

Best Management Practices Agreement for Hunting Season Operations on the Tongass National Forest

April 11, 2025

This program is a cooperative effort between recreation and tourism service providers operating on the Tongass National Forest during spring and fall hunting seasons. This agreement is intended to minimize impacts to hunting operations, provide the opportunity for a quality visitor experience for clients, and protect the forest resources integral to all service providers' business models. By actively participating in this voluntary program, stakeholders demonstrate their commitment to these intentions.

Background

In January 2018, a collaborative process was initiated to reduce crowding and conflict between Big Game Hunting guides and Small Cruise Vessels during spring and fall hunting seasons. The Forest Service facilitated a series of conversations between the groups to identify solutions agreeable to both groups for the 2018 operating season. This process also explored steps to long-term sustainable actions to further reduce crowding and conflict and build collaborative behaviors. Outcomes and agreements from this process are recorded in this best management practices (BMPs) agreement.

In October 2018 and 2019, the stakeholder group reconvened to review the season, discuss feedback, and identify improvements for the following season. Feedback shared from the 2019 season:

- Overall, things went well for most operators.
- There were a few reports of negative interactions between big game guides and small cruise vessels.
- Operational Necessity BMP worked well.
- AIS helped reduce conflicts.
- Suggestions for improving the BMP agreement:
 - Clarify use seasons for BMP locations (clarifying notes were added to Appendix A maps)
 - Develop Intentions List protocols (this was developed by the stakeholder group, see Appendix B)
 - Identify a few additional locations for in-season, in-field contact to determine if use is possible for Tourism Service Providers (this topic was discussed and later withdrawn by the interested stakeholder – no changes were made to the BMP agreement for this topic)
 - Clarity in navigation near specific areas (Appendix C)

BMP Agreement Terminology

- *Big Game Hunting Guide* – refers to the portion of commercial recreation service providers who provide big game hunting services.
- *Recreation and Tourism Service Providers* – refers to all commercial recreation and tourism service providers including big game hunting guides and small cruise vessel operators.
- *Stakeholder* – refers to all individuals or user groups with an interest in this BMP agreement.
- *Tourism Service Providers* – refers to all commercial service providers of recreation and tourism services, except big game hunting service providers.

Business Model Constraints and Misperceptions

The group acknowledged disconnects between hunting and non-hunting business types and expressed a desire to improve understanding. Each business type recognized that they have bias perceptions of the other, and each has certain needs that must be met to be successful. Recreation and Tourism Service Providers have tremendous influence on what perceptions their guests walk away with in regard to what they see and think about with their experience. The following messages are provided by each business type to start addressing this gap in understanding.

- Agreement: Recreation and Tourism Service Providers will incorporate the following talking points and messages into their operations during the operating season.

Messages to share with staff/clients

Big Game Hunting

- Understand that Big Game Hunting guides are limited to three Guide Use Areas and regulation hunting season dates by the State of Alaska.
 - Brown bear season: The spring shoulder season is relatively short, and it varies by location. When a vessel travels from, say, Sitka to Juneau, the spring brown bear season lasts through midnight on May 31 in the vicinity of Sitka and continuing until the vessel rounds Nisemi Point on the north end of Baranof Island (Rodgers Point on the Chichagof Island side). From this point until the vessel reaches the mainland, the brown bear season lasts only until midnight on May 20. The mainland areas, however, remain open until midnight on May 31. Therefore, much of the "Shoreline" area would be conflict-free between May 20 and 31 simply because the brown bear season is closed in those locations.
 - Black bear season: Black bear season in the spring remains open through the end of June but most hunting is over by June 15th.
- Hunting guides have little flexibility to move to other areas.
- Many hunting guides have been operating for 20 years or more; it has been a process of adjustment over many years to coordinate with other hunting operations to minimize crowding and conflicts. Understand that growth of the tourism industry has an impact on this established system.

- Human use on the landscape affects bear behavior. To minimize unnecessary impacts to bears, hunting guides apply a light touch in their operations by limiting their time on the land and avoiding leaving human scent.

Tourism Service Providers

- Understand that vessels may need to overlap at times if weather requires them to seek safe harbor.
- Coordinate with other vessels in the area for an adequate place to anchor out of the weather.
- In the event of a crew emergency (e.g., a captain has to switch out due to medical or family emergency), they may need to get into a cove/bay to accomplish that or educate the replacement captain.
- Small Cruise Vessels are constrained by established routes, schedules, and authorized use areas with limited ability to add locations.

Overlapping Time and Space

The group agreed that bear hunting and bear viewing/tour operations are not compatible in the same place and time. To address this issue, stakeholders proposed, reviewed, and agreed upon a set of locations (Appendix A) that could be used by Tourism Service Providers during spring or fall hunting seasons. One of the main concerns expressed by hunting guides is the tendency of sightseeing groups to "stray" into other areas. For example, kayaking or hiking the islands at Baby Bear Bay from morning to midafternoon would not conflict significantly with hunting activities, but straying from here to Deep Bay would likely result in conflict. Appendix A contains a list of locations agreed upon with the understanding that Tourism Service Provider operations would be constrained to the specific locations identified. Site-specific operating practices are also identified to minimize impacts to hunting operations and provide the opportunity for a quality visitor experience for all clients.

- Agreement: Tourism Service Providers will only use locations from Appendix A during spring or fall hunting seasons, unless there is an operational necessity to deviate. In the rare case that an operational necessity requires deviation from this list, follow the "Operational Necessity" BMPs on pages 3 - 5. Tourism Service Providers agree to use the locations identified in accordance with the site-specific practices described. If their permit authorizes other locations during these seasons, Tourism Service Providers agree to not use those other authorized locations until hunting operations are concluded for the season.
- Agreement: Tourism Service Providers and Big Game Hunting Guides agree to follow the "Operational Necessity" BMPs (pp. 3 - 5) in the rare case when a Tourism Service Provider is unable to use one of the allowed locations (Appendix A) during spring or fall hunting seasons.

Operational Necessity BMPs

The 2018 Best Management Practices (BMP) Agreement called out the possibility that Small Cruise Vessels might utilize an area otherwise marked under the BMP as restricted. Specifically, the 2018 BMP stated that: “Small Cruise Vessel companies may need to overlap at times if weather requires them to seek safe harbor. Coordinate with other vessels in the area for an adequate place to anchor out of the weather.”

The following BMPs expand this language beyond exceptions for safety. As commercial enterprises, we must balance the needs of the larger community with the need to get our jobs done. We see the BMP Agreement as an ideal way to get down on paper ways that groups can work better together. It simultaneously needs to be an agreement that allows us (and others) to continue getting their jobs done.

For the Small Cruise Vessel industry engaged in Adventure style tourism, getting our job done means getting our guests off the vessel, at least once per day. The BMP Agreement as it stands, and as it is being adjusted, generally allows us to do that. However, we operate in a dynamic environment, and things change on a day-by-day, hour-by-hour basis. For that reason, we suggest creating an exception based on operational necessity. If strong winds, unexpected crowding, itinerary delays, or the like, put us in the position of not being able to utilize one of the locations allowed for Tourism Service Provider use under the BMP Agreement (Appendix A), then we would be able to access (under a series of guidelines) an area generally prohibited to Tourism Service Provider use under the BMP Agreement.

Exceptions based on Operational Necessity

Some reasons that might trigger an “Operational Necessity.”

- The weather has blown out all allowed locations listed in the Best Management Practices (BMP) Agreement (Appendix A), limiting the ability to engage in off vessel activities in those areas.
- A mechanical issue or other unexpected delay limits the range of the vessel, making timely arrival to a BMP allowed location unfeasible.
- Unexpected (and non-Intentions List participating) vessel presence in planned activity location.

When a Tourism Service Provider encounters a situation where they have an “Operational Necessity” and would like to use a location otherwise prohibited to them under the BMP Agreement, they will operate under the following guidelines:

1. First, vessel will fully commit to reviewing any and all possible options that might allow the vessel to avoid using an “Operational Necessity” exception.
2. On the day of, the Tourism Service Provider vessel will do all of the following:
 - a. Send out an email, if possible, to the Intentions List indicating their plan to use an area otherwise prohibited under the BMP Agreement; AND
 - b. Make a radio call on Ch.16 indicating their plan to use an area otherwise prohibited under the BMP Agreement; AND
 - c. If any other vessels are detected visually or on RADAR/AIS, an attempt will be made to communicate and accommodate the Tourism Service Provider vessel.

For each of the communication methods listed above, if any other big game hunting operators have plans in that area during that timeframe, and reach out, an attempt will be made to accommodate the Tourism Service Provider vessel. If no accommodation is possible, then the location will not be visited by the Tourism Service Provider vessel.

3. While conducting operations in the area, the Tourism Service Provider vessel will only engage in kayaking and skiff tours; no land operations.
4. Additional communications will be made to guests and crew to minimize noise while in the area.
5. Additional steps to minimize noise and/or disruption to bears will be taken:
 - a. Operate skiff outboards at minimum throttle required.
 - b. Minimize noise during anchoring operations.
 - c. Restrict use of ship's Public Address system to emergency use only.
6. Relocate to an approved area as soon as reasonably practical.

Self-Reporting and Restrictions

It is essential that this language not be used to justify use that violates the spirit of the larger BMP Agreement. To that end, any use of areas normally restricted to Tourism Service Provider access under the BMP Agreement will need to be self-reported to the Forest Service (SM.FS.shoreline2@usda.gov) and the Intentions List. Further, each Tourism Service Provider vessel should not be engaging in more than one of these exceptions per year. This information will be used to monitor the effectiveness of these BMPs.

Other Considerations for Overlapping Time and Space Southern Admiralty Island and Tracy/Endicott Arms

Southern Admiralty Island is situated along a major marine travel route between Juneau, Sitka, Hoonah and parts to the south. As a result, this area receives a lot of use. This area is heavily hunted through May 20th; additional use in this area would conflict with hunts, except in a harbor of safe refuge situation in the southeast anchorage at the entrance of Pybus Bay or Cannery Cove. There are several Tourism Service Providers who conduct land-based activities for fishing or bear viewing/touring during this time.

Touring uses seem to be growing the past several years and are occurring earlier in the spring season. This early season growth does conflict and overlap with the spring hunting season.

Tracy and Endicott Arms are a destination place along the major marine travel route to and from Juneau. As a result, this area also receives a lot of use. The mainland's around Holkham Bay up into Tracy and Endicott Arms are heavily hunted through May 31st. Activities conducted by Tourism Service Providers in this area are typically confined to saltwater; land-based activities are uncommon. This results in more traffic on saltwater and competition for limited anchorages. Additional use in this area would conflict and overlap with the spring hunting season and add to the marine traffic.

Additionally, much of the National Forest System lands in these two areas are designated by Congress as Wilderness. This designation brings an expectation of a high degree of remoteness from sights and sounds of humans, and opportunities for solitude. Recreation and Tourism Service Providers who operate in these areas are encouraged to consider the amount and type of use they conduct and consider the

impacts of additional use to the Wilderness resource and to other users. Also, there is a Wilderness Best Management Practices Agreement in place for Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness. Vessel operators in that area are strongly encouraged to join the other vessel operators in that cooperative effort and uphold the provisions in that agreement. Contact the Juneau Ranger District (907-586-8800) for more information.

Communications

Stakeholders indicated that communication is a problem within and between various user groups. There is also disconnect between shore operations and the onboard crew, and a need to ensure information is reaching the staff in the field. The group recognized the need to improve communications in the offseason as well as during the operating season. During the operating season, there are a variety of communication methods available, each with technology limitations for operating in a remote and rugged landscape. In the off-season, there are challenges with people living in different places and the ability to connect and work together.

With these challenges in mind, the group proposed the following:

- Agreement: Tourism Service Providers and Big Game Hunting Guides will maintain and share a contact list/directory with multiple methods of contacting each other. All agree to attempt contact in the field as needed to minimize conflicts with each other. All will plan in advance, when feasible, and coordinate with others who work in the same Guide Use Areas. See Appendix B (Intentions List protocol) for one method of coordination.
- Agreement: Tourism Service Providers and Big Game Hunting Guides will include the BMP Agreement in pre-season staff trainings and ensure ship captains and field staff know about the BMP Agreement, understand it, and have a copy of the document on board each vessel.
- Agreement: Tourism Service Providers and Big Game Hunting Guides will meet postseason (date TBD) to review, discuss feedback, and identify improvements for the following season.

Best Management Practices

Throughout the collaborative meetings, stakeholders identified the need to establish and agree upon common operational practices to minimize conflicts in the field and provide the opportunity for quality experiences for clients. In addition to the site-specific practices described previously, a set of general “best management practices” are provided by the group. To set the context of some of these practices, the following information is provided by hunting guides:

- Bear hunters are focused on mature male bears, and the habits of these mature male bears do not necessarily match those of smaller bears and females. Mature male bears are, to a large degree, nocturnal and tend to be active on the beaches mostly in late afternoons and evenings (note that they may also be active at other times of the day). Also, these bears have a tremendous sense of smell, and they rely on that as much for their own safety as for their quest for food. When a person walks on a beach, any mature male bear that crosses that path over the next 4 days will be aware that there is "local" human activity. Many of these male bears will then become entirely nocturnal for the next several weeks and this will impact hunting significantly in the area.

- Mature male bears will also react in the same way if they have a relatively close visual encounter with boats or humans. Typically, when someone on a vessel spots a bear on a beach the vessel alters course toward the bear to get a better look. This typically continues until the bear runs off. If the bear is a female or a juvenile (which most bears seen on the beach are) the bear will very likely come back out once the vessel moves on. If the bear, however, is a mature male bear he is very unlikely to forget the experience and will often react by becoming nocturnal.
- There are actually relatively few mature male bears on the beaches during the spring season. Every time one of these larger bears is alerted to human activity, either by scent on the beach or by visual interaction with a vessel, the odds of harvesting a bear for a hunter is reduced.
- Agreement: Tourism Service Providers and Big Game Hunting Guides will abide by the following best management practices when conducting their operations.

Moving from Place to Place

- Transit through channels like Peril Strait, or along shorelines like southern Admiralty Island should be done with consideration to the mid-afternoon/evening time period. Transit through Peril Strait during this time period each day should be relatively mid-channel to avoid scaring male bears off the beaches. Transit earlier in the day would not be as critical. Travel along other shorelines during this period, like South Admiralty, should be at a distance great enough to avoid disturbing bears.
- Recognize that hunting guides may be in a small skiff, potentially camouflaged, and difficult to see. Hunters commonly skiff 5-10 miles (and up to 25 miles) from the mother ship. Do not assume that there are no hunters in an area because there is no mother ship nearby.

Leave No Trace

- When sightseers walk on shore in locations which will later be hunted (like Bear Bay and Baby Bear Bay), care should be taken not to walk where bears are likely to scent their tracks later. In the Baby Bear Bay area, for example, going ashore on any of the rocky islands (where bears usually don't travel because of the lack of food source present) will create little problem but walking along any of the grassy areas on Baranof Island will leave a scent trail that will scare any mature male bear in that area for days.
- One issue which is a concern of vessels transiting along the commonly used channels is the visual identification of skinned bear carcasses left on the beach. For years many hunting guides have moved these to an out of sight location if the bear is taken in a spot likely to be seen by a passing vessel. Since not all bears are taken by guided hunters this doesn't guarantee that this issue may not happen, but it should help avoid many potential conflicts.

General Guidelines for Bear Viewing (Brown Bear Management Strategy) Where bears are not habituated to people:

- Always remain far enough away from the bear so that your presence, if noticed, does not affect the animal's behavior. The distance bears normally react to human presence is typically much greater than people assume. Use binoculars, spotting scopes, or other telescopic lenses to improve your view.
- Bears are wild animals and you are viewing them in a remote area. Be prepared. Review current agency information and brochures on protection and how to deal with close encounters.
- Always select a viewing position that does not make you vulnerable to a surprise approach by a bear.
- Never directly approach a bear, allow it to move to you.
- Avoid situations where your presence could startle a bear.
- Avoid viewing from obvious bear trails.
- Never allow bears access to human foods.
- There is safety in numbers, stay with your group.
- If seen by a bear, avoid moving. Even minor movements will encourage wary bears to leave.
- Never use a motorized vehicle or boat to try getting close to a bear.
- Never run from an approaching bear; if you move away do it in a slow, deliberate manner.
- Show respect and courtesy to other bear viewers. Conduct your viewing in a way that doesn't detract from their experience. Don't mix booze with bears.
- Think wind, wind, wind. When possible always approach bears, or areas where bears are likely to be, from downwind.
- The best bear viewing is usually in the early morning or evening. Shoreline viewing is usually better during low tides.
- Small groups are less likely to disturb bears and so more likely to have better viewing. Keep your group size as small as possible.

Tourism Marketing Guidelines/Recommendations (Brown Bear Management Strategy)

Brown Bear Management Strategy team members along with members of the tourism industry met in subcommittee to deal with the issue of tourism marketing and the expectations for wildlife viewing it gives visitors. They developed the following problem statement and recommendations.

1. Alaska visitors and residents often have unrealistic expectations of wildlife viewing. These expectations are formed in part by such things as the national media, educational programs, documentaries, agency materials, and visitor marketing.
2. Alaska should provide leadership in fostering realistic expectations and wildlife viewing practices that avoid disturbing wildlife in their natural habitat.
3. Responsible marketing of brown bear viewing goes hand in hand with ethical behavior for viewing bears, and both need to be promoted by government agencies and industries.
4. Responsible marketing of bear viewing centers around the notion that marketing begins the educational message to visitors about realistic opportunities for observing wild bears in their natural setting. For instance, visitors should be informed that hunting is a traditional activity and

will be occurring in some places and seasons where people view bears. (Hunters should also be informed that some places they hunt will be frequented at times by people viewing bears.)


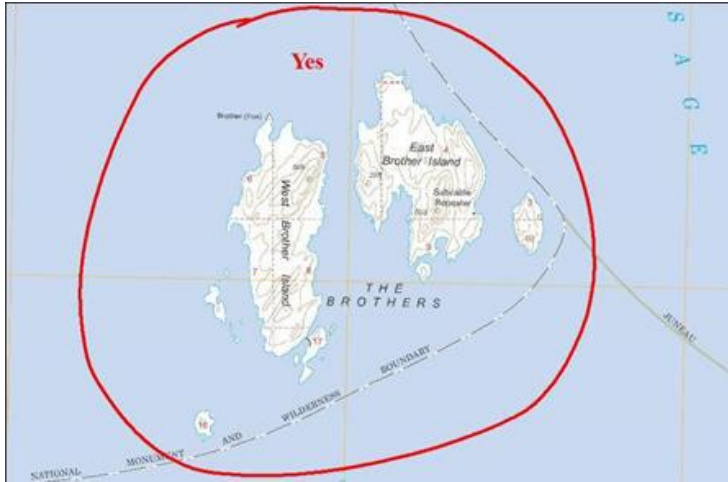
Recommendations:

- Where possible, use photographs that show animals within their habitat.
- Develop language for operators to include in brochures to help set the viewing context, focusing on the total experience of the outdoors rather than individual species.
- Work with media, journalists, and other promoters of Alaska to ensure their products set realistic expectations and promote responsible viewing.
- Include bear management strategies, discussion of diverse values and ethics in informational material for distribution to visitors.

Closing Statement


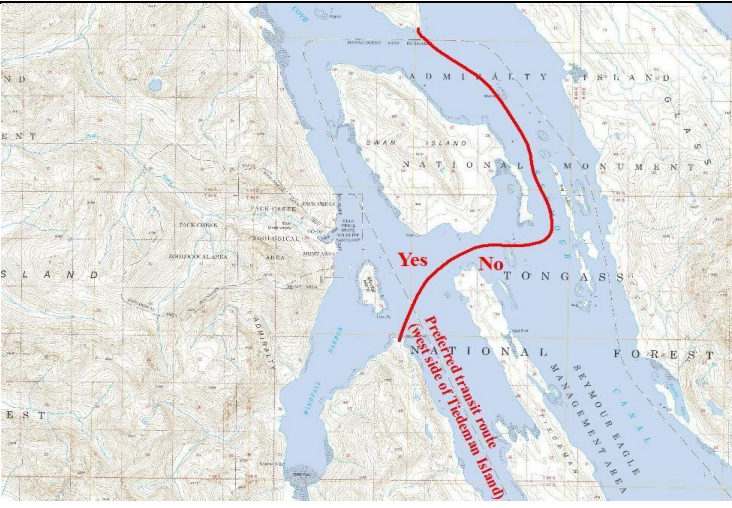
Recreation and Tourism Service Providers who are permitted with the Forest Service have a privileged position with regard to use of National Forest System lands. They are professionals with a high profile and status as a result of their professions. Permit holders are expected to provide leadership and set a good example for other forest users regarding compliance with regulations, low impact ethics, and caring for the land. Each service provider has the responsibility to minimize conflicts by exercising courtesy to other visitors, other service providers and their clients, other forest operators, and forest employees. These actions help cultivate your company brand by establishing and maintaining a positive reputation. Remember, you are an ambassador for your company and for the Forest Service. As such, you must exercise principles of integrity, professionalism, and respect when conducting your operations.

Appendix A. Locations for Tourism Service Provider Use during Hunting Seasons

Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
Spring season = April 25 - May 20; Fall season = September 15 – December 31					
Sitka	04-04	04-04B	Ell Cove, Waterfall Cove	Keep activities (land and water) to Ell Cove and adjacent Waterfall Cove and small offshore islands; do not extend activities into Takatz, Cosmos, or Kasnyku/Hidden Falls	
Admiralty	04-06	04-06A	Brothers Islands		


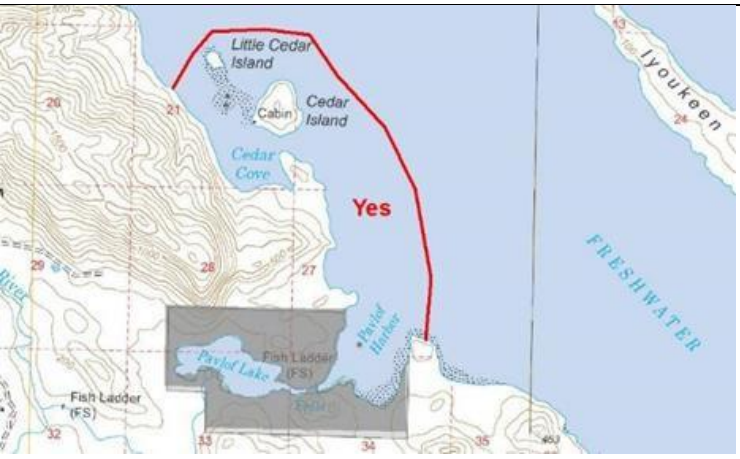
Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Admiralty	04-06	04-06A	Pybus Bay entrance islands (San Juan, Long, Elliot)	Anchor on the west side of San Juan Islands; do not anchor directly in the pass at Point Pybus; transit along southern Admiralty should be greater than ½-mile from the shoreline to avoid scaring bears, particularly in the late afternoon/evening hours	
Admiralty	04-09	04-09B	Windfall Harbor, Swan Island	Use preferred route (west side of Tiedeman Island) to minimize impacts	

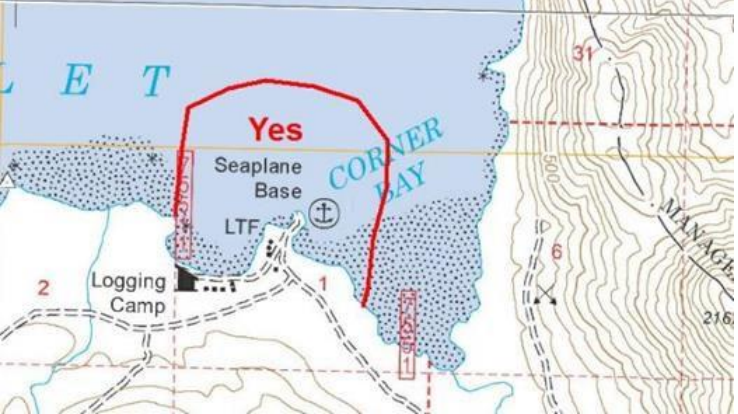
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Hoonah	04-11	04-11A	Neka Bay North Bight	Stay within Shoreline II Large Group Area boundary	
Hoonah	04-11	04-11B	Pavlof Harbor State Land*	Keep activities to Pavlof Harbor and near Cedar Island and Cove; no use in Wachusett Cove; Non-National Forest System lands - get landowner permission prior to land use	

Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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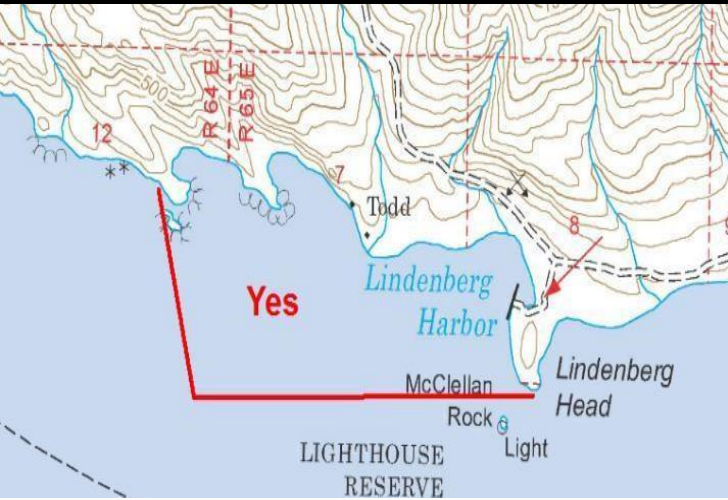
Spring season = April 25 - May 20; Fall season = September 15 – December 31

Sitka	04-12	04-12	Corner Bay	<p>Keep activities within ¼-mile of Corner Bay dock on shorelines east or west; do not extend into Kadashan Bay</p>	
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Sitka	04-12	04-12	Basket Bay	<p>Do not extend inland due to sinkholes. Small cruise operators must contact private landowner prior to season to request access if you intend to use private property (written documentation of approval is preferred). Private landowner has asked that use be limited to times outside of salmon runs. No cruise use north of Basket Bay due to hunting activities.</p>	
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Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 25 - **May 20**; Fall season = September 15 – December 31

<p>Sitka</p>	<p>04-12</p>	<p>04-12</p>	<p>Seal Bay</p>	<p>Cruise operators coordinate with Glacier Guides (decker@glacierguidesinc.com) and Coastal Alaska Adventures (keegan@coastalalaskaadventures.com) prior to season to agree upon several potential dates for use. Aside from these agreed-upon dates, operators may reach out during the season on a contingency basis, 24-48 hours in advance to request use of Seal Bay as a backup site.</p>	
<p>Sitka</p>	<p>04-13</p>	<p>04-13</p>	<p>Lindenberg/Todd</p>	<p>Keep activities to the three small coves directly west of Lindenberg Head</p>	

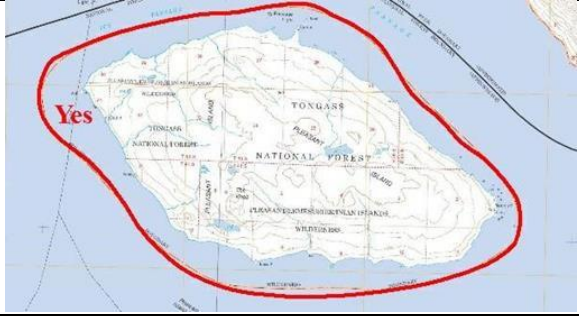


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Spring season = April 25 - May 20; Fall season = September 15 – December 31

Sitka	04-13	04-13	Vixen Islands and Emmons Island	<p>Please us as a backup/contingency site, only when other sites in the area are not available due to scheduling conflicts, etc. Please communicate usage of site with:</p> <p>Lucas Bastian: luke@alaskahunting.com Dustin McLeod: mcleod_dustin@yahoo.com Keegan McCarthy: keegan@coastalalaskaadventures.com</p>	
Hoonah	04-15	04-15A	Three Hill Island	Stay within Shoreline II Large Group Area boundary	


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Spring season = April 25 - May 20; Fall season = September 15 – December 31


Hoonah	04-16	04-16D	Pleasant/ Lemesurier/ Inian Is. Wilderness	Group size limit of 12; less than 3 encounters per day	
					
Hoonah	04-16	04-16E	George Islands	Stay within Shoreline II Large Group Area boundary	

Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 25 - May 20; Fall season = September 15 – December 31


Hoonah	04-16	04-16E	Port Althorp		
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Spring season = April 25 - May 31 (Brown Bear), June 15 (Black Bear);

Juneau	01-03	01-03	Swanson Cove*	<p>No mainland use; strong adherence to islands only; Non-National Forest System lands - get landowner permission prior to land use</p>	
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Spring season = April 25 - **May 20**; Fall season = September 15 – December 31

Juneau	01-05	01-05A	Taku Harbor*	<p>This site receives significant resident use; recommend weekday (M-Th) use only; small cruise vessel activities must be considerate of other users (including use of public dock) and avoid situations that would crowd out users; expect resident hunting and communicate to crew and clients that hunting is a way of life in Alaska, understand and respect the historical hunting culture, people may be actively involved in the legal harvest of bears in this area; Non-National Forest System lands - get landowner permission prior to land use</p>	 <p>The map shows a topographic view of the Taku Harbor region. Key features include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landmarks: Taku Mountain, Peak, Arthur Peak, Limestone, Cannery Ruins, Boat Dock, Taku Harbor, and Taku Harbor State Marine Park. Infrastructure: Helispot, Boat Dock, and various roads. Geographic Features: Taku Falls, Grave Point, Stockade Point, and several cemeteries (Cem). Annotations: A red line with the word "Yes" is drawn across the map, indicating a specific area of interest or approval. Elevation: Contour lines are shown, with labels for 500, 1000, 1500, and 2000 feet. </p>
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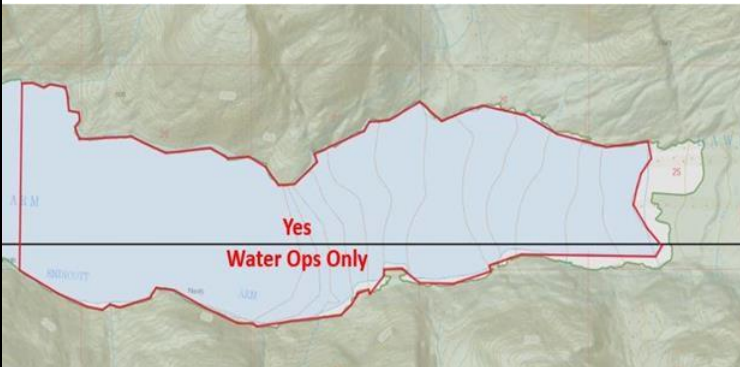
Spring season = April 25 - **May 20**; Fall season = September 15 – December 31

Juneau	01-05	01-05C	Hobart Bay entrance islands*	Keep activities to outer islands and outer cove; surrounding cove lands are NOT National Forest System lands - get landowner permission prior to land use	
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Juneau	01-05	01-05D	(Tracy Arm) Sawyer Glacier/ Sawyer Island/ Sawyer Inlet Waterfall	No land use; Water ops only	
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Spring season = April 25 - **May 20**; Fall season = September 15 – December 31

Juneau	01-05	01-05F	Harbor Island	No mainland use; strong adherence to island only	
Juneau	01-05	01-05F	Dawes Glacier	No mainland use; Water Ops Only	

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Spring season = April 25 - **May 20**; Fall season = September 15 – December 31

Juneau	01-05	01-05F	Fords Terror near North Dawes Glacier Watergall and Dawes Meadow	No mainland use; Water Ops Only	
Juneau	01-05	01-05C	Robert and Crow Islands, Steamboat Bay, Foot Island*	Keep activities to outer points and islands; do not extend into Port Houghton or Sandborn Canal; Non-National Forest System lands - get landowner permission prior to land use	

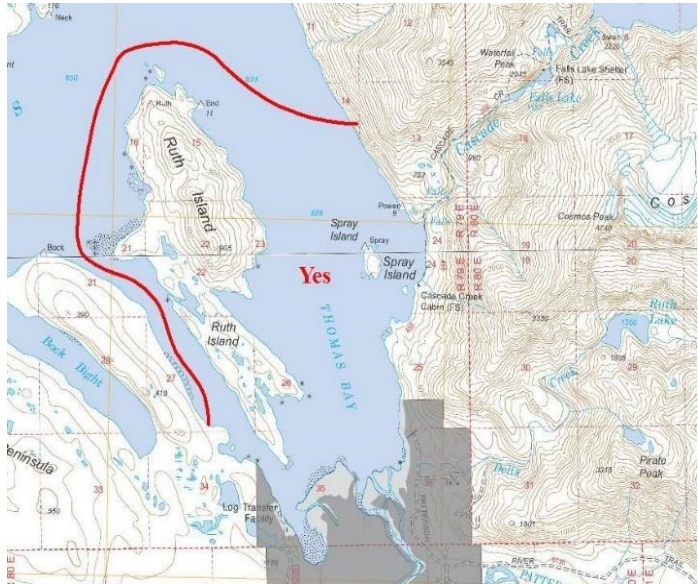
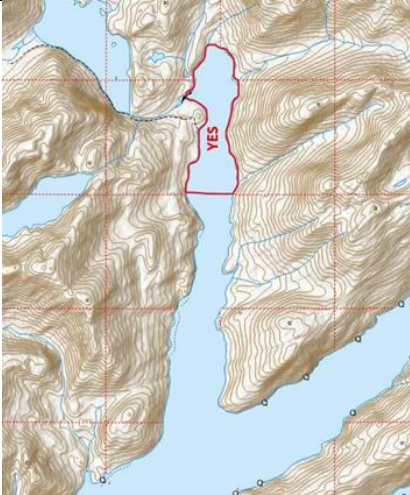
Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 25 - May 20; Fall season = September 15 – December 31

Petersburg	01-05	P23	Whitney Island (Fanshaw Bay)*	Keep activities to outer points and islands; do not extend into Port Houghton or Sandborn Canal; Non National Forest System lands - get landowner permission prior to land use	
Petersburg	01-06	P22	Baird Glacier Moraine, Scenery Cove	Tern breeding area! Refer to permit stipulations for boat landing and walking routes within the Baird Glacier outwash plain to minimize impacts to terns	


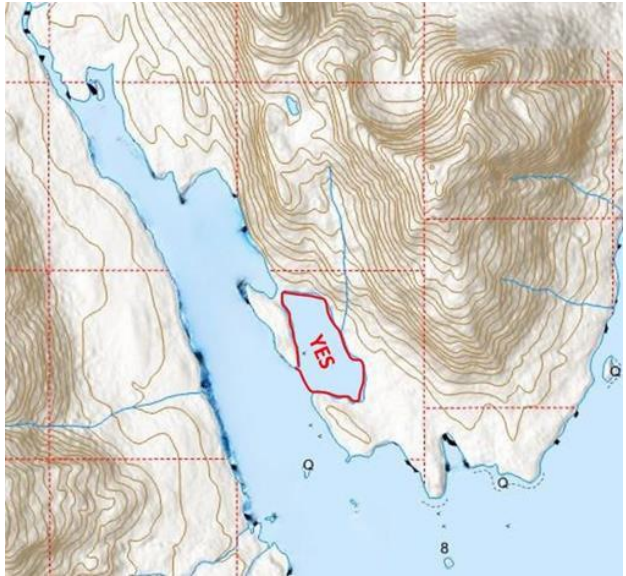
Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 25 - May 20; Fall season = September 15 – December 31

Petersburg	01-06	P22	Cascade Creek Trail		
Petersburg	01-06	P21	Patterson River Trail		
Petersburg	01-06	P21	Ruth Island		
Ketchikan	01-08	K12	Bailey Bay		

Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 25 - **May 20**; Fall season = September 15 – December 31

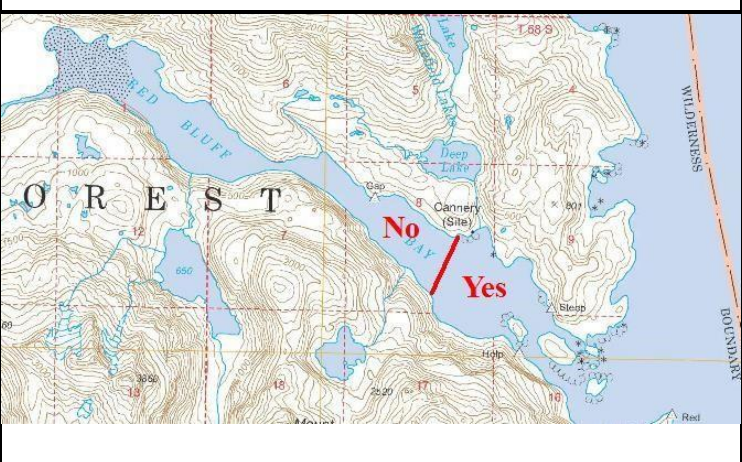
Ketchikan	01-08	K08	Fitzgibbon Cove	Cove and beach access	
Ketchikan	01-08	K13	Port Stewart	Cove and mudflats access	

Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 25 - May 20; Fall season = September 15 – December 31




Ketchikan	01-08	K19	Shrimp Bay and Klu Bay		
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Spring season = April 25 - May 31; Fall season = Sept 15 – Dec 31

Sitka	04-01	04-01A	Red Bluff entrance islands	No new use permitted - maintain current level of use with communications with guides	
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Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 25 - May 31; Fall season = Sept 15 – Dec 31

Sitka	04-01	04-01B	Mist Cove	Keep activities (land and water) to within ¼-mile of either side of Mist Cove; do not extend into Deep Cove or Patterson Bay	
Sitka	04-03	04-03	Eagle River LGA; Fish Bay; Sukoi Inlet	<p>Fall use only - no spring season use.</p> <p>Do not use Schulze Cove if Forest Service cabin (Piper Island) is occupied.</p> <p>Be considerate of local residents who use this area in the spring and fall.</p>	 

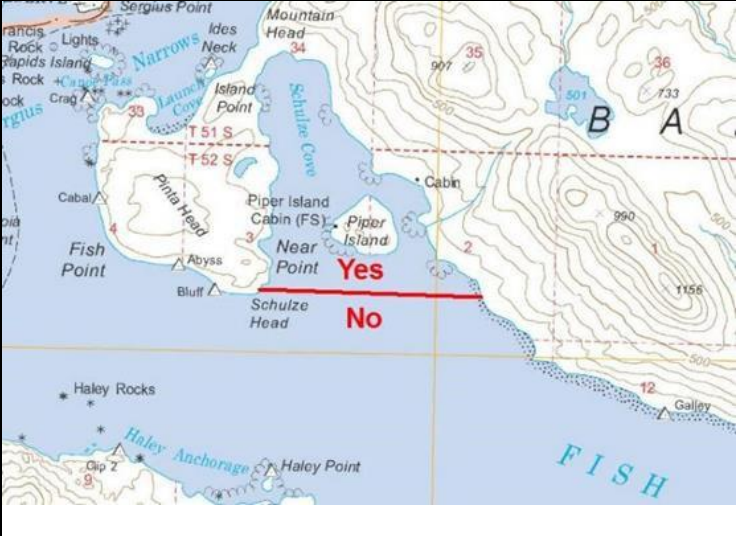

Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 25 - May 31; Fall season = Sept 15 – Dec 31

Sitka	04-03	04-03	Nakwasina Passage	<p>Fall use only - no spring season use.</p> <p>Be considerate of local residents who use this area in the spring and fall.</p>	
Sitka	04-03	04-03	Magoun Islands St Pk*	<p>Keep activities to Magoun Islands; do not extend into Degroff Bay or Dry Pass; Non-National Forest System lands - get landowner permission prior to land use</p>	

Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 25 - May 31; Fall season = Sept 15 – Dec 31

Sitka	04-03	04-03	Schulze Cove	Keep to Schulze Cove; do not use if Forest Service cabin (Piper Island) is occupied; do not extend into Fish Bay (in the spring season) or Suloa Bay	
Sitka	04-03	04-03	Signaka Islands	*Some of the islands are Non-National Forest System lands	

Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 25 - May 31; Fall season = Sept 15 – Dec 31

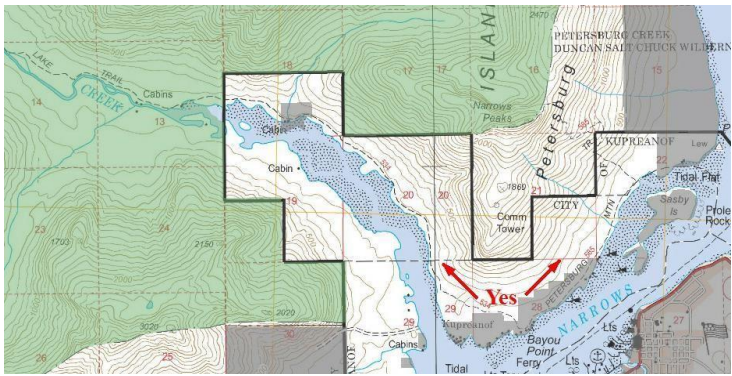

Sitka	04-13	04-13	Deep Bay entrance islands and Big Bear and Baby Bear State Park*	Keep activities to islands (see chart image); do not extend activities into Deep Bay or Peril Strait outside of immediate Bear Bay/Baby Bear Bay; no use of Baranof or Chichagof Islands; conclude activities by 4:00pm (back on board mothership); pull anchor and depart by 5:00pm; Non-National Forest System lands - get landowner permission prior to land use	
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Spring season = April 1 – June 15; Fall season = September 1 – October 31

Sitka	04-03	04-03	Signika Islands	*Some of the islands are Non-National Forest System lands	
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Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 1 – June 15; Fall season = September 1 – October 31

Petersburg	03-02	P07	Petersburg Creek		
Petersburg	03-02	P07	Petersburg Mountain		
Petersburg	03-03	P14	Keku Islands (except Payne Island)	No use on Payne Island	

Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 1 – June 15; Fall season = September 1 – October 31

Petersburg	03-04	P13	Troller Islands (Tebenkof Bay)	Call first before using this area; keep activities to Troller Islands until June 15; do not extend activities into Tebenkof Bay	
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Petersburg	03-05	P12A	Halleck Harbor	Keep activities to Halleck Harbor to Cornwallis Point; do not extend into Saginaw Bay	
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Ranger District	ADF&G Guide Use Area	Forest Service Use Area	Location	Site Specific Practices	Map
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Spring season = April 1 – June 15; Fall season = September 1 – October 31

Petersburg	03-05	P11	Bay of Pillars entrance islands	Call first before using this area; keep activities to entrance islands until June 15	
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* These locations are non-National Forest and are NOT authorized for outfitting and guiding activities under Forest Service permit. These locations include State of Alaska lands or other private lands and the permit holder must have permission from the landowner to conduct operations. These locations are included in this list to recognize the agreement between Recreation and Tourism Service Providers that these locations may be used by Tourism Service Providers during hunting season.

Appendix B - Intentions List Protocol

Purpose

The Intentions List is an email listserv system established for improving communications between recreation and tourism service providers during the Southeast Alaska operating season (spring, summer, and fall). This tool is designed for coordinating weekly schedules of use locations. Companies email their planned weekly schedule (aka “intentions”) to the group list, review other companies’ schedules, and coordinate overlapping use.

How to Join

Any company may join the list.

- To sign up: Send an email to intentions-ak@uncruise.com with a message “please add X company to the intentions list and use XX email address”. UnCruise Adventures voluntarily maintains this listserv – their staff will add your email to the distribution list.
- To send a message to the list: Email intentions-ak@uncruise.com. Your message will be distributed simultaneously to the full email list of participants.

How to Use

In the interest of making this tool more effective, small cruise vessel operators formalized the following protocol in 2019. Recreation and tourism service providers that have the capability to use the Intentions List on a weekly basis (i.e., have internet access and staff to manage list communications) are **highly encouraged** to follow this protocol.

- Announce weekly plan: Starting at (not before) Noon AKT on Wednesdays, expedition leaders or appropriate staff send an email to the Intentions List of their planned schedule for the upcoming week (i.e., dates, locations, and times of use).
 - Do not submit more than one week in advance.
 - Do submit intentions for all locations intended to be used for the upcoming week.
- Coordinate overlaps: Review the Intentions List submissions for overlapping use of desired areas. Coordinate with individual vessel(s) and agree on use.
- Communicate changes: If plans change, use the Intentions List to communicate changes. Coordinate with affected vessels.
- Participate fully: Use the Intentions List during the entire operating season (spring, summer, and fall).

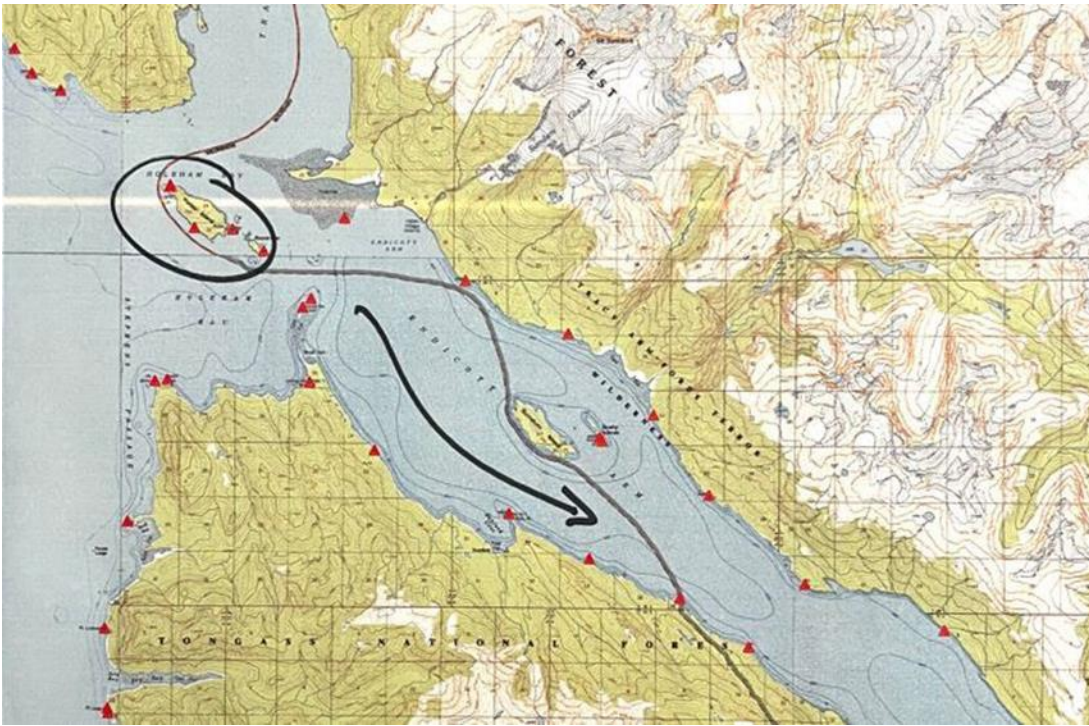
List Tenets - Maintain a collaborative sense of fair play (this is not a “first come, first served” system). Allow for give and take. Be respectful and professional in all communications.

Commitment

The following companies have indicated commitment to use the Intentions List and the mutually agreed upon protocol: **Alaskan Dream Cruises, Lindblad Expeditions, Krüger Expeditions, Allen Marine Tours, and UnCruise Adventures.**

Appendix C – Navigating Routes Near Specific Areas

Sumdum Island



- Transit southwest of Sumdum Island to avoid impacting the hunting activities on the shoreline northeast of Bushy Islands

Guide Directory/Contact List

[Directory maintained in separate document]