

07LC Lemon Creek

Geography, subsheds, ownership CBJ's 07LC map page contains 13 Priority Areas totalling 613 acres. The 9 city-owned PAs total 281 acres. The remaining 4 are private and were not surveyed.

On the 07LC map page we show 4 'subsheds.' The Fireweed Creeks subshed drains 477 acres into the Mendenhall Wetlands through multiple culverts under Egan Drive. Switzer subshed drains 3.2 square miles through 3 large culverts, merging out on the tidal sedge flats. The Lemon Creek subshed, including both Lemon and Thomas Glaciers, drains 22.8 mi² through the heart of the valley's industrial section. Vanderbilt subshed on the valley's southern wall drains 967 acres, exiting near the Lemon turnoff from Egan.



Because only 10 wetland units were assessed within this rather compact map page, 'context' inset maps are unnecessary additions to the following unit map-pairs. Please refer to the following map-page overview for unit location.

Geomorphology, glacial history Lemon Creek Valley has served as an extraction area for ancient fluvial-marine sediments (then shotrock when that ran out), a repository for toxic waste and incarceration, and headquarters to South-east's leading land development firms.

The entire surface of the Commercial Boulevard warehouse district has been lowered by 30 to 50 feet by gravel mining. Next time you drive through the warehouse district toward Costco, look ahead to the graded Home Depot plateau, and try to mentally project that surface westward, high over your head. Then, try to restore the forest of 200-foot spruces growing on that well-drained, high-nutrient-delivery landform. Joe Smith, logger and land speculator,

Northeast over a tributary to Eix'gul'héen, *warm springs creek* (Switzer Creek). On left skyline is Tleixsatanjin, *hand at rest* (Heintzleman Ridge). First European homesteader in this meadow was Louis Lund, who could row a skiff to his barn at the edge of these uplift meadows on a high tide. His USS plat, surveyed in 1908 but dating back to the 1880s, is shown on the following page.

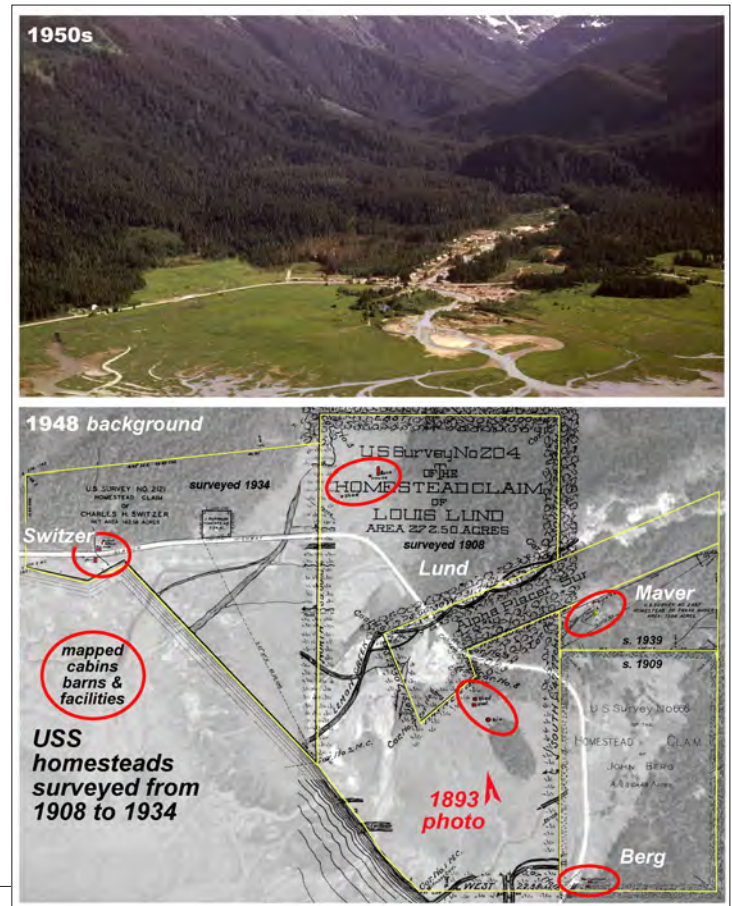
participated in removal of what was probably Juneau's greatest large-tree forest. He told me his only regret was that the timber—some of it guitar-caliber music wood—went mostly into fish boxes.

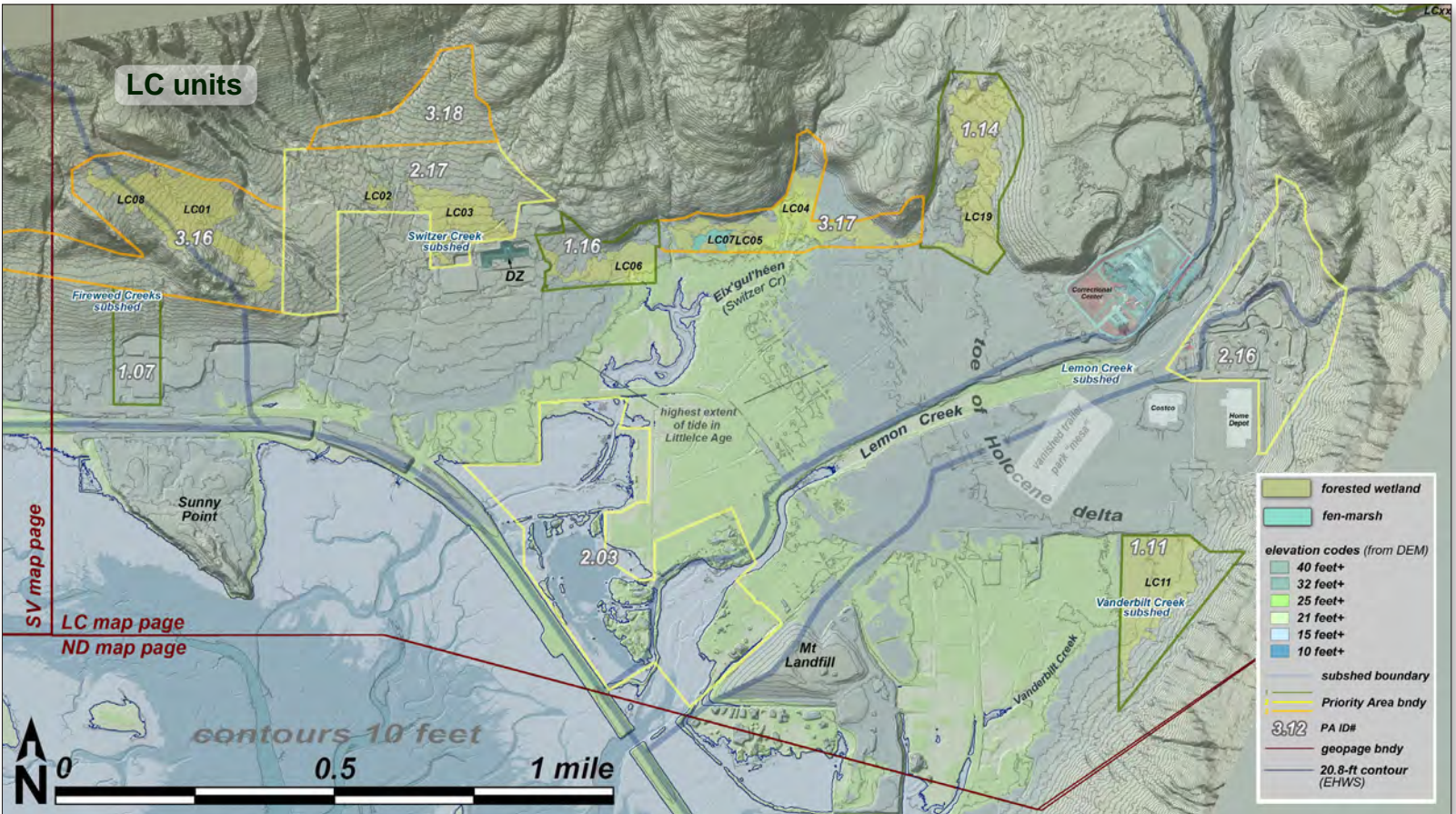
Land depression during the Little Ice Age sent high tides up to the 32-foot contour of today, shown on this map by the break from green to blue-grey. That includes portions of our wetland units LC04, 5, 6 & 7. Along exposed shores, the 'uplift meadow' developing on these former tidelands has shallow peat. But in the wetlands east of Dzantik'i Héeni (DZ on map), our peat probes rarely touched bottom. Although encroaching tides saturated ancient peat beds on fringes of the Neoglacial marine intrusion, waves did not wash them away from these protected valley-head pockets.

text continues after map page

The USS homestead claims were numbered sequentially, so Louie Lund's—#204—was one of the first in Alaska to be accepted. Along with Charlie Switzer's piece to the west—USS #2121, surveyed in 1934—it displaced Aak'w Kwaan fish camps on Eix'gul'héen, *warm springs creek* (Switzer Creek). Charley's name also displaced the original name for the exceptionally productive chum stream.

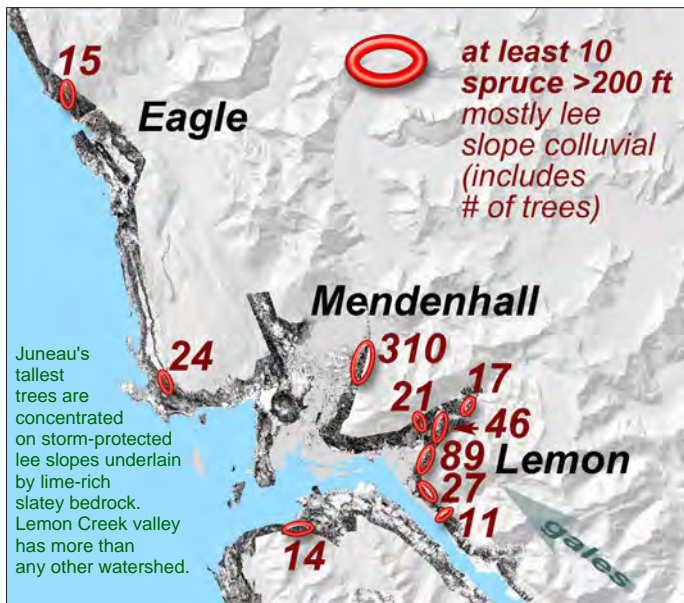
Those early USS maps were lovingly hand drawn by master cartographers, with symbols for forest or marsh habitat along the walked lines, and existing private infrastructure. By 1908, 2 clusters of buildings (red circles) were mapped on Louie's 272.5-acre parcel. The northern cluster was on Today's Richard Marriott Trail boardwalk, shown on previous page. The southern cluster is shown on one of the first photographs taken in the Juneau area. Arrow is estimated photopoint.





LC units

	forested wetland
	fen-marsh
elevation codes (from DEM)	
	40 feet+
	32 feet+
	25 feet+
	21 feet+
	15 feet+
	10 feet+
	subshed boundary
	Priority Area bndy
	PA ID# 3.12
	geopage bndy
	20.8-ft contour (EHWS)



Ecology Although a greater portion of 07LC's valley bottom has been logged and developed than on perhaps any other CBJ map page, the uncut valley walls retain a fascinating concentration of Juneau's tallest trees. Because giant trees require good drainage, their distribution could be considered the 'mirror image' of wetlands. The normalized vegetation layer can be used to count tree crowns taller than 200 feet. The above map shows every location with at least 10 such trees.

Related in part to this concentration of large-tree forest, the Habitat



LC11 20160203



wetland patches—especially within walking distance of Dzantik'i Heeni—are critical to educational programs conducted here by Discovery Southeast since the school was built in the 1990s.

It's not known who annotated this photo. An earlier dairy existed on the logged stump-field of Gold Creek. Photopoint is marked on preceding USS map overlay.

Juneau's dairy history is described in 2 narrated slide shows, posted to: <http://www.juneau-nature.org/culture/>

Suitability Index (HSI)¹ for black-tailed deer predicts that Lemon Creek holds the highest quality of winter deer habitat in the CBJ. Any Juneau deer hunter knows that's inaccurate. It's important to recognise the the HSI is a model of *potential* quality that doesn't account for proximity to humans and dogs, wolf predation, winter severity, or habitat connectivity.

Culture 07LC faces high pressure for continued wetland development. The only remaining open space in the sea of industry, residence and landfill exists by virtue of poor drainage. Remnant



¹ WESPAK wetland scores are keyed to HSI values for both deer and bear.