# Unit 14a - Taku River

## Background

Most of the state lands in this unit are state tidelands and submerged lands, and shorelands beneath the Taku River and the larger lakes. Larger lakes include: Twin Glacier Lake, Turner Lake, Annex Lake, Lake Dorothy, and Bart Lake. There are some state-selected lands around Lake Dorothy and Bart Lake. The state-owned uplands on the lower Taku River near Canyon Island were originally selected from the USFS for community recreation and settlement (NFCG 101).

**Access and Utility Corridors Along Taku River.** The Snettisham powerline crosses Taku Inlet in Subunit 14a3. The 1986 Southeast Transportation Plan looked at two different options to access British Columbia from Taku Inlet. One included extending the Thane Road up the west side of Taku Inlet to Grizzly Bar. A bridge would be built to the east side and the road would continue to the Canadian Border. The second alternative would follow the same route but would connect the east and west side of Taku Inlet by ferry. DOTPF is currently developing the Juneau Access Study that involves reconnaissance and cost estimates for a variety of routes (both ferry and road) along Taku Inlet. A road or ferry connection could provide access to support mineral development projects in British Columbia and be a surface link between Juneau, Canada, and the "lower 48" states.

Any road, bridge, or ferry terminal construction on state lands would require a right-of-way and perhaps a management agreement with DOTPF. However, it appears that most of the improvements would be on USFS lands. It may be possible for the state to assert a right-of-way across USFS land under a Revised Statute (RS) 2477 which is a 1866 federal act providing for assertion of rights-of-way across federal land.

**Fish and Wildlife.** Subunits 14a2 and 14a3 may include a sea lion haulout. Although this haulout supports less than 200 sea lions (the minimum number that is recognized as a designated haul out by NMFS), its protection is still a concern. The Steller sea lion has been emergency-listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan team recommended designating as Critical Habitat the beaches and adjacent waters around major haulouts with over 200 animals (*Steller Sea Lion Recovery Team, Recommendations for Critical Habitat for Steller Sea Lions, 1991*). The recovery team recommended that the designated areas extend 3,000 feet inland and seaward from the haulouts to provide adequate buffer zones.

In accordance with treaty provisions, the U.S./Canada Salmon Program provides information on long-standing management issues involving interception and controversial fisheries in the U.Sd and Canada. In accordance with this treaty, NOAA and ADFG conduct fisheries research and management along the Taku River, including salmon stock identification, stock assessment, and analyses of fisheries that occur along this transboundary river.

**Recreation.** This unit is heavily used for recreation and tourism. The glaciers and Twin Glacier Lake are major tourist destination points. Scenery and fish and wildlife viewing are also major attractions. A lodge on the uplands adjacent to Subunit 14a54 also accommodates overnight guests and diners particularly from charter boats, planes, and cruise ships.

**Existing Authorizations.** The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) has been issued permits (SET-91-108) for operating four fish traps along Taku Inlet near Grizzly Bar (Subunit 14a1). The traps will be used for radio tagging adult Coho salmon.

The NMFS has been issued a permit for a 20-foot dock on the west shore of the Taku River one-half mile above Canyon Island in Subunit 14a40 (SEJ-91-052). This is associated with a temporary field camp to support salmon research projects on the Taku River.

ADFG has been issued a tideland permit (SET-91-045) for a floating fish trap for smolts on the west bank of the Taku River on Barrell Point (Subunit 14a40, T39S, R69E, Sec 26). The associated camp is on USFS uplands. ADFG also has camps, a fish wheel, and shoreties in Section 27, T38S, R71E, (Subunit 14a28). Facilities for fisheries research in this area have been in place since 1950.

**Mining and Mineral Development.** There are federal mining claims on the uplands adjacent to the Grizzly Bar (Subunits 14a1, 14a5, 14a6, 14a46, and 14a60). There are also numerous federal mining claims on the uplands in the Sheep Fork Creek, Carlson Creek, and Annex Creek drainages. State mineral locations are on state tidelands at the mouth of Carlson Creek and the state tidelands between the power plant and Scow Cove.

Base and precious metal mines in the Tulseqah area of British Columbia, 15 miles up the Taku River from the border, were served by barge from Juneau in the 1950s. These mines are currently under investigation for reopening. Renewed production would likely require road access to a deepwater port in Taku Inlet.

**Watersheds and Water Projects.** Bart Lake and Lake Dorothy and their surrounding lands (Subunits 14a26, 14a48, and 14a49) were selected for hydropower potential.[22] If developed, this project would include a high-head tunnel and lake tap with an underground powerhouse at tidewater. The project would provide an electrical generation system for Juneau independent of the present Snettisham project. Alternately, a tunnel could be developed from the upper end of the Long River to a lake tap at Lake Dorothy. The second alternative, although generating less power, would have a lower initial investment and take less time to construct because of the reliance on the existing Snettisham facilities.

AEL&P operates a hydropower facility that taps Annex Lake (Subunits 14a6 and 14a26). A 1,400 foot tunnel connects the lake to the power plant at tidewater. Powerlines connect with Juneau via Sheep Creek.

22 The two lakes may already be state-owned because they are susceptible to navigation.

## Management Intent

This unit will be managed to provide continued recreational use, and to protect the valuable international fishery, important sea lion haulout, other habitats, and harvest values. Management will allow for possible future hydropower facility expansion and additional utility corridors. Also, development of a regional road corridor and mining access with associated tideland and shoreland facilities is generally consistent with the management intent for this unit.

## Management Guidelines

**Access Corridors along the Taku River.** When authorizing activities on state lands where a regional transportation corridor is proposed (primarily on the Taku Inlet tidelands, navigable river bed of the Taku River, and uplands near Canyon Island), DNR will assure options for the road connection are maintained. Before DNR authorizes any phase or segment of a regional road corridor (including a deep-water port) through the Taku River drainage, appropriate agencies and the public will have the opportunity to comment.

**Mineral Closures.** The estuarine area, from mean high water out to a water depth of 40 feet (measured at mean low low water), at the mouth of Taku River (including upper Taku Inlet) 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 these streams and the avoidance of impacts to the associated water quality and marine plant and animal communities is essential to sustain the productivity of the Juneau area commercial- and community-harvest fisheries. Maps of these closures can be found in Mineral Orders 653 and 655 in Appendix B.

**Sea Lions.** Subunits 14a2 and 14a3 (east shore) may contain a sea lion haulout. Prior to authorizing activities within 3,000 feet of the sea lion haulout in these subunits, DNR will consult with ADFG and NMFS. If this is an area found to be a haulout, measures will be taken to avoid significant adverse impacts on this haulout.

**Fisheries Research and Management.** Unit 14 has and is likely to see additional applications for facilities associated with research and management of the Taku River fisheries that are part of an international treaty agreement with Canada. Authorizing facilities for these purposes is consistent with the management intent for Unit 14a.

**Additional Selections.** After the plan was adopted, three additional parcels in this unit were selected by the state. National Forest Community Grant Selections 392 and 393 are approximately 300 and 330 acres respectively and are located on the east and west sides of Taku Inlet. The purpose of these selections are to support two potential port sites for a shuttle ferry associated with Taku Inlet road development or to support mineral development in British Columbia. The third National Forest Community Grant Selection (NFCG 395) is approximately 1,510 acres and is located northeast of Sheep Creek. The purpose of the selection is for community expansion and to fulfill the Mental Health settlement. These selections were made under the National Forest Community Grant entitlement program based on Section 6(a) of the Alaska Statehood Act. Although the parcels are neither designated nor classified, management intent for the unit and Chapter 2 guidelines apply.

# 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 14A: TAKU RIVER | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area no. & name | DNR designation | CBJ zoning district | Land type | Adjacent ownership | Resource or use | Other comments |
| 14a1 Upper Taku Inlet Grizzly Bar | G Ha Hv | RR | T/ SU | State/ USFS | Moose and bear hunting; moose summer and winter habitat; wolf habitat; spring bear habitat; northeast shore of unit used by bear, moose, goat, and waterfowl hunters | Wheel plane access on Grizzly Bar |
| 14a2 Bart Lake area | Ha Hv Wd | RR | T | State/ USFS | Tanner crab commercial harvest; marginal anchorage; salmon nearshore rearing; possible sea lion haul-out | Possible site for Lake Dorothy tidewater power plant and support facilities |
| 14a3 Lower Taku Inlet | Hv | RR | T/ SU | State/ USFS/ State Selected | Tanner crab commercial and personal use harvest; possible sea lion haul-out; small anchorage just west of Greely Point; commercial gillnetting south of Cooper Point | Existing powerline on bottom of tidelands and submerged lands from Point Bishop across Taku Inlet |
| 14a5 Sunny Cove | Ha | RR | T | USFS | Anadromous stream mouth; anchorage; brown and black bear spring and summer habitat | |
| 14a6 Annex Lake Cove Plant | Rd W | RR | T | USFS | Power plant for Annex Lake; anchorage; float plane landings | |
| 14a25 Taku uplands | Ha Hv Rd | RR | UP | State/ USFS | Moose winter and summer habitat; brown and black bear summer habitat; bear and moose hunting | |
| 14a26 Lake Dorothy | W | RR | UP | State/ USFS | | |
| 14a27 Rhine Creek Ridge | G | RR C-RR1 | UP | USFS/ Private | | Classified utility (CL-826) |
| 14a28 Canyon Island | Ha Hv Pr | RR | UP | State/ Private | Moose winter and summer habitat; brown and black bear summer habitat; moose hunting; Island includes ADF&G salmon research camp for US and Canadian salmon studies | SW end of Island is in private ownership |
| 14a40 Taku River & Flannigan Slough | Ha Hv Rd | RR | SL | USFS/ State | Anadromous stream; moose summer and winter habitat in floodplain; moose hunting; black and brown bear hunting | |
| 14a41 Twin Glacier Lake | Ha Hv Rd | RR | SL | USFS/ State | Moose summer and winter habitat; moose, and black and brown bear hunting; cutthroat trout and char overwintering area; anadromous stream | Float plane access |

# Land-Use Designation Summary (continued)

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

| UNIT 14A: TAKU RIVER | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area no. & name | DNR designation | CBJ zoning district | Land type | Adjacent ownership | Resource or use | Other comments |
| 14a42 Sittakanay River | Ha Hv Rd | RR | SL | USFS/ State/ Canada | Brown and black bear summer habitat; moose winter and summer habitat; moose hunting; black and brown bear hunting | |
| 14a43 Wright Lake | Rd | RR | SL | USFS/ State | | |
| 14a44 Yehring Creek | Ha Hv Rd | RR | SL | USFS/ State | Eulachon spawning areas; anadromous stream; moose hunting; black and brown bear hunting | |
| 14a46 Annex Lake | W | RR | SL | USFS/ State | | Lake tapped for power; float plane access |
| 14a47 Turner Lake | Rd | RR | SL | USFS/ State | Float plane landing on lake; two USFS cabins on either end of lake | |
| 14a48 Lake Dorothy | W | RR | SL | State selected | Float plane access; viewing of goats | |
| 14a49 Bart Lake | W | RR | SL | State selected | | |
| 14a50 Twin Glacier Lake Creek | Ha Rd | RR | SL | USFS | Anadromous stream mouth; moose summer and winter habitat | |
| 14a51 Taku side channel | Ha Rd | RR | SL | USFS | Anadromous stream mouth; brown and black bear spring habitat; moose winter and summer habitat | |
| 14a52 Turner Creek Mouth | Ha Rp | RR | SL | USFS | Anadromous stream mouth; West Turner Lake USFS cabin on adjacent uplands | |
| 14a53 Mouth Davidson Creek | Ha | RR | SL | USFS | Anadromous stream mouth | |
| 14a54 Taku River near Lodge | Rp Hv Ha | RR | SL | Private | Anchorage used by Taku River Lodge; sport hunting and fishing; anadromous stream | |
| 14a55 Taku River | Ha Rd | RR | SL | Private | Eulachon spawning habitat | |
| 14a56 | Ha Hv Rp | RR | SL | USFS | West Turner Lake USFS cabin on adjacent uplands; moose summer and winter habitat; moose and bear hunting | Floatplane access |
| 14a57 | Rp | RR | SL | USFS | East Turner Lake USFS cabin on adjacent uplands | Floatplane access |
| 14a58 Glory Lake | G | RR | SL | USFS | | Floatplane access |

# Land-Use Designation Summary (continued)

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

| UNIT 14A: TAKU RIVER | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area no. & name | DNR designation | CBJ zoning district | Land type | Adjacent ownership | Resource or use | Other comments |
| 14a59 Davidson Creek | Hv Ha | RR | SL | USFS | Dolly Varden stream | |
| 14a60 Grizzly Bar | Ha | RR | SL | USFS | Brown and black bear spring and summer habitat; moose winter and summer habitat | |
| 14a61 Fish Creek | Ha Hv | RR | SL | USFS | Anadromous stream; salmon sportfishing | |
| 14a62 Sockeye Creek | Ha | RR | SL | USFS | Anadromous stream; brown and black bear summer habitat | |
| 14a63 Moose Creek | Ha | RR | SL | USFS | Anadromous stream; brown and black bear summer habitat; moose winter and summer habitat | |
| 14a64 Johnson Creek | Ha | RR | SL | USFS | Anadromous stream | |

# UNIT 14A INSET 1 - Taku River

## Navigability

**N** Rivers & lakes susceptible to navigation

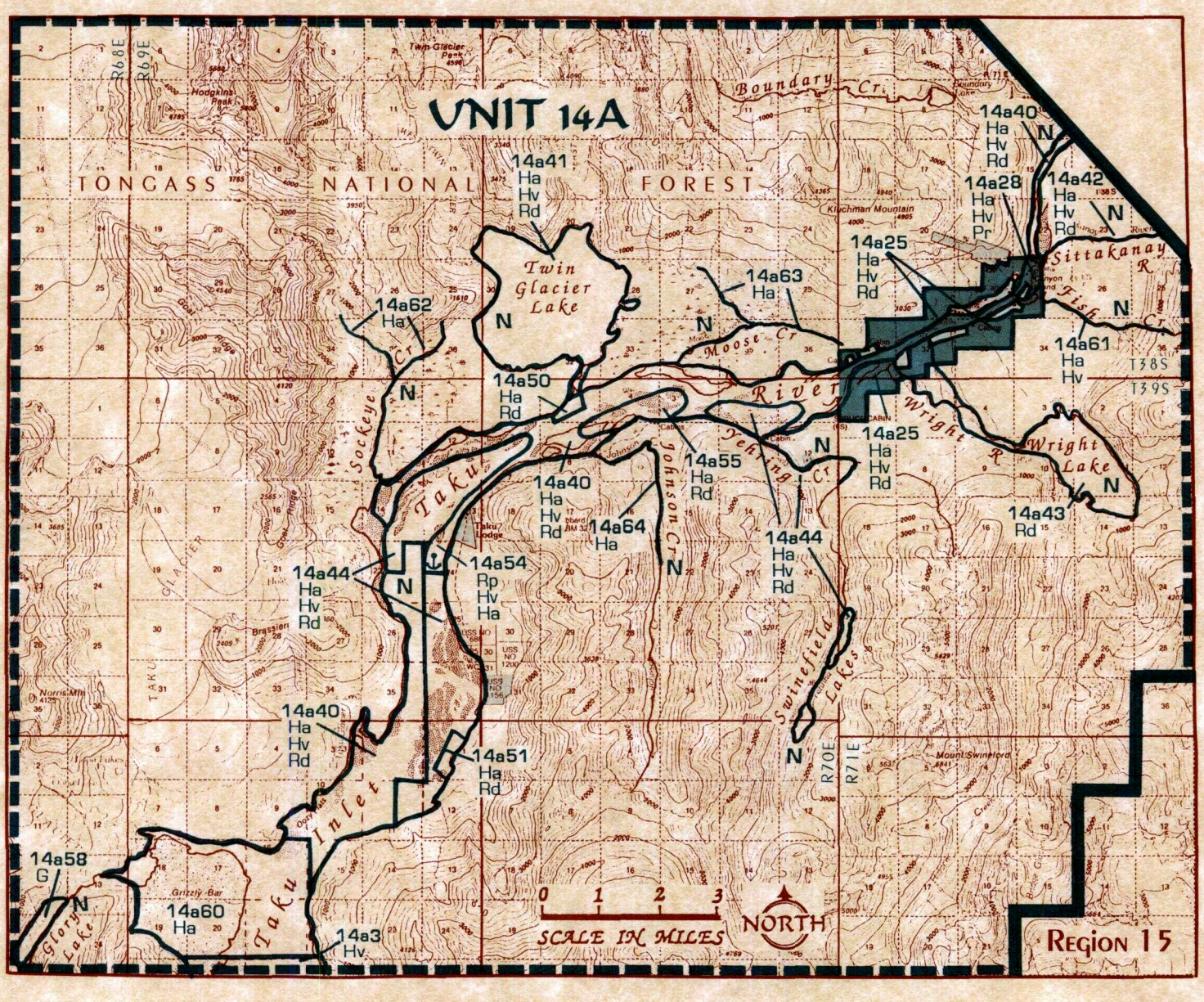
## Land Ownership

State Owned

Private

## Designations

| | |
|---|---|
| **G** | General Uses |
| **Ha** | Fish & Wildlife Habitat |
| **Hv** | Fish & Wildlife Harvest |
| **Pr** | Public Facilities - -Reserved |
| **Rd** | Recreation - Dispersed |
| **Rp** | Recreation - Public Use Site |
| ⚓ | Anchorage |



# UNIT 14A INSET 2 - Taku River

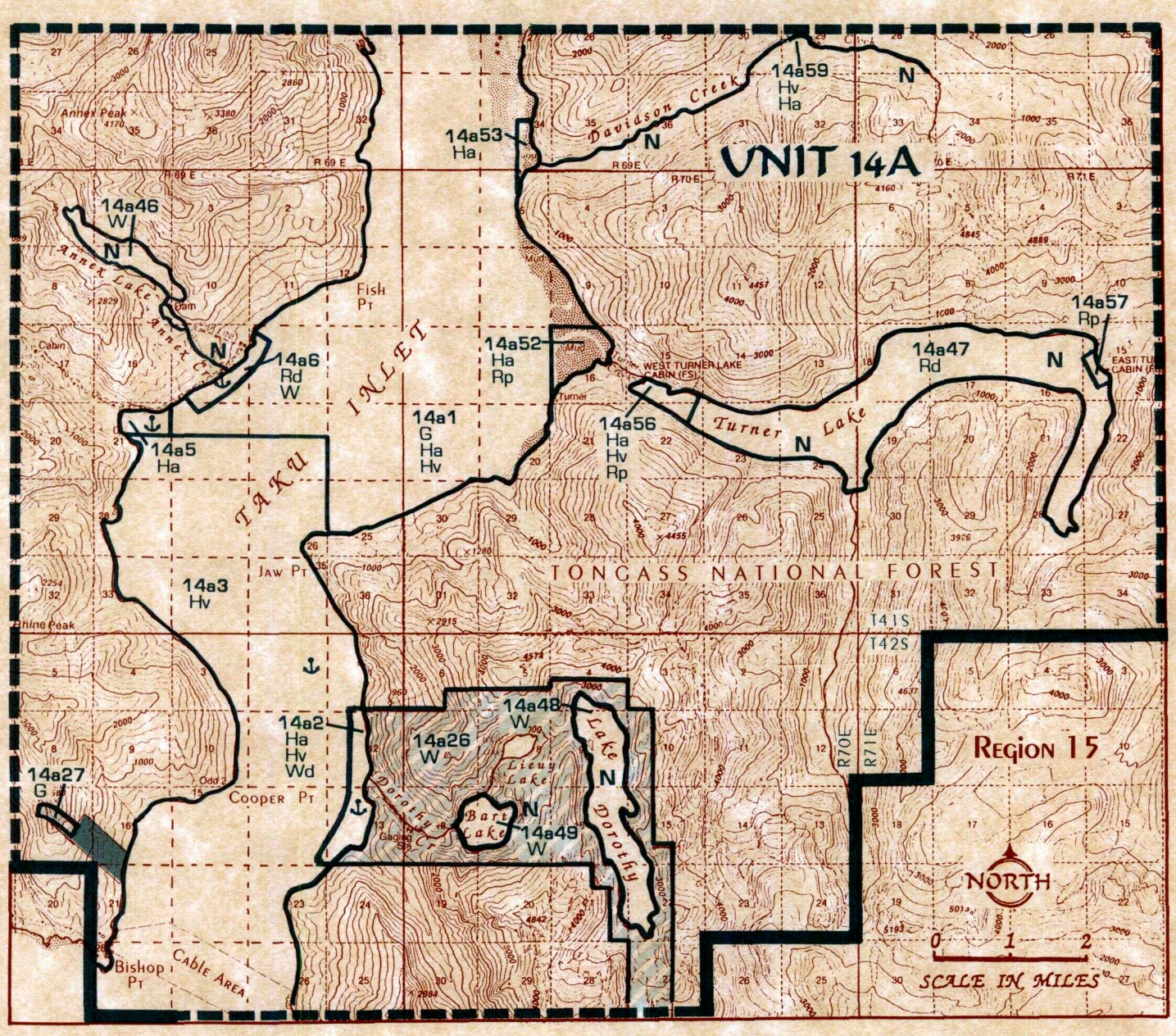
## Navigability

**N** Rivers & lakes susceptible to navigation

## Land Ownership

State Selected

Private

## Designations

| | |
|---|---|
| **G** | General Uses |
| **Ha** | Fish & Wildlife Habitat |
| **Hv** | Fish & Wildlife Harvest |
| **Rd** | Recreation - Dispersed |
| **Rp** | Recreation - Public Use Site |
| **W** | Water Resources & Uses |
| **Wd** | Waterfront Development |
| ⚓ | Anchorage |