

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

DRAFT CENTRAL/SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST AREA PLAN
AMENDMENT
SE-00-001A08

Region 5, Ketchikan - Cleveland Peninsula, Management Unit C-02
Square Island

related to the
Square Island Subdivision – ADL 109029

The Commissioner of the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) finds that the following amendment to the Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan, described more fully in the Attachment, meets the requirements of *AS 38.04.065 Land Use Planning and Classification* and *11 AAC 55.010-030(f) Land Planning and Classification* for land use plans and hereby adopts the amendment. The Department of Natural Resources will manage state lands within the area of the revision consistent with this designation and management intent.

- Designation: Change from General Use to Settlement/Settlement Commercial for management unit C-02.
- Classification: Change from Resource Management Land to Settlement Land for unit C-02.
- Management Intent: This parcel is to be managed for remote settlement for both residential and commercial recreational uses with the goal of providing private and commercial parcels. The parcel should be closed to mineral entry prior to disposal.

Concur:

Martin Parsons, Director
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Department of Natural Resources

Date

Approved:

Corri A. Feige, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

Date

ATTACHMENT

to the
DRAFT CENTRAL/SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST AREA PLAN AMENDMENT
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Location and legal description: Located within DNR's Southeast Region, approximately 35 miles north of the Ketchikan in Spacious Bay on the east side of Cleveland Peninsula, more specifically described as:

Tract B, Township 69 South, Range 88 East, Copper River Meridian, according to the plat accepted by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, officially filed on June 24, 2002, containing 8.42 acres, more or less; and that portion of Tract A, Township 69 South, Range 89 East, Copper River Meridian, according to the plat accepted by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, officially filed on July 01, 2002, excluding ASLS No. 98-7, recorded November 20, 1998 as Plat No. 98-59, Ketchikan Recording District, containing 327.88 acres, more or less. The areas described aggregate 336.3 acres.

Authority: The authority to revise plans derives from *AS 38.04.065(b) Land Use Planning and Classification*. *11 AAC 55.030(f) Land Use Plan* defines when a revision constitutes a plan amendment.

Current Plan: Lands within this unit are currently designated General Use. The management intent for the unit provides that the parcel is to be managed for dispersed recreation and that only limited development activities may be authorized except for development activities related to public safety and recreation. The management intent further states that the appropriateness of the unit for remote settlement and timber harvest shall be reassessed during the next plan update or at the time that a revised Forest Plan is prepared by the National Forest Service (pg. 3-275, CSSEAP).

Proposed Plan Amendment: DNR proposes to amend the Central/Southern Southeast Region Area Plan (CSSEAP, adopted 2000) to change the designation of Unit C-02 from General Use to Settlement and Settlement Commercial, and the classification from Resource Management Land to Settlement Land. The management intent will be changed to state that residential and commercial recreational uses are appropriate and that the land be closed to mineral entry prior to disposal.

Explanation: The CSSEAP was adopted in 2000. The current plan is near the end of the 20-year planning period. The management intent for the subunit states that it should be managed for dispersed recreation during the planning period with the appropriateness of development to be re-evaluated during the next plan update. The management intent states that the re-evaluation shall reassess the appropriateness of remote settlement and timber harvest. Most of

the timber is located close to shoreline with very sparse tree coverage in the island interior. The parcel was selected by the State under National Forest Community Grant (NFCG) 283 and intended for remote settlement. There is a demand from the public for both commercial and private remote recreational settlement land in the area. The unit is in relatively close proximity to the city of Ketchikan, contains quality land suitable for settlement, and sale of land within the area would help meet the demand for purchasing land and provide revenue to the State.

Division/Agency Reviews: No objections were received to this area plan amendment. Division of Forestry did not have any concerns with the area plan amendment. Area plan management guidelines provide that mining operations are judged to be incompatible with future settlement and settlement related activities. Therefore, this parcel will be closed to Mineral Entry, Mineral Order No. 1234.

Assessment: The following alternatives are being considered:

1. (Preferred) Amend Central/Southern Southeast Region Area Plan as described above to change the designation to Settlement/Settlement Commercial, change the classification from Resource Management Land to Settlement Land, and update the management intent. Amending the plan is the preferred alternative as it will allow the sale of settlement-designated land, providing the public an opportunity to obtain property in a desirable area for settlement or commercial purposes.
2. (No action) Do not amend Central/Southern Southeast Region Area Plan. This alternative is not preferred as it would disallow the offering of settlement/settlement commercial-designated land and deny many Alaskans the opportunity to obtain land in this area.

Requirements of AS 38.04.065 (b): The factors identified in this section of statute have been considered and the proposed action is consistent with that portion of the statute.