unit is managed by the USFS and is within their proposed wilderness area. The federal land is open to mineral staking, but is likely to be closed when Congress acts on the proposal. Of the state land, 44,031 acres were closed to mineral entry when the Blying Sound Remote Parcel Sale was offered. The unit does not include any areas with significant known mineral values.

A state-selected parcel at Goat Harbor was relinquished. The land is suitable only for dispersed recreation and is within the USFS proposed wilderness. Dispersed recreation use can be accommodated under Forest Service management. In addition, the state's selection purpose is not consistent with the USFS interpretation of allowable purposes of selection 6(a) of the Statehood Act (see Chapter 5).

Most of the unit is above treeline and covered by glaciers. The unit is open to the Gulf of Alaska and access is difficult. Few landing areas exist for floatplanes because of the surf, though some beach strips are available. Access by plane or boat is typically from Seward. The western edge of the unit, between Day Harbor and Cape Resurrection, is used by boaters from Resurrection Bay. Otherwise, most of the public use is from people who own land in the area.

Most state land in this management unit was a part of the Blying Sound Remote Parcel offering advertised in the fall 1983 disposal brochure. The parcel offering was open to staking between April 1 and June 29, 1984, during which 403 staked land. The most frequent parcel size was 5 acres, the maximum allowed. The parcels are clustered in the few good pockets of buildable land at various locations along the coast.

Moose, goats and black bear inhabit this management unit. Some of the steep shoreline areas support bird rookeries or mountain goats. Near-shore coastal areas contain seal and seal haulouts. Sport and

commercial fishing for halibut and other bottomfish occurs in bays and along the coast. Hunting for black bear, mountain goat and moose occurs primarily in the Day Harbor area. Part of the land along the coast contains moderate to high-quality timber stands.

## Management Intent

The area currently requires little management because of its remoteness and lack of activity. With over 400 private parcels, this may change in the future.

Most state-owned uplands in Subunit 15B are currently closed to mineral staking as part of the remote-parcel sale. Since the department does not intend to dispose of additional land, those areas not sold can be reopened to mineral entry. A mineral opening order will be executed that excludes areas around remote parcel leases and other valid existing rights. The order would open approximately 42,000 acres to mineral staking. The remainder of the state lands remain open to mineral entry. Prospective marine park areas may be closed by the legislature.

Lack of access limits the amount of public activity in the area. Boat anchorages and airplane landing areas are needed to increase public use of the area. The capacity of the existing anchorages and access to the adjacent uplands will be maintained, and opportunities to develop access will be encouraged.

Additional management intent is described below for two subunits. The intent for **Subunits 15C** and **15D**, Remote Uplands and Other Tidelands, is reflected in the previous paragraphs.

**Subunit 15A - Anchorages.** Three anchorages have particular significance for recreationists and other boaters. Driftwood Bay and Safety Cove shelter boaters from poor weather as they await the trip around Cape Resurrection. Goat Harbor is important because alternative anchorages do not exist for a significant distance in either direction along the wave-swept coast of the Gulf of Alaska. All three receive some concentrated use by recreational boaters and fishing boats.

These anchorages are important to recreation throughout Prince William Sound because they are safety and rest points along the Seward to Whittier marine route. Together with Fox Farm Anchorage (Subunit 13I), these anchorages link Resurrection Bay to the more protected areas of Prince William Sound. State management will assure their continued use by vessels for recreation, fishing, and commerce. Because of this regional importance, the Driftwood Bay and Safety Cove portion of this subunit should be considered for designation as a marine park. If designated as a marine park, the legislature may close the two parcels to new mineral entry.

**Subunit 15B - Blying Sound.** This subunit contains land offered in the Blying sound Remote Parcel Sale. State land not staked in that sale will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use. The remote parcel area will remain closed to additional settlement. Timber harvest is encouraged to allow the cutting of houselogs and firewood for personal use or small commercial sales.

## Management Guidelines

**Crucial Mountain Goat Habitats (Subunits 15B and 15D).** Near crucial mountain goat winter range, activities will avoid or minimize damage to important components of the habitat including important vegetation or topographic features, and avoid or minimize visual or audible disturbances sufficient to disrupt mountain goat use of the habitat.

**Authorization of Tideland Facilities Adjacent to the Proposed USFS Wilderness (Subunit 15D).** This guideline applies to the part of the unit within the proposed USFS wilderness. The only part of this unit within the proposed wilderness area is the east half of Puget Bay. In this area, tideland facilities will be authorized if consistent with recrea-

tion, habitat and wilderness intent. 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 are inconsistent with the wilderness intent and will not be sited in this part of the 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, fish and wildlife.

The complete set of guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines most likely to apply are listed below.

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

**LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY**
begins on next page

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

## Management Unit 15: Day Harbor

| SUBUNIT | LAND OWNERSHIP | LAND USE DESIGNATIONS | | | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Primary Surface Use[2] | Prohibited Surface Use | Subsurface[1] | |
| 15A Anchorages | State-owned uplands and tidelands | Habitat & harvest Public recreation | Land offerings | Driftwood Bay and Safety Cove may be closed if marine park; Goat Harbor open | Driftwood Bay and Safety Cove are possible marine parks. Goat Harbor selection was relinquished |
| 15B Blying Sound | State-owned uplands | Forestry Habitat & harvest Public recreation | Land offerings | Currently closed to mineral entry, most to be opened as part of this plan | Previous remote parcel land offering |
| 15C Remote Uplands | State-owned uplands | Resource management, low value | Land offerings | Open | |
| 15D Other Tidelands | State-owned tidelands | General use | | Open | |

[1]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.

[2]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[1]

### Management Unit: 15. Day Harbor

| SUBUNIT | Fish & Wildlife[2] | Recreation | Minerals | Settlement[3] | Forestry[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15A Anchorages (uplands and tidelands) | Seals; mountain goat winter range; mountain goat hunting | Anchorages | No known minerals | Mostly incapable | High/moderate |
| 15B Blying Sound (uplands) | Winter moose concentration; crucial mountain goat winter range; mountain goat hunting | Infrequent dispersed recreation | No known minerals | Capable | High/moderate |
| 15C Upland Glaciers (uplands) | None identified | Very infrequent dispersed recreation | No known minerals | Incapable | Very low |
| 15D Other Tidelands (tidelands) | Seals; three bird rookeries; sport fishing; bear use; mountain goats; mountain goat hunting | Infrequent 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.