

S B

403

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: Sen. Szymanski, Chairman
Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee

FROM: Sen. Eliason *Richard I. Eliason*

DATE: January 26, 1990

RE: Scheduling of SB 403

This week I introduced SB 403, an act establishing the Stan Price Wildlife Sanctuary at Pack Creek on Admiralty Island. The bill has been referred to your committee. I would very much appreciate your scheduling of this legislation by the CRA 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, and so on. I have requested fiscal notes and position papers from Fish and Game and DNR and will send those on to you as soon as I receive them. If you would like any further information please let me know.

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

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

400 WILLOUGHBY AVE.
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1796
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:

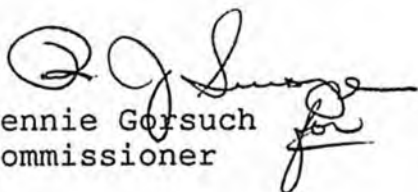
Applicability of other laws. The provisions of AS 16.20.130-140 relating to administration, multiple use and sale and lease apply also to the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

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 bruins 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
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION : SB 403
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						
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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:  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)



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

cc:
ADF&G
ANM

900129 1300 ANM 1517 PS





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>Arum D. Riley</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.

STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: SB403
PUBLISH DATE: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: All Act Establishing the State
Price State Wildlife Sanctuary
Sponsor: Senator Eliason
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: ADF&G
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					
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: *Walter W. Wily*
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)

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.)

Prise Residence

Long Cabin

South Garden

Food Cache

Viewing Sand Spit

Tidal Flat

South Sand Spit

Anchor

Small Boat Outfall

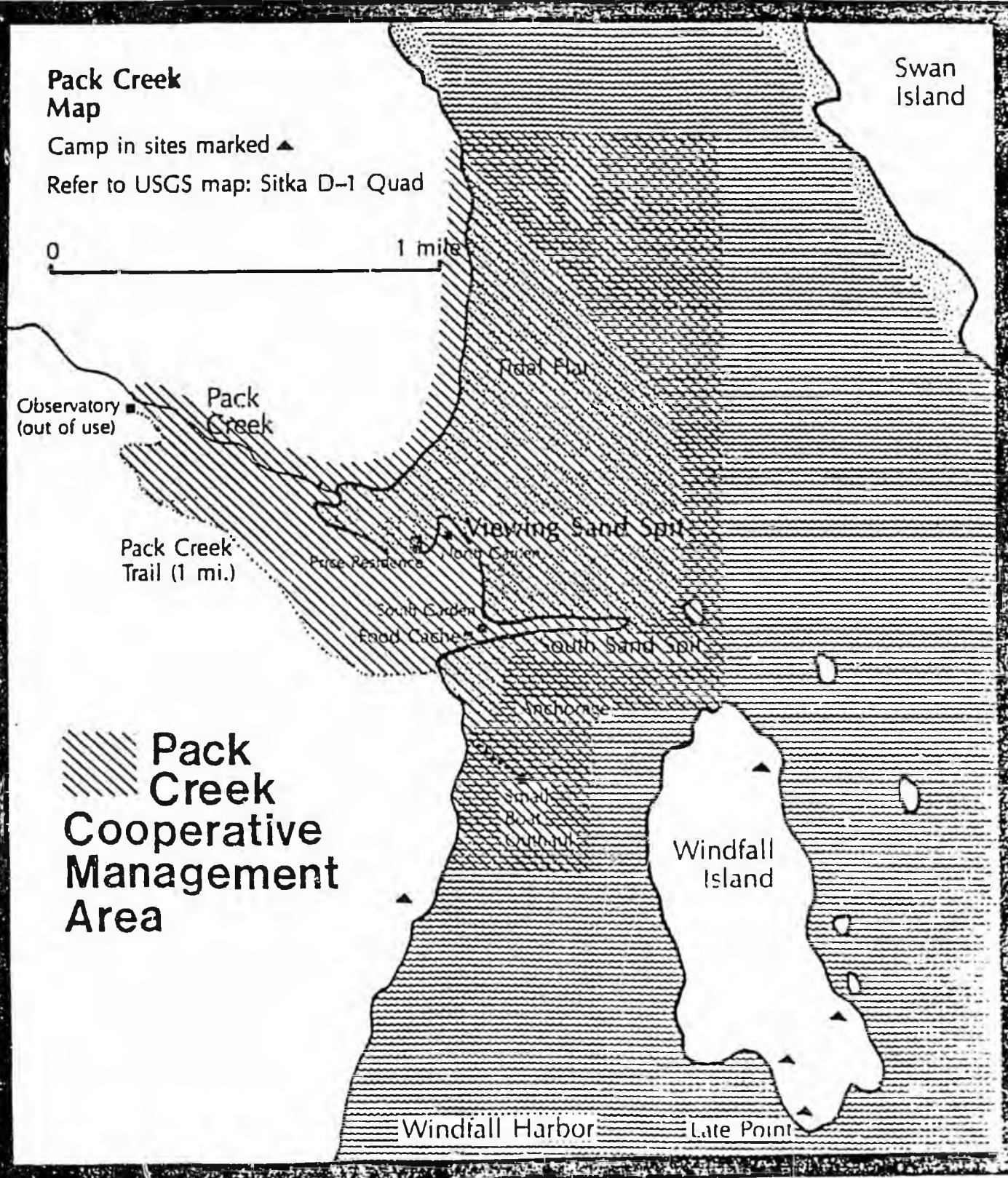
Swan Island

Windfall Island

Windfall Harbor

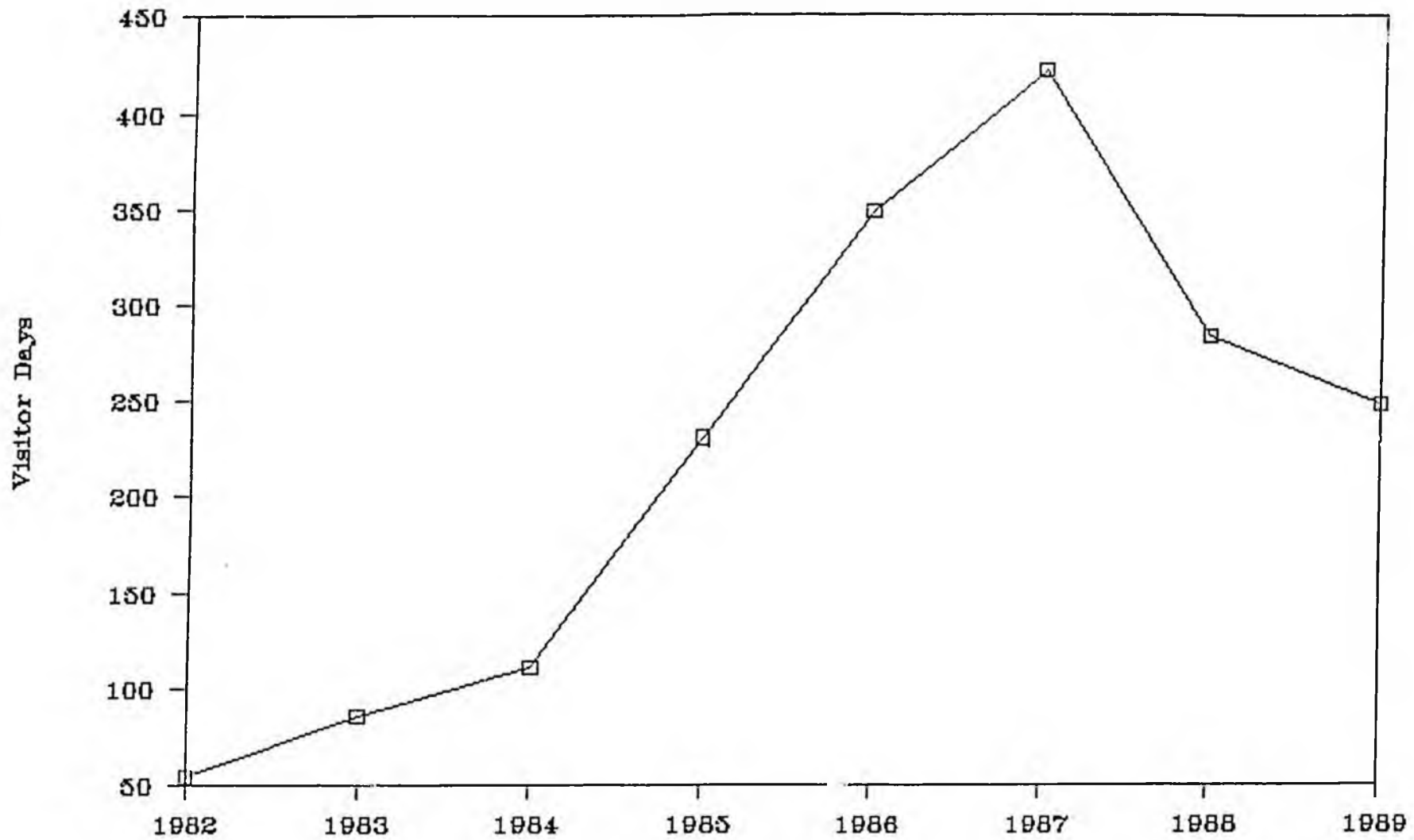
Late Point

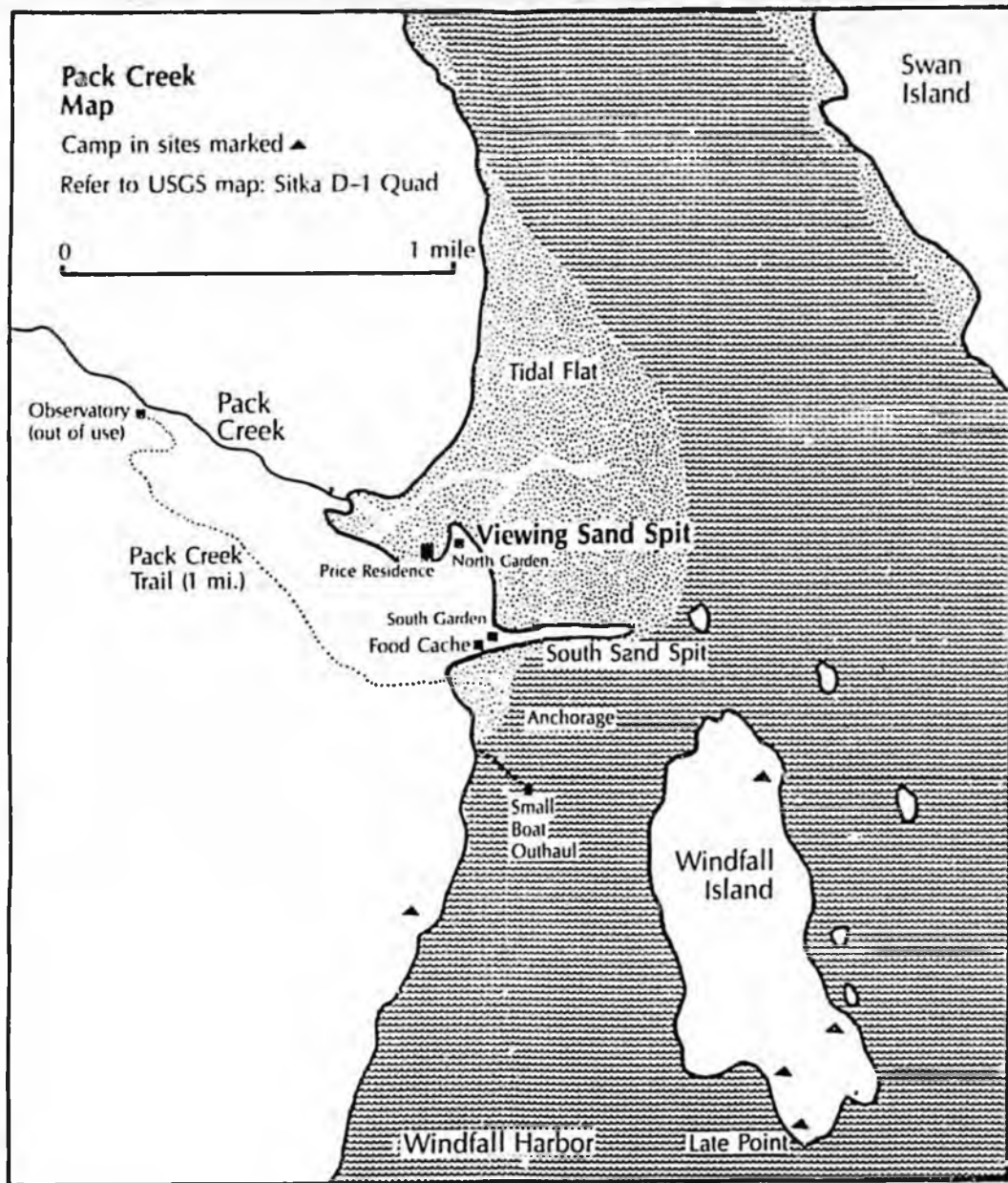
 Pack Creek Cooperative Management Area



PACK CREEK VISITOR USE

1982 - 1989





Pack Creek Safety

Pack Creek bears are habituated to humans, but they aren't 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 bucket cache is provided near the south 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 herds the bears out of photo range for other visitors. Bears will approach the viewing spit 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
 8465 Old Dairy Road
 Juneau, AK 99801
 Phone: (907) 789-3111

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-RC-12

Swan Cove and Windfall Harbor

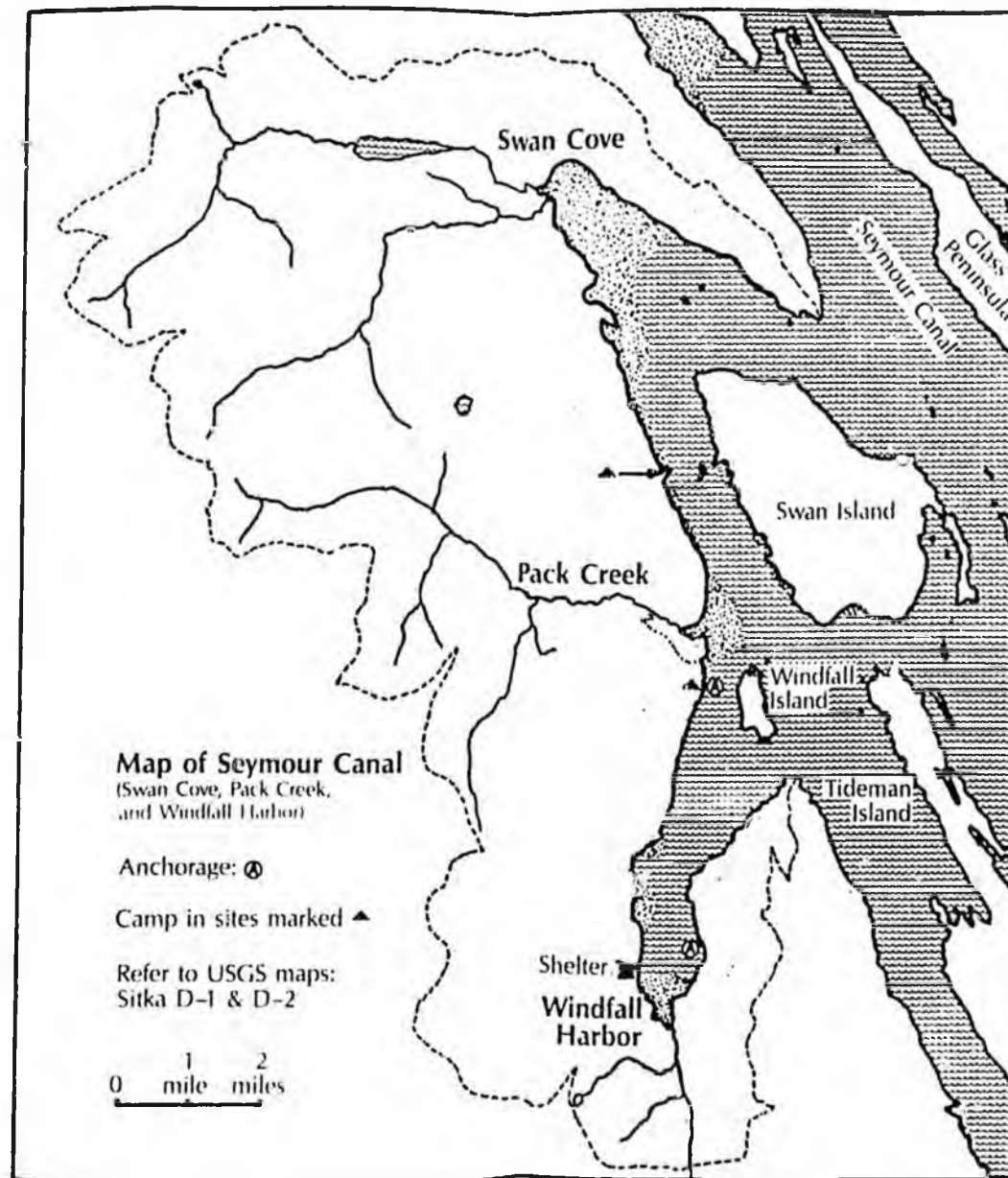
These large bays have extensive tideflats with good populations of brown bear, few human visitors, and few facilities. Bears are most abundant in July and August, and to a lesser extent in June and September. These wild bears are unaccustomed to humans and should be treated with respect (see **BEAR SAFETY** section). Boat anchorages are possible in the areas indicated on the map but consult the local area tide tables for the timing and height of high and low tides, and when going ashore remember that large tidal variations on shallow tideflats can easily strand a boat ashore. Windfall Harbor has a three-sided shelter to camp near and a good site 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-1980s 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 floathouse 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 spit, 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 1984 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 where 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.



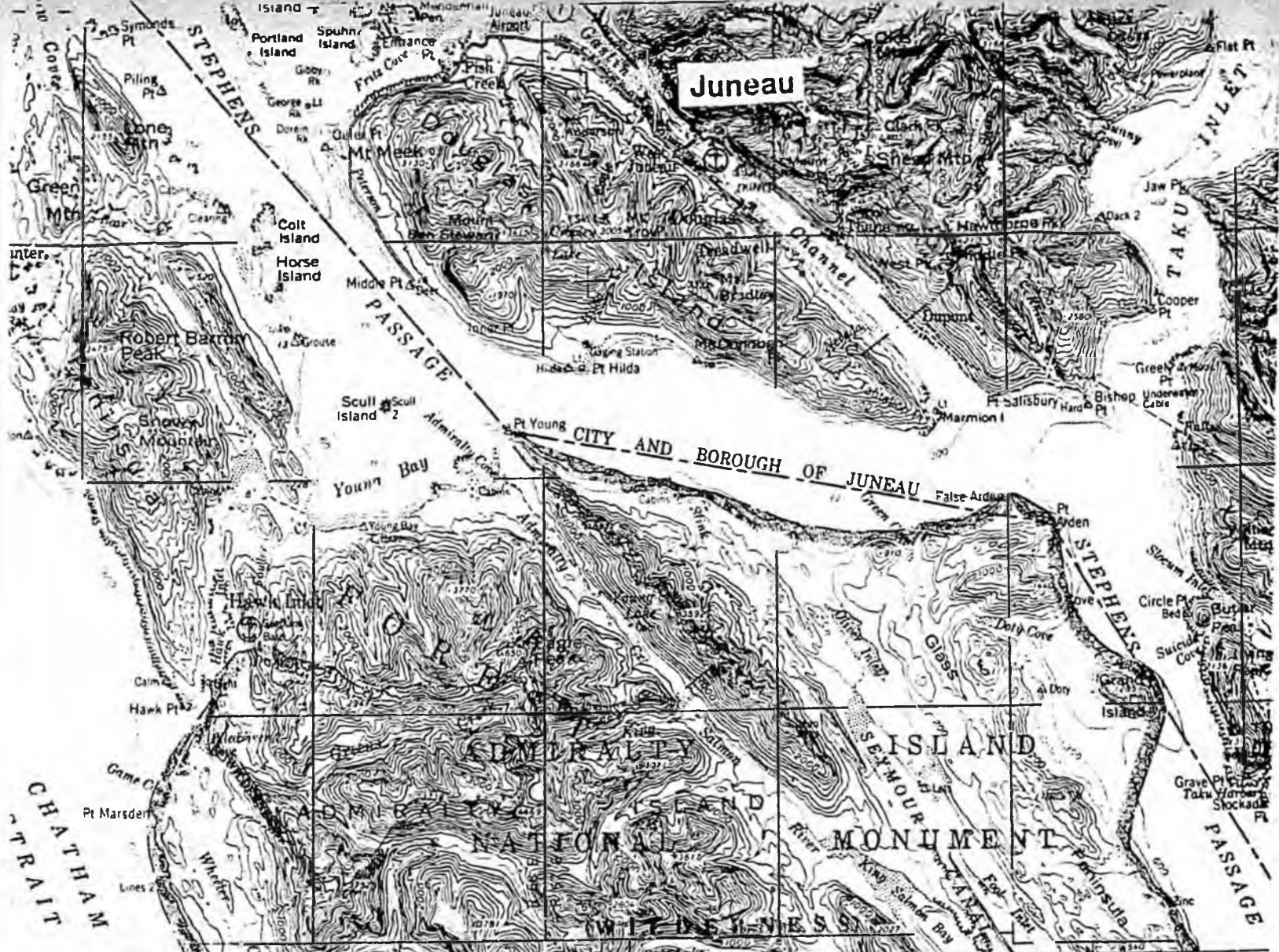
Standing in profile to you, head lowered, and "passively" looking toward the distance may be the bear's way of showing you his size, a polite way of telling you to move out of his space. Aggression is signaled by teeth chatter, hair raised on the hump and back, and ears laid back along the sides of the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

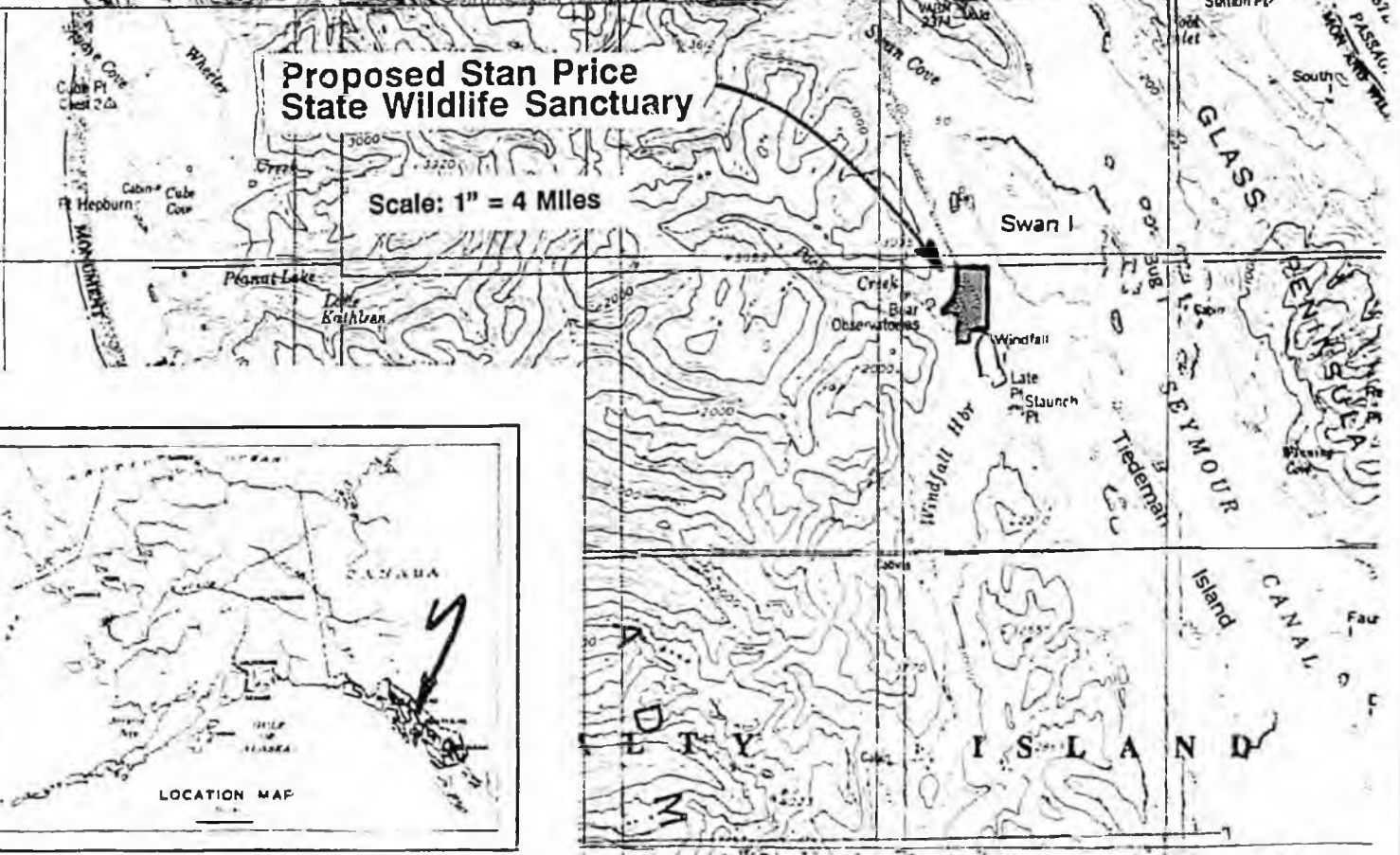
- **Keep a clean camp.**

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 down your campfire. Many sites are destroyed by campfires that people thought "couldn't possibly spread."

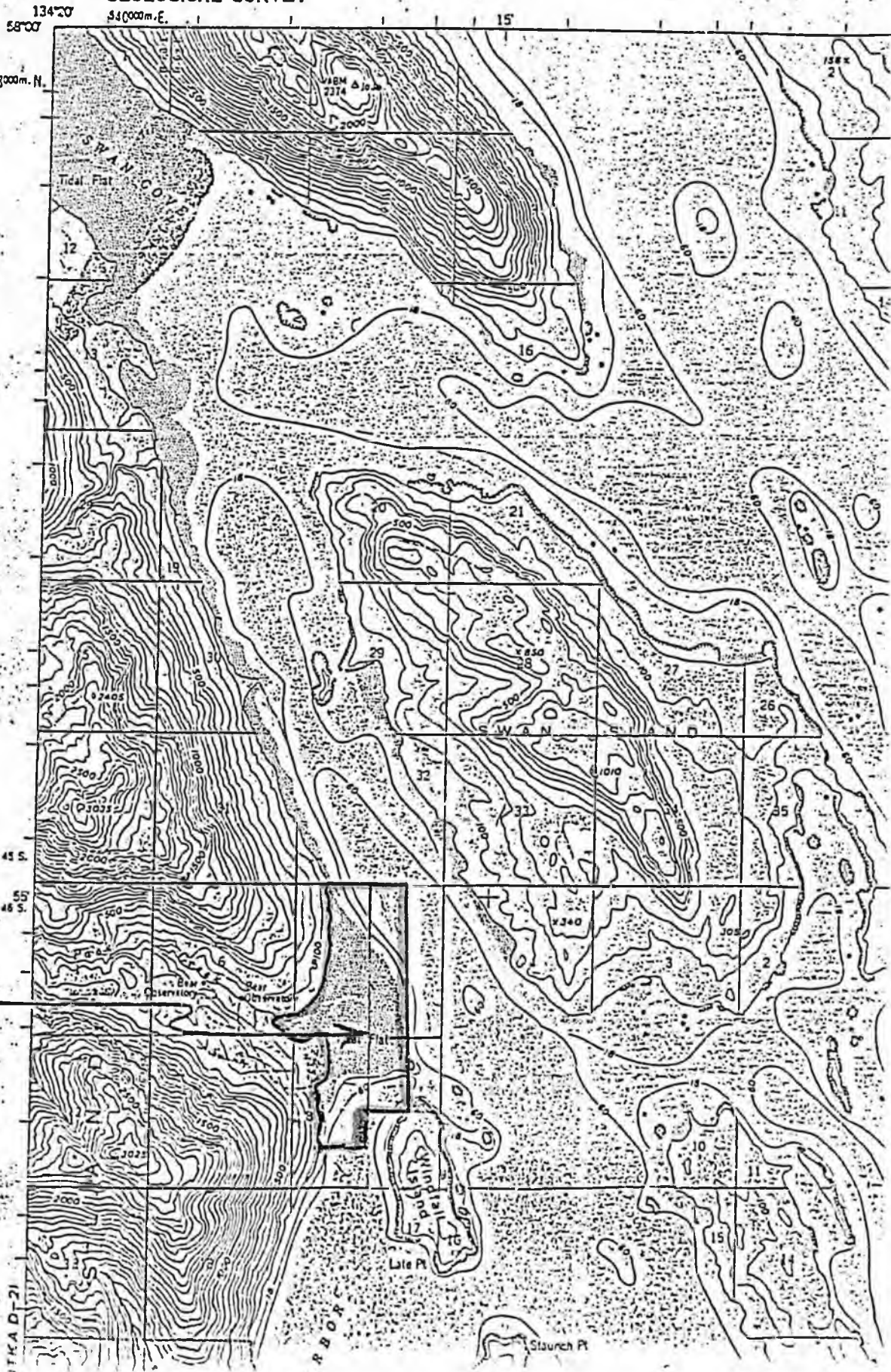


**Proposed Stan Price
State Wildlife Sanctuary**

Scale: 1" = 4 Miles



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



MEAU A-21

134°20' 58"00" W

546000m. E.

15

6428000m. N.

SITKA D-1 Quad

Proposed Area
ILMA ADL No. 105136
Approx. 613 acres

T. 45 S.
55
T. 46 S.

SITKA D-1

R. BORC

Stanch Pt

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

DATE

ID

SECTION

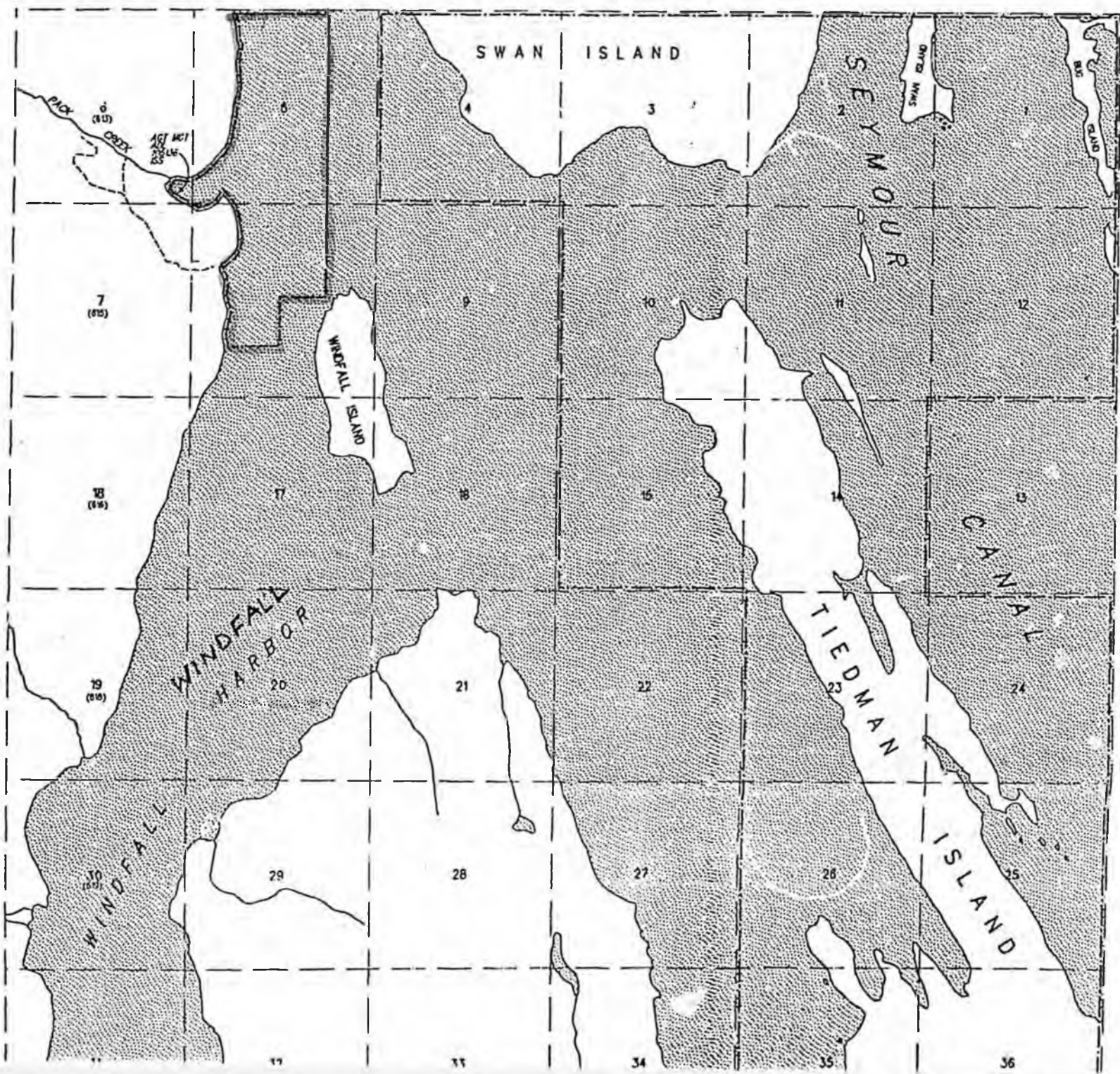
- STREAM
- WATERBODY
- SURVEY
- SECTION LINE
- MAJOR ROAD
- SECONDARY ROAD
- TRAIL
- BOUNDARY
- RAILROAD
- ELECT PWR LINE
- TELEPHONE LINE
- PIPELINE
- HOP CONTROL
- WTS OF ACTION
- APPROX OR LAND STRIPS

SECTION

- TITLE
- CLASSIFICATION
- DISPOSAL
- MUNICIPAL
- RESTRICTIONS
- LEGAL ACTIONS
- E CASH PERMIT
- S CASH PERMIT
- FROM TRESPASS
- TRESPASS

20 GRID

2	1
11	12
14	15



BASED ON

COOP. ALA. SEC. T. Y. LAT. 10N. NTPRO. USC.

LAND AIR

OTHER AC. OF STATE ENT. ENT. Q.