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## SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS CITY/BOROUGH OF SITKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The following is a description of Special Management Areas identified by the City and Borough of Sitka that fall within the Sitka Sound and Hoonah Special Management Area for marine waters and tidelands of this plan. The Coastal Management Plan should be consulted for more information about these Special Management Areas (SMAs) and the City/ Borough of Sitka should be consulted for the specific requirements pertinent to the SMAs.

### **Sitka Sound Special Management Area for Marine Waters and Tidelands**

#### 1. Fred’s Creek Forest Service Cabin; Mt. Edgecumbe National Recreation Trail

Fred’s Creek Cabin is a 16x16 foot A-Frame style cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 6 to 8 persons. It is located on the southeast shore of Kruzof Island, approximately 10 miles from Sitka and 30 minutes by boat. It is one of the few cabins located on salt water.

Both it and the trail are accessible by boat, but there are no protected anchorages. Because of the wave action, floatplanes are unable to land at the cabin. This oceanside cabin is a popular spot for Sitka residents. Surrounded by a stand of spruce and hemlock, the cabin lies on flat terrain adjacent to Fred’s Creek. Beachcombing, hiking to Mt. Edgecumbe, hunting, or open ocean views and viewing the breaking surf are some of the popular activities at this cabin. Interesting pumice and volcanic rock formations are found on the beach and in Fred’s Creek. The 6.7 mile Mt. Edgecumbe Trail offers a gradual hike to the cone of Mt. Edgecumbe through miles of muskeg alternating with forest. At the cone, the trail becomes very steep, but hikers are rewarded with a panoramic view on clear days. The area has many deer and brown bear are common in the spring. Good deer hunting is possible. There is steelhead fishing in Fred’s Creek in the spring.

#### 2. Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass; Road to Gilmer Bay

This area is about 18 miles northwest of Sitka, with access by boat or floatplane. It includes very large, productive tideflats, unexcelled estuarine habitat, and narrow, very shallow, Sukoi Strait between Kruzof and Partofshikof Islands. It has large concentrations of waterfowl and is heavily used by duck and deer hunters. The land is mostly level behind a wide beach, elevation 0 to 100 feet with some areas rising to 500 feet. Eagle River is favored for coho fishing and has a small run of steelhead.

The south portion of the tideflats has a former timber transfer facility which is used for road access. The former logging road is extensively used by all terrain vehicles to cross

Kruzof Island to the west. The road provides access to two unnamed lakes with good fishing for rainbows.

3. Magoun Islands; Port Krestof State Marine Park

The Magouns are an island group between Kruzof and Krestof Islands and between Sitka and Krestof Sounds, 12 miles northwest of Sitka. Access is by boat or floatplane to various anchorages. This 685 acre Marine Park consists of one larger and a dozen or so smaller islands with numerous scenic inland bays and waterways. The islands are heavily used by the residents of Sitka for clamming, crabbing, fishing, boating, sightseeing, and other recreational activities. The area is a popular overnight anchorage. The Magouns have the only anchorage in the area providing protection in all wind and sea conditions.

Port Krestof has very large, productive tideflats and is a valuable waterfowl habitat and staging area as well as a favorite sport fishing and crabbing area. As a newly selected State Marine Park, the area will not be subject to timber harvest, and recreation and habitat values will be maintained.

4. Nakwasina Passage to head of Nakwasina Sound

The Nakwasina Passage and head of Nakwasina Sound area probably receives the most intensive recreational and subsistence hunting and fishing use of any areas in the Sitka District due to its productivity and ease of access for small "day" boats. There is excellent deer habitat, Dungeness crab, somewhat protected anchorages, some old growth timber (although the area has been logged), and various campsites. The Forest Service has built a group cabin in the Allan Point area of Halleck Island. There are beautiful mountain vistas and accessible drainages to walk, fish and hunt. There is a good coho salmon run and large numbers of pink salmon in the stream from an unnamed lake to the north, and good Dolly Varden trout fishing in the lake.

5. Siginaka Islands

The Siginaka Islands, which are located in Sitka Sound to the southwest of Lisianski Peninsula and southeast of Krestof Island, are included as a subsistence harvest area of rare and highly prized herring roe on neh, a type of seaweed. In addition, the Siginakas receive intensive use in the summer by recreational boaters for picnicking and camping, as well as tour boats under Forest Service Special Use Permit. There are several good beaches and anchorages.

6. Sitka Public Recreational Facilities Tidelands

Sitka public recreational facilities along the road system are included in the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan. The tidelands adjacent to these facilities are important to the facilities and are outside the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Plan. Therefore, both facilities owners and the public recommended the intertidal areas adjacent to major public use facilities be given Special Management Area status to insure that these areas remain undeveloped and available to the public. Tidelands included in these designations are Sitka National Historical Park – Fort Site Unit, Pioneer Park, Sandy Beach, Halibut Point Recreation Area and Starrigavan Bay. More information on these facilities is available in the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan.

7. Goddard Hot Springs; Kolosh Island; Kliuchevoi Bay and Trail to Redoubt Lake

Goddard Hot Springs is located approximately 15 miles south of Sitka, to the east of Biorka Island and Hot Springs Bay. The most sheltered anchorage for users of Goddard Hot Springs is in Kliuchevoi Bay. With the exception of two private parcels in Kliuchevoi Bay, ownership of a majority of the area is owned by the City and Borough of Sitka, with a restriction on the deed that the land is to be used for public recreation. The State of Alaska owns 1,070 acres in the vicinity of Big Bay. The municipality has built two bathhouses for public use, and these receive intensive use in the summer months. There are also other minor thermal springs located ½ mile east of the bathhouse area. There is a fairweather anchorage directly in front of the tubs in Hot Spring Bay, and places to camp along the shore. There is also much evidence of prior settlement in the area.

Thought of as the "playground of Sitka", the Goddard Hot Springs area is one of the most popular recreation areas in central Southeast Alaska. In addition to the hot springs, scenic beauty is the main visitor attraction, but fishing, hiking, camping, and hunting are close behind. The area is reached during good weather by small "day" boats and floatplanes, as well as hundreds of fishing boats which anchor up in the area. There is good bottom fishing in the area, as well as coho, chum, and pink salmon as primary salmon species. In some years in April, herring spawn can be observed along the salt water beaches. The uplands are habitat for various bird species along with deer and an occasional brown bear. Most of the topography of the area is level to moderately undulating. Tree cover is primarily hemlock with 25 percent old growth spruce, as well as low lying bushes and muskegs.

Kolosh Island is approximately 30 acres in size and is located ½ mile west northwest of Goddard Hot Springs. There is a knob of 110 foot elevation on its southern end; the rest of the island is relatively flat with several camping areas in open timber and a good gravel/sand beach on the eastern shore. It receives intensive use for camping and beachcombing, often in conjunction with use of the hot springs.

The 1-½ mile trail to Marsh Bay in the south end of Redoubt Lake was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930's. The trail starts at the Goddard Hot Springs baths and runs through old growth timber on deteriorated boardwalk to and along the south shore of Kliuchevoi Bay. It cuts through muskeg and scrub timber to the north-east until reaching Marsh Bay. Some signs of the 1,200 acre fire which occurred in the area in 1912 are still visible. The trail is still heavily used, since the elevation gain is only 200 feet.

8. Pirate's Cove, Samsing Cove Forest Service Cabin and Cove, and Three Entrance Bay.

Pirate's Cove, Samsing Cove, and Three Entrance Bay are all near Cape Burunof about six miles south of Sitka. They are all scenic and are very popular day use areas for small boats as well as anchorage for numerous fishing vessels and receive especially intensive

use in the summer. Three Entrance Bay, south of the Cape, has a sandy beach and an abundance of steamer clams and is widely used for picnicking, camping, and hunting.

Pirate's cove is probably the most heavily used group picnic/camping spot in the entire Sitka area due to its broad sandy beach, timbered camping area, sheltered anchorage, and access for small boats from Sitka, even in bad weather.

Samsing Cove, while less attractive for camping, is the site of the new Forest Service cabin that replaces the former cabin, which was an extremely popular destination prior to its destruction by fire. Samsing Cove cabin is a 24 x 30 foot log cabin with an oil burning stove and sleeping space for 20 or more persons. Samsing Cove lies 5.5 miles south of Sitka with a boat access time of 20 minutes.

The rustic log cabin lies nestled among trees on a short, gently rising slope. At low tides, a sandy-gravel beach is exposed providing beachcombing possibilities. Through the islands and trees to the north, the familiar mountain peaks above Sitka can be seen. With close proximity to Sitka, it is a popular recreational cabin for Sitka residents and organizations.

There is good anchorage in the Cove even for large vessels, and there are usually fishing boats anchored in Samsing Cove for the night. There is good access to muskeg and the foothills of the Pyramid Mountains for deer hunting, and there are occasionally bears in the area.

#### 9. Redoubt Lake Forest Service Cabin and Lake; Redoubt Sockeye Streams and Lake System.

Redoubt Lake is an 8 ½ mile long and ½ mile wide lake which was once a salt water inlet, but was sealed off from the sea by slides and glacier action. Redoubt Lake Cabin is a 16 x 16 foot A-frame style cabin with a wood burning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 8 persons. Near sea level, Redoubt Lake lies about 10 miles south of Sitka. Floatplane access from Sitka is 15 minutes. Access is also possible by boating to the head of Silver Bay and then hiking the approximately 6 mile Salmon Lake/Redoubt Lake Trail. A difficult access by a very small, lightweight skiff or kayak is also possible at the west end of the lake from Redoubt Bay across a 100 foot portage. While the saltwater climate influences the lake area, occasional cold weather conditions of mid-winter can freeze the lake and delay air/boat arrivals and departures. Caution is necessary by planes maneuvering across the shallowly covered sandbar at the cabin approach.

Snuggled away within a shading stand of spruce and hemlock at the east end of the lake, this Forest Service cabin is a popular recreational area for Sitka. Forested mountains rise to nearly 3,500 feet to snowfields and dramatic granite cirques. Numerous waterfalls are visible the length of the lake. A small outboard motor is highly recommended for use with the skiff provided at this cabin. Due to its long length, Redoubt Lake can become quite windy and make rowing extremely difficult. The trailhead for the 6 mile Salmon Lake/Redoubt Lake Trail begins just beyond the woodshed.

Fishing is usually good for rainbow, cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout, especially where the silt bottom of the nearby inlet stream suddenly drops off at the head of the lake. Sockeye come into the lake mid-July to mid-August, and there is excellent coho salmon fishing from mid-July through September. Deer and brown bear are plentiful in the area.

The Redoubt sockeye salmon run has varied widely in recent years, ranging from 400 to 34,000 sockeye. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has maintained a weir to monitor the run. The lake is being fertilized by the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association and Department of Fish and Game. The Redoubt Sockeye fishery is a major sport as well as subsistence fishery.

10. Salmon Lake Forest Service Cabin, Lake, and Trail; Trail to Redoubt Lake

Salmon Lake Cabin is a 16 x 16 foot plywood cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 8 persons. Salmon Lake lies about 8 miles southeast of Sitka. Floatplane access from Sitka is 15 minutes. Access is also possible by boating to the head of Silver Bay and then hiking to Salmon Lake/Redoubt Lake Trail a short way to the posted sign to the cabin. Thick vegetation surrounds the cabin with a few large spruce trees in the vicinity. Fishing is possible for cutthroat, steelhead, coho, sockeye, Dolly Varden, pink salmon, and chum salmon. Deer and brown bear are plentiful in the area.

The approximately 6 mile Salmon Lake/Redoubt Lake National Forest System Trail begins at the head of Silver Bay, about 10 miles southeast of Sitka. It is accessible by boat or floatplane. There is fair-weather small boat anchorage at the head of Silver Bay. The trailhead is on the east side of the mouth of the Salmon Lake stream, which is the westernmost inlet stream at the head of Silver Bay.

11. Allan Point Forest Service Cabin

Special management occupies an area 200 feet around cabin; 200 feet landward of Mean high Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water along contiguous beach.

12. Kanga Bay Forest Service Cabin

Special management occupies an area 200 feet around cabin; 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water along contiguous beach.

13. Leesoffskaia Bay

Special management occupies entire inner Bay and northwesterly passage to 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water along contiguous beach.

14. Neva Strait Forest Service Shelter

Special management occupies an area 200 feet around shelter; 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water along contiguous beach.

## **Hoonah Sound Special Management Area for Marine Waters and Tidelands.**

### **1. Fick Cove**

Fick Cove is located in South Hoonah Sound southeast of Patterson Bay. It has one of the best protected anchorages in Hoonah Sound and is very heavily used as a year-round anchorage by users of Hoonah Sound. There are accessible beaches and good deer habitat surrounding the Cove. There is a large intertidal and estuarine area, with excellent habitat for deer, bear, and Dungeness crab. There are Dolly Varden trout in the stream. Because of its small size and good anchorage, the boundary includes the entire Bay.

### **2. North Arm Hoonah Sound Tideflats**

The head of North Arm Hoonah Sound is heavily used for recreation and subsistence fishing and hunting. The area has major salmon streams with a large associated estuarine grass flat providing good habitat for bear, waterfowl, and crab. There is an unmaintained trail along Lisianski River to Lisianski Inlet. The Inlet lies just outside the District boundaries. The river has productive river bottom soils supporting high timber values, and smelt spawn in the river in the spring.

### **3. Moser Island Forest Service Cabin; Adjacent Seal Rookery**

The northwest end of Moser Island, at the north end of Hoonah Sound, is the site of a recently built Forest Service recreational cabin.

Moser Island Cabin is a rustic style 12' x 14' pan abode cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 6 persons. Moser Island is located within Hoonah Sound, 48 miles north of Sitka. Air access time from Sitka is about 30 minutes or a boat access time of 2 hours. Depending on weather conditions, this saltwater cabin is accessible year around. Located in Upper Hoonah Sound, this cabin offers many recreational opportunities. With low tides, the shoreline along the spit on the west side of Moser Island can be followed to access Chichagof Island where there is deer, bear and waterfowl hunting. Local rivers provide fishing for Dolly Varden, pink and chum salmon.

There is a good small boat anchorage in the bite adjacent to the cabin and excellent waterfowl, deer, bear and crab habitat at the northern end of both North and South Arms of Hoonah Sound, both of which have large, productive tideflats. The spit to the north connects Moser Island to Chichagof Island, and can be portaged by small boats at very high tides. The whole contiguous beach area from the cabin site around the western point of Moser where an eagle tree is located and around the spit is accessible for beach-combing, hiking, picnicking, and seal watching. Hoonah Sound provides excellent bottomfish, crab and shrimping opportunities, and there is excellent big game hunting throughout the whole north Hoonah Sound area.

The two small rocks in South Hoonah Sound north of Point Reynard provide haulout and pupping area for around 50 harbor seals, a significant concentration.

4. Ushk Bay

Ushk Bay has a large intertidal area with concentrations of both Dungeness and King crab and is widely used by recreational boaters. There is a sheltered anchorage behind the peninsula on the north side of the bay, and various places to go ashore for picnics and camping. There is an existing log storage lease in Ushk Bay which is excluded from the site.

5. Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts

The rocks around Vixen Islands are considered a significant seal haulout and pupping area. Approximately 75 seals have been counted in this area. There is good fair weather anchorage between Vixen and Emmons Islands, and much picnic/camping activity concentrated in this area.

**Other Special Management Areas**

1. Piper Island Forest Service Cabin; Kakul Narrows Forest Service Shelter

Special management area occupies an area 200 feet around cabin or shelter; 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water along contiguous beach.

2. North Beach Shelikof Forest Service Cabin

Special management area occupies an area 200 feet around cabin; 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water along contiguous beach.

3. Otstoia Island Forest Service Shelter

Special management area occupies an area 200 feet around shelter; 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water along contiguous beach.

4. Kalinin Bay

Special management area occupies entire Kalinin Bay to 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide Line.