

**S B**

**403**

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/7/90

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 3-8-90

Resources Committee considered SB 403

Act establishing the Stan Price Wildlife Sanctuary; efd.

and recommended:

- replace with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_
  - or adopt \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_
  - attached amendment(s)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent adopted
- same title
  - new title
  - technical title change (HB only)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): Dept/Date:

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

appropriation-no fiscal note

APPROVES PREVIOUS: Dept/Date:

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) FTG, DNR

Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

*Julius Stupulenko*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*  
Chair: Signature and Recommendation

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. Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chairman  
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Sen. Dick Eliason 

DATE: Feb. 7, 1990

RE: SB 403, An act establishing the Stan Price State Wildlife  
Sanctuary.

SB 403 has been passed out of its first committee of referral, the Senate C&RA Committee, and is now in Senate Resources. It is a simple straight-forward bill which designates less than one square mile of tide and submerged lands around Pack Creek on Admiralty Island as a wildlife refuge.

The upland area at Pack Creek, which is a famous brown bear congregating and feeding area, is part of the Admiralty Island National Monument. Thus, a joint management agreement is in place between the U.S. Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage the uplands and tidelands of Pack Creek together. Passage of SB 403 will streamline this joint management as it will allow the Boards of Fish and Game to regulate not only the consumptive uses of the resources there (hunting, trapping, fishing), but also the other uses of the area including access for viewing and photography, management of human/bear interactions, and so on.

Back-up information, maps, and fiscal notes for SB 403 are attached. If you would like further information please contact my office. I would very much appreciate your scheduling of SB 403 for a Resources hearing as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.



FEB 28 1990

February 23, 1990

Senator Bettye M. Fahrenkamp  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

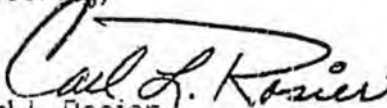
Dear Senator Fahrenkamp:

The Territorial Sportsmen support SB 403, "An Act establishing the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary." Pack Creek is one of the three best brown bear viewing areas in the world. We very much want to see this situation continue, and sanctuary status will help insure that.

The problem at Pack Creek is the number of people. The number of visitors has dramatically increased there in the 1980's, and some means of controlling access is essential. Sanctuary status will give the Alaska Board of Game, in consultation with the public, the authority to establish reasonable regulations for visiting the area.

We strongly support this bill and would appreciate your scheduling and supporting SB 403 through the legislative process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Carl L. Rosier  
President

cc: Senator R. Eliason  
Senator J. Duncan  
Representative Ulmer  
Representative Hudson

# 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."

## **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.



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
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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>Alum D. Riley</i>	DATE 2/2/90
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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: S3403  
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						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0					

CAPITAL	0					
---------	---	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE	0					
---------	---	--	--	--	--	--

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND	0					
FEDERAL FUNDS	0					
OTHER	0					
<b>TOTAL</b>	0					

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME	-					
PART-TIME	-					
TEMPORARY	-					

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Frank Rue, Director  
Division: Habitat

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

Approved by Commissioner: *Walter D. Wiley*  
Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Date: 2/2/90

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

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						
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)

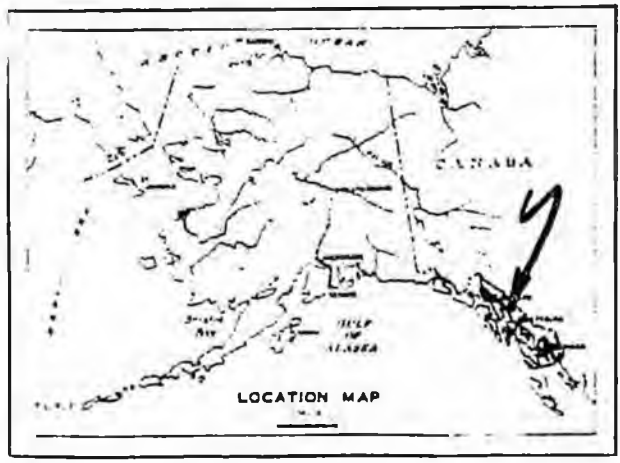
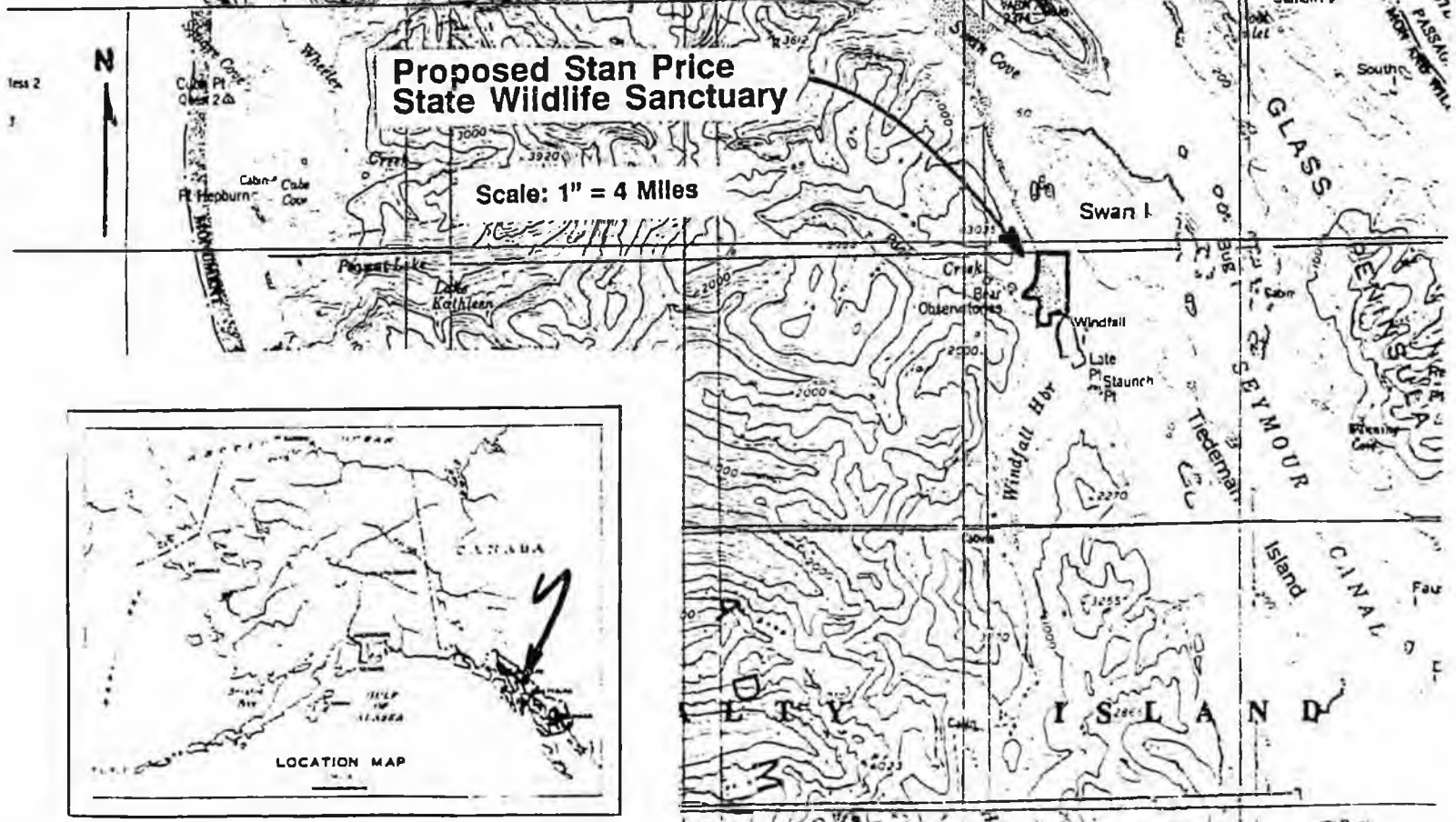
Prepared by: Janet Burleson Phone: 465-3400  
 Division: Land and Water Management Date: 1-Feb-90  
 Approved by Commissioner: Lennie Gorsuch Date: 1-Feb-90  
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

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



**Proposed Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary**

Scale: 1" = 4 Miles



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

GRAPHIC 1

ID

**SYMBOL**

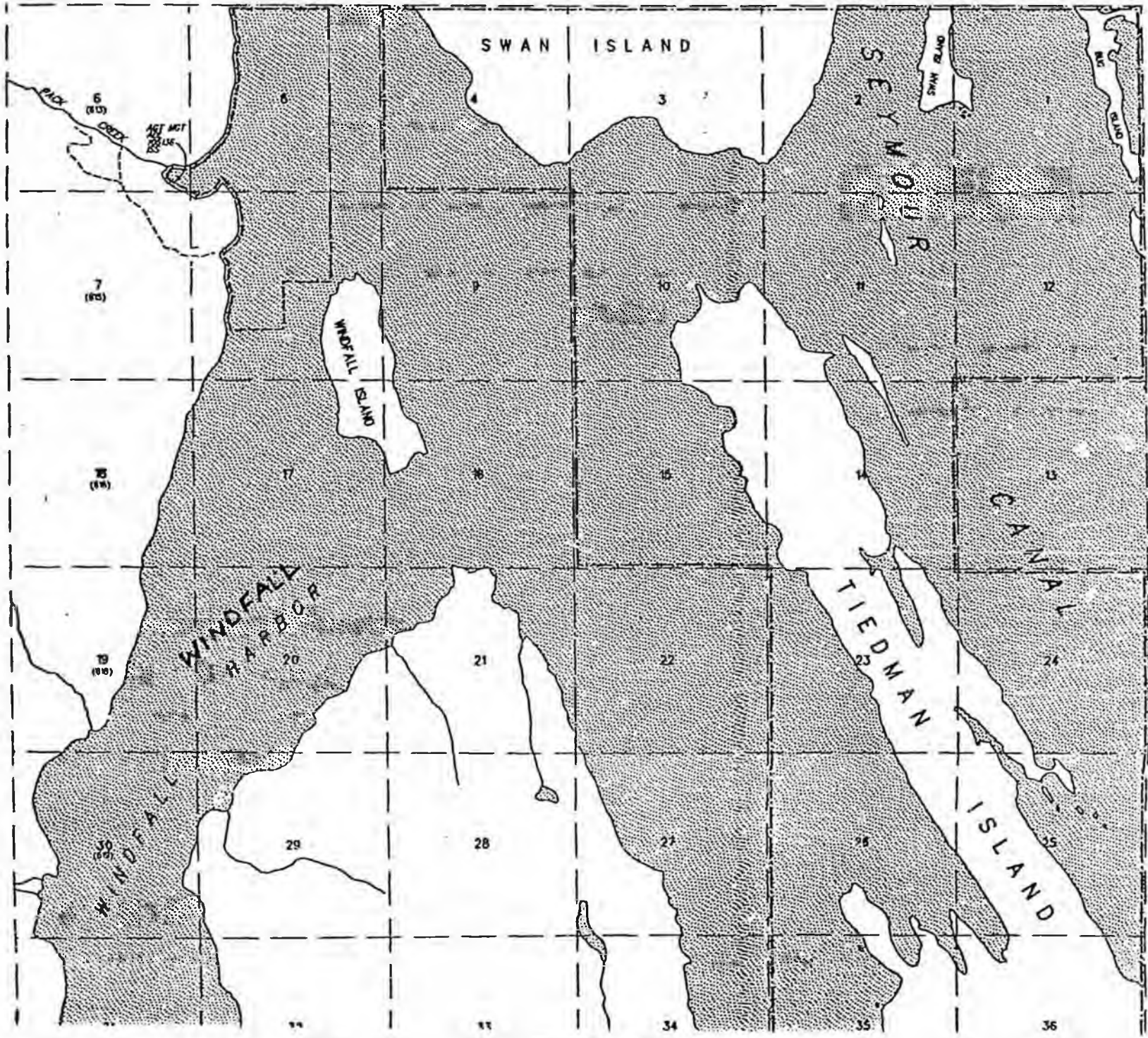
- STREAM
- WATERBODY
- SURVEY
- SECTION LINE
- MAJOR ROAD
- SECONDARY ROAD
- TRAIL
- BOUNDARY
- RAILROAD
- ELECT PWR LINE
- TELEPHONE LINE
- PIPELINE
- HOPE CONTROL
- POINTS OF ACTION
- AIRPORTS OR LANDING STRIPS

**CLASSIFICATION**

- TITLE
- CLASSIFICATION
- DISPOSAL
- MUNICIPAL
- RESTRICTIONS
- FEDERAL ACTIONS
- 10 CABIN PERMIT
- 20 CABIN PERMIT
- PROHIBITION FROM TRESPASS
- TRESPASS

GRID

2	1
11	12
10	11



BASED ON  
COORD  
ALASKA  
SECTION  
TOWNSHIP  
RANGE  
METERS  
USC  
LAND  
AC

OTHER AC  
OF STATE  
EN  
DN  
DR  
R

# Pack Creek Map

Camp in sites marked ▲

Refer to USGS map: Sitka D-1 Quad

0 1 mile

Swan Island

Observatory  
(out of use)

Pack  
Creek

Tidal Flat

Pack Creek  
Trail (1 mi.)

Viewing Sand Spit

Price Residence

Long Garden

South Garden

Food Cache

South Sand Spit

Inchornise

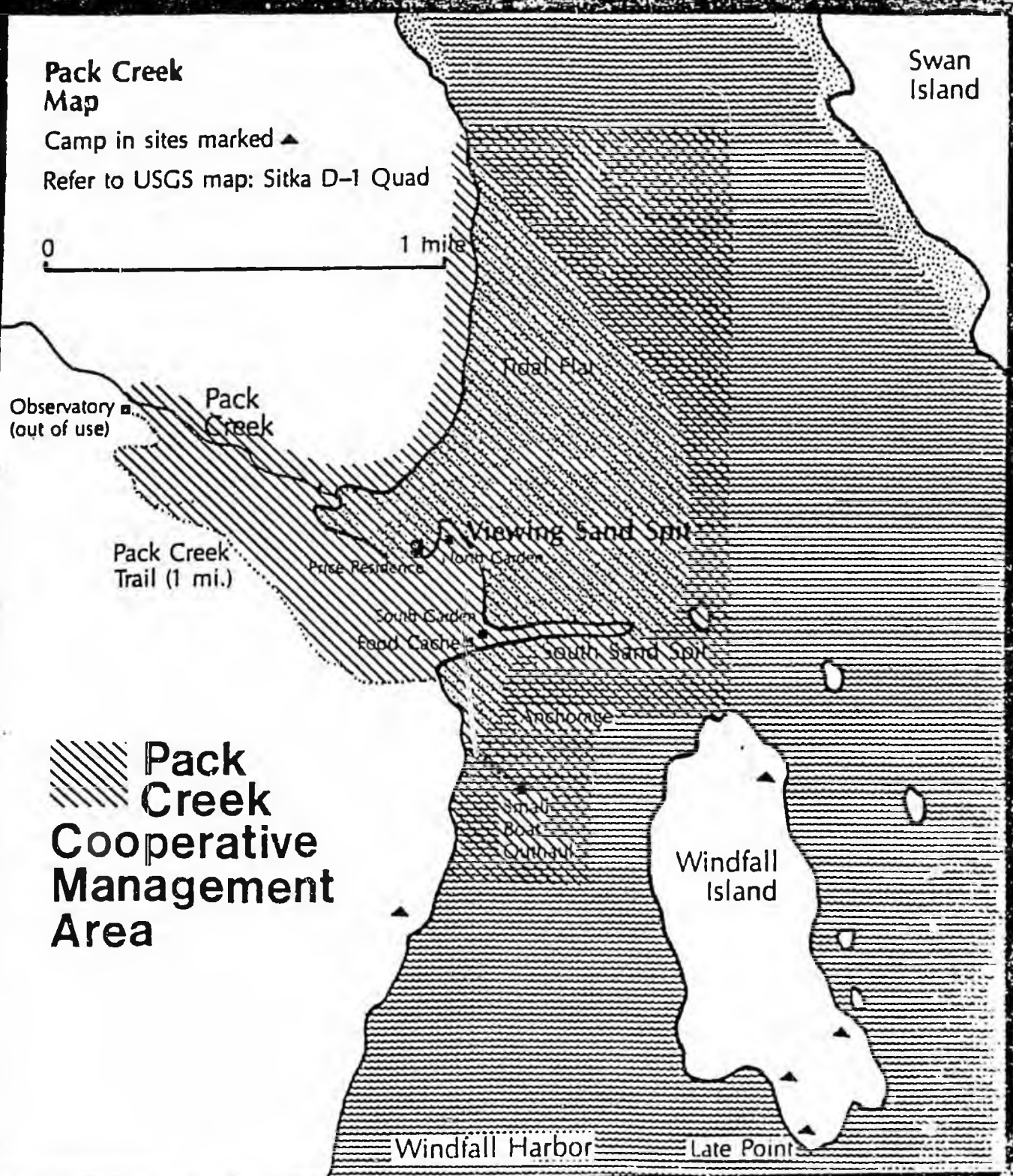
Small  
Boat  
Outfall

Windfall  
Island

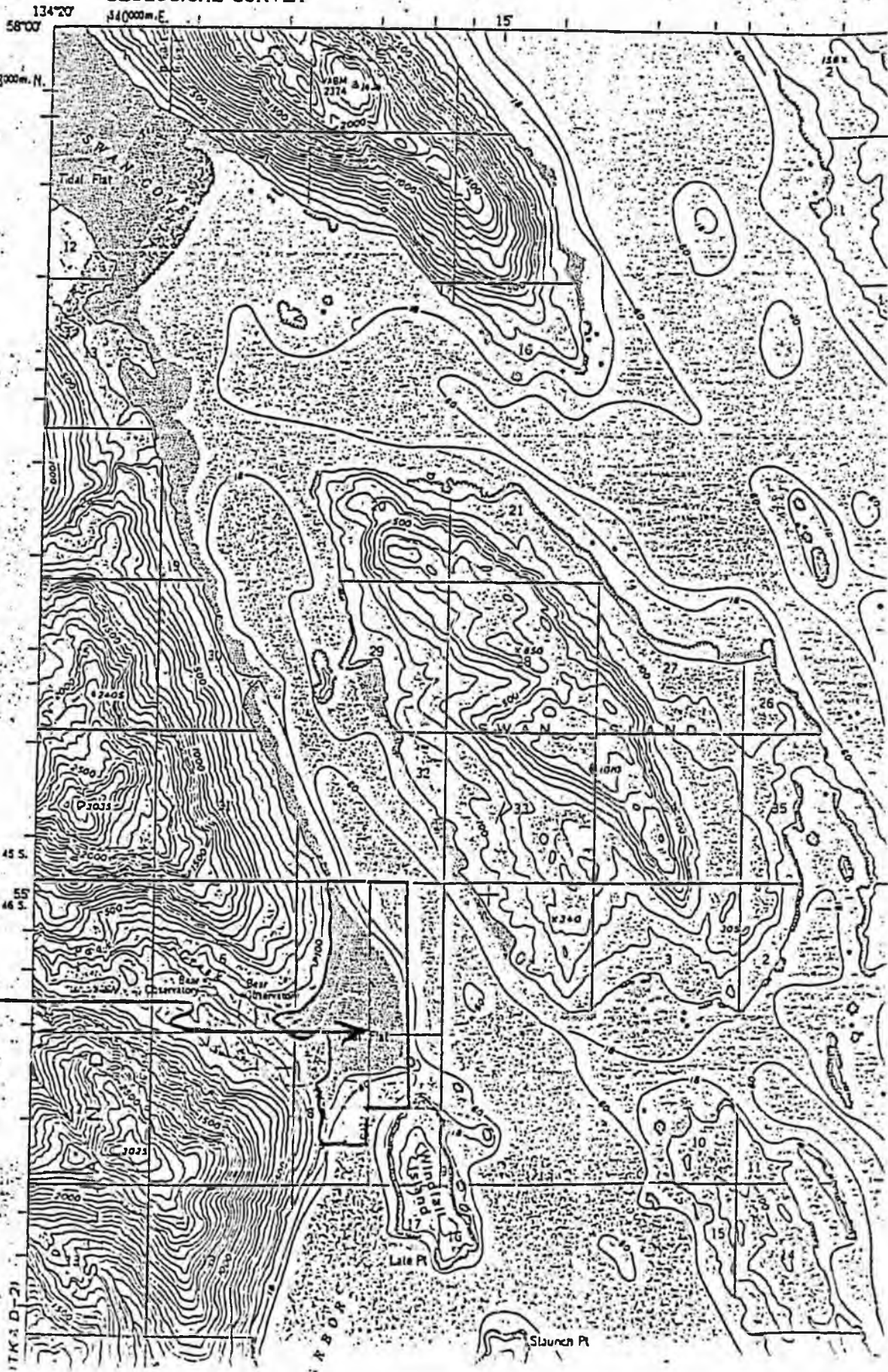
 Pack  
Creek  
Cooperative  
Management  
Area

Windfall Harbor

Late Point



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

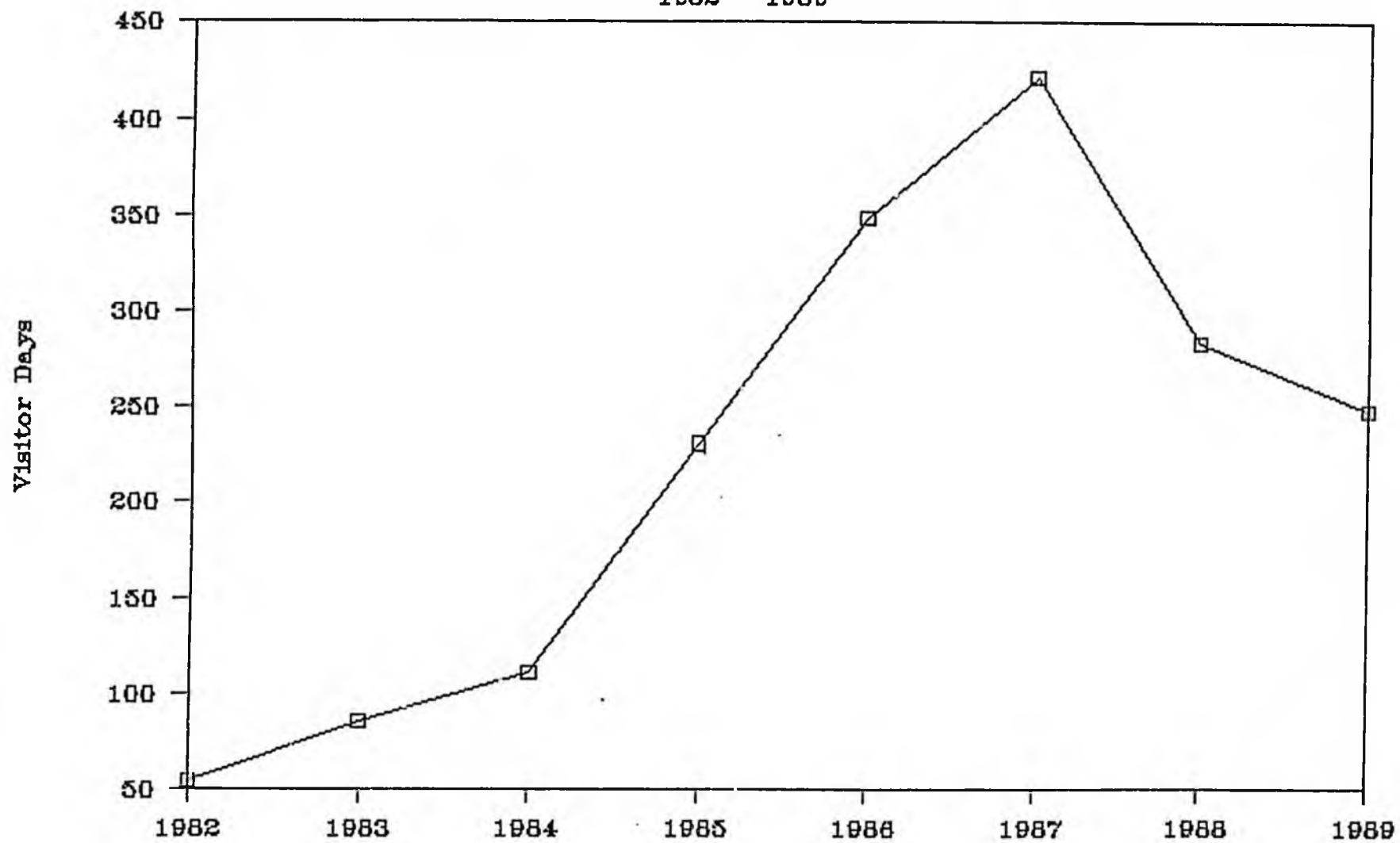


SITKA D-1 Quad

Proposed Area  
ILMA ADL No. 105136  
Approx. 61½ acres

# PACK CREEK VISITOR USE

1982 - 1989



# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

400 WILLOUGHBY AVE.  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1796  
PHONE: (907) 465-4400

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)

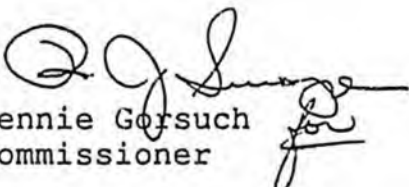
Senator Adams

- 2 -

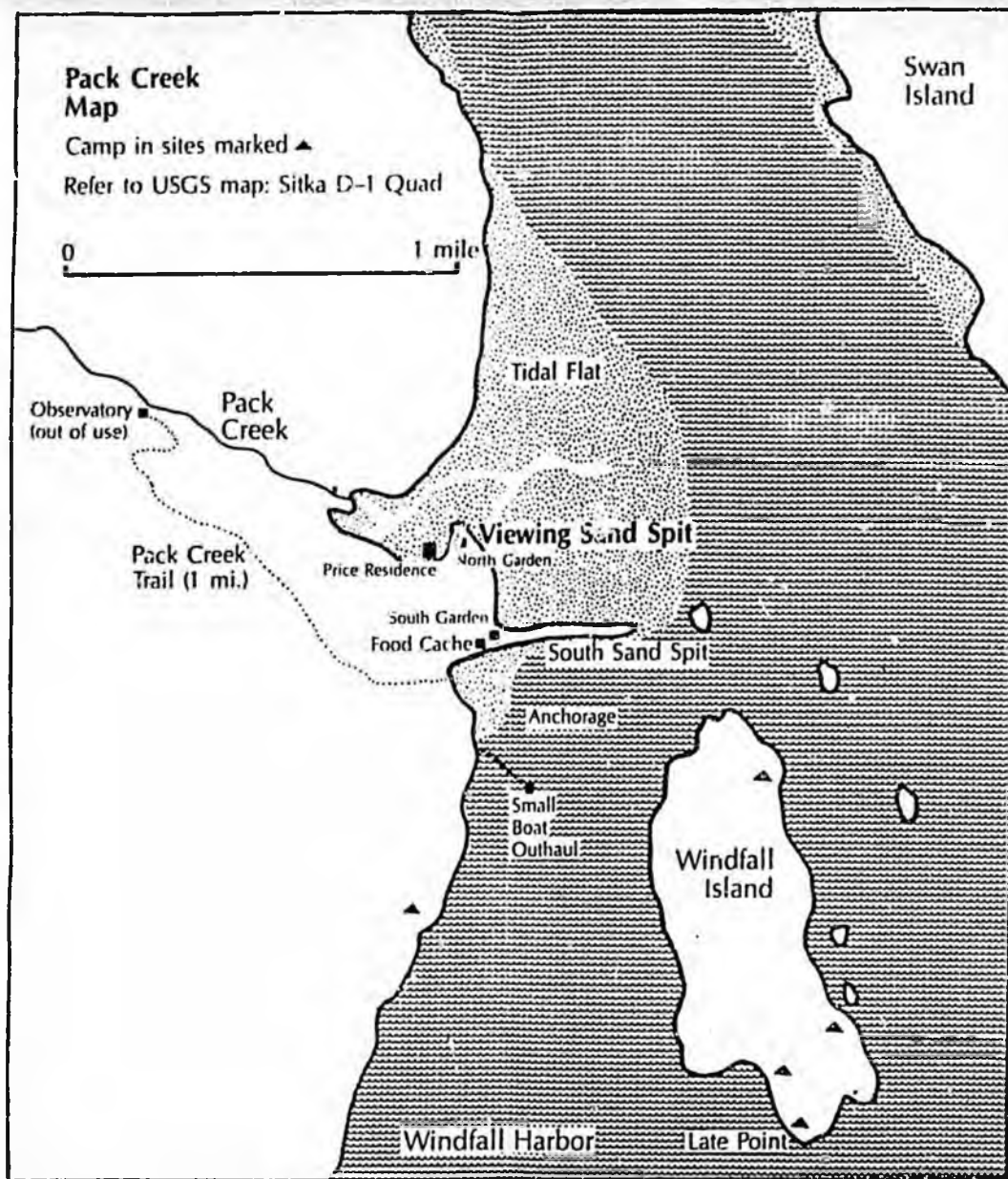
February 5, 1990

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



### 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-RG-13

### Swan Cove and Windfall Harbor

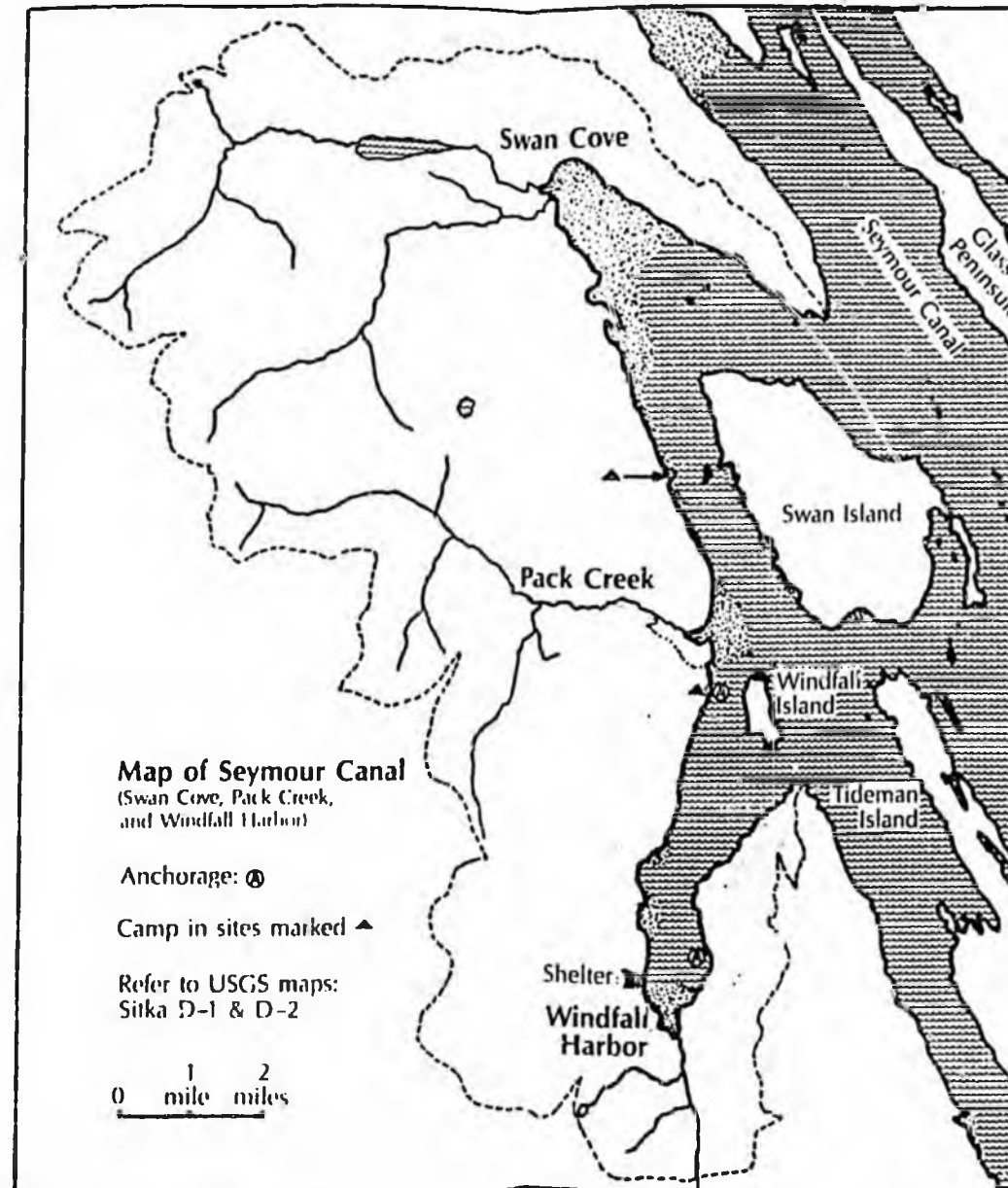
These large bays have extensive tidelags with good populations of brown bear, few human visitors, and no facilities. Bears are most abundant in July and August, and to a lesser extent in June and September. These wild bears are unaccustomed to humans and should be treated with respect (see **BEAR SAFETY** section). Boat anchorages are possible in the areas indicated on the map but consult the local assembly tables for the timing and height of high and low tides and when going ashore remember that large tidal variations on shallow tidal 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-1940s 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 drown your campfire. Many sites are destroyed by campfires that people thought "couldn't possibly spread."