# Stikine Waterfowl Management Area Plan

1973-1978



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE Chatham Area - Tongass N.F. P.O. Box 757 Sitka, Alaska 99835

2620 May 14, 1974

Harry Merriam Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 667 Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Dear Mr. Merriam:

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Attached is a copy of the approved Stikine Management Plan for your files. We appreciated your reviews and comments in finalyzing this revised plan.

Due to recent reorganization correspondence relating to the Stikine Area should hereafter be directed to the following address:

Forest Supervisor, Stikine Management Area U.S. Forest Service P.O. Box 309 Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Sincerely,

hourson B Schoonne

NORMAN B. SCHOONOVER Recreation, Lands, Wildlife & Watershed Manager

Enclosure

# SPECIAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN for the STIKINE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

#### A. INTRODUCTION

#### 1. General Geographic Location

The management area is located on the Wrangell Ranger District, North Tongass National Forest, Region 10. It lies at the mouth of the Stikine River about eight air miles north of Wrangell, Alaska.

#### 2. Description

The area lies near Latitude 56°40'N. and Longitude 132°30'W., and is divided into two units, the North Arm and South Arm. The North Unit comprises Dry Island, the adjacent mainland below the 100-foot contour and several unnamed islands. The South Unit consists of Sergief Island, Little Dry Island, Summit Island, and parts of Farm Island and Dry Island. Both units include State tidelands. See map and description of boundary in Appendix.

#### 3. Establishment History

The Stikine flats are the most important feeding and resting area for migrating waterfowl in Southeast Alaska. H. Hansen (personal contact) and other waterfowl biologists estimate that well over a million birds pass through the unit annually. The area provides key feeding and resting habitat for birds serving the major flyways and it is widely recognized for its high quality waterfowl hunting. In recognition of its high wildlife values and recreational potential former Regional Forester, B. Frank Heintzleman, on December 29, 1949 classified the area under Regulation U-3(a) as the Stikine Flat Wildlife Area. Management activities up to the early 1960's were primarily aimed at maintaining the area in a natural undisturbed condition.

In 1962 a management plan and cooperative agreement was developed providing for joint management of the area between the Forest Service, Department of Fish and Game, and Department of Natural Resources. A classification of the tidelands by the State was also included. Management boundaries were subsequently modified and the original classification by B. Frank Heintzleman was revoked and the area reclassified under Regulation W-2 by W. H. Johnson on May 20, 1964.

Shortly thereafter management activities were intensified somewhat. The most significant included action on trespassers, special use policy, and the pothole development program.

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Blasting potholes for waterfowl on the management area. Project began in 1969 and is expected to remain active for about 10 years. Since the development of the original management plan in 1962, many important events have transpired, thus the need is timely for revising it. This plan follows the outline specified for special zones in FSH 2322.12.

# 4. General Characteristics of the Unit

#### a. Habitat

Habitat comprises three major types - tideflats, grassland, and shrub/ forest complex. Tidelands comprise a major part of the area's habitat. Most of the flats are barren consisting of silt and sand except for the upper tide zone where sedges, arrow grasses and water plantain are abundant. Tideflats produce the bulk of waterfowl food and are in excellent condition. The grassflats are mostly a complex mixture of grasses and flowering plants. Sedges, cattails, bulrushes and other water favored plants are found in bogs and areas flooded by tides. Scattered patches of willow, alder and spruce are present. A narrow fringe of dense alder and willow borders the upper grassflats which give way to a mature sprucehemlock forest. Natural potholes are few, however numerous sloughs and small streams flow through the unit.

# b. Wildlife

A wide variety of birds, many of which are not listed here, use the area. Ducks head the list, the most popular being mallards, pintail, green-wing teal and widgeon. There are also swan, crane, black brant, Wilson's snipe and at least four varieties of Canada geese. The area supports the greatest concentration of snow geese found anywhere in Southeast Alaska. Numerous species of song birds and shore birds also frequent the area. The bald eagle concentrations keyed to the spring smelt runs are probably the largest concentrations of such birds in existence. See Appendix for further listing of birds.

The onset of the spring bird migration occurs in March, peaks in April, and tapers off in May. Fall migration runs from September through December with peak use extending from mid-October to mid-November.

Moose, brown bear, and wolf are seen occasionally. Furbearers include beaver, mink, marten and ermine. Small rodents are abundant and eagerly sought by owls and hawks. Hair seal are common visitors to the area.

The delta waters provide access for all five species of salmon and dolly varden, cuthroat and steelhead trout. A sizeable run of euchalon (smelt) also use the delta for spawning.

# 5. Present Situation and Problems

The major issue presently involving the management area includes the release of private land on Sergief Island for public sale. There are two parcels for sale, however the tract formerly owned by Iver P. Nore is considered top priority. It contains about 114 acres and borders a heavily used waterfowl area. Purchase of this land by the Forest Service or State Fish and



Characteristic upland vegetation on Farm Island. Darker shaded plants are mostly sedges which favor bog areas. Heavily matted vegetation limits bird use and typifies the condition of many natural potholes (center photo).



View seaward from upper tidal zone. Gradual invasion of sedges provides an excellent source of waterfowl feed. Game has been attempted but unsuccessful to date due to lack of funds. It is probable that the land will be subdivided and put up for sale, probably in 1973 or 1974.

# B. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Manage the area to protect and enhance the resting and feeding habitat for waterfowl.

2. Provide maximum hunting, recreation, and aesthetic values for public benefit.

3. Promote those items in need of study and research.

#### C. MANAGEMENT SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

- 1. Forest Resources
  - a. Recreation and Special Uses
    - (1) Management Situation

Construction of cabins has been geared to recreation hunting. Currently there are six public use cabins (see Appendix for listing). Waterfowl hunting accounts for nearly all of the recreation use. Remainder of use is attributed to a few moose or bear hunters and trappers.

During the 1971-72 season 1295 hunter-days were spent on the unit resulting in a total bag of 3178 ducks and 227 geese (ADF&G, Mail Survey, 1971-72 season). Breakdown of duck harvest is as follows: (figures are for Southeast Alaska but are believed representative of the Stikine).

41% Mallards
26% Green-wing Teal
15% American Widgeon
12% Pintail
6% Other

A conservative estimate of the goose harvest is 227, a large majority of which are snow geese. See Appendix for additional harvest information.

Trend in recreation use is definitely upward as supported by a review of cabin reservations for recent hunting seasons. Before any plans for additional cabins are made the effects of current hunting pressure on waterfowl disturbance needs to be evaluated. It is speculated that the current quota of cabins may be exerting more pressure than is desired on the birds. There are three cabins under special use. They include:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Administrative	Gut Island
Jack B. Gucker	Hunting Cabin	Gut Island
Stikine Duck Club	Hunting Cabin	Sergief Island

The two hunting cabins have been in use for over 10 years and are in relatively poor condition. Proper disposal of sewage and garbage is a problem which needs to be rectified. Gradual phasing out of hunter cabin permits is suggested.

Statement on cabin policy is located in Appendix.

# (2) Assumptions

Recreation use is expected to increase placing greater demands for additional cabins and other management services.

Opposition can be expected from owners of private cabins against any action that would end their use.

b. Timber

# (1) Management Situation

Commercial timber is not of sufficient volume to make logging feasible. Timber access roads, log and storage dumping sites however, may be requested at some future time. These facilities will require careful review for needed coordination measures.

# (2) Assumptions

No active timber sales are expected for the immediate future.

c. Forage

# (1) Management Situation and Assumption

The unit contains marginal land for grazing which occurred in past years. Present use of grasses is largely confined to various species of waterfowl, bear and moose. Willow and blueberry are the most important shrubs providing browse for a small wintering population of moose and deer, respectively. (There is no present demand for grazing and none is contemplated for the near future).

#### d. Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat

(1) Management Situation

Past management activities were mostly oriented toward occasional censuses and bag checks. Currently a more intensive waterfowl census is being planned and harvest information is collected on a joint basis.

A few major resting and feeding areas have been identified, but more work is needed to complete coverage of the entire unit.

In 1969 a pothole development program was begun to help restore pothole habitat which is being lost to natural succession. This is an active long-term program. Potholes will improve quality of hunting and make the uplands more attractive to waterfowl. A more intensive evaluation of waterfowl use of potholes is needed.

A shrub invasion study (photo points) was initiated in 1964 to evaluate the rate and long-term effects of encroachment on waterfowl use of the uplands. A recheck of established plots is due in 1973.

In past years when grazing was active the grassflats were burned to permit easier mowing of grass for livestock feed. Since livestock have been removed no burning is being done.

Potential for enhancing fish habitat appears small. There are no active fish habitat programs and none are planned for the near future.

The following list of potential projects was suggested from discussions with State and Federal waterfowl biologists:

(a) Construction of another public use cabin on the north tip of Dry Island.

(b) Expanding the waterfowl improvement project to the Gut Island area.

(c) Control burning on a limited scale.

(d) Signing of unit.

(e) Designate locations of gravel pits (keyed to highway construction) that could be developed for waterfowl potholes.

(2) Assumption

Current decline in waterfowl habitat occurring nation-wide will place greater demands for more intensive management and protection of key waterfowl use areas.

- e. Soils and Water
  - (1) Management Situation

The intertidal zone consists mostly of glacial silt and sand deposited by the Stikine River. Rate of deposition is high causing the flats to expand rapidly thus adding to the existing waterfowl feeding and resting areas.



Aerial view of recently blasted potholes on Farm Island

The grasslands are uplifted and contain a mixture of marine sediments, silt, humus and clay. Soils have limited capability for crop farming. Their best potential appears to be for production of grasses and possibly a few specialized crops.

Erodibility of soils is high especially if disturbed. Thus, any type of mechanized vehicle use including all terrain types should be prohibited.

There are two ADF&G numbered salmon streams; Stikine River (108-40-15) and an unnamed stream (108-40-07) emptying into the North Arm. The remaining streams are small, some of which may provide limited spawning and rearing areas. The Stikine is a major river system. Its waters are turbid being heavily laden with silt and glacial flour. It is of major importance to salmon and ranks high for recreational as well as commercial transportation values.

# (2) Assumptions

Current light demand for agricultural uses is expected to continue. Problems with soil and waterfowl disturbance will increase without suitable regulatory measures on use of mechanized machinery. Stream related problems are expected to be small.

#### f. Minerals

# (1) Management Situation and Assumption

No mining claims exist on the unit nor has any extensive exploratory work been done in past years. The potential for development is presumed low, thus no withdrawal from mineral entry is being recommended. In the event such activity is proposed a team study will be made to establish guidelines for operation. Also see statement on mineral exploration in Appendix.

#### 2. Land Uses and Protection

# a. Land Occupancy

# (1) Management Situation

Aside from special use permits discussed previously, land ownership involves three parties - Forest Service, State, and seven parcels of private land, plus one parcel on Camp Island next to the unit belonging to Leon W. Hasbrouch, USS 2358, for 4.93 acres. Breakdown is as follows:

Forest Service upland		9,671 acres
State tideland		16,000 "
Private Land:		
Bid Hunter	Sec. 26 T6OS R82E	159.62 acres
Bid Hunter	Sec. 26 & 35 T60S R82E	151.35 "
Dave Ellis	Sec. 31 & 32 T60 R33E	141.65 "
Stanley F. Livingston	USS 1023, HES 39 T60S R33E	160.00 "
Leeman S. Ellis	Sec. 2 & 31 T60S R83E	157.76 "
	T61S R83E	

	Robin Taylor <u>1</u> / (Richard Sykes) <u>1</u> /		11 T61S 14 T61S		135.39 114.38	
1/	(Bert Nore ) Parcels to be sold by	owners.	Wills p	resently	under probate.	

Purchase of certain tracts of private land is desirable to lessen the liklihood of conflicts in managing the area. Tracts high in priority include: Sections 26 and 35 on Farm Island, and Section 14 on Sergief Island. At present, Section #4=and 11 on Sergief Island is for sale. Efforts to obtain Section 14 on Sergief Island, however, have been unsuccessful. State or Federal funds are not available and a land exchange approach does not appear feasible. An accurate appraisal of the land for sale is needed. The State Division of Lands have a qualified land appraiser whose services should be requested.

# (2) Assumption

Issues surrounding the sale of private land make it difficult to predict future ownership. Time is the critical issue. Exchange of ownership occurring in 1973 would likely result in retaining land in private ownership. Under longterm option for purchase, control would be more feasible by either State or Federal Goverment Agencies.

b. Fire Control

#### (1) Management Situation and Assumption

The grassflats were customarily burned each fall in past years when grazing was active. Burned over areas reportedly were especially attractive to geese which relished the new spring growth. Hunters claim that since burning has ceased, use of the uplands by geese has dropped drastically.

There has been some recent pressure to resume burning as a possible means of attracting more geese to the uplands. The burning technique appears worthy of trial and should be done on a test basis.

# c. Insects and Disease

# (1) Management Situation and Assumption

The unit is capable of supporting populations of various insects as the blackheaded budworm, hemlock sawfly, and alder sawfly. Heavy defoliation of alder presumably caused by the striped alder sawfly, <u>Hemichroa crocea</u>, occurred in about 1970. No control measures were undertaken. The outbreak was primarily restricted to alder and appears to be abating.

# 3. Administrative Activities and Facilities

a. Transportation System

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# (1) Management Situation

The Mitkof-Stikine Highway is scheduled to pass through the unit. It now terminates on Mitkof Island near Dry Strait. Key features of construction will involve a major bridge crossing at Dry Strait, about seven miles of road through the unit, and a bridge across the north end of Knig Slough. There are certain issues yet to be resolved relative to road location and bridge/drainage designs. Details are contained in R. M. Wilke's memo 5610 dated August 8, 1961 in Appendix.

The Dry Strait bridge is a popular and controversial issue. It would require drafting of an environmental statement. The impacts from construction of this bridge are expected to present a wide range of problems.

# (2) Assumption

It is unlikely that bridge construction will begin before the next revision of this plan is due.

# b. Signing

# (1) Management Situation and Assumption

The unit has one sign located on the North Arm. Installation of additional signs are not recommended now since current needs do not appear critical. Nearly all use is by local people who are knowledgeable of the classification of the area. Another sign could be installed at the entrance to the unit once the highway is completed.

# c. Information and Education

# (1) Management Situation

I&E opportunities are excellent and should be intensified. News releases have been made in the past covering the start of the pothole program. The time is now ripe for a progress report. A brochure should also be prepared on the management area. I&E specialists should be consulted for assistance.

# (2) Assumptions

Controversial issues such as the proposed Dry Strait bridge, log storage site, private land exchange, and overland vehicle use will demand increasing public support. Overall increase in I&E effort will be required.

- d. Administrative Activities
  - (1) Management Situation and Assumption
    - (a) Meetings

The former plan stipulates that a joint meeting be held annually. In reality one meeting every third year is satisfactory. Special meetings can be called if matters so dictate. The last meeting was held in March 1973.

e. Research

# (1) Management Situation and Assumption

There has been no research on waterfowl or habitat to date. There appears to be no current demand for intensive studies. It is expected that the present emphasis on managing waterfowl and improving habitat will continue.

# D. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

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1. Allow additional special use cabin permits only for administrative purposes.

2. Permit logging only when it will serve to protect or enhance the quality of wildlife habitat.

3. Allowance for passage of timber access roads through the management area will be permitted only if such roads do not conflict with key uses of the management area.

4. Permits for log raft storage, grazing, overland vehicles or such other uses will be granted only when it is determined that such use would have no adverse impact on wildlife and habitat.

5. Continue hunter questionnaire survey to obtain information for management purposes.

6. Maintain where feasible joint effort by the Forest Service and ADF&G in the conduct of all habitat improvement and wildlife programs.

7. Include as part of recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior relative to mineral developments, stipulations proposed by team study and statement by the Forest Service on validity of claim(s).

8. Measures to improve habitat as grass burning, pothole blasting, shrub eradication and similar projects will only be permitted by permit or an approved plan.

9. Allow for access of Mitkof-Stikine Highway (FH7) through the management unit. Select route on a joint basis which poses least conflict with wildlife and aesthetics.

10. Select sites for borrow areas having the best potential for use as waterfowl potholes.

11. Keep public informed of activities through periodic news releases and related media.

# ACTION PLAN

1. Remainder FY 1973

a. Schedule meeting with cooperating agencies.

b. Continue seeking means to purchase private lands and to reach full agreement on a boundary change.

c. Evaluate desirability of continuing special use permits.

2. FY 1974

a. Make survey relative to shrub encroachment study.

b. Develop plan with ADF&G for evaluating pothole project.

c. Develop plan for regulation of overland vehicles.

d. Develop brochure in cooperation with I&E.

3. FY 1975

a. Initiate a pilot program for determining feasibility of burning grassflats.

b. Continue evaluation of potholes with ADF&G.

c. Issue news releases on items of local interest.

d. Prepare a separate map showing major features of the unit - key waterfowl feeding and resting areas, potholes, check dams, etc.

4. FY 1976-78

a. Plan for construction of an additional public use cabin, if desirable.

b. Schedule meeting with cooperating agencies.

c. Evaluate results of pilot program on burning; continue program if feasible.

d. Make joint survey of proposed highway route and designate areas suitable for borrow.

e. Make needed revisions to management plan.

# 5. Recurrent

a. Continue joint development of potholes.

b. Assist ADF&G in waterfowl surveys, if needed.

c. Assist ADF&G in hunter questionnaire survey.

d. Keep record of annual use for each cabin.

Prepared by: <u>michael m. Januarich Jr. april. 17, 1973</u> Wildlife Management Biologist Date Report Approved: <u>Ancient 11. Clan april 18/1973</u> Forest Supervisor Date Commissioner, Dept. of Fish and Game an of Lands Date

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# LITERATURE REFERENCES

Nelson, U. C. and W. A. Elkins, November 1949, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Quarterly Progress Report. Surveys and Investigations. Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration. W-3-R-4, Vol. 4, No. 2. The Stikine Flats from the Waterfowl Standpoint, pp 30-41.

Timm, Dan, November 1972, ADF&G, Report of Survey and Inventory Activities, Waterfowl Hunter Mail Questionnaire Survey 1971-72. Federal Aid in Wildlife Res. Proj; W-17-4, Job No. 10, 27 pp.

# APPENDIX

.

Cooperative Agreement and Boundary Description	A-2-10
Department of Natural Resources Land Classification Order	A-11-12
Mineral Exploration and Development	A-13-14
Cabin Policy	A- 14
Fact Sheet	A-15-16
List of Popular Birds	A-17
Waterfowl Census and Hunter Information	A-18-21
Hunter-days of Use from Cabins	A-22
Maps	A-23-24

A-1

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#### STIKINE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement

This amends the Cooperative Agreement dated August 20, 1962 between the Forest Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Department of Natural Resources. Changes are as follows:

Page I, first paragraph, line 6 is amended to read - " is in accordance and in addition to the Master Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and Department of Fish and Game dated September 22, 1971."

IN WITNESS THEREOF:

The parties hereto have executed this amendment as of date written.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME STATE OF ALASKA

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STATE OF ALASKA

By Charlie F. Identet

Title Comm

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE U.S. FOREST SERVICE Region 10

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Attach to Cooperative Agreement

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT U.S. FCREST SERVICE - REGION 10 ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME and the ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this 20th day of Adgust one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two, by and between the Department of Fish and Game, State of Alaska, hereinafter called the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter called the Department of Natural Resources, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, hereinafter called the Forest Service, is in accordance with and in addition to the Cooperative Agreement between the Department of Fish and Game and the Forest Service, dated April 15, 1960.

WITNESSETH:

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WHEREAS, the Department of Fish and Game has been created under the laws of the State of Alaska to protect, conserve, and manage the fish and game resources of the State of Alaska, and

wHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources has been created under the laws of the State of Alaska to conserve and develop the natural resources, with the exception of the fish and game, of the State of Alaska, including the State lands, in the best interests of the public, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is responsible for the protection and management of the National Forest lands within the State of Alaska, and such lands are dedicated to multiple-use management for recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, that part of the Stikine River Delta and adjacent tidelands shown on the attached map is of State and National importance and achieves its greatest value as a migratory waterfewl resting and feeding area and public hunting and recreation area, and Service State

. . . .

WHEREAS, the Regional Forester on December 29, 1949 did classify and didicate the open grassland and slough areas of Farm, Dry, and Sergief Islands, and a portion of the mainland at the mouth of the North Arm of the Stikine River, which are essentially within the boundaries of the attached area description, as a wildlife area, and

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WHEREAS, the Federal lands of the Stikine area above mean high tide are under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service and the adjacent State lands below mean high tide are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources, and it is presently infeasible to distinguish the boundaries between Federal and State lands, it is the mutual desire of the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Forest Service to cooperate in managing, maintaining, and developing the exceptional wildlife and habitat resources of the Stikine Delta area according to the principles of multiple-use for the best interests of the public of Alaska and the United States.

A. THE FOREST SERVICE AGREES:

COPY

1. To revoke the classification of December 29, 1949, designating the Stikine Flat Wildlife Area made under the Secretary's Regulation U-3; and, under the authority of the Secretary's Regulation W-2, to classify the National Forest lands described by the attached map and written description as the Stikine Waterfowl Management Area.

2. To manage and protect the resting and feeding grounds of the waterfowl and other wildlife of the area.

3. To recognize wildlife as the primary resource on the National Forest lands of the area and prior to permitting any other land uses to take measures to prevent or mitigate damage, disturbance, deterioration, or misuse of waterfowl and other wildlife habitat resulting from such other land uses that may be permitted. These activities will be properly coordinated with the primary resource values of the area.

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4. To develop, as needed, one or more areas for public recreation outside, but adjacont to the area.

5. To provide the leadership in wildlife habitat work on the area.

6. To assist the Department of Fish and Game in its wildlife management activities.

B. THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AGREES:

COPY XERO

1. To recognize wildlife as the primary resource of the area and provide for sound waterfowl management practices and to recommend hunting regulations which will give the maximum hunting and recreational use compatible with the maintenance of the resting and feeding areas for waterfowl.

2. To enforce game regulations on the area.

3. To cooperate with the Forest Service in habitat studies and habitat improvement work mutually agreed feasible and necessary to maintain and enhance waterfowl and game populations of the area.

4. To provide the leadership in planning and conducting wildlife restoration and management projects on the area.

C. THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AGREES:

1. To classify the lands of the area below mean high tide as Public Recreation Lands.

2. To recognize wildlife as the primary resource on the State-owned lands of the area and, prior to permitting any other land uses, take measures to coordinate such activities with the primary resource values to prevent or mitigate damage, disturbance, deterioration, or misues of waterfowl or other wildlife habitat.

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D. THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,

AND THE FOREST SERVICE MUTHALLY AGREE:

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1. That the area described by the attached map and written description shall be designated as the Stikine Waterfowl Management Area.

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2. That the Forest Service and the Department of Fish and Game will cooperate in the development, execution, maintenance and periodic revision as necessary of a wildlife management plan based on the principles of multiple-use for the area.

3. To make no changes or departures from the wildlife management plan finally developed and agreed upon without the concurrence of the parties to this agreement.

4. That the parties to this agreement will consult with each other prior to the issuance of any leases or permits for oil or mineral explorations and development, commercial development, road construction or other usos not specifically dealt with elsewhere in this agreement.

5. That no privately owned cabins or other improvements will be permitted within the area on either Federally or State-owned lands, except those currently under permit. The permits for such cabins will be terminated after adequate notice if and when it is determined their presence is detrimental to the area.

6. That publically owned cabins or other improvements may be provided within the area if joint study and analysis show they are necessary and compatible with the management objectives.

7. That each and every provision of this Cooperative Agreement is subject to the laws of the State of Alaska and the laws of the United States. 6. That nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating the State of Alaska or the Forest Service in the expenditure of funds or for future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law.

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9. That nothing herein contained shall be construed as limiting or affecting in any way the delegated authority of the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Natural Resources, or the Forest Service.

10. That this agreement shall become effective as soon as it is signed by the parties hereto and shall continue in force until terminated by one of the parties upon thirty (30) days notice in whiting to the others of his intention to terminate and a date indicated.

11. That no member of er delegate to Congress, or resident commissionar shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this egreement if made for a corporation for its general benefit.

12. That amendments to this agreement may be proposed by any of the parties and shall become effective upon approval in writing by all the parties, and such amendments attached hereto.

#### IN WITNESS THEREOF:

The parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the

date written.

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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME STATE OF ALASKA

COPY XERO

By /s/ E. J. Marvich

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STATE OF ALASKA

By /s/ Phil R. Holdsworth

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Titla Deputy Commissioner

Title Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE U. S. FOREST SERVICE REGION 10

By 101 P. D. Hanson

Title Regional Forester

Attachments: Map and written description

# DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARY

The proposed Stikine Waterfowl Management Area will include the following bounded area:

North Arm Unit beginning near the south end of Frederick Sound and at the extreme northern point of Pocket Island thence on an azimuth of 15° to the southern tip of Camp Island, thence on an azimuth of  $83^{\circ}$  to the 100-foot contour on the mainland thence southerly along 100-foot contour to unnamed stream coming from a lake at 475 feet elevation, thence along stream course to its confluence with the North Arm of the Stikine River, thence on an azimuth of 185° to Dry Island, thence on an azimuth of 180° to the 100-foot contour; thence northwesterly along 100-foot contour to peninsula at northwest corner of Dry Island, thence northwesterly along middle of peninsula to its apex; thence on an azimuth of 260° to point of beginning at north end of Pocket Island. South Arm Unit beginning at the extreme southwest corner of Dry Island; thence northerly to junction with proposed Mitkof-Stikine Highway - Route 937; thence northeasterly along proposed highway route to eastside of Knig Slough on Farm Island; thence south to the 100-foot contour; thence southwesterly along the 100-foot contour to the north-south line of Sec. 23, T. 60S., R82E., Copper River Meridian, thence southerly along the 100-foot contour to north-south section line between Sec. 31 and 32, T. 60S., R83E of Copper River Meridian, south along section line to Stikine River at mouth of an unnamed slough; thence southerly across the Stikine River to Pt. Rothsay on mainland; thence southwesterly to VABM 14

on north shore of Kadin Island; thence northwesterly to Trouble Point on eastern projection of Mitkof Island; thence northerly across Dry Strait to point of beginning. The Forest Service portion of the described areas amounts to 6,400 acres and includes all land above mean high tide. The State of Alaska portions of the above described areas amount to 10,700 acres and includes all lands below mean high tide.

The total area of the Stikine Waterfowl Management Area is 17,100 acres.

# A-10

# STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF LANDS

#### LAND CLASSIFICATION ORDER

Number \_\_\_\_\_ 125

STIRINE RIVER DELTA GAME MACLOEMENT AREA TIDELANDS

Date October 2, 1962

1. The following classifications are based on information contained in Land Planning Report number <u>110</u>, dated <u>October 2, 1962</u>.

2. Description of La	nds:	Acreage	Acquisition Authority	Classification
SEE ATTACHED DES		, 	Tidelenda	Public Recreation
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3. The above described lands are hereby designated and classified as indicated. Nothing shall prevent the reclassification of these lands if warranted in the public interest.

Salvatore & Lignerdin Signed

Classification and Appraisal Officer

Approved:

Division of Lands Director,

Commissioner, Dept. of Matural Resources

<u>10-2-62</u> Date

10/9/62

Date

A-11

#### CLASSIFICATION ORDER NUMBER 125 - STIKINE RIVER DELTA GAME MANAGEMENT AREA TIDELANDS

A-12

#### Tidelands located within the following area:

North Arm Unit beginning near the south end of Frederick Sound and at the extreme northern point of Pocket Island thence on an azimuth of  $15^{\circ}$  to the southern tip of Camp Island, thence on an azimuth of  $83^{\circ}$  to the 100-foot contour on the mainland thence southerly along 100-foot contour to unnamed stream coming from a lake at 475 feet elevation, thence along stream course to its confluence with the North Arm of the Stikine River, thence on an azimuth of  $185^{\circ}$  to Dry Island, thence on an azimuth of  $180^{\circ}$  to the 100-foot contour, thence northwesterly along 100-foot contour to peninsula at northwest corner of Dry Island, thence northwesterly along middle of peninsula to its apex, thence on an azimuth of  $260^{\circ}$  to point of beginning at north end of Pocket Island.

South Arm Unit beginning at the extreme southwest corner of Dry Island, thence northerly to junction with proposed Mitkof-Stikine Highway - Route 937, thence northeasterly along proposed highway route to eastside of King Slough on Farm Island, thence south to the 100-foot contour, thence southwesterly along the 100-foot contour to the north-south line of Section 23, T60S, R82E., Copper River Meridian, thence southerly along the 100-foot contour to north-south section line between Sections 31 and 32, T60S, R83E of Copper River Meridian, south along section line to Stikine River at mouth of an unnamed slough, thence southerly across the Stikine River to Pt. Rothsay on mainland, thence southwesterly to VABM 14 on north shore of Kadin Island, thence northwesterly to Trouble Point on eastern projection of Mitkof Island, thence northerly across Dry Strait to point of beginning. The Forest Service portion of the described areas amounts to 9,671 acres and includes all land above mean high tide. The State of Alaska portions of the above described areas amount to 16,000 acres and includes all lands below mean high tide.

# MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

National Forest lands within the management unit are subject to exploration and mineral entry (hard rock minerals) under existing mining laws. The Forest Service may, however, dispose of common varieties of minerals subject to terms of a special permit. A permit is not required for the exploration of leasable minerals, however, there is no guarantee that a lease will be issued in the event of discovery. Mineral leases are issued by the Secretary of Interior after approval of recommendations presented by the Forest Service. Prospecting is permitted on State-owned tidelands, but actual mining is permitted only under leasing provisions stipulated by the Department of Natural Resources.

The history of mining in the area suggests little future activity in the exploration or establishment of hard rock mineral claims. At present, there is no oil and mineral exploration activity on the management area, but there is always a possibility work could begin any time in the future.

The District Ranger, Wrangell, Will remain alert to any plans for mineral exploration activities to insure that proper coordination efforts are applied early in the planning stage.

In the event a (hard rock) mineral claim is entered, the Forest Service will conduct a mineral examination to establish validity of the claim(s). In addition, measures to effect adequate wildlife and habitat protection will be agreed upon prior to issuing permits for removal of common varieties of minerals on National Forest lands, mineral leases for mining activities on State tidelands, and easements for access to claims on either of the above lands.

If an active interest in the development of leasable minerals on National Forest lands is indicated by the filing of an application or offer to lease, a determination will be made by the parties to the agreement concerning the desireability of requesting a withdrawal of the lands from mineral entry. In any event, recommendations leading toward issuance of a mineral lease will have the joint concurrence of the Forest Service, Alaska Departments of Fish and Game, and Natural Resources.

Generally, all exploration activities will be closely monitored by the Forest Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game to protect the waterfowl resource.

Recommendations pertaining to mineral leases should involve the following considerations:

1. Limit the time of year that development work will be permitted.

2. Limit the altitude of planes to and from the exploration site and regulate approaches where possible.

3. Request assistance of ADF&G in monitoring exploration and development work.

4. Identify areas where operations as drilling and equipment may operate with the least impact to wildlife and habitat.

#### CABIN POLICY FOR THE STIKINE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

Numerous cabins scattered about on the tidal flats where waterfowl normally rest and feed will be detrimental to their welfare, depriving birds from feeding where sedges offer the most abundant food source and keeping them from resting properly.

It is conceded that a few cabins above extreme high tide would probably not adversely disturb waterfowl. However, as only a limited number of these can be tolerated, these should be public rather than private cabins.

There are three cabins under special use by the Forest Service - one is for administration by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and two are private hunting cabins. Private cabins are not compatible with this public use area and will be eventually eliminated.

The State and the Forest Service working together will construct public cabins, as funds permit, in the amount the two agencies deem proper to balance recreational enjoyment and waterfowl needs. The cabins will be well constructed, with adequate sanitary facilities and placed well above high tide or near the perimeter of the uplands.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Forest Service will review cabin needs within the management area at three to five-year intervals and make the necessary studies to determine the need to add or delete cabins. Both agencies will be in agreement on placement and number of cabins before any cabins are added or removed.

# STIKINE MANAGEMENT UNIT FACT SHEET

Total Acreage (Including private land):

Acres of Upland - Forest Service Acres of Tideland - Alaska Acres of Private Land	9,671.00 16,000.00 1,020.15
Number of Individual Private Land Owners as of 1973	7
Names of Private Land Owners Including Acres of Each:	
Bid Hunter (Formerly under O. A. Swenson) Sec. 26	159.62 ac.
Bid Hunter (Formerly under W. A. Swenson) Sec. 26 & 35	<u>151.35 ac</u> .
Dave Ellis (Formerly under T. Tremble) Sec. 31 & 32	141.65 ac.
Stanley F. Livingston (Formerly under L. J. Binkley) HES 39 USS 1023	160.00 ac.
Leeman S. Ellis Sec. 29 & 31	157.76 ac.
Robin Taylor (Formerly under I. P. Nore) Sec. 11	135.39 ac.
Richard Sykes (Formerly under I. P. Nore) Sec. 14	<u>114.38 ac</u> .
Leon W. Hasbrouch (Camp Is. nest to Area) USS 2358	4.93 ac.
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Number of Special Use Permits as of 1973	4
Names of Special Use Holders and Locations of Each:	
Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Gut Island
Gucker, J. B.	Gut Island
Hunter, Bid (Next to Area Boundary)	NE Dry Island
Stikine Duck Club	Sergief Island
Number of Public Recreation Cabins (1973)	б

Location and Type of Public Recreation Cabins:

Mallard Slough
Gut Island
Little Dry Island
Binkley Slough
Sergief Island
Koknuk (Sergief Island)

	rame
<u>D</u> J	<u>Cabin &amp; Hunter Cab</u>
Pan	Abode
<u>D.</u>	J. Shelter (12'X14')
Pan	Abode
Pan	Abode

<u>\_</u>

60

3

Total Number of Developed Waterfowl Potholes (as of 1972) (see map for specific locations):

Total Number of Check Dams Developed for Waterfowl (1972):

Estimated Peak Numbers of Waterfowl Using Area:

Spring Migration <u>Unknown</u> Fall Migration 1 1/4 million

Period of Greatest Waterfowl Use:

Spring Migration <u>April</u>

Fall Migration <u>Mid-October to Mid November</u>

Period of Peak Snow Geese Use During Fall: -

Second Half of October

Queen Charlotte Canada Goose Lesser Canada Goose Dusky Canada Goose Snow Goose Cackling Goose Mallard Pintail Baldpate Green-winged Teal Shoveller Lesser Scaup Greater Scaup Barrow's Goldeneye American Goldeneye Bufflehead Harlequin Old Squaw American Scoter White-winged Scoter Surf Scoter Eider Mergansers Trumpeter Swan Whistling Swan Black Bront Crane Wilson's Snipe Bald Eagle Hawks Owls

1/ Song birds and shore birds are excluded.

WATERFOWL SURVEYS - October 17, 18, 19, 1971 <sup>1</sup>/

--Total for Area ł Mallard Sl. & N. Arm ł 600 Snows estimated on Sergief Island on October 20, 1971 by Bob Wood (ADF&G). Location and Dates و Q σ ľ I I L. Dry Is. Dry and ω ł ł  $\sim$  $\sim$ Peak waterfowl use reported to have occurred a week later. ł I I  $\mathfrak{c}$ Farm Island ω ဗ c ł \_ --17 Sergief Is. 40 Green-winged Teal Snow Geese <u>2</u>/ Canada Geese TOTAL DUCKS Species Shove]]er Baldpate Mallard Pintail Swans 2/  $\geq$ 

A-18

Source: Tables, ADF&G report of survey and inventory activities - waterfowl, Ann. Proj. Seg. Rpt. Vol. III Proj. W-17-4, Job 10, June 1972.

CHECKS	
BAG	
FIELD	
ОF	
<b>RESULTS 0</b>	

	1955	1964	1965	1966	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
No. Hunters Checked	i I	102	33	27	27	7				
No. Birds Taken	1	223	195	72	1	53				
Birds Per Hunter-Day	3.2 1/	2.2	5.9	2.7	1.2	7.5				
Days Spent Per Hunter	1	0.9	1.6	T I	! }	3.3				

1/ Birds per hunter.

A-19

		WATERFOW	L HARVES	T				
	1966	19 <b>71</b>	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	
Duck	2878	3178						
Goose	561	227						
Snow Goose	299	<u>1</u> /						

1/ Unknown, but is speculated that bulk of Canada geese take consisted of Snow geese.

# SPECIES COMPOSITION

					Percent	of Total	Bag		
	1955	1964 <sup>2/</sup>	1966 <u>3</u> /	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Mallard	72	48.9	49	41.7					
Baldpate		21		20.8					
Pintail		10.3		13.9					
G-W Teal		4.9		16.7					
Shoveler		0.8		2.8					
Gadwall								4 1 1	
Scaup (both)		1.6		2.8					
Bufflehead									
Goldeneye				1.3					
Other Ducks	16 <u>1/</u>	1.6	28						
C. Goose	2	15.2	15						
Snow Goose	10	8.2	8						

1/ Includes mostly pintails and shovelers.

2/ Based on 102 hunter contacts.

Contractor of the

3/ Bag check on 27 hunters who took 72 waterfowl. Other birds included pintail, widgeon, G-W teal and a few others.

A-20

A	Number by Species				
Area	Mixed Dabblers	Snow Geese	Canada Geese		
LeConte Bay - Mallard Slough	2750		143		
North Arm	170				
Sergief Island	72	25			
Dry Island	880		107		
Dry Straits & Grass Island	35		45		
TOTAL	3907	25	295		

WATERFOWL SURVEY, October 20, 1972  $\frac{1}{}$ 

1/ SOURCE: D. Timm, ADF&G. Aircraft C-185, Time - 11:30 to 12:10 (one hour before high tide), Survey emphasized tide line.

	- S.
11 - 22	
A-4/	

	HUNTER DAYS OF USE									
Public Use Cabins	1965	1966	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974			
Little Dry Island	78	224	76	79	143					
Gut Island #1	113	114	78	104	65					
Gut Island #2			135	159	114					
Binkley Slough	75	66	70	111	127					
Koknuk (Sergief Is.)	54	54	50	89	115					
Sergief Island	16	26	20	64	40					
Mallard Slough	61	26	94	73	62					
Special Use Cabins										
ADF&G (Admin.)	40	126								
J. B. Gucker <u>2</u> /	50	55	55	55	55					
Stikine Duck Club <u>2/</u>	80	90	90	90	90					
<u>Other</u> <u>3</u> /		390	334	412	405					
TOTAL	577	1171	1002	1236	1216	- <del>12</del>				

1/ Use obtained from cabin permits (No. in party X days hunted = hunter days).

2/ Educated guess.

3/ Represents 50 percent of subtotal to include: (1) hunters staying for one day only or on boats, (2) hunters using public cabins without permits, and (3) hunters not listed on a permit who stay with individuals having a permit.







