Region 11 - Berners Bay

Background

This region includes state lands along Lynn Canal from the north boundary of the CBJ to Berners Bay. Most of the state-owned lands are tidelands and submerged lands, although there is one parcel of state uplands near the Kensington Mine. State-owned shorelands include lands under rivers susceptible to navigation, including the Berners, Antler, Lace, and Gilkey rivers. Major activities on adjacent uplands include mineral exploration and development at the Kensington Mine, Jualin Mine, and other mineralized areas.

Transportation. The 1986 Southeast Transportation Plan looked at nine different options for road access along Lynn Canal. These routes would connect Juneau with Haines and Skagway. Options included extending the road up the east side of the canal from Echo Cove to Skagway (or at least to Katzehin River). Three alternate routes up the west side of Lynn Canal would begin at St. James Bay, William Henry Bay, and Sullivan Island. Ferry access to one of these three points would be from Echo Cove or Seawall Creek. Other alternatives discussed by this plan include high-speed ferries between Juneau and Skagway or, high-speed ferries in combination with road segments along Lynn Canal. The preferred alternative identified in the plan is road access along the east side of Lynn Canal without a ferry connection.

DOTPF is currently developing the Juneau Access Study that involves reconnaissance and cost estimates for a variety of routes (both ferry and road) along Lynn Canal.

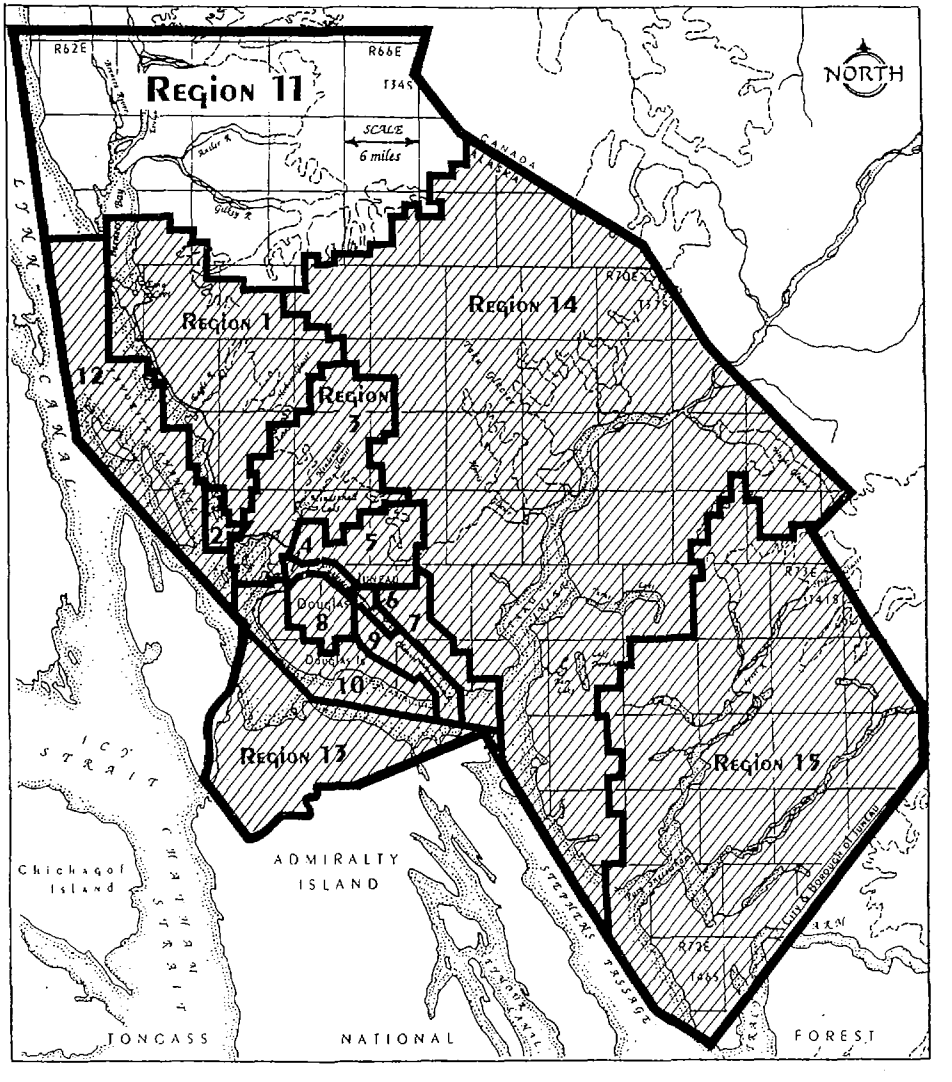
Although most of the corridors would be on USFS lands, some state lands would be affected. Improvements on state land would require a right-of-way. Interim Land Management Agreements (ILMA's) with DOTPF would be required for any ferry terminal facilities that are built on state tidelands.

In addition to DOTPF proposals, a road to the Kensington/Jualin Mine areas has been considered. An access road already exists between Slate Creek Cove and the Jualin Mine. A utility line up the east side of Lynn Canal to Haines has also been discussed. There are no immediate plans for construction of either of these corridors.

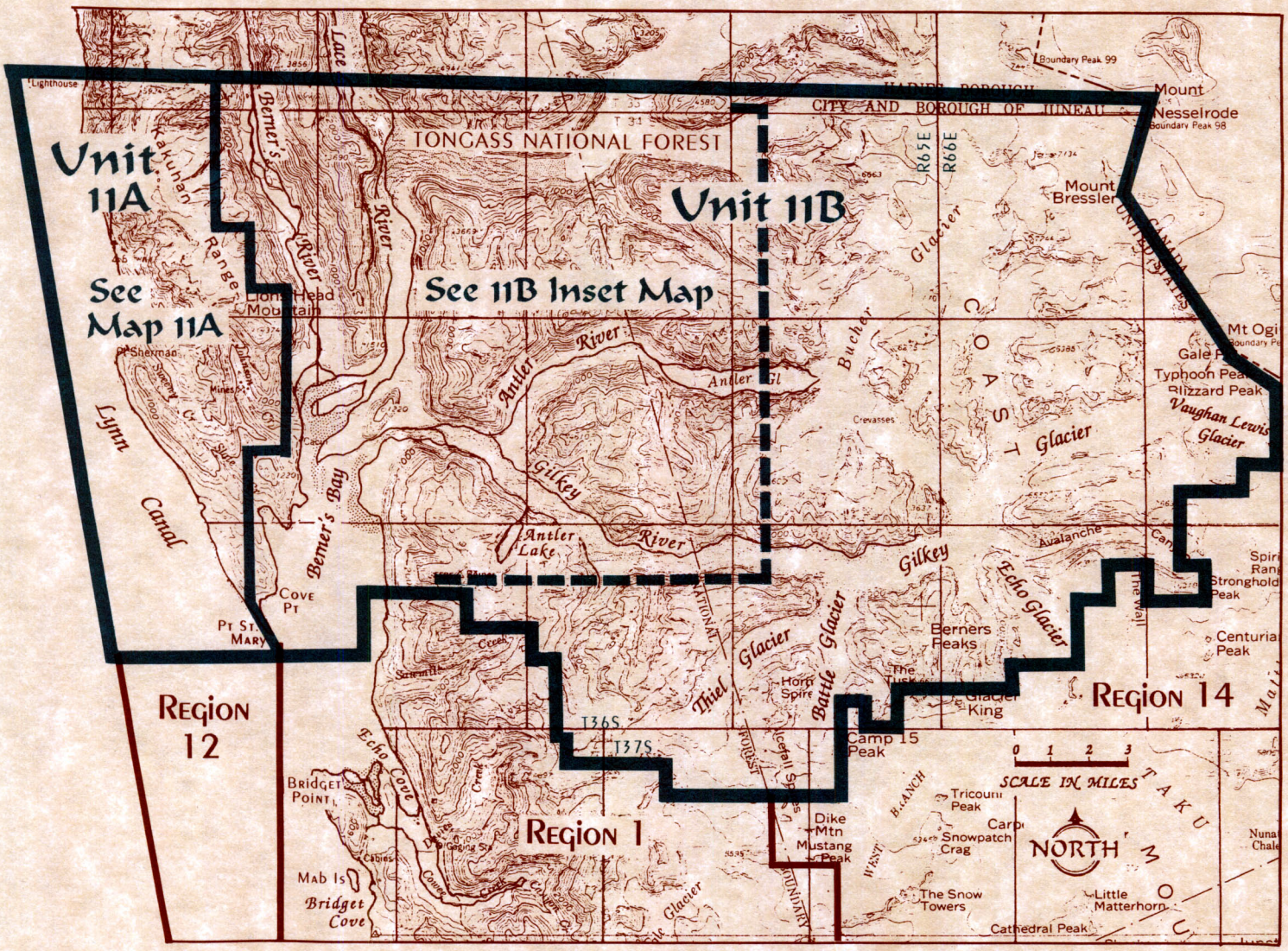
Mining. Portions of this region have high mineral potential. The Kensington ore zone is found in the north end of the Juneau gold belt. Approximately 200,000 ounces of gold a year will be produced. The Kensington Mine is expected to employ about 340 people during a projected 12-year life. The mine currently has a 100-person camp, mine road from the bench to the lower adit, waste rock storage, and settling ponds. DNR is currently preparing a Preliminary Decision on the applications for facilities that will support the mine.

The Jualin is an exploration project at the original Jualin underground gold mine which operated from 1896 to 1920. Surface sampling, geologic mapping, and exploration drilling have identified preliminary reserves of one-million tons averaging 0.3 ounce of gold per ton.

The recently reconstructed Jualin Mine Road is an historic trail and a potential RS 2477 ROW. The access to the entire Berner's Bay region was via trail from Slate Creek Cove through Johnson Creek and over the divide to the Comet and Kensington mines. This trail was supplanted in 1895 by the Jualin Mine tram from deep water on Berner's Bay to the mine at Jualin which also served to access the Indiana Mine and the Fremming Group of claims in Johnson Creek. Hyak Mining Company may assert this 2477 right-of-way in the near future to protect the development of it's claims at Jualin and to assure access to the other inholding in Johnson Creek.



Location Map


Unit 11A
See Map 11A
Unit 11B
See 11B Inset Map
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
Region 12
Region 1
Region 14
Berners Bay
Lynn Canal
Antler River
Gilkey River
Antler Lake
Bucher Glacier
Gilkey Glacier
Echo Glacier
Battle Glacier
Thiel Glacier
Vaughan Lewis Glacier
Mount Bressler
Mount Nesselrode
Berners Peaks
Camp 15 Peak
Dike Mtn
Mustang Peak
Tricouni Peak
Snowpatch Crag
The Snow Towers
Little Matterhorn
Cathedral Peak
Bridget Point
Mab Is
Bridget Cove
Echo Cove
Cove Pt
Pt St Mary
Lions Head Mountain
Pt Sherman
Lighthouse
Boundary Peak 99
Boundary Peak 98
Mt Ogi
Gale P
Typhoon Pea
Blizzard Peak
Stronghold Peak
Centurial Peak
Glacier King
Avalanche
The Wall
Crevasses
Icefall Spires
Horn Spire
The Tusk
T 36S
T 37S
R65E
R66E
SCALE IN MILES
0 1 2 3
NORTH