



Chugach

VISITOR GUIDE

Centennial Issue

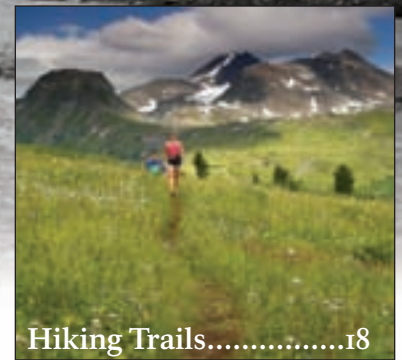
Celebrating 100 Years



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THE CHUGACH

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Welcome to the Chugach

Located in Southcentral Alaska, this is America's most northerly national forest. This stunning landscape stretches from the sea to snowy peaks in an area the size of New Hampshire. It is one of the few places where glaciers are still carving valleys from the rock of the earth.

One third of the Chugach is bare rock and ice. The remainder is a diverse and majestic tapestry of land, water, plants, and animals. In fact, diversity is what makes the Chugach unique among national forests. The mountains and glacial rivers of the Kenai Peninsula, the fiords and glaciers of Prince William Sound, and the emerald wetlands and jagged peaks of the Copper River Delta are all a mecca for adventurers and nature enthusiasts the world over.

People have lived in this landscape for millennia. Today, the Chugach is in the “backyard” of half of Alaska's residents, and is a once-in-a-lifetime destination for one million visitors each year. Whether camping out with family and friends, enjoying a glacier cruise in Prince William Sound, hiking to the high alpine, or watching the migration of a million shorebirds, you can find your own special place here. In addition to the magnificent landscape, you'll see Alaskans living and working in the national forest: taking visitors out on a guided kayak adventure; working their gold claims; commercial fishing for Copper River reds; or following the traditional subsistence way of life of their ancestors.

This is a very special year for the Chugach—one hundred years ago President Theodore Roosevelt added the Chugach National Forest to the country's newly established National Forest System. A century later, I am privileged to be your steward for the wild lands, wild fish, wildlife and wild ice of the Chugach National Forest.

Joe Meade
 Forest Supervisor



Centennial Year

The Chugach National Forest was created on July 23, 1907. It encompassed nearly five million acres and included most of the land between the Copper River on the east, the Kenai Peninsula on the west and the Chugach Mountains to the north. This year we celebrate our Centennial. To celebrate 100 years in this age is no small feat and our pride in this land and what it has become is obvious as you read this guide. This land known as Chugach National Forest has experienced so much. What you see as you travel through does not begin to give up its history or its secrets. What lies beyond your view is the life that this place has lived, the people that have enjoyed its resources and its recreation, the happy and the troubled times they've seen.

All areas have their history, but this country seems especially rich in characters and adventure. As we sought to uncover the meaning and history of this land we were struck again and again by all that we did not know, by the personal stories, and even by the public ones that we uncovered. To know where you come from is to appreciate even more where you have arrived.

In doing research on the history of this forest we were stunned by the accomplishments of people, in what is thought of as “primitive” or “uncivilized” times. Their will and determination changed this land and influenced its history.

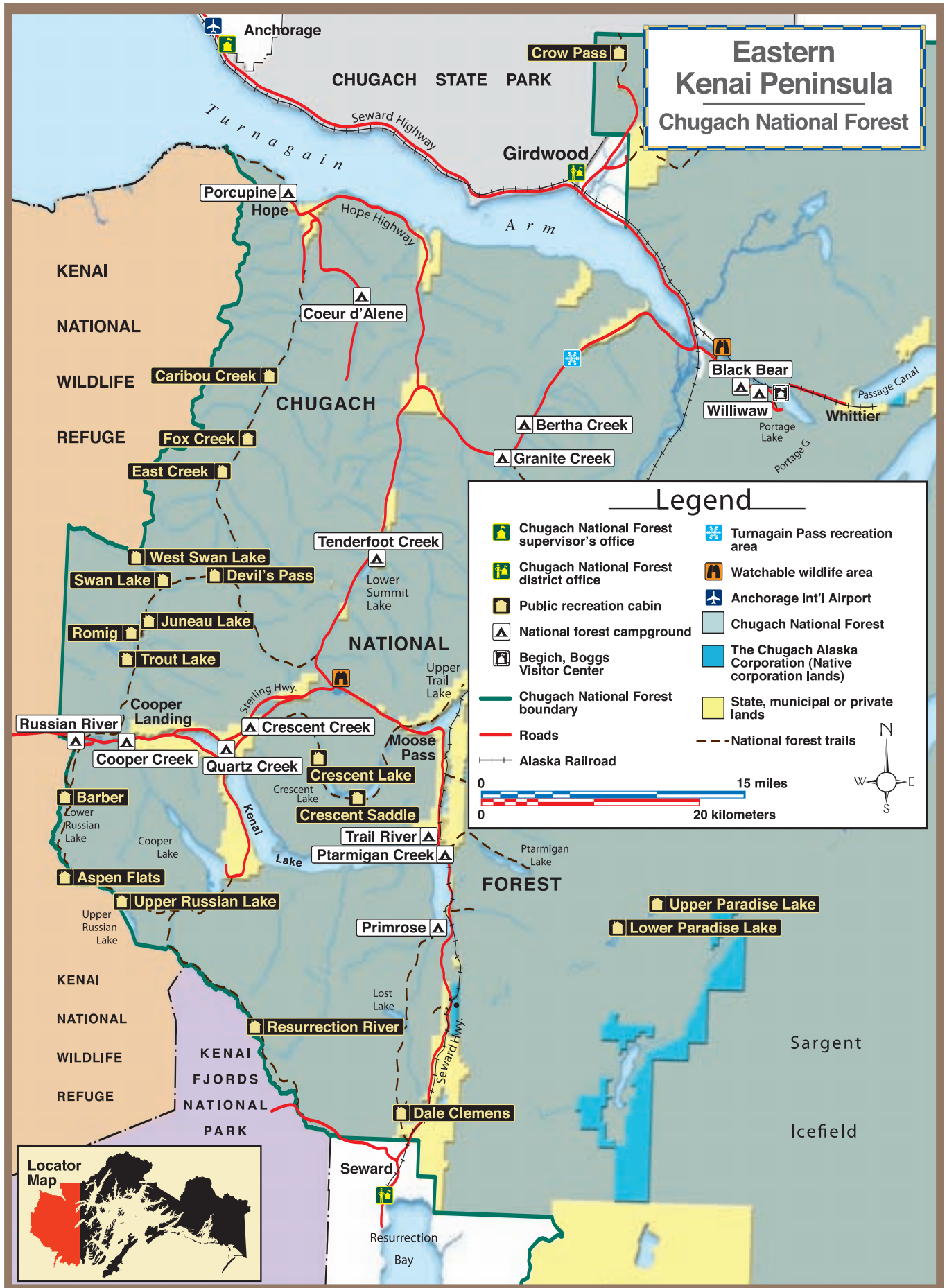
In this, our centennial year, we have much to celebrate. Our past and present are inextricably interwoven, and here is to a future that will be as rich in story and promise and emotion as is its past.

We invite you to celebrate with us and marvel in what we, the people of the Chugach's history, land managers, and the public, have achieved. This land is all of ours and we look to the future. Join us in a toast to the Chugach National Forest.



HISTORICAL FACT

Tongass Forest supervisor William Langille recommended that a forest reserve be established in Southcentral Alaska. The reserve was necessary to protect timber, to establish a permit system for hunting and fishing, and to establish a means for fire control. The Chugach National Forest was created on July 23, 1907. The reserve's five million acres included most of the land that lay between the Copper River on the east, the Kenai Peninsula on the west, and the Chugach Mountains to the north.



Eastern Kenai Peninsula

The Eastern Kenai Peninsula in the Chugach National Forest is best known for its spectacular recreational opportunities. Its forested lands, mountains, and rivers are just minutes south of Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska. The peninsula is a haven for visitors and residents alike. A hiker's paradise, it boasts hundreds of miles of maintained trails. For the fisherman, numerous opportunities exist to reel in "the big one." So head south to experience one of the forest's most accessible treasures.

Russian River

In early June, sockeye salmon start swimming their way into the Russian River to what is perhaps the busiest fishing spot in Alaska. Expect a big crowd. The fish make their way by the thousands upstream, following an unseen homing beacon that guides them back to the freshwater lakes and streams where they were born a few years earlier.

There are two sockeye runs that return to this area. The early run usually arrives by mid-June, and the late-run usually arrives in mid-July. As one of the larger tributaries of the Kenai, the Russian River system is the final destination for many of these fish, which can number in the tens and even hundreds of thousands.

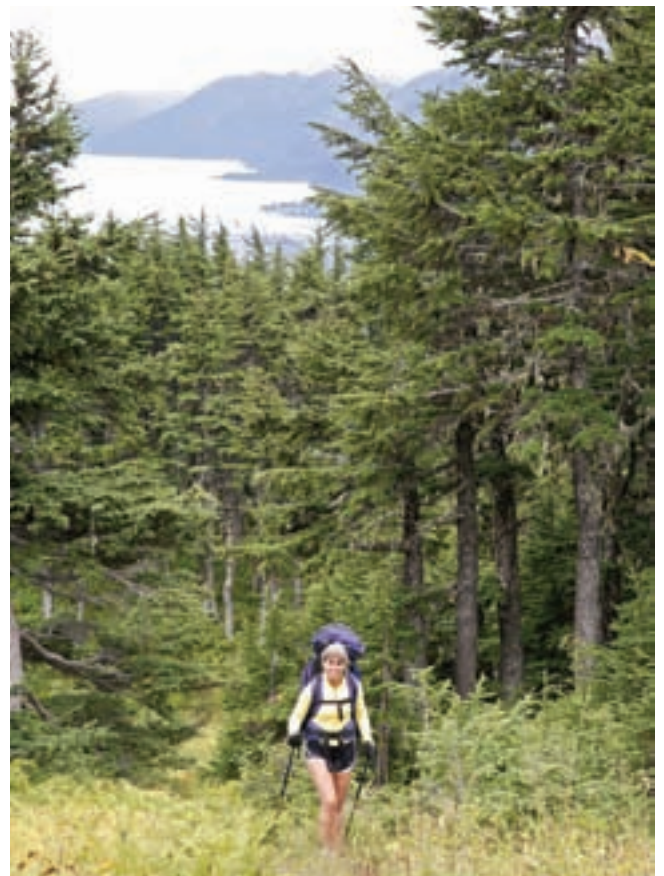
Streamwatch Program

The incredible use of the Russian River has caused the streambank to erode. The Streamwatch Program is helping to educate users and repair streambank damage. Volunteers walk the banks each summer educating anglers about what they can do to help save this river and its fishery. Paths have been designated as approaches to the river, there is a boardwalk that provides a way to view the river without degrading the bank, and there's even a fishing line recycling program!

Resurrection Pass Trail

At nearly 40 miles long, the Resurrection Pass Trail is one of the Eastern Kenai's most popular trails. It has been designated as a National Recreation Trail. This status recognizes the trail as an important connection between people, local resources, and quality of life. Eight rental cabins lie along the trail. While they are primitive—with no electricity or running water—they are mighty inviting on a multiple-day hike. Book early because they are very popular. (See page 16 for cabin information.) There are plenty of campsites along the trail if you're unable to reserve a cabin.

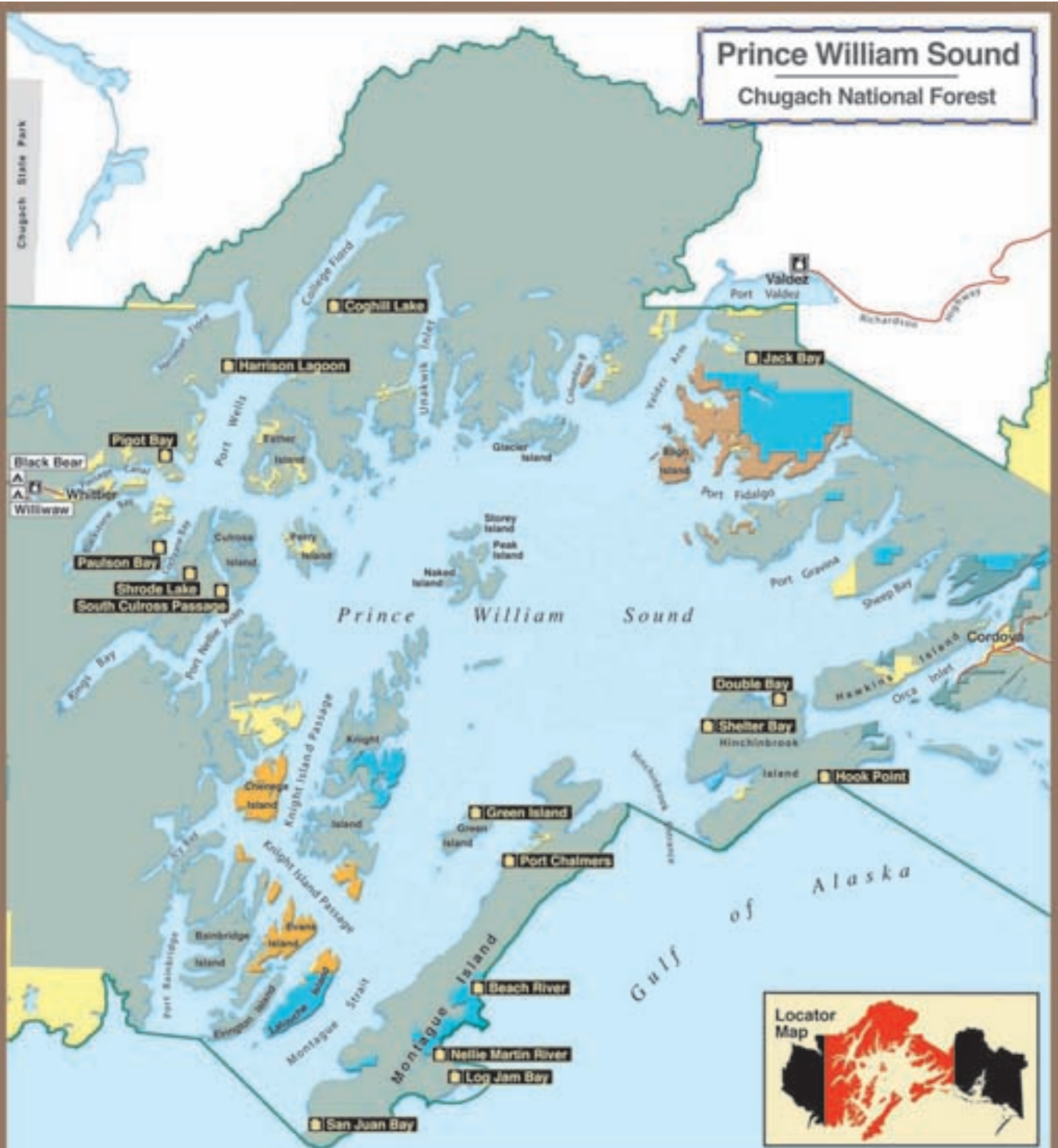
If 40 miles is just not enough hiking, you can combine this trail with the Russian Lakes Trail (for a nearly 60-mile hike.) Don't worry, if you are only looking for a short hike there are plenty of spots on the trail that you can hike to and back out in a day.



HISTORICAL FACT

The first major gold strike in Southcentral Alaska came in 1888 on the Resurrection Creek. Claims were soon staked all along creeks in the northern Kenai Peninsula area. Hope and Sunrise became the major trade centers for miners.

Prince William Sound Chugach National Forest



Legend

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chugach National Forest | Private, state, and municipal lands | Public recreation cabin |
| The Chugach Alaska Corporation (Native corporation lands) | Campground | Visitor facility |
| Chenega Corporation (Native corporation lands) | Chugach State Park | |
| Tatitlek Corporation (Native corporation lands) | Chugach National Forest boundary | |
| Eyak Corporation (Native corporation lands) | Roads | |

0 20 miles
0 25 kilometers

Prince William Sound

Prince William Sound is an area of forested lands, more than 3,500 miles of intricate coastline, tidewater glaciers, and bountiful marine life. The beguiling blue water is an open invitation to boaters and kayakers to explore this remote land. Nearly two million acres in western Prince William Sound has been designated as the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area to preserve its unique wilderness character.

Immense icefields surround this inland waterway and give rise to magnificent tidewater glaciers that tumble into the sea. Icebergs and post-glacial terrain are hallmarks of the landscape, offering a unique glimpse of geology and post-glacial reforestation in action.

Kayaking in the Sound

Enjoy the sound of your paddles dipping into the water as you glide across the waters of Prince William Sound. Kayaking is a wonderful opportunity to be on the water and access remote campsites, but you must take the time to educate yourself and your group. Review tide, bear, and water safety information before heading out. These sites are remote and help is far away. For more information, stop by the Forest Service information yurt in Whittier, the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center in Portage Valley, or the Glacier Ranger District office in Girdwood.

Permits are not required for general camping and travel in the Sound. All campsites are primitive. Whenever possible, contain your camping activities on beach gravel surfaces. Always “naturalize” your campsite before you leave: clean up any bits of garbage, dismantle fire rings, and replace moved rocks or other materials. Two primitive campsites in Blackstone Bay have been hardened to provide additional durable gravel camping surfaces.

Day Cruises

If you don't have a lot of time, a day cruise is an excellent way to see the Sound in a short amount of time. Catch a boat from Whittier or Valdez for some wildlife viewing, whale watching, a glacier tour, or take a quick trip to shore. Cruises range from four hours to several days, and you can choose from large tour boats to smaller cruises tailored to your desires. For a list of operators, visit www.fs.fed/us/r10/chugach.

Flightseeing

Flightseeing is an excellent way to see the Sound. Narrated flightseeing tours give you a birds-eye view of the most breathtaking natural wonders. Imagine flying over 15,000 square miles of fiords and inlets, tidewater glaciers, and rugged mountain peaks. Watch for whales, seals, eagles, otters, sea lions, and black bears. There are opportunities to land in secluded coves and stretch your legs



HISTORICAL FACT

The Prince William Sound region is often called the land of fire and ice. Fire represents the volcanic mountains that surround Cook Inlet and ice from the glaciers that have and continue to shape the land.



Copper River Delta

The Copper River Delta is renowned for its vast wetland habitats, mountains, and glaciers. Access to the Delta from other parts of the state are by boat, ferry, or plane only. This area is managed for the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats, and the animals have definitely gotten the word. Cordova's Copper River kings and reds are some of the world's finest salmon and an important commercial and personal fishery. Birds flock here to take advantage of lands set aside as nesting grounds and as a refueling and resting stop on their way through the North American flyway.

Birding

The Delta is for the birds—literally. Swans, geese, ducks, shorebirds, and bald eagles are all temporary or permanent inhabitants of the area. The Delta is an integral part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, which brings together organizations to recognize critical shorebird habitat and works to protect it.

Birding really comes alive in early May with the Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival. The Delta's tidal flats shimmer with the activity of hundreds of thousands of shorebirds, and hundreds of camera-toting humans watching. As many as five million shorebirds rest and feed here during the spring migration. The Shorebird Festival is an ideal opportunity for bird-watchers to be part of this epic migration. Activities, workshops, and community events are offered throughout the festival.

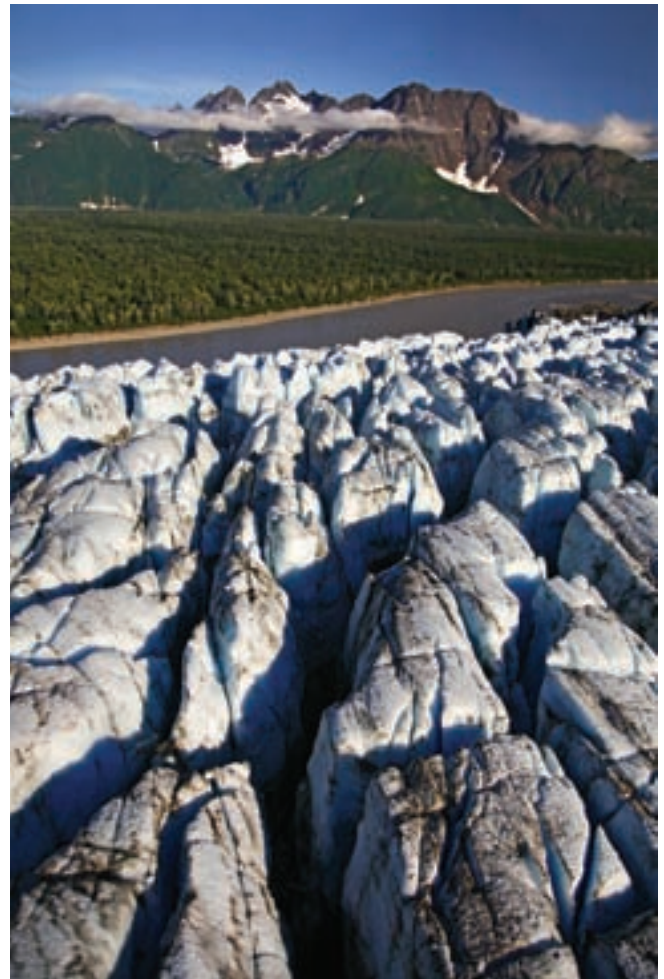
Alaganik Slough

Alaganik Slough offers visitors an opportunity to explore the wetlands of the Copper River Delta. At Mile 17 on the Copper River Highway, turn off onto a 3.3-mile road that leads to the slough. The boardwalk provides a way to immerse yourself in the coastal wetlands of the Copper River Delta.

Wildlife is most abundant at Alaganik during spring and fall. Visitors may look over the expansive wetlands and sight a variety of animals including trumpeter swans, moose, brown bear, and shorebirds.

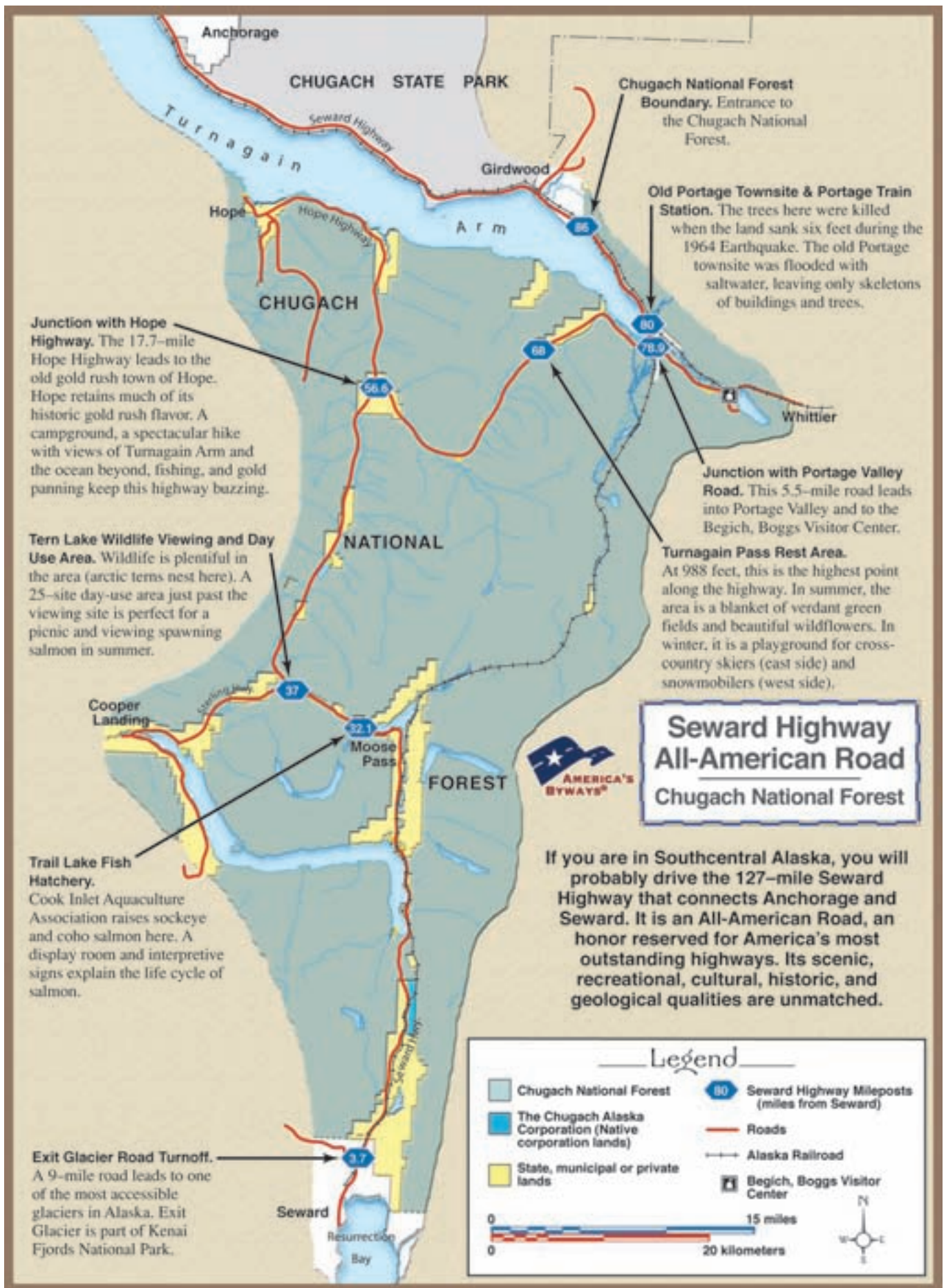
Cabins

Just a 30-minute flight from Cordova and nestled on the beach are several rental cabins. The cabins do not have electricity or running water, but if roughing it doesn't bother you, check them out. Try your hand at beachcombing for glass balls, wild berry picking, digging razor clams, or fishing. (See page 16 for more information.)



HISTORICAL FACT

In January 1909, an artist named Eustace Paul Ziegler arrived in Cordova to manage the Red Dragon and serve as a missionary. In his spare time, he painted murals on the walls of the mission and other buildings around town. Today, his paintings are prized for their depictions of early Alaska and Alaskans.



Spencer Whistle Stop

The Alaska Railroad and the Forest Service have partnered to offer a tourism experience found nowhere else in the United States. Whether flying into Anchorage or arriving on a cruise ship, you will no longer need to face heavy summer traffic on area highways. Hop aboard the Alaska Railroad and be whisked deep into the inaccessible, roadless backcountry of the Chugach National Forest. Enjoy the spectacular scenery of glaciers, ice-capped crags, and meadows and lakes, all from the comfort of a rail car.

Located just 60 miles south of Anchorage, passengers will be able to enjoy new backcountry opportunities at Spencer Glacier, the first in a series of Whistle Stops along the Alaska Railroad. Once passengers disembark the train at the Spencer Whistle Stop, they can enjoy the following:

- Fully accessible platform with covered shelters
- Interpretive signs
- Accessible toilets
- Accessible one-mile trail from the platform to the Spencer Glacier viewing area
- Beautiful stone work viewing area for the lake and glacier with interpretive signs
- On-site interpreter to answer questions and offer programs about the area

The Spencer Whistle Stop is scheduled to open to the public in summer 2007. Please contact the Glacier Ranger District at (907) 783-3242 for the most current information regarding opening and fees. Once service begins, visitors can arrange their trips through the Alaska Railroad at www.akrr.com.



HISTORICAL FACT

Spencer Glacier was named for Bill Spencer who paid the railroad workers in gold bullion in the early 1900s. Mr. Spencer disappeared with about \$4,000 worth of gold and was never heard from again. Many years later, a USGS team found a body in the glacier and assumed it was Bill Spencer, so they named the glacier in his honor.

Childs Glacier Recreation Area

Located at Mile 48 along the Copper River Highway is one of Alaska's most accessible glaciers and the Copper River Delta's only campground. Nestled on the shore of the mighty Copper River, the calving icebergs from Childs Glacier sit just across from the newest Chugach National Forest campground.

All facilities at the Childs Glacier Recreation Area are fully accessible and offer the following amenities: day use area, public parking, walk in glacier viewing areas, covered picnic areas; 11 unit campground suitable for RVs or tents (\$25/night or \$100/season pass) and 5 basic tent sites (\$10/night); covered pavilion with cooking facilities and tables to accommodate 40 people (private rental use \$100/day). There are no dumping stations.

This new campground and updated recreational site is scheduled to open to the public in summer 2007. Please call the Cordova Ranger District at (907) 424-7661.



Trail River Campground



The newly reconstructed and expanded Trail River Campground is the largest campground on the Chugach National Forest. The campground is located on the sunny shore of Kenai Lake at Mile 24 of the Seward Highway. The campground is open on a first come first served basis throughout the snow-free season. During the winter, it is popular with cross-country skiers. Please call the Seward Ranger District at (907) 224-3374 for more information.

The campground features include: 88 individual camping units (\$11/night), including walk-in tent sites and 1 reservable group site that accommodates up to 70 people (\$130/night); and day use picnic sites. Nearby hiking trails include Ptarmigan Lake Trail, Primrose Trail, Johnson Pass Trail, and Carter Lake Trail.

Reservations are accepted up to a year in advance at www.recreation.gov or by calling (877) 444-6777

Iditarod National Historic Trail




A Trail through History

For decades, this trail of legend was the only transportation route across Alaska. Originally a network of over 2,400 miles, the Iditarod Trail provided a vital link between the ports of Seward on the Gulf of Alaska and Nome on the Bering Sea. Between 1908—when the U.S. Army's Alaska Road Commission blazed the main trail—and the 1930s, the Iditarod Trail served as one of three main cross-Alaska routes. The trail was traveled primarily in the winter by dogsled, snowshoe, and bobsled.

Today, eager dog teams race over 1,000 miles through the mountains and tundra of Alaska in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, from Anchorage north to Nome. But who now remembers that the original Iditarod began at the southern port of Seward in the Chugach National Forest? The Forest Service and its partners are re-establishing this southern trek of the Iditarod in memory of the Alaska Natives, miners, settlers, and other pioneers who measured themselves against the challenges of Alaska.

Once complete, over 180 miles of the Iditarod National Historic Trail will be restored and constructed, re-establishing trail connections between the communities of Seward and Girdwood. While various segments are being restored each year, many are currently available and provide outstanding recreational and historic educational opportunities.

Hike the Iditarod Trail

-  Lower Winner Creek Trail connecting Girdwood's Alyeska Resort with Crow Creek Road—3 miles
-  Upper Winner Creek Trail connecting Lower Winner Creek with the Berry Pass area—over 6 miles
-  Johnson Pass Trail on the Kenai Peninsula—over 30 miles

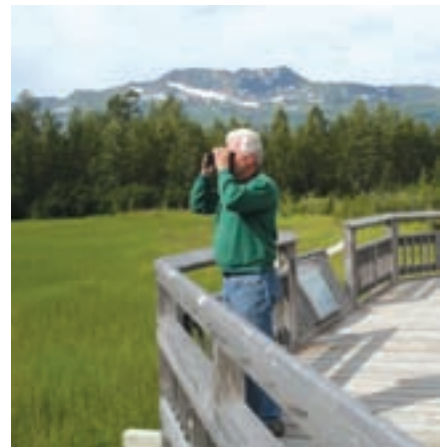
For more information about hiking the Iditarod National Historic Trail, contact the Glacier Ranger District at (907) 783-3242 or the Seward Ranger District at (907) 224-3374. For more information regarding the history of the Iditarod National Historic Trail visit www.iditarodnationalhistorictrail.org



HISTORICAL FACT

Designated in 1986, the Iditarod National Historic Trail celebrates this historic transportation route and the vital role sled dog travel played in America's last great gold rush. The main route from Seward to Nome was first mapped in 1908 as a mail and supply route from the coastal towns of Seward and Knik to mining camps in Alaska's Interior. In 1925, part of the Iditarod Trail became a life-saving highway as serum was brought by dog team to Nome where a diphtheria outbreak threatened the town. The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race commemorates this serum run.

Visitor Centers



Begich, Boggs Visitor Center

Built on the remnants of a terminal moraine left by Portage Glacier, the visitor center is staffed with Forest Service naturalists available to answer questions, assist with trip planning, and provide programs on the historical and natural wonders of Portage Valley.

Begich, Boggs Visitor Center
Portage Glacier
Mile 5 Portage Highway
(907) 783-2326 summer
(907) 783-3242 winter

Hours

Summer: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily
Shoulder Season: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday in October, April, and May
Winter: Closed from November through March

Activities

- Exhibit Hall:** Explore the interactive exhibits with all your senses as you learn about the cultural and natural history of the Chugach National Forest.
- Theater:** Sit back and enjoy the 20-minute award-winning movie, *Voices from the Ice*. Discover how glaciers are formed and how they affect the life and landscape around them. Cost for the movie is \$1.00.
- Programs:** Looking for something cool to do with your family? The visitor center staff offer walks and talks every day of the week during the summer months. Check with the front desk for a current schedule of programs.
- Bookstore:** Unique books, gifts, and artwork about the glaciers, plants, and wildlife of the Chugach National Forest await visitors at the Alaska Natural History Association bookstore.

Crooked Creek Information Site

Nestled at the head of Valdez Arm, the Crooked Creek Information Site is poised between the marine world of Prince William Sound and the forest of the mainland. This modest 3-acre site features spawning salmon, abundant waterfowl, and the occasional hungry black bear.

**Crooked Creek
Information Site**
Mile 0.5 Richardson Highway
Valdez, AK 99686
(907) 835-4680 (summer only)

Hours

Summer only: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Activities

Information: Forest Service naturalists staff the site in the summertime and are available to answer a variety of questions on the national forest and surrounding areas.

Viewing Platform: Pink and chum salmon return to this clear water stream each summer to spawn. The first salmon generally appear in the stream by mid-July and are present through October.

Programs: Throughout the summer, the staff offers programs for both children and adults on a variety of topics. Be sure to check with the staff for a current schedule of programs at the site and around town.

Bookstore: A small branch of the Alaska Natural History Association operates out of the information site, offering a variety of books and gifts.



Camping in the Chugach

CABINS

There are 41 cabins located throughout the Chugach National Forest. The cabins are primitive—without electricity or running water—but if roughing it doesn't bother you and you are up for some solitude, you should definitely check them out.



- COST:** \$25-\$45 a night.
- STAY:** 3-7 nights summer; 7 nights winter.
- SETTING:** Beach, river, lake, or alpine.
- GET THERE:** Hike, paddle, charter a plane or boat.
- HEAT:** Woodstove and/or oil stove. Check before you go: A few cabins have no heater and for others you may need to take fuel.
- BRING:** Sleeping bags and pads, cook stove and gear, first aid, water, food, bug repellent, extra food, and clothing just in case.
- EMERGENCY:** There are no phones or radios at the cabins, and cell phone coverage is not guaranteed. Be prepared to take care of emergencies and stay longer if weathered in.

RESERVATIONS:
Call (877) 444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov.

HISTORICAL FACT

In 1922, the first aircraft flew over Southcentral skies. Aviation and the airplane helped Alaska overcome many of its geographical barriers to trade and modernization and changed the way the world looked at this remote area.



LEAVE NO TRACE

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

CAMPGROUND REGULATIONS

STORE all foods, beverages, garbage, pet food, cooking or food storage equipment in a vehicle, food locker, or camper.

FIRES are allowed only in established grates. Cutting live vegetation or standing deadwood is prohibited. Help protect forest resources by gathering only dead or down wood.

PETS must be on a leash at all times. Please dispose of feces in garbage cans. Secure pet food inside a vehicle.

DO NOT FEED any wild animal, even birds.

CAMPGROUNDS

Campgrounds are generally open from mid-May through September. Some campgrounds remain open before and after this time period with no fees, and services limited or discontinued. The stay limit is 14 days except for the Russian River Campground, which has a 3-day limit from June 10 through August 20.

Most campgrounds have a few sites for large RVs but unless specifically noted they are marginal. There are no size restrictions. However, RVs 30-35 feet can maneuver inside campgrounds much easier than larger ones. Quartz Creek and Williwaw are able to handle 60-foot RVs. Backcountry camping is permitted but is limited to 14 days in one area.



Campgrounds



These campgrounds are operated by Alaska Recreation Management under permit from the U.S. Forest Service.

Reservations

Reservations can be made for certain sites at the Russian River, Trail River, Williwaw, Ptarmigan Creek, Cooper Creek, and Quartz Creek campgrounds as well as the Trail River Group sites. They also have first come, first serve sites. For reservations call (877) 444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov.

| Location | # Sites | Cost |
|----------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| KENAI PENINSULA | | |
| Cooper Creek | 26 | \$10 |
| Crescent Creek | 9 | \$10 |
| Porcupine | 24 | \$10 |
| Primrose | 10 | \$10 |
| Ptarmigan Creek | 16 | \$10 |
| Quartz Creek | 45 | \$13/\$20 |
| Russian River | 84 | \$13/\$20 |
| Tenderfoot Creek | 27 | \$10 |
| Trail River | 88 | \$10 |
| PORTAGE/TURNAGAIN PASS | | |
| Bertha | 12 | \$10 |
| Black Bear | 12 | \$10 |
| Granite Creek | 19 | \$10 |
| Williwaw | 60 | \$13/\$20 |
| COPPER RIVER DELTA | | |
| Childs Glacier | 11 | \$25 |
| Childs Glacier (basic tent only) | 5 | \$10 |

Trail Guide



HIKING HIGHLIGHTS

A variety of trails exist in the Chugach National Forest, from short, easy day hikes to more strenuous, multi-day adventures.

Gull Rock Trail: Access from northwest end of Porcupine Campground west of Hope. Suitable for family outings and day hikes, this trail is easy if a little long for youngsters—10 miles roundtrip. The trail parallels Turnagain Arm and on a clear day the view is spectacular. At the end, Gull Rock protrudes into the water providing the perfect picnic spot.

Winner Creek Trail: Access from Crow Creek Mine Road or near the ticket office at the Alyeska Prince Hotel. This 3.5-mile hike is a great hike for everybody. The trail is wide and the gravel and boardwalk make for a fairly level walking surface. The adventurous will love the self-operated tram ride that takes you across the gorge. In the fall, it is a great blueberry picking spot. For those looking for a longer hike or overnight camp, you can hook on to the Upper Winner Creek Trail.

Power Creek Trail: Access from Power Creek Road, 6.9 miles from Cordova. The hike is 4.5 miles one way. You will pass numerous waterfalls, several beaver ponds, and a hanging glacier as you travel. The panoramic view from Power Creek Cabin (see page 16 for cabin rental information) is extraordinary.

Kenai Peninsula Trails

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Carter Lake | 3.5 miles |
| Crescent Creek | 6.4 miles |
| Devil's Pass | 10 miles |
| Grayling Lake | 1.5 miles |
| Gull Rock | 5.1 miles |
| Hope Point | 2.5 miles |
| Johnson Pass | 23 miles |
| Lost Lake | 7.5 miles |
| Primrose | 7.5 miles |
| Ptarmigan Creek | 7.1 miles |
| Rainbow Lake | .24 miles |
| Resurrection Pass | 38.2 miles |
| Resurrection River | 16 miles |
| Russian Lakes | 21.7 miles |
| Victor Creek | 2.1 miles |

Girdwood/Portage Trails

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Crow Pass | 4 miles |
| Upper Winner Creek | 9 miles |
| Winner Creek Gorge | 3.5 miles |
| Byron Glacier | .8 mile |
| Gary Williams Nature | .15 mile |
| Portage Pass | 1 mile |
| Williwaw Nature | .5 mile |

Copper River Delta Trails

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Crater Lake | 2.6 miles |
| Eyak River | 3.3 miles |
| Haystack | .8 mile |
| McKinley Lake | 2.7 miles |
| Pipeline Lakes | 1.8 miles |
| Power Creek | 4.5 miles |
| Saddlebag Glacier | 3.1 miles |
| Sheridan Mountain | 2.8 miles |

Backcountry Guide

BE PREPARED

Always carry extra food, water, a pocket knife, waterproof matches, and emergency supplies with you. On backcountry trips have at least two or three days of extra food. Avoid dangerous situations by having the proper equipment and experience necessary to tackle the adventure you have planned.

PLAN AHEAD

Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Have a backup plan and a flexible schedule.

TAKE A FRIEND

Traveling alone increases your risk dramatically. Traveling in groups is recommended.

GET DRESSED

Leave your cotton at home; synthetic pile or wool are best. Bring a hat and gloves even in the summer.

DON'T CLIMB

Icebergs are unstable and can roll over at any time.

CHANGING WEATHER

Always take rain gear and warm clothing no matter how nice it looks when you start. Be prepared for the worst and remember weather changes rapidly. Heavy rain or snow and strong winds can occur at any time. Keep yourself warm and dry to avoid hypothermia.

WATCH OUT

Alaska waters are cold even in the summer and avalanches can occur any time of the year. Be aware of your surroundings and know how to evaluate conditions.

STAY BACK

Avoid getting too close to glaciers and icebergs—they are dangerous. Stay away from the face of tidewater glaciers to avoid large, unexpected waves caused by falling ice.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

View all wildlife from a distance. Make noise when hiking, especially in brushy areas, and never approach animals.

For more trail information visit www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach

HIKER'S CHECKLIST

FOOD: Avoid scented, spiced, or smoked foods as they attract bears. Keep food with you at all times.

WATER: *Giardia* occurs in the forest. Boil all water or use a filter.

CLOTHING: Dress in layers, bring a hat and gloves, and wear sturdy hiking boots.

RAIN GEAR: Weather is unpredictable and changes rapidly.

INSECT REPELLENT: Don't forget bug spray and/or a head net.

TOILET PAPER: Pack out all toilet paper, used pads, and tampons.

MAPS AND COMPASS: Bring both and know how to use them.

EMERGENCY GEAR: Bring waterproof matches or lighter, first aid kit, knife, and a whistle or flares.



Watchable Wildlife

The Chugach National Forest offers some of the most spectacular wildlife viewing opportunities in the world. It is important to respect these wild animals and help maintain high-quality wildlife viewing experiences for others in the future.

EASTERN KENAI

Tern Lake—Located at the intersection of the Seward and Sterling highways at Milepost 37. This area hosts a myriad of animals, birds, fish, and unique plants. Common loons, bald eagles, and arctic terns share the area with a variety of songbirds and shorebirds like the northern water thrush, golden-crowned sparrow, and the greater yellowlegs. Beavers, river otters, muskrats, and salmon ply the cold, clear waters of Tern Lake. Moose, Dall sheep, and mountain goats can be seen on the surrounding mountains. Best viewing seasons: spring, summer, and fall.



Moose Flats Day-Use Site

Located at Mile 1.0 on the Portage Highway. This site has a short boardwalk trail along several ponds. It is a good site for observing waterfowl that nest and rear their young in the ponds and river channels. Moose are also frequent visitors to the area and the boardwalk makes a nice observation post. Best viewing seasons: spring, summer and fall.

Williwaw Fish

Viewing Platform—Located at Mile 4 of the Portage Highway. Spawning sockeye, chum, and coho salmon arrive in late July and remain throughout early fall. In addition to salmon, visitors may see a variety of local songbirds, bald eagles, and black and brown bears. Best viewing seasons: spring, summer, and fall.





PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

Crooked Creek

Information Site—Located on the outskirts of Valdez at Mile 0.5 of the Richardson Highway. Pink and chum salmon return to this clear water stream each summer to spawn. Occasionally, black bears can be observed feasting on the returning fish. Best viewing seasons: summer and fall.

COPPER RIVER DELTA

Hartney Bay—Located at the end of Whitshed Road, approximately 5 miles south of Cordova (not on Forest Service land). From mid-April to mid-May, visitors have the opportunity to view whirling flocks of tens of thousands of shorebirds as they rest and refuel during their long journey northward. The rest of the year brings a wide variety of songbirds and marine mammals such as harbor seals, Steller's sea lions, and sea otters. In late summer, pink and chum salmon return to Hartney Creek to spawn. Best viewing seasons: spring and fall.

Alaganik Slough—Located at Mile 17 of the Copper River Highway. An accessible boardwalk leads visitors to stunning views of both the expansive wetlands of the Copper River Delta and the surrounding mountains. A wide variety of wetland animals including trumpeter swans, moose, brown bear, and shorebirds can be seen in the area. Best viewing seasons: spring and fall.

WILDLIFE CHECKLIST

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Arctic Tern | Coyote | Mountain Goat |
| Bald Eagle | Dall's Sheep | Pacific Dunlin |
| Beaver | Dusky Canada Goose | Ptarmigan |
| Black Bear | Grey Wolf | River Otter |
| Brown Bear | Harbor Seal | Sockeye (Red) Salmon |
| Chum (Dog) Salmon | King (Chinook) Salmon | Trumpeter Swan |
| Coho (Silver) Salmon | Moose | Western Sandpiper |

Viewing Safety

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE. If an animal alters its behavior because of your presence, you are too close. Responsible visitors use binoculars and telephoto lenses to observe an animal's normal behavior.

RESPECT THE ANIMALS. Animals often respond to repeated interference by abandoning homes, nesting sites, and even their young. Remember that we are the visitors.

NEVER FEED WILDLIFE. Animals that become accustomed to human food become problem animals that need to be removed from the area. Don't leave backpacks, trash, or food where an animal might find it.








DRIVE SAFELY. When you see wildlife, stop to view them from a safe pullout, not from the roadway. Please do not follow an animal at close distance in your vehicle. Be alert for animals crossing the road, especially at dawn, dusk, and at night.

Don't Have a Bad Bear Day!



Learn more about bears and bear safety. Pick up a copy of *Bear Facts* or *Living in Harmony with Bears* at any Forest Service office.

The Chugach National Forest is bear country. It is your responsibility to **BE BEAR AWARE!**

-  Watch for signs of bears such as tracks and scat.
-  Make noise to avoid surprising bears in the area.
-  Travel in groups. Groups are noisier and easier for bears to detect and avoid.
-  Never approach a bear. This aggressive behavior on your part forces a bear to react. Harassing bears is illegal and very dangerous.
-  Dogs can increase your risk of a serious bear encounter. Consider leaving them at home, or use a restraint.
-  Store food, trash, and personal hygiene products by hanging them from trees or by using bear-resistant food containers. Never store them in your tent.
-  Cook and store food at least 100 yards from your tent.

FISHING IN BEAR COUNTRY

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Be knowledgeable about bear behavior and the area where you will be fishing.
- Avoid fishing during low light conditions when visibility is decreased.

Stay Alert While Fishing

- Keep stringers and belongings with you at all times.
- Splashing fish attract bears. If a bear is close enough to notice splashing—stop fishing.
- Do not let a bear get a hooked fish. Cut the line.

Handle Your Catch Properly

- Bleed your fish into the water immediately.
- Toss all fish waste into deep, fast-moving water.
- Cut carcasses into small pieces that can easily be carried by the current.



ATTENTION ANGLERS AT THE RUSSIAN RIVER! When fishing along the banks of the Russian River or hiking along the Russian River Anglers Trail ALL food, beverages or any smelly items that might attract a bear **MUST** be in your possession at all times.

Forest Partners

For more information on Chugach National Forest's wildlife, geology, trails, and history look to the Alaska Natural History Association. As the principal nonprofit educational partner of the Chugach National Forest, the Alaska Natural History Association operates bookstores with an extensive collection of materials on the natural and cultural heritage of the Chugach National Forest.

Look for our bookstores in the visitor centers in Valdez and Portage, and in our district offices in Cordova and Girdwood. Your purchases support educational materials and programs offered by the Forest Service in communities throughout Southcentral Alaska, including this visitor guide.

Alaska Natural History partners with more than 30 public lands across Alaska to operate informational bookstores and connect people to Alaska's rich natural and cultural heritage. Building a community dedicated to the future of Alaska's parks, forests, and refuges is at the core of our mission. Through bookstore revenues, membership dues, and donor contributions, we are able to play a vital role in connecting more people to Alaska's rich public lands.

To find out more or to become a member, visit the Chugach National Forest and stop by one of the Alaska Natural History Association bookstores located in the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center and the Crooked Creek Information Site or visit www.alaskanha.org.



Alaska
Natural History
ASSOCIATION

Alaska Natural History Association
750 West Second Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 274-8440 or toll-free at (866) AK-PARKS
www.alaskanha.org

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

Visit the Alaska Natural History Association bookstores located in the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center and the Crooked Creek Information Site to find unique books and gifts related to the natural and cultural history of the region.



Frozen in Motion
By Kathryn Hocker

Find out why ice is blue, how glaciers gallop, and which tools scientists use to uncover ancient clues from the ice in this brand-new look at Alaska's dynamic glaciers.

\$8.95



Chugach National Forest: Legacy of Land, Sea and Sky
By Andromeda Romano-Lax

From the Copper River Delta to Prince William Sound and the Kenai Peninsula, the Chugach National Forest embraces a wide swath of Alaska. Learn about the forest's diversity in this beautifully written and illustrated book.

Softcover

\$14.95

Hardcover

\$21.95



Kenai Trails
By Alaska Natural History Association

Full-color comprehensive trail guide includes trail descriptions, photos and maps.

\$7.95



The People Left Behind: Early Peoples of the Kenai Coast
By Madelyn Yerden-Walker

Discover the history of the earliest settlers to the Kenai and learn the ways of a maritime hunter-gatherer society.

\$5.95

Also available on-line at www.alaskanha.org



Contact Information

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Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 743-9500
www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach
E-mail: mailroom_r10_chugach@fs.fed.us

Cordova Ranger District
P.O. Box 280
Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-7661

Glacier Ranger District
P.O. Box 129
Girdwood, AK 99587
(907) 783-3242

Seward Ranger District
P.O. Box 390
Seward, AK 99664
(907) 224-3374

Alaska Public Lands
Information Center
605 W. Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2737
www.nps.gov/aplic

Chugach National Forest Visitor Centers

Begich, Boggs Visitor Center
Portage Glacier
Mile 5 Portage Highway
(907) 783-2326

Crooked Creek (**Summer only**)
Information Site
P.O. Box 1513
Valdez, AK 99686
Mile 0.5 Richardson Highway
(907) 835-4680

Native Contacts

For information about using Native corporation lands within the Chugach National Forest, please write or call the appropriate corporation.

Chugach Alaska Corporation
Land & Resources
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560 E. 34th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 563-8866
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