

YAKATAGA AREA PLAN

April 1995



prepared by:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Land
Resource Assessment & Development Section



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

YAKATAGA AREA PLAN

April 1995

prepared by:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Land
Resource Assessment & Development Section

The photos throughout this book are from the Division of Land, Resource Assessment & Development Section's photo files, except the mountain goat photo, which is from the Alaska Division of Tourism; John Hyde, photographer.

This book was released by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and printed in Anchorage, Alaska, at a cost of \$35.60 per copy. Its purpose is to inform the public of the policies of the Yakataga Area Plan.

STATE OF ALASKA

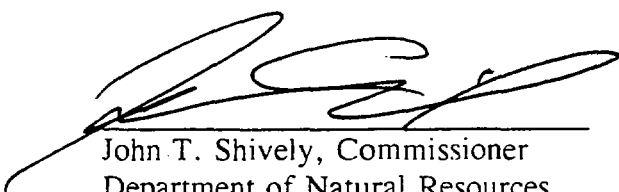
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF LAND

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

3601 C STREET, SUITE 1122
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-5947
PHONE: (907) 762-2692
FAX: (907) 762-2529

The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources finds that the Yakataga Area Plan meets the requirements of AS 38.04.065 and 11 AAC 55.010-.030 for land use plans, and hereby adopts the plan. The Department of Natural Resources will manage state land in the planning area consistent with the plan.




John T. Shively, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

4/3/95

Date

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game assisted the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in preparing the Yakataga Area Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to represent the fish and wildlife habitat and harvest values during the development of the plan. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will use this plan as guidance when implementing its authorities and when reviewing and commenting on proposed uses of state lands in the planning area.



Frank Rue, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

11.15.95

Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

■ Planning Team, Advisors and Acknowledgements

■ Chapter 1 - Introduction

Purpose of the plan.....	1-2
How the plan was developed.....	1-5
Who developed the plan.....	1-5
What the plan will do.....	1-6
What the plan won't do	1-7
Summary of plan implementation and modification	1-8
The relationship between the Yakataga Area Plan and other plans	1-8
Additional resource information.....	1-9

■ Chapter 2 - Areawide Guidelines

Introduction	2-1
Goals	2-3
Aquatic farming	2-4
Coordination and public notice	2-5
Fish and wildlife habitat and harvest.....	2-6
Floating residential facilities	2-13
Forestry	2-15
Heritage resources	2-20
Materials.....	2-21
Public and private access.....	2-23
Recreation, tourism, and scenic resources.....	2-25
Settlement.....	2-28
Shoreline and stream corridors	2-31
Subsurface resources.....	2-34
Trail management.....	2-36
Transportation and utilities	2-38
Upland and waterfront development	2-41
Water resources.....	2-44

■ Chapter 3 - Land Management Policies For Each Management Unit

Introduction	3-1
Land use designations.....	3-5
Management intent	3-9
Management guidelines.....	3-11
Flexibility of the plan	3-11
Commitment to continued resolution of conflicts	3-11
Definitions	3-11

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Chapter 3 - Land Management Policies For Each Management Unit, continued**
 - Unit 1 - Cape Suckling3-13
 - Unit 2 - Bering Glacier3-35
 - Unit 3A - Tsiu to Duktoth coastal strip3-45
 - Unit 3B - upper Kaliakh River and tributary drainages3-59
 - Unit 3C - lower Kaliakh River and tributary drainages3-73
 - Unit 3D - Duktoth River corridor3-85
 - Unit 3E - Yakataga and White rivers.....3-97
 - Unit 4 - western Icy Bay3-127
 - Unit 5 - Icy Bay - tidelands and submerged lands.....3-135
 - Unit 6 - Point Riou to Yakutat Bay -
tidelands, submerged lands, and shorelands3-145
 - Unit 7 - Ocean Cape to Alsek River -
tidelands, submerged lands, and shorelands3-159
 - Unit 8A - Yakutat uplands and shorelands3-179
 - Unit 8B - southeastern Yakutat Bay - tidelands and submerged lands3-188

- **Chapter 4 - Implementation and Recommendations**
 - State land classification.....4-1
 - Coordination with the City and Borough of Yakutat.....4-3
 - Mineral closures and leasehold locations4-3
 - State land conveyance proposals4-4
 - Yakataga State Game Refuge4-5
 - Potential state park at Bering Glacier4-5
 - Additional fish and wildlife data4-6
 - Hydrologic evaluation recommendations.....4-6
 - Field staff and enforcement.....4-7
 - Procedures for plan review and modifications.....4-7
 - How the area plan implements the December 1994 settlement agreement.....4-9

- **Appendices**
 - A - Glossary A-1
 - B - Mineral orders B-1
 - C - Issues that influenced the plan C-1
 - D - Forest land use plans and annual operating plans..... D-1
 - E - Habitat and harvest ratings criteria E-1
 - F - Resource information for marine or shore uses in Unit 8B.....F-1
 - G - Publications related to the plan.....G-1
 - H - Index H-1

LIST OF MAPS

Map 1.1	Location and generalized land status map	1-3
Map 3.1	Unit index map	3-3
Map 3.2	Relinquished University timber rights under ADL 223456	3-15
Map 3.3	Unit 1 - Cape Suckling	3-33
Map 3.4	Unit 2 - Bering Glacier	3-43
Map 3.5	Tsiu River mouth in Unit 3A	3-46
Map 3.6	Unit 3A - Tsiu to Duktoth coastal strip	3-57
Map 3.7	Unit 3B - upper Kaliakh River & tributary drainages.....	3-71
Map 3.8	Unit 3C - lower Kaliakh River & tributary drainages	3-83
Map 3.9	Unit 3D - Duktoth River corridor.....	3-95
Map 3.10	Unit 3E - northern part of Yakataga & White rivers - upland units and University timber rights in Units 3D and 3E.....	3-121
Map 3.11	Unit 3E - southern part of Yakataga & White rivers - tidelands and submerged lands	3-123
Map 3.12	No-harvest riparian buffers on certain anadromous streams pursuant to December 1994 settlement agreement	3-125
Map 3.13	Unit 4 - western Icy Bay	3-133
Map 3.14	Unit 5 - Icy Bay - tidelands and submerged lands.....	3-143
Map 3.15	Unit 6 - Point Riou to Yakutat Bay - tidelands, submerged lands, and shorelands	3-155
Map 3.16	Unit 6 map with section lines and numbers	3-157
Map 3.17	Unit 7 - Ocean Cape to Alsek River - tidelands, submerged lands, and shorelands	3-175
Map 3.18	Unit 7 map with section lines and numbers	3-177
Map 3.19	Unit 8A - Yakutat - uplands and shorelands Unit 8B - southeastern Yakutat Bay - tidelands and submerged lands	3-201
Map B.1	General location of lands with mineral closure or leasehold location	B-4
Map B.2	Kiklukh and Tashalich rivers mineral leasehold	B-5
Map B.3	Tsiu and Tsiyat rivers mineral leasehold	B-6
Map B.4	Kaliakh and Chiuki rivers mineral leasehold.....	B-7
Map B.5	Kulthieth River mineral leasehold	B-8
Map B.6	Duktoth River mineral leasehold	B-9
Map B.7	Situk River, Situk Lake & Mountain Lake mineral closure.....	B-10
Map B.8	Ophir Creek & Summit Lake mineral closure	B-11
Map B.9	Unit 7 and Unit 8 mineral leaseholds	B-12
Map C.1	University settlement tracts: substitute tract, Yakataga tract & White River tract	C-3
Map F.1	Resource analysis units for Unit 8B.....	F-2

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	Reserved public access, building setbacks, and management zones - minimum widths adjacent to waterbodies	2-32
Table 4.1	Upland designations conversion to classifications.....	4-2
Table 4.2	Tideland, submerged land and shoreland designations conversion to classifications.....	4-2
Table B.1	Areas for leasehold location or closed to new mineral entry	B-2
Table F.1	Unit 8B - existing uses, potential conflicts, and possible mitigation by site.....	F-3

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Submerged lands, tidelands, uplands, and shorelands	1-1
Figure 2.1	Uses in designated fish and wildlife harvest areas	2-8
Figure 2.1	Uses in designated fish and wildlife habitat areas	2-12

PLANNING TEAM

The Yakataga Area Plan was developed by a planning team of state resource agency representatives (listed below). Final decisions were made by Department of Natural Resources administrators (see page vi).

■ **Department of Natural Resources**

Division of Forestry

Micheal Peacock, Jim McAllister

Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys

Roman Motyka

Division of Land, Southeast Regional Office

Elizaveta Shadura

Division of Mining

Mitch Henning

Division of Oil and Gas

Marie Crosley

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Michael Eberhardt

Division of Water

John Dunker

■ **Department of Commerce and Economic Development**

Frank Seymour, Al Clough, Pete Carlson

■ **Department of Community and Regional Affairs**

Peter Freer

■ **Department of Environmental Conservation**

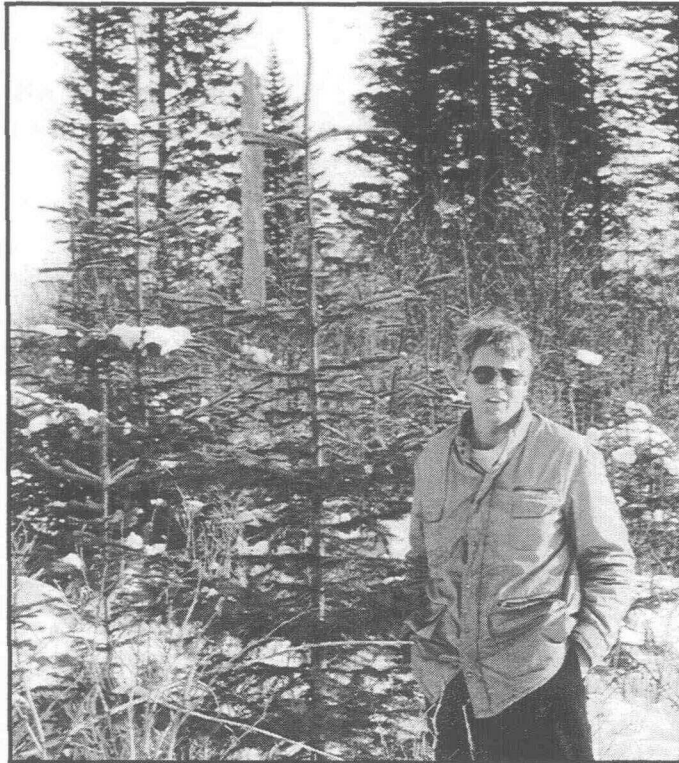
Chris Kent, Eric Decker

■ **Department of Fish and Game**

Lana Shea, John Palmes

■ **Department of Transportation and Public Facilities**

Mike McKinnon, Andy Hughes



Mike Peacock at forest regeneration site near Icy Cape, 1992

IN MEMORIAM

DNR would like to recognize the contributions of Mike Peacock to this plan, to state forestry management, and to the management of state land in the Yakataga area. On May 21, 1993, Mike, a DNR forester, was killed while on duty at the Icy Bay logging camp. Mike was the Division of Forestry's planning team representative for preparation of this plan, and contributed extensively to this planning effort. For most of his 14 years with the Division of Forestry, Mike administered timber sales in the Yakataga area. In recent timber harvests, he introduced progressive forestry management techniques. An avid outdoorsman, he contributed to this plan his knowledge of the area's fish, wildlife, hunting and recreation opportunities, in addition to his forestry expertise. Because Mike was easy to get along with and enjoyed talking to people, he provided the planning team with a wealth of information about the local people and their use of the area.

Mike was dedicated to improving the management of state land in the Yakataga area. This plan is better as a result of Mike's efforts. He is sorely missed.

POLICY DIRECTION

The following state agency personnel provided policy direction for the plan:

■ Department of Natural Resources

Commissioner's Office

John Shively, Commissioner; **Harry Noah**, former Commissioner; **Glenn Olds**, former Commissioner; **Harold Heinze**, former Commissioner; **Jules Tileston**, former Special Assistant to the Commissioner; **Raga Elim**, former Special Assistant to the Commissioner

Division of Land

Ron Swanson, Director; **Dick Mylius**, Section Chief; **Marty Welbourn**, former Section Chief; **Andy Pekovich**, Southeast Regional Manager; **Ron Schonenbach**, Southeast Regional Land Manager

Division of Forestry

Tom Boutin, Director; **Bob Dick**, former Director; **Dean Brown**, Deputy Director; **Marty Welbourn**, Deputy Director; **Jim McAllister**, former Coastal Region Forester

Division of Mining and Water

Jules Tileston, Director; **Sam Dunaway**, Deputy Director; **Jerry Gallagher**, former Director; **Ric Davidge**, former Director of former Division of Water

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Neil Johannsen, Director, **Ron Crenshaw**, Planning Specialist

Department of Fish and Game

Frank Rue, Commissioner and former Director of the Division of Habitat and Restoration; **Carl Rosier**, former Commissioner; **Lana Shea**, Southeast Regional Manager and **Rick Reed**, former Southeast Regional Manager, Division of Habitat and Restoration

PROJECT STAFF

Nancy Pease, Project Manager

Jim Anderson, Assistant Project Manager (1992-94)

Chas Dense, Assistant Project Manager (1992-93)

Ron Hurlburt, Assistant Project Manager (1991)

COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL ADVISORS

The planning team and staff would like to thank the following community and regional advisors, who provided resource and policy information:

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ed Grossman

National Park Service

Rick Mossman

U. S. Forest Service

Ken Holbrook, Don Steward

National Marine Fisheries Service

Tamra Faris

Bureau of Land Management

John Rumps

City of Yakutat

Larry Powell, Daryl James, Beth McKibben

City of Cordova

Walt Wrede, George Keeney

City of Seward

Christopher Gates, Tyler Jones

Yak-tat Kwaan, Inc.

Caroline Powell, Alex James

Chugach Alaska Corporation

Paul Tweiten, Mark Stahl

Sealaska Corporation

Richard Harris

University of Alaska

Martin Epstein, Rick Rogers

Mental Health Land Office

Dave Thomas

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The planning team and staff thank the following individuals in the Department of Natural Resources for their help in developing the plan:

Robin Hall, leading graphics specialist, and **Susan Peck**, **Diane Dusek**, and **Elaine Thomas**, for preparing the maps, figures, and tables for the plan and related publications.

Dick Mylius and **Marty Welbourn** for assistance in formulating the planning process, writing, editing, assistance at meetings, and a multitude of plan-related issues.

Pearl Reamer, **Jeanne Ratchner** and **Ronda Wilson** for assistance with typing, mailing lists, and mailings.

Jim Whitehill for providing photographs and updated land survey information in the Icy Cape area.

Janet Burleson (aquatic farming), **Ed Fogels** (minerals and materials), **Anna Plager** (cultural resources), **Bruce Talbot** (settlement, aquatic farming, recreation and tourism, draft plan preparation, mineral and classification orders), **Dee Koester** (Chapter 2 editing and draft plan preparation) and **Alice Iliff** (editing), for their assistance on resource reports, editing, and preparing the draft plan.

Rich McMahon, **Jean Tam**, and **Sharon Rudolph** from the Land and Resources Information Section for assistance in computer mapping on geographic information systems (GIS).

Steve Phillips from the Division of Forestry for timber inventory data analysis and timber mapping.

Bill Garry and **Ron Crenshaw** from the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation for reviewing recreation guidelines and policies.

Ron Schonenbach, **Chris Landis**, and **Terry Rader** from the Division of Land's Southeast Regional Office for identifying land and water uses and issues.

The following individuals outside the Department of Natural Resources made notable contributions to the plan.

Pete Carlson from the Division of Tourism for evaluating recreation and tourism opportunities.

Dave Hardy, **Jim Cochran**, **Gordon Woods**, **Tom Thornton**, **Herman Griese**, and **Roy Nowlin** from the Department of Fish and Game for field knowledge of fish and wildlife resources, data compilation, and review of documents.

Andy Romanoff from the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council for recreation resource information, **Judy Braekel** for observations and documentation of wildlife concentration areas, and **John Vale** from the Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee for aquatic farming impacts and land use information at the Tsiu River.