

Unit 9b - Douglas

Background

This unit includes the Douglas waterfront between the Douglas Bridge and Sandy Beach. It also includes uplands in the upper Paris Creek and Lawson Creek drainages. There is heavy seasonal use of Gastineau Channel by cruise ships, pleasure boats, and charter boats for recreation and wildlife viewing. The channel is also used year-round for commerce. In summer, the area is heavily used by boats using Aurora, Harris, and Douglas Harbors. Shrimp, Tanner crab, and Dungeness crab are found throughout the tidelands in this unit. State tidelands and submerged lands in this unit have mineral potential. There are also numerous federal patented mining claims. There are state mining claims located on the tidelands adjacent to the Treadwell Mine.

The tidelands adjacent to CBJ-managed Sandy Beach/Savikko Park (Subunit 9b7) receive intensive summer recreation use.

Douglas Harbor (Subunit 9b5) was designated a Special Waterfront Area by the revised Juneau Coastal Management Plan. The area southeast of Treadwell (Subunit 9b15) was designated a Conceptual New Growth Area in the CBJ Comprehensive Plan. There are no current proposals to develop this area. Development of the area is dependent on construction of the "Bench Road" to route traffic around Douglas if the new growth area develops.

The Mount Jumbo trail passes through Subunit 9b25. The Treadwell ditch that is proposed for upgrade as a trail by the Juneau Trails Plan also passes through this subunit. These trails are popular for hiking and the bowl below Mount Jumbo is popular for snowmachining. The snowmobilers cabin is located just above Douglas in Subunit 9b25.

Management Intent

Most of the lands along the shoreline in this unit have not been designated for shoreline development because development is most likely to occur on private and CBJ tidelands. The tidelands and submerged lands in this area have high recreation, fish, and wildlife values. The area will be managed to provide continued opportunities for halibut, salmon, and Dolly Varden harvest, and for harvest of shrimp, Tanner crab, and Dungeness crab. Limited water-related and water-dependent development on state lands adjacent to non-state tidelands may be authorized if the structures are mostly located on adjacent non-state tidelands.

Douglas Harbor. The CBJ has proposed additional development in Douglas Harbor, although only a small parcel is state tidelands (Subunit 9b5). The Juneau Coastal Management Plan and CBJ Comprehensive Plan allow development in the harbor for marine activities. DNR should manage Subunit 9b5 consistent with this intent. Subunit 9b6 is north of Juneau Island and includes the mouth of Douglas Harbor, and should be managed to ensure that boat traffic in and out of Douglas Harbor is not restricted or made unsafe by mooring buoys or other structures.

Conceptual New Growth Area. There are no current proposals for development; the Bench Road is only proposed; and a master plan consistent with CBJ ordinances has not been developed. Therefore, Subunit 9b15 will be managed primarily for its existing uses: Tanner crab commercial harvest and dispersed recreation. Larger-scale developments on the tidelands in this subunit may be considered in conjunction with the submission of a Master Plan to CBJ (CBJ Ordinance 49.170.140).

Transportation. There are two transportation corridors that have been studied to route traffic along the north side of Douglas Island. Both routes provide an alternate route to the Douglas and North Douglas Highways. These routes would cross a small parcel of state-owned uplands near Lawson Creek (Subunit 9b25). The remainder of the route would be on CBJ, USFS, and private land. DOTPF is considering reconfiguring the west end of Douglas Island Bridge in Subunit 9b1.

Management Guidelines

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

Heritage Resource Sites. Although there are a number of heritage resource sites on Douglas Island related to the Treadwell Mine and the settlement of Juneau, only a few are located on state land. The State Office of History and Archaeology should be consulted prior to issuing authorizations near Treadwell.

Douglas Harbor. Only a small tract (Subunit 9b5) is state-owned in Douglas Harbor. DNR should consider a cooperative agreement with CBJ for the management of this tract if CBJ is proposing improvements to the Douglas Harbor.

Mineral Closures. The estuarine area, from mean high water to a water depth of 40 feet (measured at mean low low water), at the mouth of Lawson 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 avoiding impacts to the associated water quality and marine plant and animal communities is essential to sustain the productivity of commercial- and community-harvest fisheries in the Juneau area. A map of this closure can be found in Mineral Order 653 in Appendix B.

Transportation. DNR should consult with DOTPF before issuing authorizations in Subunits 9b1 and 9b25 to ensure that opportunities for the reconfiguration of the interchange at the southwest end of the Douglas Bridge and the construction of the Bench Road are not unreasonably impaired.

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 9B: DOUGLAS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------|---------------------|---|--|
| Area no. & name | DNR designation | CBJ zoning district | Land type | Adjacent ownership | Resource or use | Other comments |
| 9b1 | Hv Sh Tr | D-5 | T | Private | Salmon and Dolly Varden sportfishing | Douglas Bridge |
| 9b2 | Hb | RR | T | Private | Herring overwintering | |
| 9b3 | Hb | RR | T | Private | Tanner and Dungeness crab personal use harvest; herring overwintering | |
| 9b4 Lawson Creek | Ha Rp Sh | D-18 C - Beach Access | T | CBJ/ Private | Anadromous stream mouth; Tanner and Dungeness crab personal use harvest | Only public beach access along shoreline |
| 9b5 Douglas Harbor | Wd Pt | WC JCMP-SWA | T | Federal/ CBJ | | Douglas Boat Harbor |
| 9b6 Juneau Island | Hb Hv | WC | T | Federal/ Private | Herring overwintering habitat; Dolly Varden sportfishery | Includes tidelands adjacent to Bureau of Mines land |
| 9b7 Sandy Beach | Rp | OS | T | Federal/ CBJ | Dungeness crab personal use harvest | Adjacent to CBJ Park |
| 9b8 | Hb | RR | T | State/ CBJ | Herring overwintering | |
| 9b9 | Sh | D-5 | T | Private | Dungeness crab personal use harvest | |
| 9b10 | Hb | RR | SU | State | Herring overwintering; Tanner crab personal use harvest | |
| 9b11 Treadwell | G | RR | T | Private | Dungeness crab personal use harvest | Historic trail follows shoreline |
| 9b12 | Hb Hv | RR | T | State | Shrimp and Tanner crab personal use harvest; herring overwintering; Sheep Creek Hatchery cost recovery fishery | |
| 9b13 | G | RR | T | Private | | Historic trail follows shoreline |
| 9b14 | Hb Hv | RR | SU | State | Halibut sportfishing; herring overwintering | |
| 9b15 | Hv | RR C- Proposed new growth area | T | Private | Tanner crab commercial harvest | |
| 9b16 Ready Bullion Creek | Ha | RR | T | Private | Anadromous stream mouth | |

Land-Use Designation Summary (continued)

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|------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------|---------------------|--|---|
| Area no. & name | DNR designation | CBJ zoning district | Land type | Adjacent ownership | Resource or use | Other comments |
| 9b25 | Rd | RR | UP | State/ USFS/ CBJ | Proposed Mt. Jumbo trail to Mount Bradley; Existing trail up lower Lawson Creek and upper Bear Creek; Proposed trail along Lawson Creek to Mt. Bradley | Currently classified utility (SE-81-007) and watershed (CI-409) |
| 9b27 Kowee Creek | Rp W | RR C- Waterbody protection area | UP | State | Kowee Creek watershed protection area; includes Dan Moller USFS cabin and Dan Moller Trail. Proposed extension of trail to ridge | |
| 9b28 | G | RR | UP | State | | |

UNIT 9B - Douglas

Land Ownership

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Mental Health
-  Municipal
-  Private

Designations

- G** General Uses
- Ha** Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Hb** Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Hv** Fish & Wildlife Harvest
- Pt** Public Facilities - Transfer
- Rd** Recreation - Dispersed
- Rp** Recreation - Public Use Site
- Sh** Shoreline Use - Personal Use
- Tr** Transportation Corridor
- W** Water Resources & Uses
- Wd** Waterfront Development

