

**S B**

**403**

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: March 23, 1990

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 2/24/90

FINANCE

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

SB 403

SENATE BILL NO. 403

STAN PRICE STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

"An Act establishing the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary; and providing for an effective date."

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- [ ] be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] the same title
- [ ] \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] a new title
- [ ] have attached amendment(s)
- do pass
- [ ] do not pass
- [ ] no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- [ ] additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):  
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Date/Dept)

- [ ] fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note \_\_\_\_\_
- zero with analysis ADP+G
- [ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] zero fn/analysis \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

**SIGNING:**  
(Check approp. column)

Do Not  
Pass      No Rec      Amend

<u>Scott McManus</u>	MENARD			
<u>Wynanda</u> DAVIDSON				
<u>John Jack</u> JACKO				
<u>Bill Hudson</u> HUDSON				
<u>Bob Sharp</u> SHARP				
<u>Mike Navarre</u> NAVARRE				

Scott McManus  
Chairman's Signature

STATE OF ALASKA  
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: SB403 (a)  
PUBLISH DATE: 2/7/90

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An Act Establishing the Stan  
Price State Wildlife Sanctuary  
Sponsor: Senator Eliason  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: ADFG  
BRU: Habitat & Wildlife Conservation  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	0					
TRAVEL	0					
CONTRACTUAL	0					
SUPPLIES	0					
EQUIPMENT	0					
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0					

CAPITAL	0					
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REVENUE	0					
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FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0					
FEDERAL FUNDS	0					
OTHER	0					
TOTAL	0					

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-					
PART-TIME	-					
TEMPORARY	-					

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Frank Rue, Director  
Division: Habitat  
Approved by Commissioner: *Walter W. Willy*  
Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 2/7/90  
Date: 2/7/90

Distribution (by preparer):  
Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

(CL)

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Habitat	BILL NUMBER SB493	SPONSOR Senator Eliason
SHORT TITLE OF BILL An Act establishing the Stan Price Wildlife Sanctuary			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Support			
PREPARED BY Frank Rue, Director	DATE 2.2.90	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 2/2/90

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL Department of Natural Resources	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL Local recreationalists and wildlife viewers
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL Local Environmental Groups	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL None

FISCAL IMPACT:  NONE  FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT  
The purpose of the bill is to establish the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary and to provide permanent protection for brown bears, other fish and wildlife populations and their habitats

- ANALYSIS OF BILL PROGRAM EFFECTS
1. Establish the Stan Price Wildlife Sanctuary.
  2. Provide permanent protection for brown bears, other fish and wildlife populations, and their habitats.
  3. Provide for a board to adopt regulations governing uses and activities affecting natural habitat and fish and wildlife.
  4. Direct the Commissioner to manage the sanctuary compatibly with adjacent uplands management and allow for management through cooperative agreements..

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE · SENATE

SENATOR RICHARD I. ELIASON

LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
RULES COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HIGH SEAS  
SALMON INTERCEPTION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS



P.O. BOX 143  
SITKA ALASKA 99835

P.O. BOX V  
JUNEAU ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465 4916

FAX (907) 465 4928

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Rep. Davidson, Co-chairman  
Rep. Menard, Co-chairman  
House Resources Committee

FROM: Sen. Eliason *Rich*

DATE: March 23, 1990

RE: Scheduling of SB 403

This week the Senate unanimously passed SB 403, an act establishing the Stan Price Wildlife Sanctuary at Pack Creek on Admiralty Island. The bill has now gone to the House and has been referred to your committee. I would very much appreciate your scheduling of this legislation for a hearing in the Resources committee at your earliest convenience.

I am attaching some background information about Stan Price, the purpose of the proposed sanctuary, maps of the area to be included, zero fiscal notes from Fish and Game and DNR, and so on.

If you would like any further information please let me know.

Again, your consideration of scheduling SB 403 would be much appreciated.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROPOSED STAN PRICE STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

**Where would the proposed Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary be located?**

The sanctuary would occupy a small portion of Admiralty Island in the Seymour Canal area. It would include the Pack Creek tidelands and immediately adjacent state waters.

**What is the key attraction at the proposed sanctuary?**

Brown bear sows and cubs congregate along Pack Creek during summer fish runs. Because of their long association with Price, and because visitors leave them alone, some of the bears fish while people are present. Bears sometimes approach the viewing sand spit quite closely, and there are often good photo opportunities.

**How big would the proposed sanctuary be?**

The sanctuary would encompass 613 acres--slightly less than one square mile. It would include only state tidelands and adjacent state waters. Tongass National Forest lands would not be included. All of the area commonly used by Pack Creek bears for fishing would either be part of the sanctuary or in the National Monument.

**Why is this sanctuary important?**

Human visitation in the area increased rapidly in the 1980's. There were over 500 visitors in July and August, 1989. The state manages the Pack Creek tidelands on which the bears fish. The Board of Game can currently regulate only hunting and trapping in this area. Sanctuary status would give the Board authority to regulate all human uses, including visitation. The Department of Fish and Game would enforce these regulations with existing personnel who are stationed on-site during the summer.

**If this area were to become a wildlife sanctuary would it automatically be closed to hunting?**

No. Hunting in state sanctuaries is regulated by the Alaska Board of Game. The Pack Creek area has been closed to brown bear hunting since before statehood. Little or no hunting of any kind takes place within the proposed sanctuary. The Department of Fish and Game has no plans to recommend closure of this area for any other kind of hunting. Any proposed changes in the hunting regulations are publicly noticed by the Board before they take action.

**STAN PRICE STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY Q & A**  
**Page 2**

**This portion of the Admiralty Island National Monument is managed as a wilderness area. Would this legislation change the wilderness character of the area?**

No. The area is currently managed under a cooperative agreement between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the USDA Forest Service. Visitation on Forest Service lands in this area is managed by a permit system. Management of the area as a wildlife sanctuary would enhance this unique state-federal management system, and help insure its wilderness character.

**Why name this area after Stan Price?**

Stan Price was a colorful southeast Alaska resident who developed a world-wide reputation for his peaceful relationship with bears. Price loved the bears and gave lectures around the United States on Pack Creek bears. Price lived in the area from about 1955 until the time of his death in 1989.

**Are there other state sanctuaries in Alaska?**

There are currently two: Walrus Islands in Bristol Bay and McNeil River on the Alaska Peninsula. Both are famous around the world for opportunities to see walrus and brown bears. Most pictures of brown bears fishing in streams come from McNeil River. The proposed state sanctuary would be the first in southeast Alaska.

**Would management of this sanctuary be similar to McNeil river?**

In general, yes. The area would be primarily managed for bears and to give people an opportunity to view bears in a near-natural setting. Management regulations would ultimately be determined by the Board of Game. Visitors to McNeil River must first obtain a drawing permit. Visitors to Pack Creek must also obtain a permit, but the number of permits is not currently limited. However, if visitation becomes excessive, a drawing permit system might be instituted on the sanctuary.

**Would access to important mineral deposits or other resources be lost in this sanctuary?**

The proposed sanctuary is extremely small--613 acres. None of it is above water at a 19 foot tide. It is surrounded by a federal wilderness area. Any opportunities that might be lost in this designation would be minor.

## AUDUBON PROPOSES STAN PRICE STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society is proposing that the Pack Creek Area be officially designated the "Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary." Price, who died late in 1989, lived for almost 35 years at Pack Creek where he became widely known for his association with bears. Pack Creek was originally named in the 1930's for Arthur N. Pack, president of the American Nature Association.

Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) biologists say that sanctuary status would help manage visitation to the area. Currently, the uplands in the Pack Creek area are managed by the US Forest Service (USFS) and the tide and submerged lands by the state. USFS and DWC personnel are at Pack Creek each summer during the peak visitor season. Bear/people problems at Pack Creek reached a peak in 1987 when nearly 700 people visited the area in less than 60 days. Joint USFS/DWC management of the area began in 1988.

Designation of the area as a State Wildlife Sanctuary would give Pack Creek the same protection as Round Island (a walrus sanctuary in Bristol Bay) or McNeil River (a world-famous brown bear viewing area on the Alaska Peninsula). Sanctuary status allows the Alaska Board of Game to pass regulations governing all human uses within its boundaries. Outside of Sanctuaries, the Board can generally only regulate hunting, trapping, and other consumptive uses of wildlife. The Pack Creek area is currently closed to brown bear hunting, along with the rest of the Seymour Canal closed area. This is not expected to change.

The proposed Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary is less than one square mile in size. The Sanctuary would encompass all of the tide flats at Pack Creek and some of the adjacent submerged lands where boats are typically anchored while visitors are at the viewing spit.

DWC biologists say that Sanctuary status will probably not mean an increase in visitation. They say "the word on Pack Creek is already out." A free permit is required to visit Pack Creek. This enables the agencies to monitor visitor usage. A mechanism is in place to require "drawing" permits if visitation exceeds a pre-set level.

The Audubon board decided to support this concept because it memorializes a unique individual in our regional history, and because it will assist in improved management of this outstanding brown bear viewing area.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Region 10  
Tongass National Forest

Chatham Area  
204 Siginaka Way  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
(907) 747-6671

Reply To: 1510-7

Date: February 2, 1990

Honorable Richard Eliason  
Alaska State Senate  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811  
Attn: Mary McDowell

Dear Senator Eliason:

Senate Bill 403 was recently introduced for consideration. The bill would establish the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary on State land at Pack Creek on Admiralty Island. Per discussion between your staff and the Admiralty Island National Monument Manger, I would submit the following as the Forest Service's statement concerning the proposed legislation.

The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Admiralty Island National Monument, Chatham Area, Tongass National Forest, have been cooperating in the management of Pack Creek for a number of years. Since 1987 we have completed two joint planning efforts, resulting in effective management guidelines for the area. In May, 1988, the Pack Creek Cooperative Management Area was established to provide a unique recreational opportunity for visitors while protecting both the bears and their habitat.

The Forest Service, as well as the State of Alaska, have had a long relationship with Stan Price. His longevity, relationship with the bears, and popularity with visitors at Pack Creek made him a memorable individual. I believe the naming of the State Sanctuary would be an appropriate way of recognizing Stan.

Enactment of this legislation will allow for the continued cooperative management between the ADF&G and the Forest Service of an extremely important area; while memorializing a significant Alaskan citizen.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Sincerely,

GARY A. MORRISON  
Forest Supervisor

oo:  
ADF&G  
ANM

900129 1300 ANM 1517 PS



# Bear Man of Admiralty Dies at Age 90

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Admiralty Island's Stan Price, the longtime "bear man of Pack Creek," has died. He was 90.

Price, who lived for 40 years along the shores of Pack Creek on the island's northeast side, was renowned for his relationship with brown bears that roamed the creek, and he became a symbol of peaceful coexistence between humans and the huge animals.

Thousands of people visited the area about 30 miles south of Juneau to see brown bears in the wild. But Price himself also was an attraction — a small, white-haired man who casually strolled among the fearsome-looking bears with nothing more than a walking stick for protection.

Price died Tuesday at the home of his great-nephew, Gary Lingle of Juneau, where he had been living since October. He suffered from cancer.

A native of Missouri, Price arrived in southeast Alaska in 1927 in a sailboat he had built in Seattle. In 1928, he set up a mining and logging operation at Windham Bay not far from Pack Creek. He also worked as a mechanic, fisherman and fox farmer.

Lingle, who moved to Juneau in 1970 from Portland, Ore., was a regular visitor to Pack Creek to see his

great uncle. He said he bought a plane and learned to fly so he could supply Price with fresh food and mail. During the summer, Lingle would fly out twice a week with supplies and help with firewood and other chores associated with cabin life.

Price was married twice. Edna, his wife of 50 years, died of cancer in 1973. In 1975 he married Esther, an old childhood friend. She is still living but suffers from Alzheimer's disease and lives with a daughter in Arkansas, Lingle said.

In the 20 years that he regularly visited his great-uncle, Lingle said, he always felt safe walking with Price because of the special relationship he had with the Pack Creek bears.

"He (Price) always said if you're friends with the bears, the bears will be friends with you," Lingle said. "He had a mutual respect with the bears and the proof is that he lived there for 40 years with only one incident."

That incident occurred on a narrow path between Price's woodshed and his house on the beach. Price and a brown bear surprised each other and a face off began with neither backing down. The big brownie finally swatted Price, breaking his collarbone. It was the only time he was hurt by a

bear, Lingle said.

Despite living in close quarters with some 25 brown bears that roam the Pack Creek drainage, Price never carried a rifle. A quick hop on the nose with his walking stick was usually sufficient if a bear got testy.

As word of Price's special relationship with the bears spread, films, television shows and magazines began spreading his story. During the 1980s, the number of visitors to Pack Creek increased dramatically.

In 1987, the U.S. Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game began to restrict visitation in the area and the Pack Creek Cooperative Management area was set up. Visitor permits now are required and an armed guard is provided during the summer months.

Lingle said these restrictions rankled Price.

"It won't be the same without Stan out there," Lingle said. "They (the Forest Service) had an opportunity to include him in their plans but instead they did everything they could to alienate and isolate him."

Juneau wildlife filmmaker and Alaska Board of Game member Joel Bennett knew Price for 21 years. He credits Price with helping to lead him to a career in film. In fact, Price was

featured in a Turner Broadcasting special last year filmed by Bennett.

"He had a gentleness and a special way of communicating with the bears," Bennett said. "He didn't subscribe to the theory that they were marauding killers lurking behind every tree."

Bennett was also a frequent visitor to Pack Creek to film Price and his bears. He said Price would walk to within six or eight feet of the animals and talk to them.

Price also had an affinity with other animals. Bennett filmed deer surrounding Price's cabin and actually coming inside to eat.

"Stan loved all creatures. He's most well known for the bears of course but he had a similar reverence with all other life forms," Bennett said.

Visitation to Pack Creek will probably drop off since people came there as much to see Price as the bears, Bennett said.

"This is the passing of a grand old man that represents a unique part of the heritage of Alaska," Bennett said. "His legacy is that people can coexist with wildlife peacefully if we try. He taught that by example."



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Habitat	BILL NUMBER SB403	SPONSOR Senator Eliason
SHORT TITLE OF BILL An Act establishing the Stan Price Wildlife Sanctuary			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Support			
PREPARED BY Frank Rue, Director	DATE 2-2-90	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 2/2/90

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL Department of Natural Resources	CONSTITUENT GROUPS AFFECTED BY BILL Local recreationalists and wildlife viewers
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL Local Environmental Groups	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL None

FISCAL IMPACT  NONE  FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT  
The purpose of the bill is to establish the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary and to provide permanent protection for brown bears, other fish and wildlife populations and their habitats

ANALYSIS OF BILL PROGRAM EFFECTS

1. Establish the Stan Price Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. Provide permanent protection for brown bears, other fish and wildlife populations, and their habitats.
3. Provide for a board to adopt regulations governing uses and activities affecting natural habitat and fish and wildlife.
4. Direct the Commissioner to manage the sanctuary compatibly with adjacent uplands management and allow for management through cooperative agreements.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

STATE OF ALASKA  
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION : SB403  
PUBLISH DATE : \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An Act Establishing the State  
Price State Wildlife Sanctuary  
Sponsor: Senator Eliason  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: ADFG  
BRU: Habitat & Wildlife Conservation  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	0					
TRAVEL	0					
CONTRACTUAL	0					
SUPPLIES	0					
EQUIPMENT	0					
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0					

CAPITAL	0					
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REVENUE	0					
---------	---	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0					
FEDERAL FUNDS	0					
OTHER	0					
TOTAL	0					

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-					
PART-TIME	-					
TEMPORARY	-					

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Frank Rue, Director  
Division: Habitat  
Approved by Commissioner: *William W. Wiley*  
Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 2/1/90  
Date: 2/2/90

- Distribution (by preparer):
- Legislative Finance
  - Legislative Sponsor
  - Requestor
  - Office of Management and Budget
  - Impacted Agency(ies)

STATE OF ALASKA  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

400 WILLOUGHBY AVE.  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1798  
PHONE: (907) 465-2400

February 5, 1990

The Honorable Al Adams  
Chair, Community and Regional  
Affairs Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Adams:

Subject: Senate Bill 403 would establish the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary on state tide and submerged land.

Position: DNR supports this legislation.

Background: This legislation would provide permanent protection for brown bears and other fish and wildlife. The legislation affects tide and submerged land already managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Fish and Game through a cooperative agreement from this department. We feel that the establishment of this sanctuary is in the public's interest. The uplands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and are designated wilderness.

To ensure consistency with other established sanctuaries (Walrus Island State Game Sanctuary and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary) and to clarify management responsibilities between Fish and Game and DNR, the following language should be added:

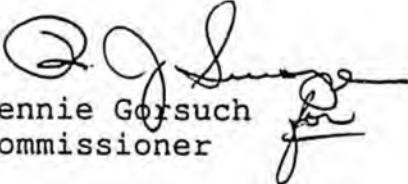
Applicability of other laws. The provisions of AS 16.20.130-140 relating to administration, multiple use and sale and lease apply also to the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary.

This language is included in the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary statute (Sec. 16.20.170)

February 5, 1990

It is appropriate that the sanctuary be named after Mr. Price, the long-term Alaskan who inhabited this area for so many years and had a deep affection for the wildlife in the area. Please contact me or my staff if you have questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Lennie Gorsuch  
Commissioner

cc: Bill Sponsor  
Committee Members  
Bob Evans, Legislative Liaison  
Office of the Governor  
Denby Lloyd, Special Staff Assistant  
Office of the Governor  
Gary Gustafson, Director  
Division of Land and Water Management  
Department of Natural Resources

1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DATE VERSION: 32493  
 PUBLISH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 1-Feb-90 Agency Affected: Natural Resources  
 Title: An Act establishing the Stan Price BRU: Land and Water Management  
 State Wildlife Sanctuary: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor: Eliason and Duncan Components: Land and Water Mgmt  
 Requestor: C&RA

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS,CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

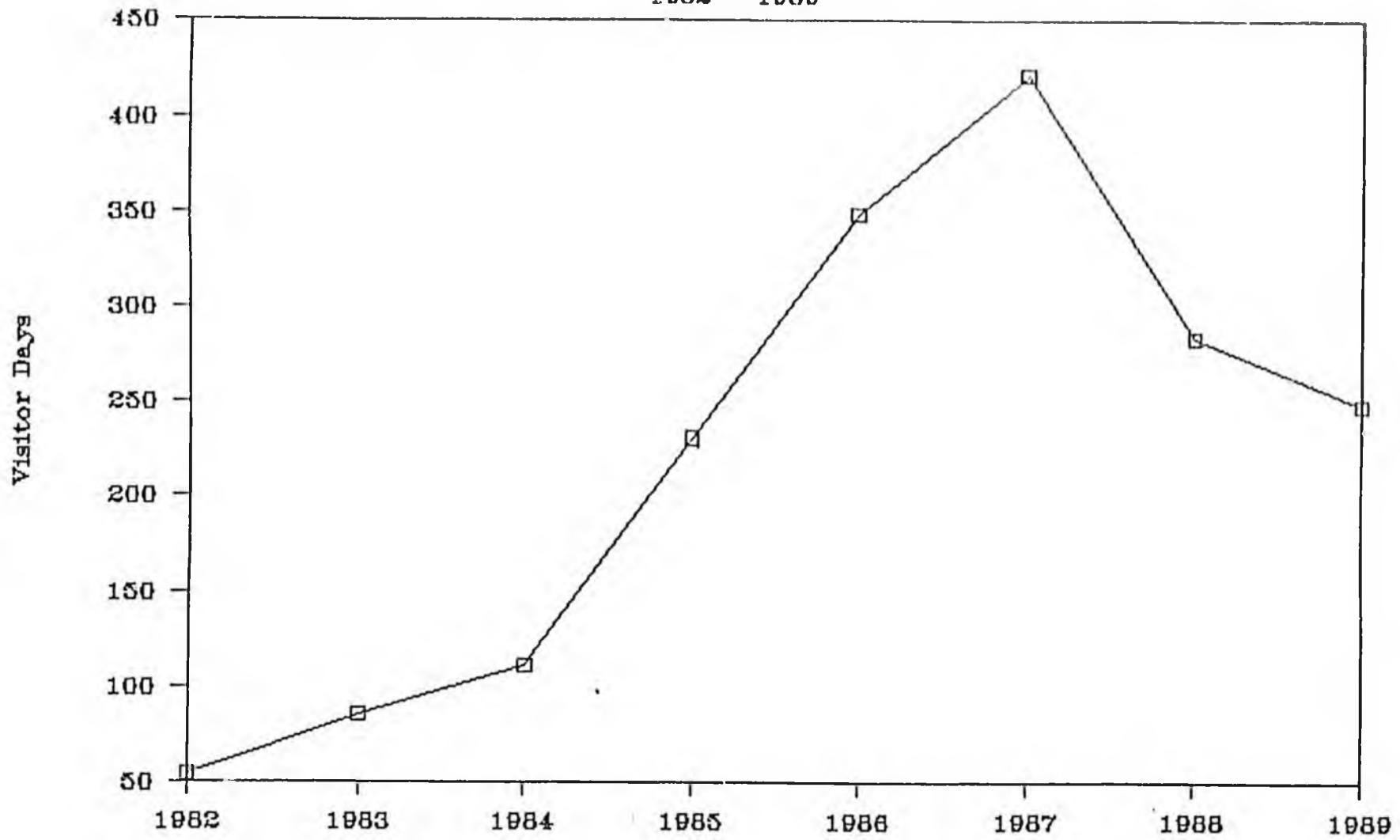
Prepared by: Janet Burleson Phone: 465-3400  
 Division: Land and Water Management Date: 1-Feb-90

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] Lennie Gorsuch Date: 1-Feb-90  
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by preparer) :  
 Legislative Finance  
 Legislative Sponsor  
 Requestor  
 Office of Management and Budget  
 Impacted Agency(ies)

# PACK CREEK VISITOR USE

1982 - 1989



# Pack Creek Map

Camp in sites marked ▲

Refer to USGS map: Sitka D-1 Quad

0 1 mile

Observatory  
(out of use)

Pack  
Creek

Pack Creek  
Trail (1 mi.)

 Pack  
Creek  
Cooperative  
Management  
Area

Swan  
Island

Tidal Flat

Viewing Sand Spit

Pace Residence

Long Garden

South Garden

Food Cache

South Sand Spit

Inchorage

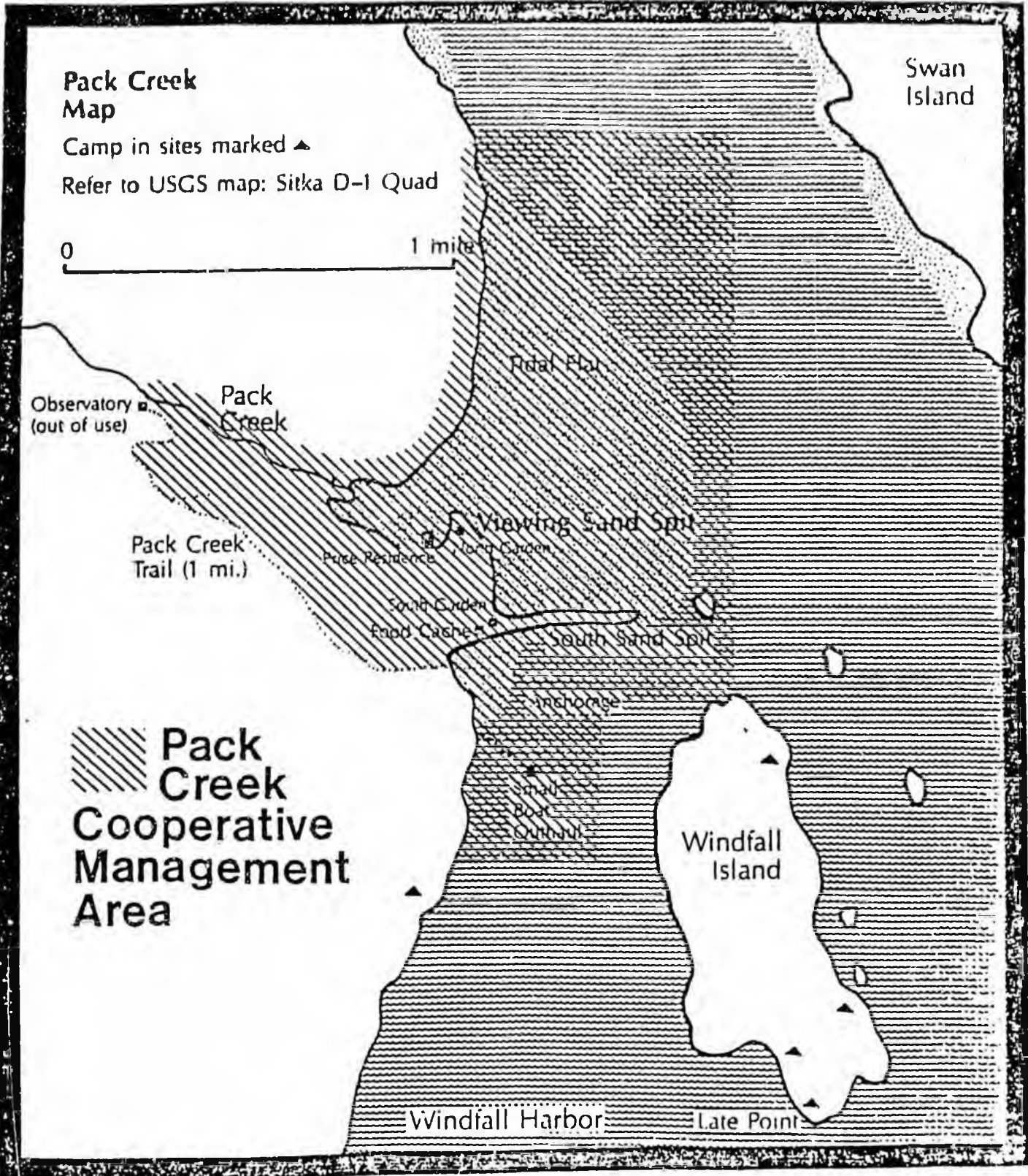
Small Boat

Outfall

Windfall  
Island

Windfall Harbor

Late Point



TOWNSHIP 46S RANGE 69E OF THE COPPER RIVER MERIDIAN, ALASKA

ID

CLASSIFICATION

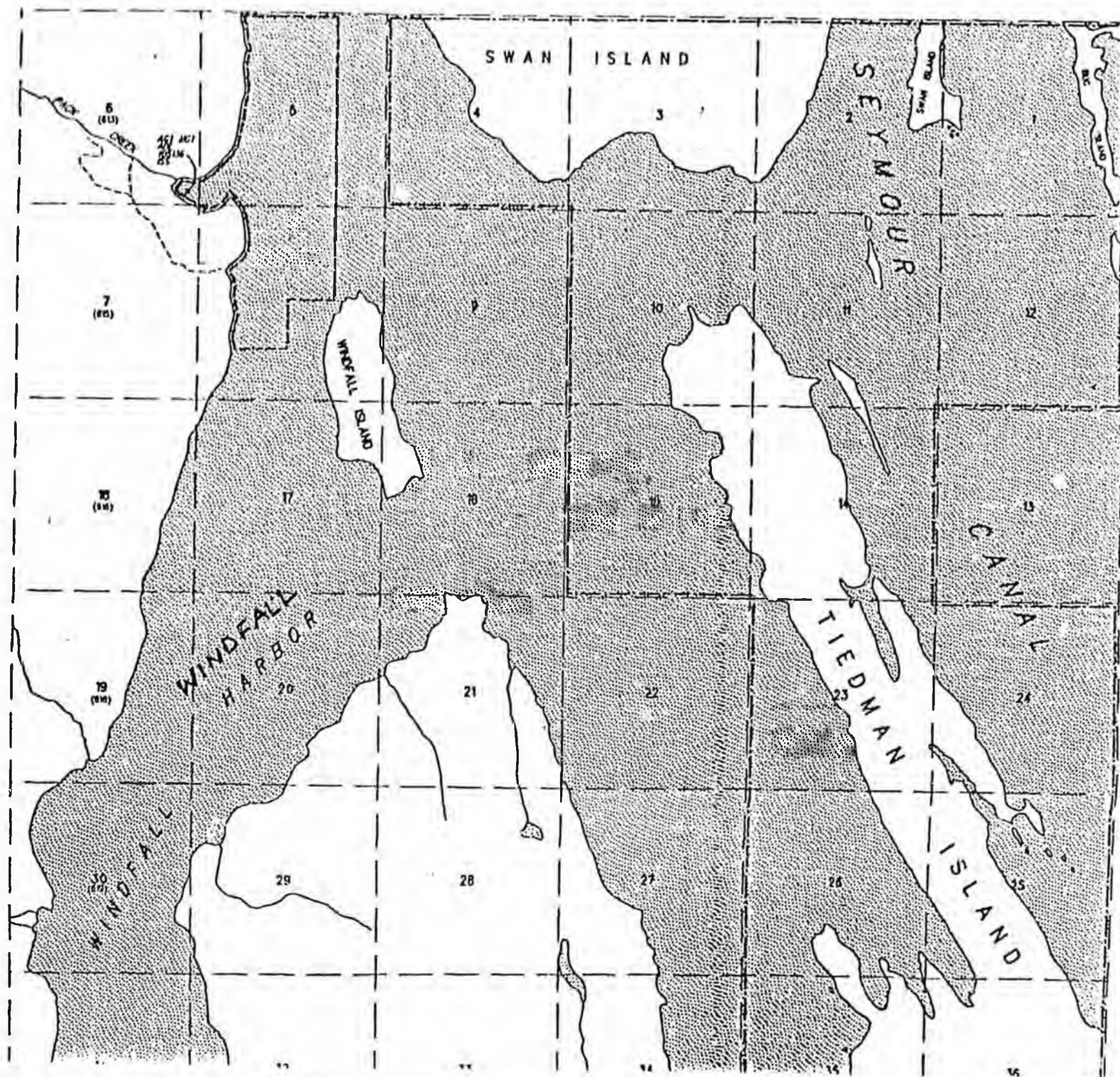
- STREAM
- WATERBODY
- RAILROAD
- SECTION LINE
- MAJOR ROAD
- SECONDARY ROAD
- TRAIL
- BOUNDARY
- RAILROAD
- ELECTRICAL POWER LINE
- TELEPHONE LINE
- PIPELINE
- NOT CONTROL
- LIMITS OF ACTION
- APPROPRIATIONS OR
- LAND SURVEYS

CLASSIFICATION

- TITLE
- CLASSIFICATION
- DISPOSAL
- MUNICIPAL
- RESTRICTIONS
- FEDERAL ACTIONS
- STATE CASH PERMIT
- FEDERAL CASH PERMIT
- RESTRICTIONS FROM TRESPASS
- TRESPASS

GRID

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11	12



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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

HEAD A-2)

134° 30' 15" W 58° 00' N  
340000 m. E.

6428000 m. N.



SITKA D-1 Quad

Proposed Area  
ILMA ADL No. 105136  
Approx. 613 acres

SITKA D-2)



### Swan Cove and Windfall Harbor

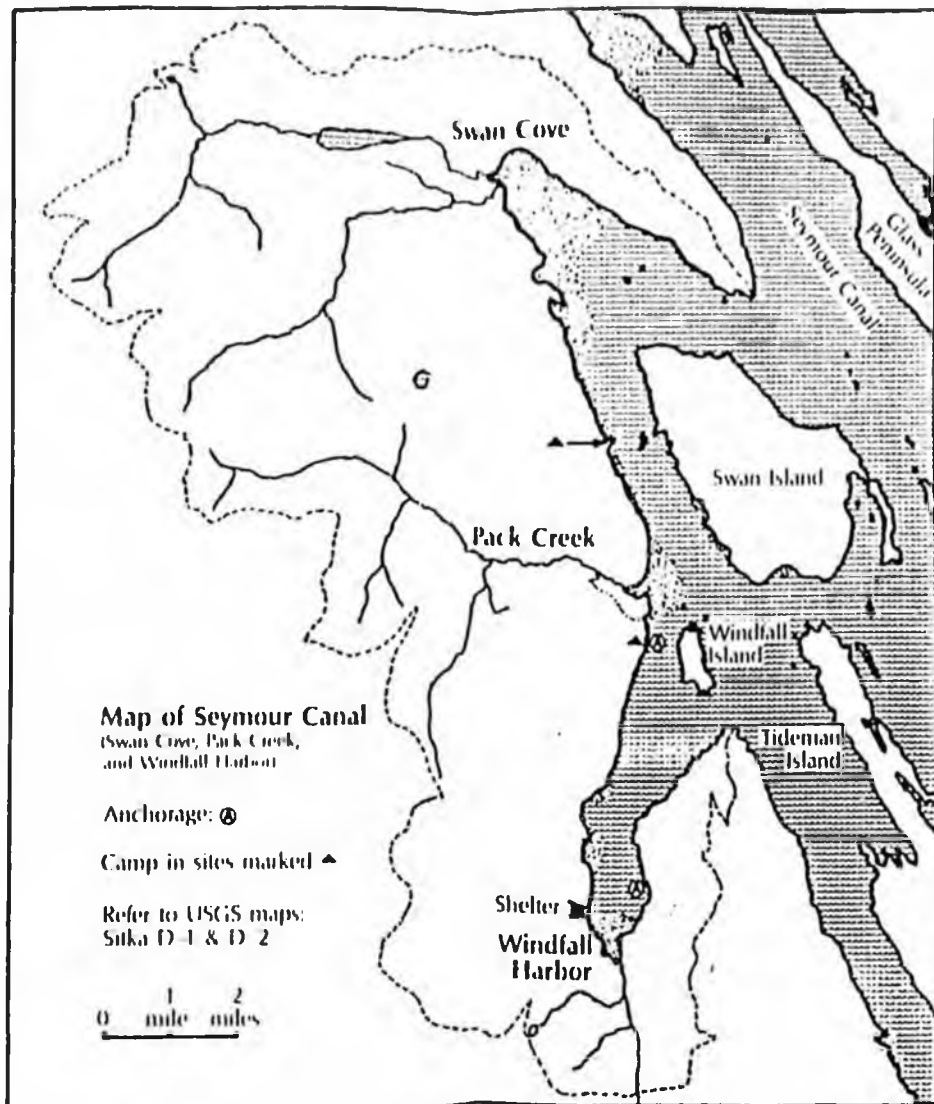
These large bays have extensive tidelands with good populations of brown bear, few human visitors, and no facilities. Bears are most abundant in July and August, and to a lesser extent in June and September. These wild bears are unaccustomed to humans and should be treated with respect (see **BEAR SAFETY**). Because boat anchors are prohibited, we encourage the group to consult the tide or sea level table for the timing and height of high and low tides, and when going ashore remember that large tidal variations on shallow tide flats can easily strand a boat ashore. Windfall Harbor has a three-sided shelter to camp near, and a good site is shown for Swan Cove. Other sites are available on Swan Island. Always keep a clean camp and hang food high at night.

### Pack Creek

Pack Creek has been closed to bear hunting since the mid 1900s, and several bears are habituated to the presence of humans. The opportunity to see bears is high because of this but some of the bears have obtained human food and have lost their fear of humans. This is a dangerous situation that warrants special precautions (see **PACK CREEK SAFETY**). A lighthouse near the estuary has been occupied by Stan Price since the late 1950s. A few bears allow him to approach closely, but you should use some common sense and keep your distance. Bears have destroyed boats left on the beach and daypacks left in the meadow, and on the viewing spot, and there have been several dangerous incidents involving visitors who approach too close.

### Management

The Windfall, Pack Creek, Swan Cove, and Swan Island area is managed as part of the Admiralty National Monument and is administered by the USDA Forest Service. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has jurisdiction over the bears, and both agencies cooperate in managing the area for its wilderness values and non-consumptive uses. In 1981 the Alaska Board of Game extended the boundaries of the original Pack Creek bear refuge to include the entire area shown on the map of Seymour Canal.



### Bear Safety

Whenever in bear country you should act responsibly with food and respect the territorial nature of bears.

- **Keep your distance.**

It takes experience to know how close you can come to a bear, and the best advice is to stay back at least 100 feet. Staying out in the open where the bear can clearly see you is advisable. It is not wise to wander up a salmon creek when the noise of water and tree cover screens your approach and surprises a bear. Bears sometimes communicate to other animals and to humans through body posture.



Standing in profile to you, head lowered and passively looking toward the distance may be the bear's way of showing you his size, a polite way of telling you to move out of his space. Aggression is signaled by teeth chatter, hair raised on the hump and back, and ears laid back along the sides of the head.



Standing erect on hind legs is usually not an aggressive posture. When the bear's head and nose are raised with ears forward, the animal may only be trying to identify human noises and smells.

- **Keep a clean camp.**

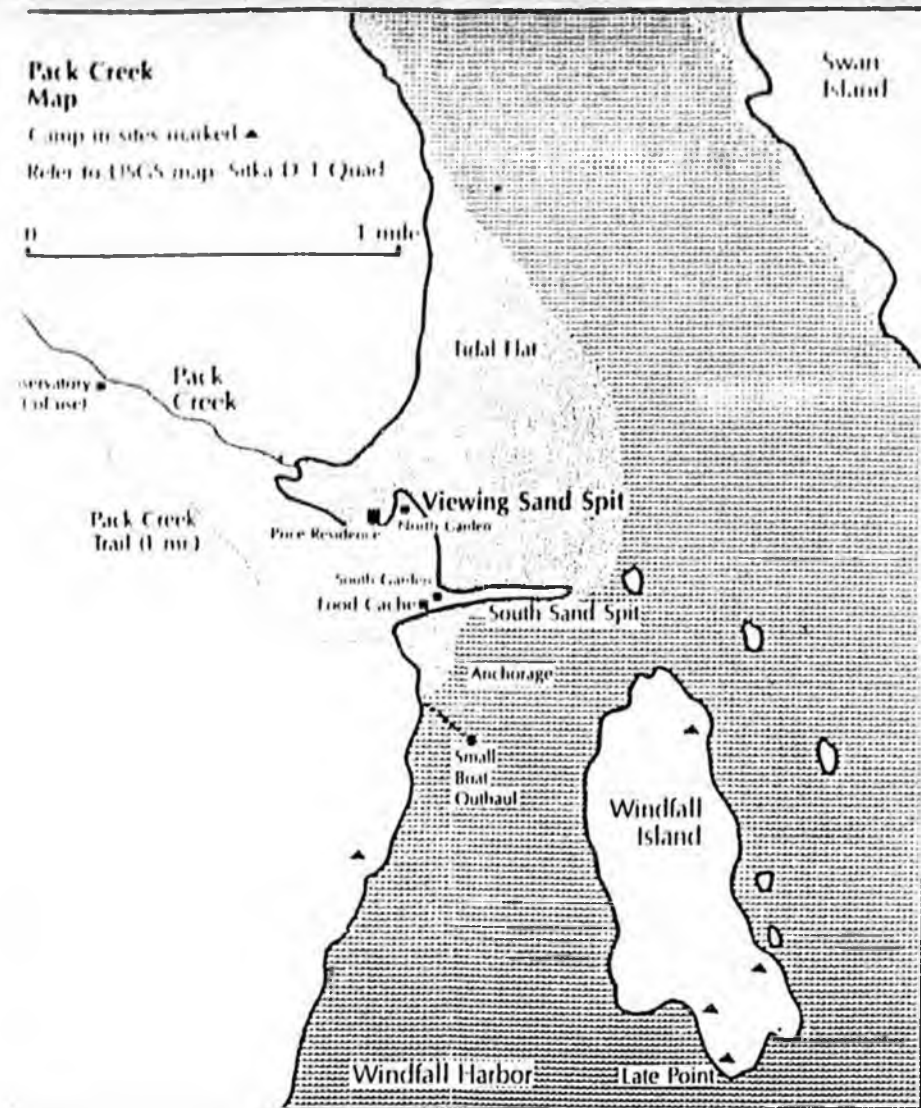
No site, even those on small islands, is safe from a bear visit. Set the tent up well away from the cooking area and do not take food near it. Thoroughly burn all food scraps and refuse to remove smells and pack out whatever remains. People who use the site after you will appreciate you not burying or leaving anything behind that will attract bears into their camp. Hang food 12 feet above the ground when not in use. Remember, intentionally leaving food unattended and accessible to bears is considered feeding and is a violation of Alaska law. Be sure to clean your campfire. Many sites are destroyed by campfires that people thought "couldn't possibly spread."

## Pack Creek Map

Camp in sites marked ▲

Refer to USGS map - Sitka D-1 Quad

0 1 mile



## Pack Creek Safety

Pack Creek bears are habituated to humans, but they are not tame. A few bears have tasted human food and will boldly approach you in search of more. While they may seem unaggressive, use some common sense. Follow these precautions:

- **Leave your food behind.**

A food cache is provided near the mud/sand spit (see Pack Creek Map). Do not carry food in your pack. Never feed any bear or leave any pack unattended. Intentionally leaving food unattended and accessible to bears is a violation of Alaska law. Even packs with no food in them are attractive to curious bears.

- **Stay near the viewing sand spit.**

Moving into the meadow feeds the bears out of photo range for other visitors. Bears will approach the viewing spot if you have patience. Use a telephoto lens for closeup shots. Bears may allow you to approach closely but will show their displeasure through subtle signs not easily recognized by most visitors. If you are too close, you leave no room for error and you are inviting a charge.

- **Camp only in designated sites.**

The best camps are on Windfall Island. No camping is allowed near the estuary or food cache.

## For further information

Admiralty National Monument  
2465 Old Dairy Road  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 789-1111

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Phone: Juneau (907) 465-4265  
Sitka (907) 747-5449



## Bear Viewing

Pack Creek, Swan Cove  
and Windfall Harbor



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

PREPARED BY  
Forest  
Service

ALASKA REGION  
Leaflet No.  
R10 R1, 12

# A Day at Pack Creek

by Bruce H. Baker



John Hyde

I can think of nothing more thrilling than to be hunkered down behind a log at the head of a tideflat, anxiously watching a magnificent Alaska brown bear amble out of the brush to check out the salmon spawning in the narrow, rushing stream that separates us. We were the first ones on the flat that August 1st morning in 1981, and Stan Price had offered to take me to a spot where I was sure to photograph a bear. Although Stan passed away last year at the age of 90, that day at Pack Creek with him and his second wife, Esther, is not one that my wife, our daughter Karen, a school boy visiting us from Michigan, or I will ever forget.

For those who haven't been to Pack Creek, it lies on the east side of southeast Alaska's Admiralty Island, a mountainous million acres of some of the best brown bear habitat in the



John Hyde

*In recognition of the wildlife values at Pack Creek, Senate Bill 403 was introduced in the Alaska State Legislature on January 24 of this year. The bill would establish a "Stan Price Wildlife Sanctuary to provide permanent protection for brown bears, other fish and wildlife populations, and their habitats so that these resources may be preserved for scientific, aesthetic, and educational purposes." The bill calls for cooperative management of the state-owned tidelands comprising the sanctuary and the adjacent Tongass National Forest uplands.*



Mark Kelley/Juneau Empire

world. The island supports an average of one bear per square mile and has long been publicized in outdoor magazines as a "fortress of the bears." Whether hiking, hunting, camping, or portaging across the island, I've always been acutely aware that it is bear country. Aside from the small Tlingit community of Angoon, a scattering of homesites and cabins around the island, and some localized logging and mining, the island is largely managed by the U.S. Forest Service for its wilderness values. By 1980, Congress had recognized these values and had legislatively designated it as both a National Wilderness and a National Monument. What has distinguished Pack Creek from the myriad other streams that tumble off the island into the North Pacific has been the presence of Stan Price and the unique relationship that developed between him and the bears.

Our first exposure to Stan and Esther was an evening fireside talk at Juneau's Mendenhall Glacier Visitors' Center when he was invited to show some of his home movies of the wildlife at Pack Creek. Stan depended on a hearing aid and as he narrated the film, he was unable to hear Esther in the back of the room, filling the audience in on the details that she thought he was leaving out. Right then we put Pack Creek on our list of future things to do.

Prior to chartering a float plane for our flight to Admiralty,

we'd checked with our friend K.J. Metcalf who was managing Admiralty Island for the Forest Service. When asked what he thought we might take along to Stan, K.J. mentioned his fondness for ice cream and beef liver. The ice cream wouldn't keep in the summer warmth, but Stan and Esther seemed very appreciative of the liver, cantaloupe, and reading material we took them. It was soon thereafter that Stan showed us the best photo point on the entire tideflat. The bear that soon emerged was about three years old, and Stan referred to him as Sam.

Stan lived at Pack Creek about 40 years, and his association with the bears began early on when he raised some orphaned cubs. He was rewarded for years to come as they brought their offspring to the area near his cabin to feed and bed down during their annual salmon harvest. The tolerance of Pack Creek bruins for people is generally attributed directly to their early familiarity with Stan. In fact for many, Stan and his lifestyle were as much of an attraction as the bears themselves. Our day at Pack Creek was a satisfying one as we alternated between viewing the grown bears and small twin cubs splashing, fishing, and roaming about the flat, and enjoying a personal viewing of more of Stan's wildlife movies inside their cabin.

It was evident even then that the word of Pack Creek was getting around. I counted at least a dozen of us there on the tideflat through the course of the day. In addition to our party of four, there was Stan; Gary Allen, a ski coach and friend of Stan's from New Hampshire; Dick Bayne, a writer who was doing a story on Stan; a researcher who was observing the bears from a nearby platform; a visit by K.J.; and Juneau's wildlife filmmaker, Joel Bennett, and his field crew. As the day wore on, it became increasingly clear that none of us could wander about the flat without altering the movement of the bears and depriving others of a view or a photograph for which they may have been lying in wait.

Even then one could imagine that the increasing popularity of Pack Creek would ultimately necessitate the restrictions imposed by the Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1988. These rules limit visitors to established viewing areas and begin to regulate the numbers of individuals and groups that may be present on the flat at any one time.

In 1981, however, we were still free to enjoy the Prices' hospitality, and Stan wasn't going to let us return to Juneau without a quart or two of his home-grown, garden fresh red raspber-



Bruce H. Baker

Stan and Esther Price at home at Pack Creek.

ries. As he stooped to pick them, I had absolutely no trouble picturing the sow and cub he was describing who had earlier ignored the pulsating shock of his electric fence and entered the garden where he was working. He explained how he looked up, told the sow to leave, and when she didn't he poked her on the nose with a stick and off she went. Story has it that he once tried that with a bear who didn't recognize him, and Stan ended up with a broken collarbone.

Stan's life at Pack Creek wasn't without some controversy. There were those who questioned his legal right to tie his floating cabin alongshore or to build his firewood and tool sheds on the nearby upland. I've heard biologists complain about reports of his feeding deer and other wildlife or the occasions when forest critters were allowed to walk in his door. And Stan certainly wasn't hesitant to criticize government folks if he disagreed with their resource management decisions or didn't see why they thought it safer to carry a firearm than a stick for protection in bear country.

My last trip to Pack Creek was by kayak in 1986 with Rai Behnert, and a young adult bear by the name of "Pest" gave us a great show as it lay on the opposite side of the sand spit from us. For the longest time, Pest demonstrated every possible position in which a bear can lie. Finally, as Pest arose and

ambled our way, the bear got so close I could no longer use my 300mm camera lens. At that point I discreetly slid the lens cap on and gently retreated backwards out of Pest's path.

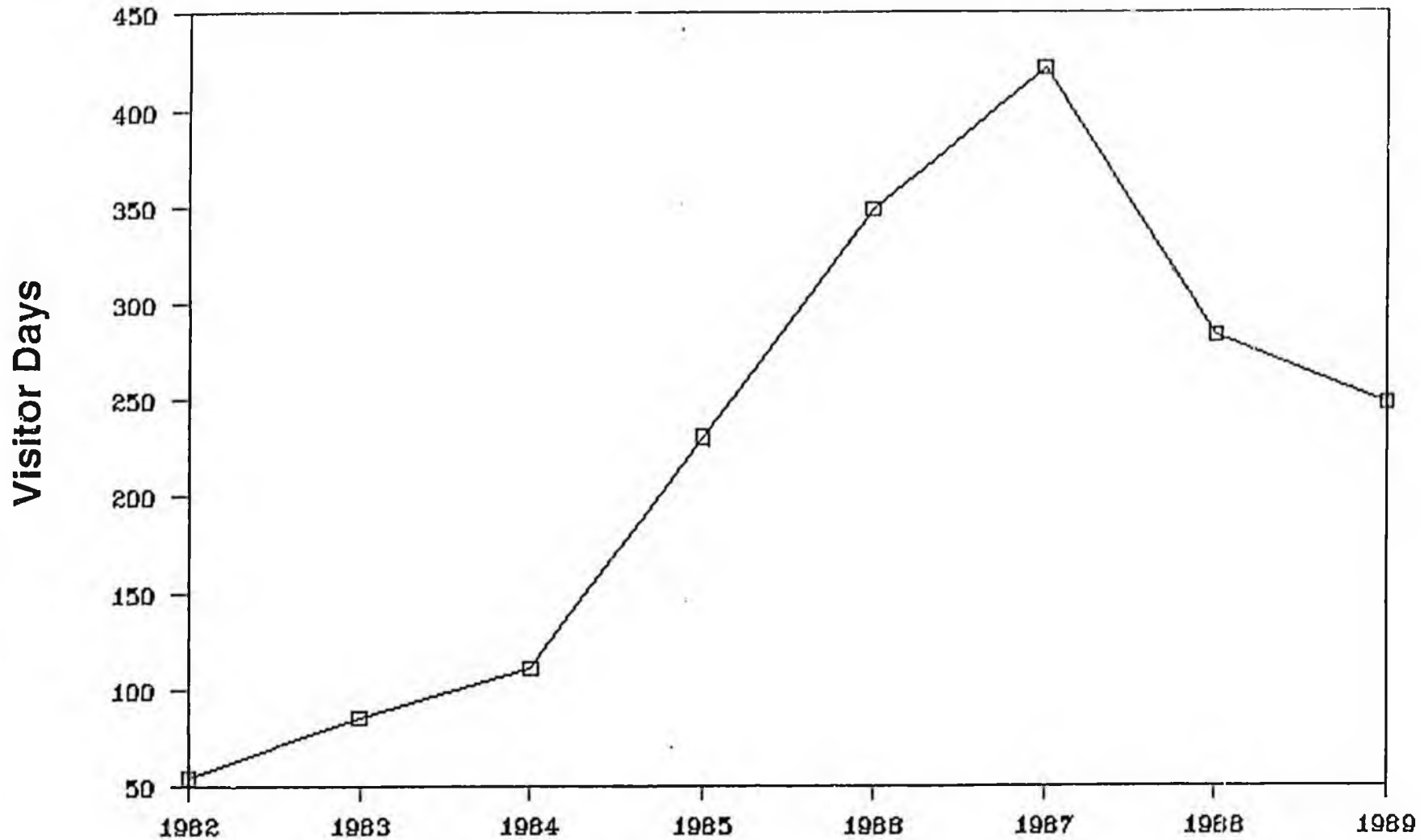
We hung around awhile in hopes of visiting Stan before paddling on, but I noticed he was up in his woodshed, intently entertaining guests from aboard the traditional sailing vessel, "Norden." After all, Stan had been featured on national television and in print enough that he'd become a popular figure. Unless he had a counterpart deep in the Soviet hinterland, which I doubt he did, Stan was unique among the billions of us who inhabit this planet. The reality he created at Pack Creek can no longer be achieved, given the intensified land management that has become necessary in recent years because of an expanding human presence in Alaska and other remote areas of the world.

Oh well, I thought, I'll see Stan later in Juneau and can say hello to him then. And I did see him, visiting on his favorite downtown street corner, but it wasn't the same as walking the tideflat that morning in 1981 when he set me down to wait for the day's first photograph of an Alaska brown bear.

*Bruce H. Baker is Deputy Director, Division of Habitat, ADF&G, Juneau*

# PACK CREEK VISITOR USE

1982 - 1989



## Notes:

1. A visitor day = one person for one day or two people for a half day each
2. Registration permits (no limit) were required to visit Pack Creek for the first time in 1988.
3. Chum salmon runs were weak in 1988 and 1989. Fewer fish usually means fewer bears which ultimately means fewer visitors.