

Unit 8a - North Douglas Island

Background

Mining and Mineral Potential. The U.S. Bureau of Mines has identified an area approximately one-mile wide on Douglas Island along Gastineau Channel as having high mineral potential.

North Douglas Waterfront. Most of the uplands adjacent to the state tidelands and submerged lands in this subunit are in private ownership. Uplands adjacent to the Douglas Bridge are used for industrial and commercial uses. The adjacent uplands support private homes along the North Douglas Highway. Subunits 8a6 and 8a8 were designated Special Waterfront Areas by the revised Juneau Coastal Management Plan. Subunit 8a6 is used for barge unloading and storage of unloaded containers and materials awaiting distribution throughout the city. Fuel storage tanks have recently been placed on the adjacent privately-owned uplands. An application is pending in this subunit for a breakwater to extend onto state tidelands that will involve dredging and include a boat grid. A marina may be proposed for this subunit. Subunit 8a8 includes the west end of the Douglas Island Bridge. DOTPF is considering re-configuring the intersection at the west end of Douglas Island Bridge.

There are a number of homes, businesses, and industrial sites along the North Douglas Highway. Businesses include a car dealer, trailer park, gravel pit, and helicopter company. CBJ has applied for a public easement for a water distribution line from Juneau to Douglas along the refuge boundary (ADL 104585) in Subunits 8a1 and 8a9. The pipeline has been placed and is buried on the bottom of the channel.

The state tidelands and submerged lands receive heavy use by pleasure, charter, and commercial fishing boats traveling along Gastineau Channel. Barges also travel through the area and are frequently moored in the channel. The channel also offers wildlife viewing opportunities, and salmon and Dolly Varden sport fishing is common by Eagle Creek. Four anadromous stream mouths are located within this unit including Falls, Eagle, Grant, and Kowee creeks.

Fish and Eagle Creeks. The primary purpose for the 1989 selection of the uplands in Subunit 8a26 was for a communication site and for recreation (NFCG314). Communication facilities are already authorized in this subunit. The Department of Administration (DOA) has applied for an ILMA (ADL 105539) for a 20-foot tower at the summit of Saddle Mountain and a right-of-way for a power cable. KTOO has applied for a lease for two 80-foot towers on Tabletop Mountain (ADL 105537) and a right-of-way (ADL 105579). The right-of-way for both the DOA and KTOO applications will follow the same route across USFS lands to the road. The Juneau Trails Plan proposes trails over Saddle and Tabletop mountains and up Eagle Creek and Mount Troy.

Subunit 8a25 was originally selected for community expansion and community recreation including expansion of the Eaglecrest Ski Area (NFCG 314 and 103). Lands along the road corridor suitable for settlement have been conveyed to CBJ. The CBJ Comprehensive Plan designates Fish Creek as a Watershed Protection Area. The Juneau Trails Plan proposes a trail over Mount Stewart to Croypley Lake. The plan also proposes a public-use cabin in this subunit.

Management Intent

North Douglas Waterfront. Subunits 8a6 and 8a8 will be managed for waterfront development and transportation while minimizing significant adverse impacts on sport fish harvest at the mouth of Kowee Creek for which these subunits are co-designated. Subunits with anadromous stream mouths (8a5, 8a7, 8a9, 8a11) will be managed to protect habitat while accommodating limited shoreline development associated with private upland ownership. Mid-channel subunits will be managed primarily to accommodate navigation and moorings for barges and other craft while minimizing significant adverse impacts on the habitat and harvest activities for which these subunits are co-designated. Improvements on adjacent private and CBJ tidelands that extend on to state tidelands are an allowable use.

Fish Creek and Eagle Creek Drainages. Subunits 8a25 and 8a26 will be managed for recreation, communication facilities, and watershed protection for Fish Creek. Although an expansion of Eaglecrest is not currently proposed, facilities associated with Eaglecrest and its expansion may be authorized in this area in the future. Authorizing communication facilities is compatible with the management intent for Subunit 8a26.

Management Guidelines

Commercial Recreation Leasing. Commercial recreation leasing for facilities associated with the Eaglecrest Ski Area may be authorized in Subunits 8a25 and 8a26.¹⁶

Floathomes. Floathomes are prohibited in this unit on state tidelands and submerged lands except within developed marinas consistent with the Juneau Coastal Management Plan.

Kowee Creek. In Subunit 8a7, a public fishing pier may be authorized on the southeast side of Kowee Creek.

Mineral Closures. Approximately forty (40) acres of tidelands and submerged lands adjacent to the fish hatchery at Kowee Creek and the estuarine area, from mean high water to a water depth of 40 feet (measured at mean low low water) at the mouth of Kowee Creek will be closed to new mineral location to protect important rearing areas for anadromous fish. The maintenance of the high-quality estuarine rearing habitat adjacent to this stream and the avoidance of impacts to the associated water quality and marine plant and animal communities are essential to sustain the productivity of the commercial- and community- harvest fisheries in the Juneau area. The hatchery and the fisheries it supports are also critically dependent on this estuarine rearing habitat. The closure is also intended to protect the significant state and private investment in these hatcheries. A map of this closure can be found in Mineral Order 653 in Appendix B.

West End of Douglas Bridge. Before issuing authorizations in Subunit 8a8, DNR should consult with DOTPF to ensure that the proposed activities do not unreasonably limit options for re-configuring the intersection at the end of the bridge.

¹⁶ For additional information about commercial recreation leasing, see Chapter 2, *Recreation, Tourism, and Scenic Resources* section.

CBJ Watershed Control Program. In order to protect a potential future community water supply identified in the CBJ Comprehensive Plan, when CBJ formalizes it's Watershed Control Program by ordinance for Fish Creek, DNR will manage state lands in this watershed consistent with this program. This may include implementation of mineral orders that may be adopted without an amendment to the plan.

Land-Use Designation Summary

For keys to the one-letter and two-letter abbreviations used in this table, see the beginning of this chapter.

UNIT 8A: NORTH DOUGLAS ISLAND						
Area no. & name	DNR designation	CBJ zoning district	Land type	Adjacent ownership	Resource or use	Other comments
8a1	Ha Hv	RR	SU	State	Migratory waterfowl habitat; Salmon Creek Hatchery cost recovery fishery	
8a2	Hv	RR	SU	State	Salmon Creek Hatchery cost recovery fishery	
8a3	Hv	RR	SU	State	Dolly Varden and salmon sportfishing; anchorage	
8a4	Hb	RR	SU	State	Herring overwintering; anchorage	
8a5 Grant Creek	Ha Sh	D-1 D-3 D-15	T	State	Anadromous stream mouth	
8a6	Hv Wd	WI JCMP-SWA	T	Private	Salmon, Dolly Varden sportfishing	Existing state leases for industrial use
8a7 Kowee Creek	Ha Hv	-	T	Private	Salmon, Dolly Varden sportfishing; anadromous stream mouth	Fish hatchery on Kowee Creek
8a8 Douglas Bridge	Hv Tr Wd	WI JCMP-SWA	T	Private	Salmon, Dolly Varden sportfishing	Existing state lease for industrial use; Douglas Bridge
8a9 Falls Creek	Ha Sh	D-1 D-3 D-15	T	Private	Anadromous stream mouth	
8a10	Sh	D-1 D-3 D-5	T	State		
8a11 Eagle Creek	Ha Sh	D-1 D-3 D-5	T	State	Anadromous stream mouth	
8a12	Sh	D-1 D-3 D-5	T	State		
8a13	Sh	D-1 D-3 D-5	T	State		
8a25 Upper Fish Creek	Hv Rd W	O-RR C-watershed protection area	UP	USFS CBJ	Fish Creek watershed; proposed trail over Mt. Stewart to Cropley Lake; deer hunting in fall	Eagle Crest ski area on adjacent CBJ-owned lands

Land-Use Designation Summary (continued)

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UNIT 8A: NORTH DOUGLAS ISLAND						
Area no. & name	DNR designation	CBJ zoning district	Land type	Adjacent ownership	Resource or use	Other comments
8a26 Saddle Mountain	Hv Rd W	O-RR C-watershed protection area	UP	USFS CBJ	Proposed trail over Saddle Mountain and Table Top Mountain; proposed new trails up Eagle Creek and Mount Troy, and public use cabin; deer hunting	
8a27 Eagle Creek	G	D-18	UP	Private		

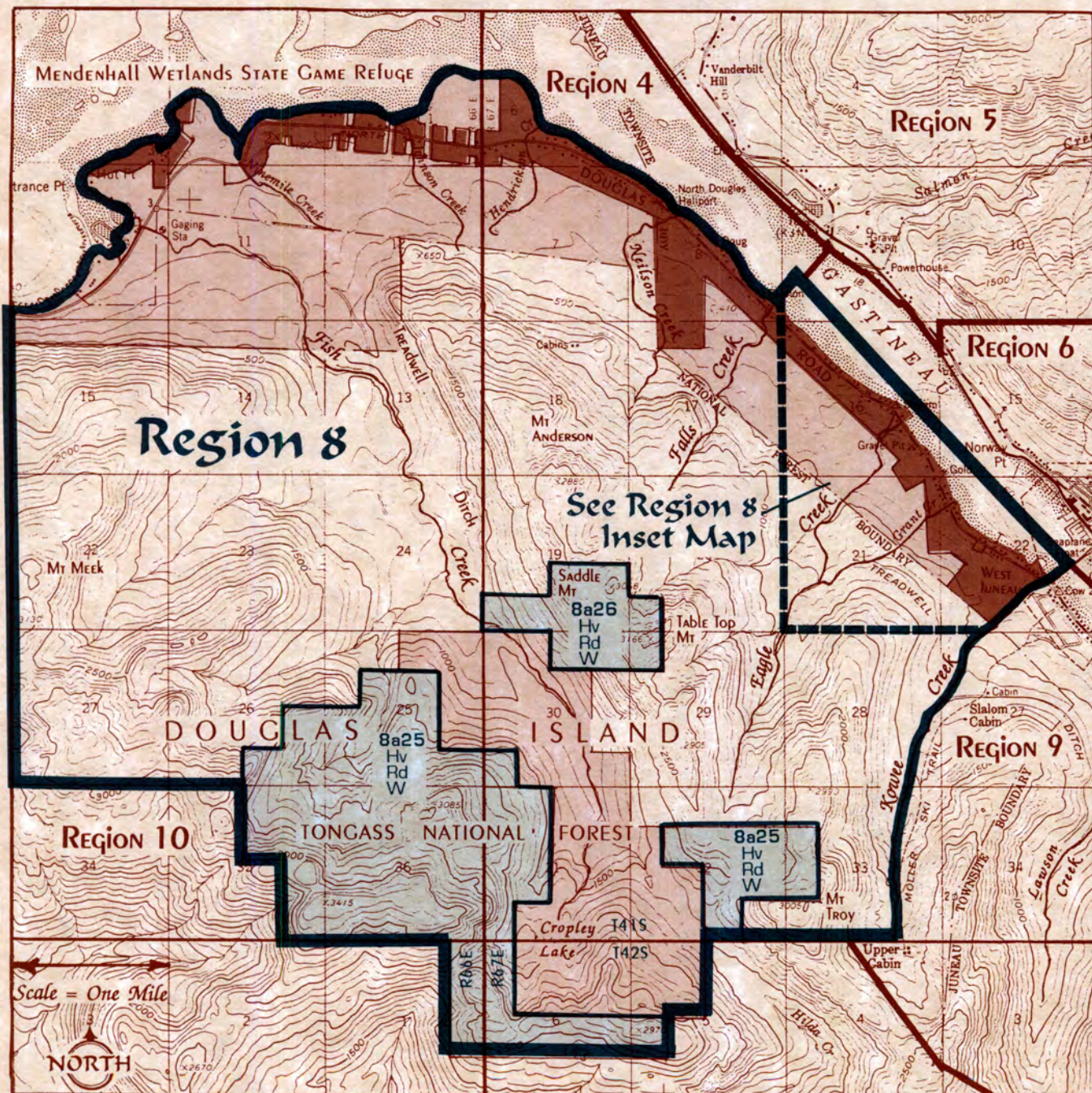
REGION 8 - North Douglas

Land Ownership

- State Owned
- Municipal
- Private

Designations

- Hv Fish & Wildlife Harvest
- Rd Recreation - Dispersed
- W Water Resources & Uses



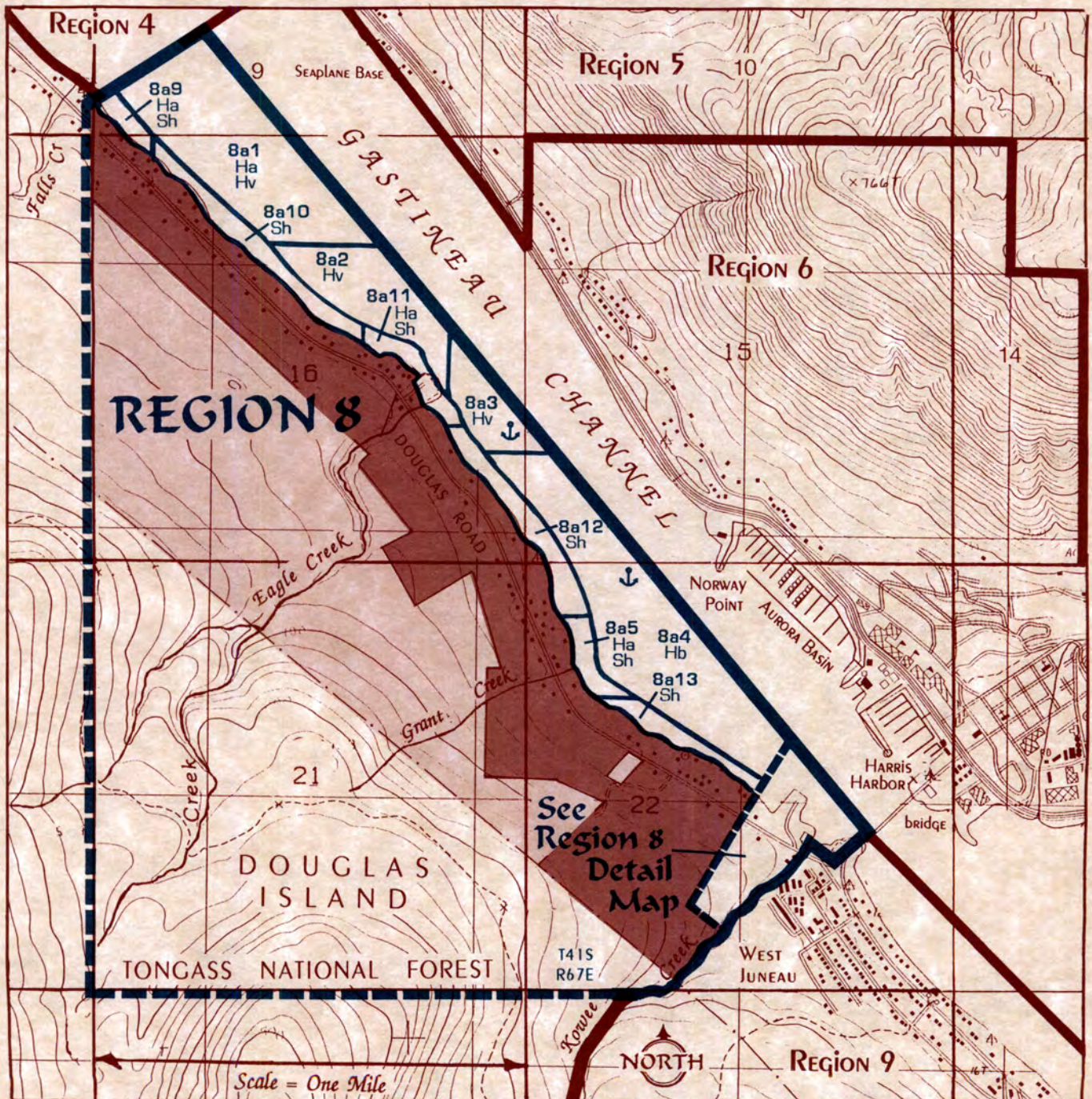
REGION 8 INSET - West Gastineau Channel

Land Ownership

- Municipal
- Private

Designations

- Ha Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Hb Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Hv Fish & Wildlife Harvest
- Sh Shoreline Use - Personal Use
- Anchorage



REGION 8 DETAIL - Kowee Creek

Land Ownership

All land designated areas are state owned

Refer to land status records for ownership of remaining lots

Designations

- Ha** Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Hb** Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Hv** Fish & Wildlife Harvest
- Sh** Shoreline Use - Personal Use
- Tr** Transportation Corridor
- Wd** Waterfront Development
- ⚓** Anchorage

