Unit 14b - Taku Harbor

Background

This unit includes Stephens Passage from Taku Inlet to Port Snettisham, including Taku Harbor and Limestone and Slocum inlets. State lands in this unit are mostly tidelands and submerged lands, and some uplands at Taku Harbor. Taku Harbor uplands were selected by the state from the USFS for community recreation.

Existing Uses and Authorizations. Subunit 14b8 includes the existing public dock on the east side of Taku Harbor. This 4.8-acre site has been transferred by ILMA to DOT/PF for this use (ADL 33289).

ADFG has a permit on the south shore of Limestone Inlet (Subunit 14b9) that allows for net pens and floating employee housing (SET-91-055).

Mining and Mineral Development. The USFS uplands at Arthur Peak on the north side of Limestone Inlet have high mineral potential. The Taku Harbor area contains numerous undeveloped mining claims for both base and precious metals and the adjacent uplands have high mineral potential.

Recreation. People travel to this unit from Juneau by boat on day and overnight trips to view marine mammals and raptors. The unit is heavily traveled by cruise ships and freight-hauling ships.

Suicide Cove (Subunit 14b10) is a protected anchorage when there are north winds. The cove has a nice mixed sand/gravel beach that is also used by kayakers, especially for pickups or dropoffs.

Subunit 14b12 is a small bight with south exposure and a sandy beach at its head. This cove is also used for kayak pickups and dropoffs.

Slocum Inlet (Subunit 14b4) is an important, although somewhat shallow, anchorage used by commercial fishermen and recreational boaters. The inlet provides good protection from the Taku winds, but is open to north winds. The inlet has a low sloping beach, and is the last anchorage for kayakers and small boaters on their way north to Juneau before crossing Taku Inlet. The Snettisham power transmission line parallels the beach.

Limestone Inlet (Subunit 14b9), is a good anchorage except for the shallow tidal areas at its head. The anchorage is used by bear hunters, goat hunters, and trappers.

Fish and Wildlife. Subunit 14b11 includes Snettisham Rocks just north of the entrance to Port Snettisham at Point Styleman. These rocks are used as a haulout by up to 100 harbor seals. Marine birds also concentrate around the rocks. Subunit 14b3 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.

Slocum Inlet (Subunit 14b4) has recreational crab harvest. The inlet may be a possible area for transplanting Juneau "garbage" bears.

The uplands around Limestone Inlet (Subunit 14b9) are USFS owned and have been designated a Research Natural Area (RNA). The purpose of the RNA is to provide areas that can be studied over the long term and compared with areas that have undergone changes. Uses of these uplands are heavily restricted by the USFS. Roads, trails, fences, and signs will not be permitted unless they contribute to the objectives or to the protection of the area. Recreational uses that threaten or interfere with the objectives or purposes of the RNA are also prohibited.

Taku Harbor. Subunit 14b25 includes the legislatively-designated Taku Harbor State Marine Park. These uplands and tidelands are managed by DPOR. Subunit 14b26 is in the designated marine park, but is still in USFS ownership. Subunit 14b27 is a small parcel surrounded by, but not included in, the park. It includes cannery buildings that were built on private and federal lands prior to state ownership. Subunit 14b5 includes the tidelands at the mouth of Taku Harbor that are not in the designated as a state marine park.

Management Intent

This unit should be managed to provide continued marine recreational use including public access to the important anchorages and on-going fish and wildlife harvest. The unit should also be managed for its habitat values, particularly in Slocum Inlet, Taku Harbor, and Limestone Inlet. The northern portions of Subunits 14b6 and 14b7 should be managed to enhance the public recreation values that are within the adjacent marine park. Although not in the marine park, Subunit 14b5 includes the mouth of Taku Harbor, and it will be managed to complement the recreation and habitat values in the adjacent park. Subunit 14b8 will continue to be managed as a public boat dock that provides important access to the park. Siting a resource transfer facility somewhere in Subunits 14b3 and 14b13 may be allowable without an amendment to the plan. Designating a large area as one subunit provides the flexibility to work with an applicant to identify a site that will minimize significant adverse impacts on the other resources and uses for which these subunits are co-designated. A resource transfer facility will not be sited in Slocum Inlet (Subunit 14b4) because of the sensitive estuarine habitat.

Management Guidelines

Land Selections. Subunit 14b26 includes USFS lands within the legislatively-designated State Marine Park. This land should be selected and placed on the state's selection priority list.

Mineral Closures. The estuarine areas, from mean high water to a water depth of 40 feet (measured at mean low low water), at the mouth of Limestone Creek (Limestone 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 this stream and avoiding impacts to the associated water quality and marine plant and animal communities are essential to sustain productivity of the Juneau area commercial- and community- harvest fisheries.

Approximately forty (40) acres of tidelands and submerged lands within the estuarine area of Limestone Inlet will also be closed to new mineral location because it surrounds a net pen site for the remote release of hatchery-raised salmon. Maps of these closures can be found in Mineral Order 653 in Appendix B.

USFS Designation. The USFS lands around Limestone Inlet (Subunit 14b9) have been designated a Research Natural Area. Only activities that will not significantly affect the natural systems in the inlet will be authorized. Because activities that are authorized on the tidelands may significantly diminish the values of the uplands as a research area, the USFS should be provided the opportunity to comment prior to authorizing activities in the inlet.

Heritage Resource Sites. Subunits 14b8 and 14b9 include a historic sites (Salmon Creek Camp including garden) (Jun-002). There is also the site of the old Hudson Bay Post (operated from 1840-1842) which is on private land and is on the National Register of Historic Sites. Prior to issuing authorizations in Subunits 14b5, 14b8, 14b26, and 14b27, the State Office of History and Archaeology should be consulted.

Land-Use Designation Summary

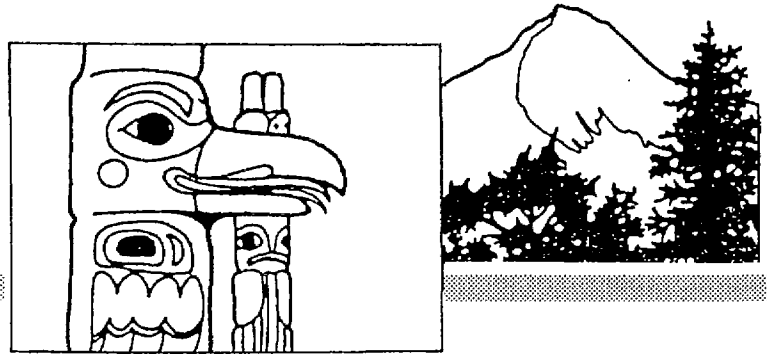
For keys to the one-letter and two-letter abbreviations used in this table, see the beginning of this chapter.

UNIT 14B: TAKU HARBOR						
Area no. & name	**DNR designation**	**CBJ zoning district**	**Land type**	**Adjacent ownership**	**Resource or use**	**Other comments**
14b1 Stephens Passage	Hv	RR	T/SU	State/ USFS	Intensive halibut sportfishing around Grand Island	
14b2 Stephens Passage Pt. Arden	Hv	RR	SU	State	Commercial gillnet harvest	
14b3 Stephens Passage	Hv	RR	T/SU	State/ USFS	King and Tanner crab harvest; gillnet harvest; commercial and public use Dungeness crab harvest in outer Slocum Inlet; outer part of Slocum Inlet is anchorage	
14b4 Slocum Inlet	Ha Hv Rd	RR	T	State/ USFS	Anadromous stream mouth; anchorage; commercial and personal use Dungeness crab harvest	Tide flats powerline crossing
14b5 Taku Harbor	Ha Hv Rp	RR	T/SU	State/ USFS/ Private	Recreation; anadromous stream mouth; anchorage; adjacent to State Marine Park; King and Dungeness crab personal use harvest; personal use clam harvest	Heavily used, only protected anchorage between Juneau and Port Snettisham
14b6	Hv	RR	T/SU	State/ USFS	Commercial Tanner crab harvest; salmon sportfishing	
14b7	Hv	RR	T/SU	State/ USFS	Commercial Tanner crab harvest; personal use and commercial Dungeness and king crab harvest; gillnet harvest; intensive salmon sportfishing	
14b8	Pt	RR	T	State		Area not included in State Marine Park; ILMT to DOTPF (33289) as a public boat dock (4.8 acres)
14b9 Limestone Inlet	Ha Hv Rd	RR	T	USFS	ADF&G floating field camp and net pen rearing operated during the spring; commercial king and Tanner crab harvest; commercial and personal use Dungeness crab harvest; halibut sportfishing; anadromous stream mouth; anchorage; migratory waterfowl habitat; black and brown bear spring habitat	Surrounding uplands are owned by USFS and designated a Research Natural Area.
14b10 Suicide Cove	Ha Hv Rd	RR	T	USFS	Tanner and king crab commercial and personal use harvest; anchorage used by Steller Sea Lion	
14b11 Snettisham Rock	Ha Hv	RR	T	State	Harbor seal; king crab commercial harvest; gillnet harvest	
14b12	Rd	RR	T	State	Kayak and skiff pullout	
14b13 Lower Taku Inlet	Ha Hv	RR	T/ SU	State/ USFS	Possible sea lion haulout; commercial and personal use Tanner crab and commercial gillnet harvest; salmon sportfishing	

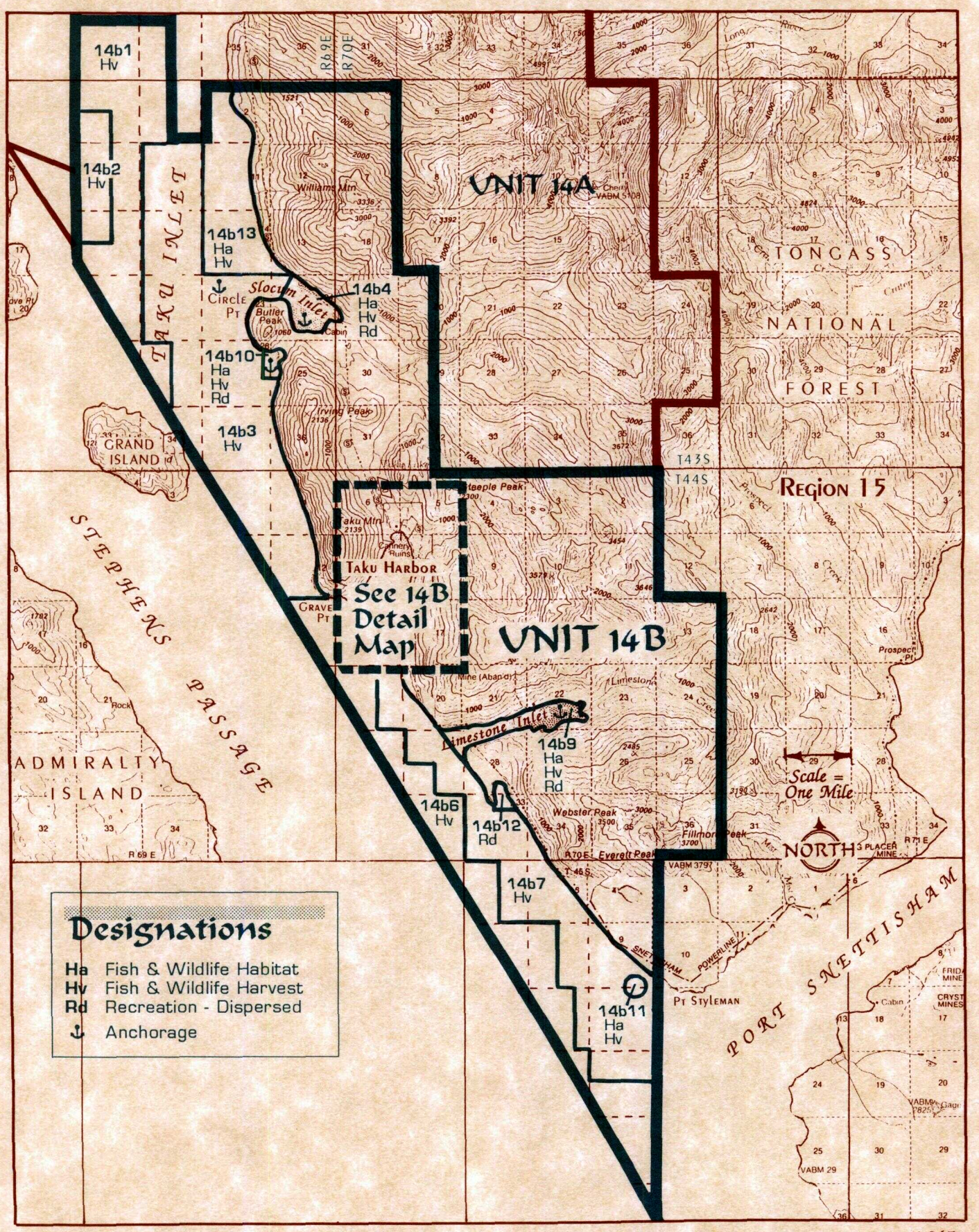
Land-Use Designation Summary (continued)

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

UNIT 14B: TAKU HARBOR						
Area no. & name	**DNR designation**	**CBJ zoning district**	**Land type**	**Adjacent ownership**	**Resource or use**	**Other comments**
14b25 Taku Harbor	Taku Harbor Marine Park	RR	UP	State/ USFS/ Private	Anchorage	Existing State Marine Park
14b26 Taku Harbor	Rp	RR	UP	State/ USFS/ Private	Recommended as state selection	Legislatively designated as a State Marine Park but currently owned by USFS
14b27 Taku Harbor	Rp	RR	UP	State	Surrounded by State Marine Park but not included in park. Includes old cannery buildings built on state lands rather than private lands (USS 370). Buildings currently in trespass	



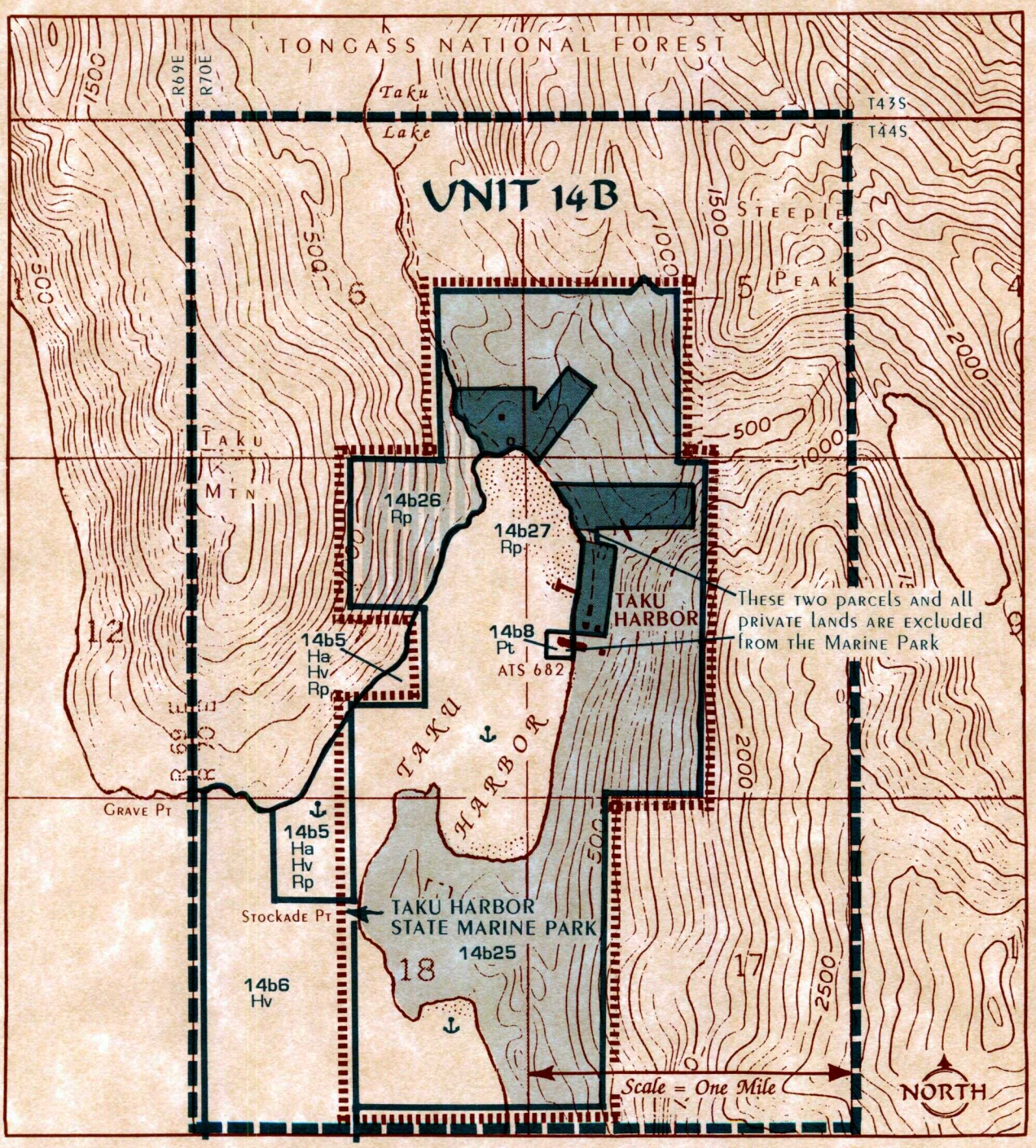
UNIT 14B - Taku Harbor



UNIT 14B DETAIL - Taku Harbor

Land Ownership

- State Owned
- Proposed State Land Selection
- Private

Designations

- **Ha** Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- **Hv** Fish & Wildlife Harvest
- **Pt** Public Facilities - Transfer
- **Rp** Recreation - Public Use Site
- ⚓ Anchorage