

# Manganese found on Chenega Island

An outcropping of the rare and important mineral manganese has been discovered on Chenega Island in Western Prince William Sound.

The discovery was made by the U.S. Bureau of Mines during the summer of 1981 as part of the mineral assessment of the Chugach National

Forest.

Manganese is a critical mineral used for defense purposes and the U.S. is now dependent on potentially unstable foreign sources for the majority of its supply. Any domestic discoveries which prove to be economically viable would be beneficial both to the U.S.

and to the owner of the land on which it was discovered.

All of Chenega Island and much of the surrounding land in the western Prince William Sound is owned by the Chenega Corporation, a Native village corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The subsurface estate — that which lies beneath the Chenega-owned lands — is owned by Chugach Natives Inc., the Native regional corporation for the Prince William Sound area.

The extent of the manganese in the area was not determined and CNI hopes that it can learn more about the discovery through more research in conjunction with interested mining companies.