

SUNSHINE COVE LTF  
TENAKEE INLET,  
CHICHARD OF ISLAND



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Tongass  
National  
Forest  
R10-MB-374a

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# Indian River

# Timber Sale(s)

## Final Environmental Impact Statement

### Volume I



**Log Transfer  
Facilities and  
the Marine  
Environment**

The marine environment for the Indian River Project consists of a 15-mile stretch of Tenakee Inlet, bordering the Project Area along the southern boundary of VCU's 2200, 2210, and 2220. Only nine miles of the shoreline is on National Forest land. The remainder is on State, City of Tenakee Springs, or private land.

One former and two proposed log transfer facility (LTF) sites have been identified in this project: Sunshine Cove, Sunny Too, and 10-Mile Creek (see Figure 3-7). All sites were investigated and inventoried by marine biologists in 1995 and 1996, to determine the existing condition of plant and animal species. The dive inventories identified 6 species of plants and algae, 25 invertebrate species, and 9 fish species at the former and proposed sites (Costa 1996). See Appendix K for dive inventories.

**Sunshine Cove LTF Site.**

The former Sunshine Cove LTF, located near the mouth of the Indian River, was built and used during previous logging activities in the Indian River, Freshwater, and 10-Mile drainages. Between 1977 and 1985, 57 mmbf of timber were transferred to saltwater at this LTF site. The site was last occupied in 1986. At that time, logs were placed directly into the water using an "A-frame" constructed on a log crib bulkhead. The log bundles were formed into rafts and moved either to Wrangell for processing into lumber, or to Sitka for pulp processing. The LTF is currently unusable. An engineering site survey of the existing facility would be needed to determine how much reconstruction or construction is needed to make it workable. The Forest Service has a Corps of Engineers (COE) permit for the bulkhead.

Previous studies indicate that bark can remain underwater at LTFs for long periods of time following LTF closure. During a 1996 investigative dive at the former Sunshine Cove LTF, measurements were taken for bark deposition and depth (Boes 1996). The current zone of bark deposition is approximately 1.25 acres, with 0.04 acres having a bark depth of 10 centimeters and more (Costa 1996). This meets the Alaska Timber Task Force LTF guidelines (see Appendix K).

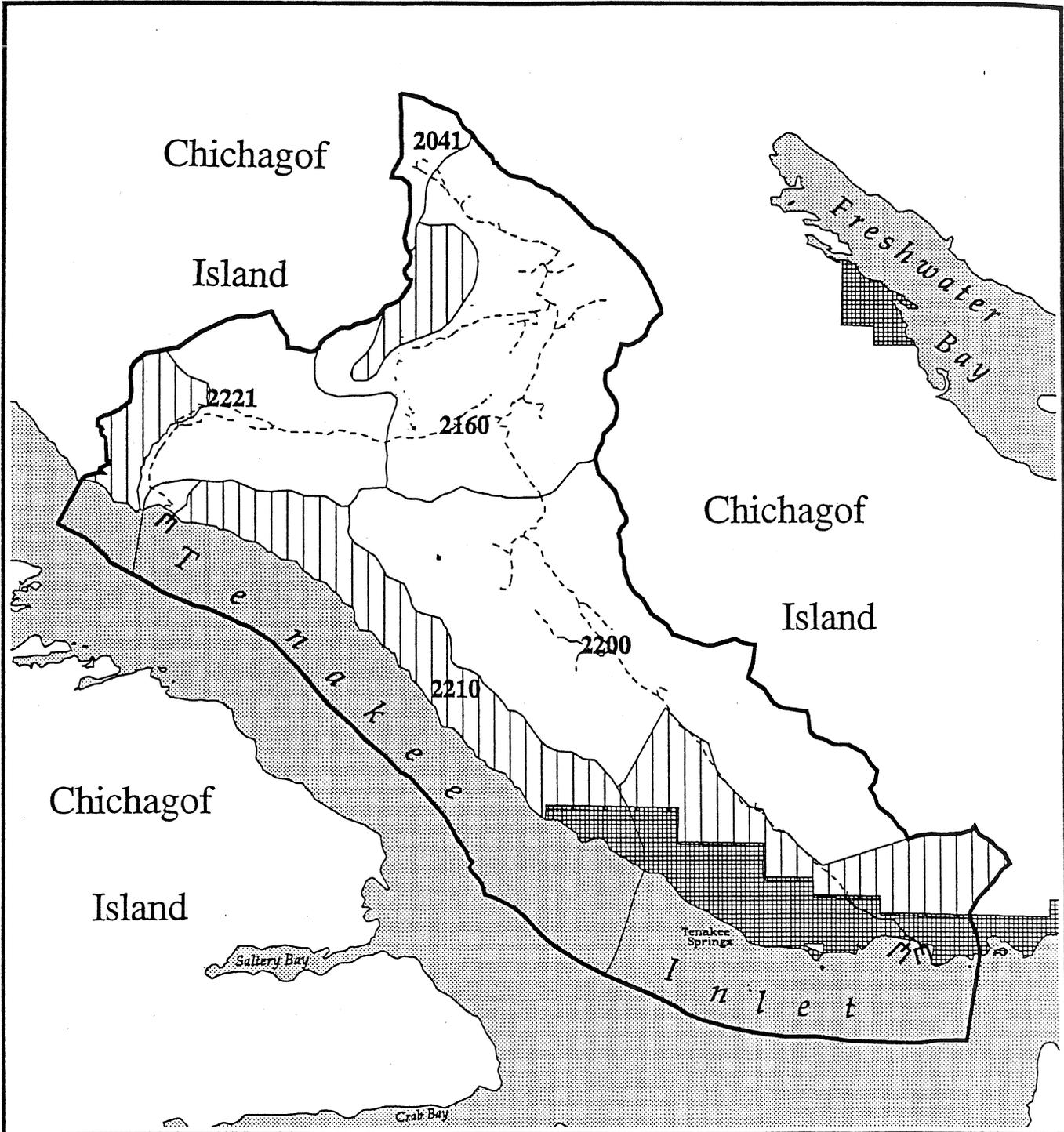
In 1982, the State of Alaska granted ownership of the tidelands on which the LTF is situated to the City of Tenakee. The Forest Service has an agreement with the City of Tenakee for reconstruction and use of this site, either as a drive-down ramp or a bulkhead.

**Marine and Air  
Transportation**

The Alaska Marine Highway connects Tenakee Springs with the communities of Southeast Alaska; Prince Rupert, Canada; and Bellingham, Washington. Small commuter airline companies out of Juneau and Sitka also serve Tenakee Springs.

# 3 Affected Environment

Figure 3-7 Indian River Project Area and LTF Locations



-  VCU Boundaries
-  Roads
-  Site of Proposed Log Transfer Facility
-  Other Ownership

-  Old Growth Reserve

