

A wide-angle photograph of a mountain range. In the foreground, a rocky ridge with sparse green vegetation slopes down to the right. Five hikers with backpacks are standing on the ridge, looking out over the valley. The middle ground is a vast, deep valley filled with dense evergreen forests. In the lower left, a river winds through a green meadow. In the distance, a large lake is visible. The background consists of a range of jagged, rocky mountains with patches of snow under a blue sky with light clouds.

CHAPTER 3

REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES OVERVIEW

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SECTION A

INTRODUCTION: RECOGNIZING REGIONAL VARIATION

The regional landscapes of Alaska are as varied as the lives of the people who call Alaska home and the journeys of those who venture north to visit. From black sand beaches to expanses of tundra, boreal forests, coastal rainforests, glacier-covered mountain peaks and lush alpine valleys – the natural resources of Alaska’s diverse regions create boundless outdoor recreation opportunities. Coupled with a deep cultural heritage unique to Alaska, a powerful connection is established between the people and the land.

The last chapter presented statewide data and analysis. This chapter presents a snapshot of the outdoor recreation resources and activities in six regions: Arctic, Western, Southwestern, Interior, Southcentral, and Southeast.

Many communities in rural areas of the state lack the capacity required to access grant funding, develop recreation plans, and construct and maintain outdoor recreation infrastructure. In the future, it is hoped that more extensive recreation planning will take place in these more rural areas with the goal of making the most of outdoor resources in these areas and their communities. Going forward, the SCORP aims to achieve shared statewide goals, but in ways that respect the unique characteristics of these six regions.

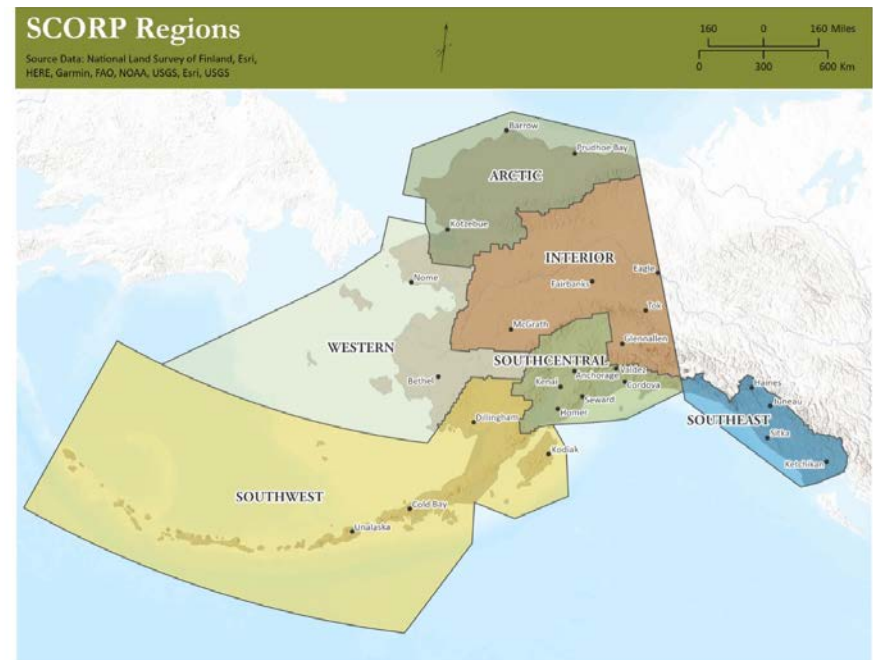
Future recreation planning and implementation can build on the planning that has already taken place in these areas, including plans by state and federal land

management agencies and regional non-profit Native organizations. Many existing plans include goals directly related to regional outdoor recreation. But more work is necessary to further define and implement strategies that expand outdoor recreation opportunities, respect cultural traditions, maintain subsistence resources, and support commercial opportunities. One part of this approach which successful in other states is the creation of a statewide Office of Outdoor Recreation. This proposed new Office could help rural Alaska regions to define their goals, strategies, and projects for regional outdoor recreation. *See statewide Goal 7 and Appendices for more information.*

In populous locations within the larger regions, the SCORP process included preparation of detailed outdoor recreation strategies and initiatives. This work was done in the following subregions: Greater Fairbanks, Denali Borough, Mat-Su Borough, Anchorage Municipality, Kenai Peninsula and Turnagain Arm, Prince William Sound, and the full Southeast region.

"Alaska is gorgeous, diverse, and huge!"

- SCORP public survey comment, 2022



The SCORP focused on these locations because of their significant outdoor recreation and tourism activity, increasing demands on outdoor recreation facilities, and many pressing outdoor recreation management and funding issues.

Through this sub-regional planning process and into the future, DPOR and their partners hope to create a "local, outdoor recreation planning clearinghouse," encouraging further planning and implementation in the seven places listed above and urging other

groups to produce similar work in other locations. See *Appendices for the planning template, process, and products.*

SHARED OUTDOOR RECREATION CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL ALASKA REGIONS

Below is a brief summary of the overarching strengths and challenges of the more rural regions (Arctic, Western, Southwest) included in the SCORP. While these regions are distinguished by their diverse and varied landscapes, subsistence resources, cultural traditions, aspirations for development, and current economic and fiscal health, they do share some common qualities and challenges.

Strengths and Qualities of Regional Outdoor Recreation Resources in the Arctic, Western, and Southwest Regions

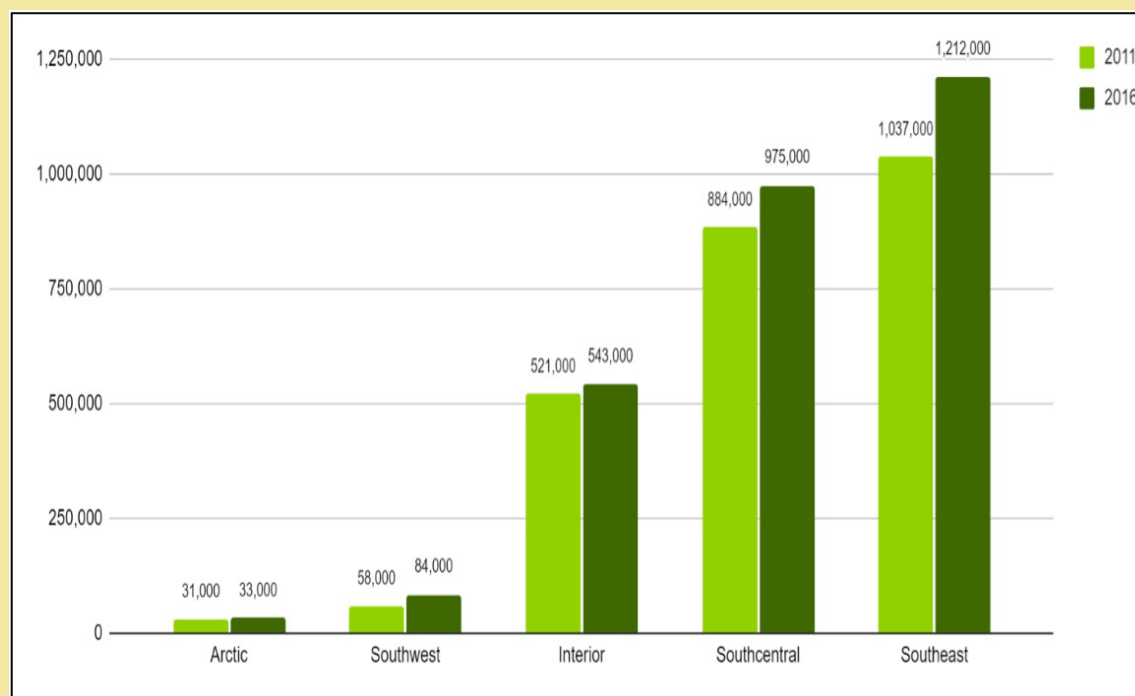
- Outdoor recreation in rural Alaska focuses on subsistence and its role in daily life and cultural traditions.
- Dominance of public lands, largely federal, with intact and productive natural systems, is the basis for both subsistence resources and recreation opportunities.
- There are substantial holdings of regional and village corporation lands, often along rivers and coasts.
- Long, rich cultural traditions are rooted in a deep connectedness with the land.
- Intact and productive natural systems support subsistence life for many rural Alaskans.
- Stewardship of natural resources is sustainability-focused.
- There is mixed authority for governance and policy setting: tribal organizations, regional non-profits, for-profit ANCSA Corporations (regional, village, and units) incorporated cities, and boroughs.
- There are internationally reknown parks and refuges.

Challenges Impacting Regional Outdoor Recreation in the Arctic, Western, and Southwest Regions

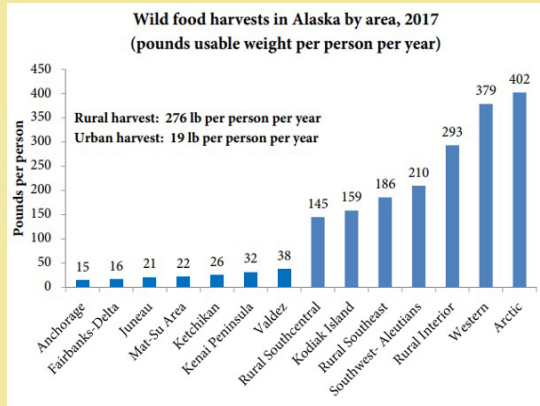
- Outdoor recreation public facilities and related infrastructure are limited.
- There is limited or no regional recreational and tourism marketing (common to regional destination marketing organizations in other areas of Alaska).
- Limited generation of local revenue, such as property or sales taxes which help pay for local public services,

results in reliance on funding from outside the region for local services including schools, public safety, and transportation.

- There are fewer visitors and less visitor spending by out-of-state and out-of-region recreation users due to the three items above.
- There is concern about inviting sport hunting and fishing users who may compete for subsistence resources.



Low Out-of-State Recreational Visits to Rural Alaska.²³ While out of date, the most recent Alaska Visitors Statistics Program (AVSP 7-2016) still provides a helpful picture of the magnitude of out-of-state travelers to different Alaska regions. As shown, AVSP Far North (SCORP Arctic region) and Southwest (SCORP Western and Southwest regions) receive a small fraction of the total out-of-state visitors (and visitor spending) in Alaska.



Very High Subsistence Harvest in Rural Alaska.⁴

The most recent Alaska Survey of Subsistence still gives an accurate picture of the magnitude of subsistence harvest in rural versus urban areas of Alaska, and the relative magnitude of harvest in different Alaska regions. As shown, Arctic, Western and Rural Interior harvest per person is nearly or well above 300 pounds per person.

- There are high costs of construction, energy, and travel to and within the region.
- Often overburdened tribal governments administrators have limited administrative capacity to apply for and administer grants and government funds.
- Access to safe travel routes, ecosystem services and resiliency, as well as subsistence resources are all experiencing climate change effects and variability.
- Conflicts with management of federal public lands designations may impede land access or subsistence activities.
- There are concerns with balancing outdoor recreation and tourism development that attracts visitor spending and supports local businesses but may also conflict with local subsistence needs.

SUMMARY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OBJECTIVES OF RURAL ALASKA REGIONS

While the primary purpose of this chapter is to provide background information about these regions, a short list of general objectives emerged in preparing this chapter and reviewing existing plans – suggesting direction for future outdoor recreation in rural Alaska.

1. IMPROVE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN RURAL ALASKA

While Alaska has underinvested in outdoor recreation statewide, most of the more urbanized regions and organized boroughs have the staffing and resources to develop and fund outdoor programs and infrastructure.

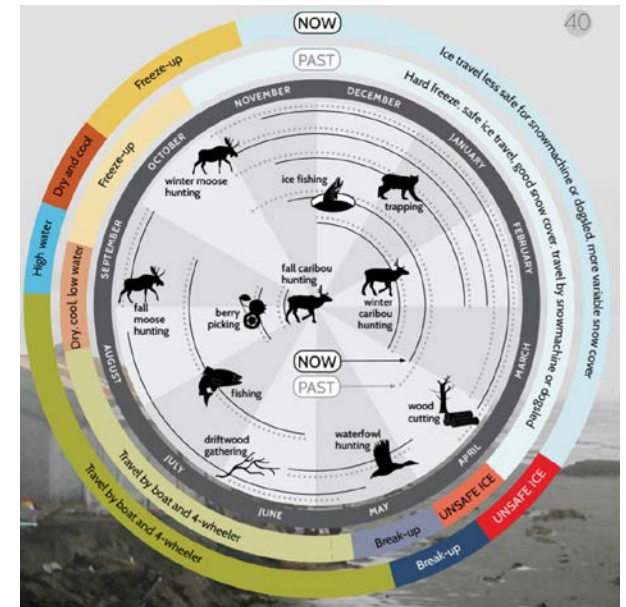
In many rural areas, there is a need to actively explore options for increased planning, funding, and investment. This work could grow outdoor recreation opportunities in a manner that expands local economies while maintaining both the existing way of life and the resources that support subsistence.

2. CREATE ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES TO CONFRONT IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY

Climate change is no longer an abstract, future threat to Alaska. It is here today and is dramatically transforming landscapes, ecosystems, and access to subsistence resources – with western and northern Alaska experiencing some of the most profound impacts. A coordinated response between communities, tribal organizations, land managers, and the scientific community is needed to develop and implement adaptive mitigation strategies. Work underway through the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and other organizations is focused on these goals, including making the case for expanded national and state funding to address climate change challenges.



Photo by Cheryl Ess



Climate change is altering timing of long-established annual subsistence activities²⁸

3. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Alaska's rural regions already support modest numbers of outdoor recreation-related jobs and businesses. These include both private businesses offering sportfishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and guided cultural experiences as well as positions with land managers and non-profits focused on conservation and land management. Skills training and internship programs for interested individuals and local businesses could help expand these opportunities, aiming to open up more opportunities for local residents to get well-paid, fulfilling jobs. See Chapter 4, Goal 3 for more information.

4. LAND MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Most of rural Alaska is made up of federal USFWS, BLM, NPS, USFS, and U.S. military lands. The state of Alaska and ANSCA regional and village corporations are rural Alaska's other primary landowners. The mission of these entities includes support for locally beneficial economic development – including outdoor recreation. Continuing work with Native Corporations and both federal and state agencies is needed so these lands can better support locally-identified opportunities for economic development.

Regional ANSCA Corporations Investing in Locally Beneficial Tourism Development

Bristol Bay Native Corporation now holds the concession for Katmai National Park and owns a high-end fishing lodge near Dillingham. Both these business operations offer entry level and more advanced jobs to local residents.

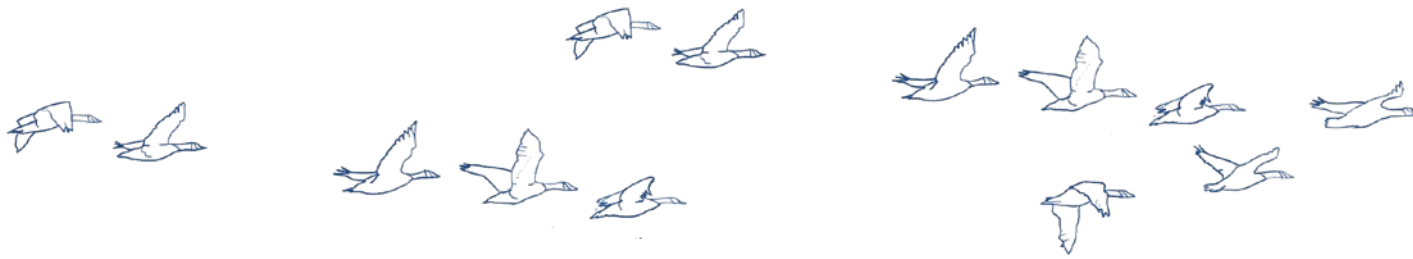
Alaskan Youth Stewards Program⁵

Enriching our native and public lands through hard work and dedication

The Alaskan Youth Stewards program was developed by the Sustainable Southeast Partnership working with the Tlingit Haida Council. This program blends experiential education, on the job training, career counseling, and job placement for youth in rural Southeast Alaska to get on the path to higher education and employment in natural resource stewardship.



Anchor River
Photo by KBNER



SECTION B

REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL SUMMARIES

The remainder of this chapter presents short descriptions of the location and characteristics of each region, followed by summaries of the ANCSA Corporation regions, and an overview of outdoor recreation resources appealing to visitors and supporting life outdoors for residents. *See Appendices for more information.*

B.1 ARCTIC REGION

This region of Alaska takes in the northern portion of Alaska, from the Canadian border on the east, to Point Hope and the Chukchi Sea on the west. Wild rivers meander through glacier-carved valleys, spilling out onto the arctic coastal plain. Caribou migrate along age-old routes, endless summer light fades into aurora-lit night skies of winter. Much of this vast landscape does not contain any roads or trails. Visitors can experience communities that bridge traditional and modern lives, and discover pristine landscapes where people have lived with the land for thousands of years.

Unique resources include:

- Public lands with subsistence resources for food, transportation, handicrafts, and recreational opportunities
- an estimated 90,000 to 100,000 caribou herd calves on the coastal plain
- One of North America's few locations for frequent sightings of polar bears
- Cultural events and museums in Utqiagvik
- National Parks and Wildlife Refuges with remote and wild landscapes, from rugged mountains and coastlines, to "carpets of wildflowers among shrubs containing wisps of qiviut from muskoxen"¹⁸
- Wetlands with rich habitats for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl

"When we speak of subsistence, we don't just mean using the resource, but using tribal methods and acting out culture and complying with those values. And we do those things because they are a measure of protection for the land and its resources." - a Venetie hunter³



Moose meat hangs in the community drying shed in Bettles.
Photo by Kristin Pace



ANCSA Regional Corporations

*Information summarized from corporate websites.
See Appendices for more information.*

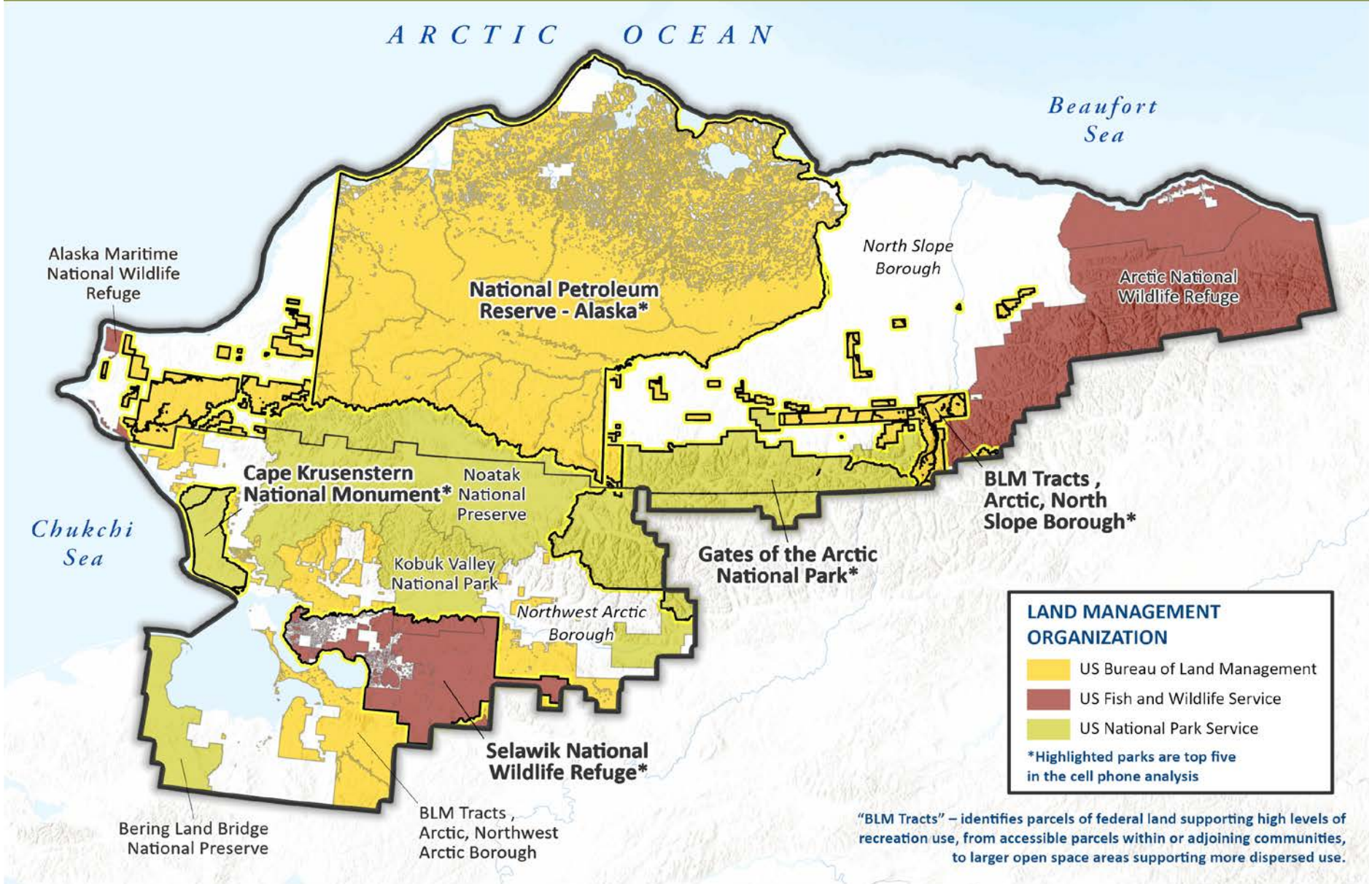
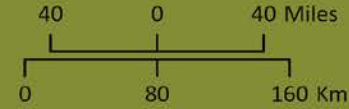
Arctic Slope (Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, ASRC⁷) Alaska's North Slope is a vast and ancient land that the Iñupiat have called home for more than 10,000 years. It is located on the northern slope of the Brooks Range, along the coast of the Chukchi Sea on the western side of Point Barrow, and the Beaufort Sea to the east. Local whaling crews participate in traditional subsistence whaling. Visitors enjoy polar bear viewing in Kaktovik or Utqiagvik and hiking and river rafting in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The regional non-profit is Arctic Slope Native Association (ANSA).

Northwest Alaska (NANA Regional Corporation¹⁷) This region is located in Northwest Alaska on the Chukchi Sea. It encompasses the Kotzebue Sound, Noatak and Kobuk Rivers, and portions of the Brooks Range and Seward Peninsula. Boasting some of the most pristine, undisturbed wilderness in the world, the Northwest Alaska Borough includes four National Parks and a National Wildlife Refuge. Subsistence activities are an integral part of the lifestyle; caribou on land and marine resources like seal, halibut, crab, and fish are important subsistence foods.¹⁶ Visitors have opportunities to float the Kobuk River to visit Kobuk Valley National Park and sand dunes.



Arctic Region

Source Data: State of Alaska, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, USGS



Arctic Region



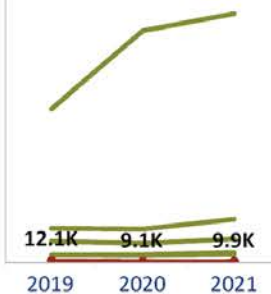
SAMPLE SIZE

Annual Average



SAMPLE SIZE

DEVICE DAYS BY YEAR



USE BY AGENCY

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS

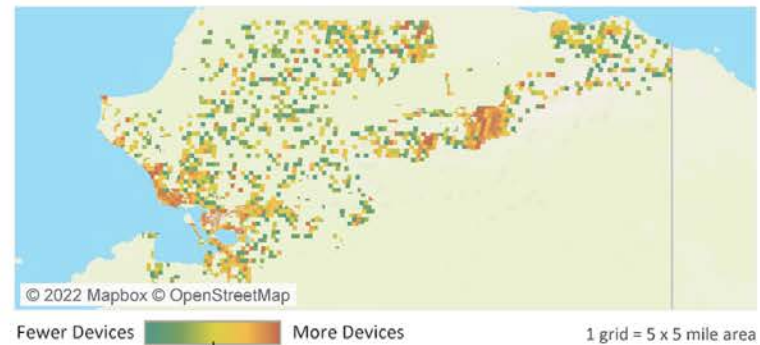


TOP 5 LOCATIONS

BY DEVICE DAYS

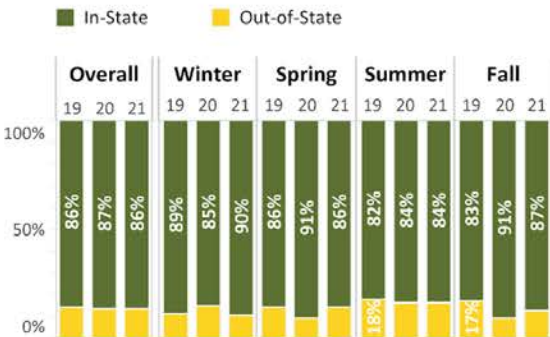
- 1 Gates of the Arctic National Park
- 2 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
- 3 BLM Tracts , Arctic, North Slope Borough
- 4 Cape Krusenstern National Monument
- 5 National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska

DISTRIBUTION OF USE



VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR



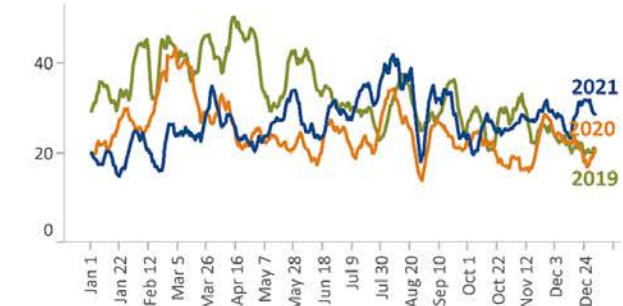
VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR

	2019	2020	2021
North Slope Borough	37%	42%	31%
Northwest Arctic Borough	28%	27%	38%
Anchorage Municipality	8%	5%	6%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	7%	5%	4%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	2%	2%	3%
Other Alaska	3%	3%	2%
Out of State/International	16%	15%	16%

PATTERNS OF USE

7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Trends in Use

- Arctic region sees the least usage of any Alaska region with only ~10,000 device days observed on average each year
- Only region to see some decline in usage, but the numbers are very small and should be better understood before conclusions are made

Visitor Profile

- North Slope and Northwest Arctic Borough residents represent the bulk of all device days each year (~65-71%)
- Out-of-state usage remained steady over the three-year period, indicating growing visits by independent visitors during a time of minimal cruise travel to Alaska

Highest Demand

- Gates of the Arctic National Park, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, BLM tracts, and Cape Krusenstern are the highest demand areas
- Overall, demand for these sites is the lowest on average out of any other Alaska outdoor recreation locations observed

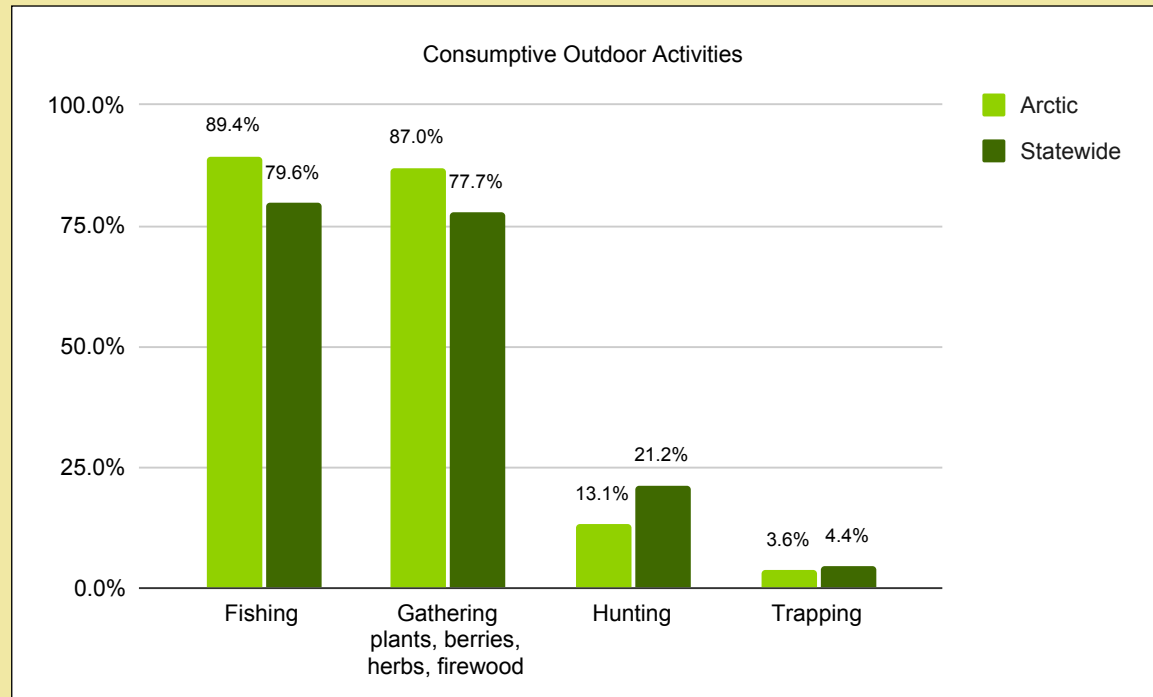
ARCTIC REGION OUTDOOR RECREATION STATISTICS

SCORP public survey results indicated that 100 percent of Arctic region respondents engage in outdoor recreation. The leading reasons given for time outdoors in the Arctic included spending time with friends and family (35%), enjoying the scenery (34%), necessary travel (26%), and hunting, fishing, and subsistence (20%). Of all six regions, outdoor recreation as a necessary means of travel ranked highest in the Arctic.

Recent Alaska Visitors Statistics data found that of the 1.86 million out-of-state visitors who traveled to Alaska in summer 2016, just 33,000 visited Arctic regions. The only destination included in the top 35 areas most visited by out-of-state travelers to Alaska is Coldfoot with 12,000 out-of-state visitors (number 33 on that list). By comparison, Juneau was the most visited destination receiving 1.1 million visitors.

Percentage of households participating subsistence activities in the Arctic Region			
Harvesting Game (%)	Using Game (%)	Harvesting Fish (%)	Using Fish (%)
63	92	78	96

Subsistence Use: Most families in rural Alaska are heavily dependent on subsistence hunting and fishing. The table above shows figures on the harvest and use of wild foods in the Arctic.⁴



Arctic Residents Consumptive Outdoor Activities

SCORP Public Survey Results Question #10 (percent of respondents): The 2022 SCORP public survey shows the importance of subsistence in the Arctic with fishing and gathering ranking highest among consumptive activities.



Photo by Kristin Pace

B.2 WESTERN ALASKA

This region extends from the Seward Peninsula south into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The region's landscapes provide an abundance of resources to support an active subsistence way of life. Indigenous peoples past and present, Russian trappers, gold miners all have depended on the land for their livelihoods.³⁰ Nome is the hub community of Seward Peninsula; and Bethel is the hub for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The delta is the largest riverine delta in western North America and is among the most populated rural areas in Alaska with 56 villages.

Outdoor recreation resources in this region include:

- Nome area roads – Unlike most rural hub communities, Nome has an extensive road system providing visitors the chance to explore out-of-town landscapes, and interesting sights and activities. Attractions include visible evidence of the region's early gold rush history and birding which attracts serious birders seeking "life list" birds.
- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve – The landscape once connected Asia and North America and includes Serpentine Hot Springs.
- Caribou – The Western region is the summer home to the Western Arctic caribou herd. With a population estimate of 188,000 caribou in 2021, it is one of the world's largest and they range over a territory the size of California.
- Other designated federal areas including the immense Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge – The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta supports one of the largest aggregations of waterbirds in the world as well as critical spawning and rearing habitat for Pacific salmon species.³¹
- The characteristicly-drier, upland habitats are home to brown and black bear, caribou, moose, wolves, and muskox.

ANCSA Regional Corporations

*Information summarized from corporate websites.
See Appendices for more information.*

Nome Region (Bering Straits Native Corporation⁹)

The Bering Strait region encompasses the majority of Alaska's Seward Peninsula and the coastal lands of eastern Norton Sound. The region spans an area of 23,000 square miles and includes the Seward Peninsula, St. Lawrence Island, King Island and Little Diomed Island. It includes the villages of Shishmaref, Wales, Diomed, Brevig Mission, Teller, King Island, Mary's Igloo, Council, White Mountain, Solomon, Nome, Golovin, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, Stebbins, St. Michael, Elim, Gambell, and Savoonga.⁶ Regional residents hunt for walrus. Visitors can also experience the finish of the Iditarod sled dog race in winter or drive local roads view muskox in the summer. The regional non-profit is Kawerak.

Yukon-Kuskokwim (YK) River Delta and the Kuskokwim Mountains (Calista Corporation¹⁰)

This region is a distinctive and beautiful corner of the world. The landscape is formed by the waters and silt coming down two of Alaska's mightiest rivers, the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. This vast area is the traditional home of the state's indigenous Yup'ik, Cup'ik and Athabascan people. The region accounts for roughly 10 percent of Alaska's entire land area and is the second largest ANCSA region in land size.⁷

Residents depend on a full spectrum of subsistence foods, including the declining runs of king salmon and chum. The relatively few recreation visitors to the region come for fishing or floating remote rivers such as the Kisaralik. The regional non-profit is the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP).



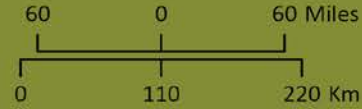
Caribou from the western Arctic Herd scattered across the tundra.²
Aerial photo by Geoff Carroll



Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
Photo by National Archives at College Park - Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Western Region

Source Data: State of Alaska, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, Esri, USGS



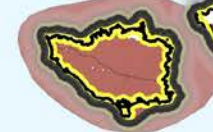
LAND MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

- State of Alaska (DNR)
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US National Park Service

**Highlighted parks are top five in the cell phone analysis*

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Bering Sea

Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge*



Togiak National Wildlife Refuge/
Lower Goodnews River Special Use Area*

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve*

Nome Census Area

BLM Tracts, Western, Nome Census Area*

Norton Sound

BLM Tracts, Western, Kusilvak Census Area

Kusilvak Census Area

Bethel Census Area

Togiak National Wildlife Refuge*

PACIFIC OCEAN

Bering Strait

Bering Sea

"BLM Tracts" – identifies parcels of federal land supporting high levels of recreation use, from accessible parcels within or adjoining communities, to larger open space areas supporting more dispersed use.

Western Region



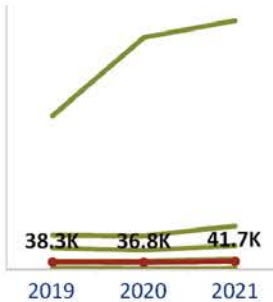
SAMPLE SIZE

Annual Average



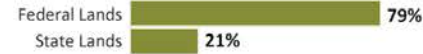
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DEVICE DAYS BY YEAR



USE BY AGENCY

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS

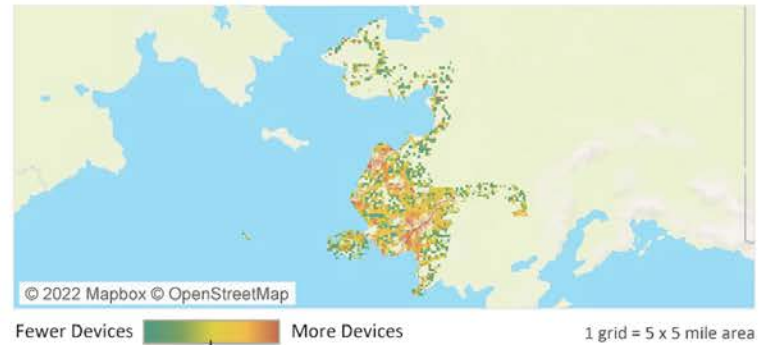


TOP 5 LOCATIONS

BY DEVICE DAYS

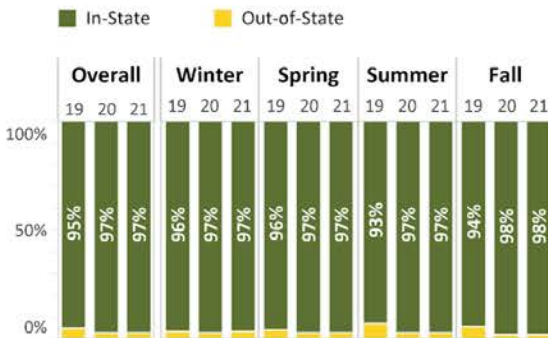
- 1 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
- 2 Togiak Nwr/Lower Goodnews River Sua
- 3 BLM Tracts , Western, Nome Census Area
- 4 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
- 5 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

DISTRIBUTION OF USE



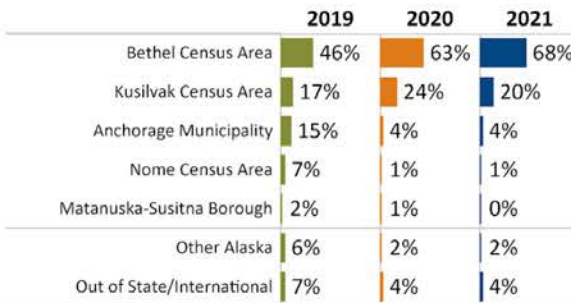
VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR



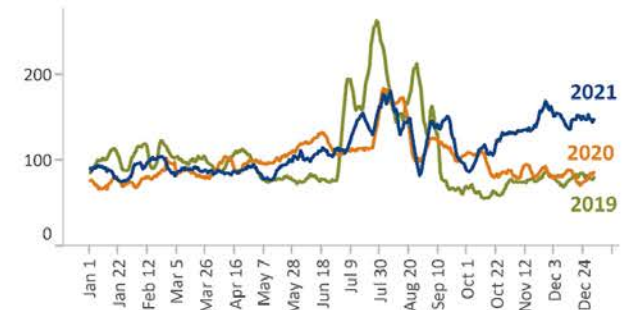
VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR



PATTERNS OF USE

7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Trends in Use

- Device days in the Western region fluctuated slightly, but the change is not as drastic as other regions
- 2021 saw a slight increase from both 2019 and 2020 in terms of device days in the region

Visitor Profile

- Large increase of Bethel Census Area visitors were observed from 2019 to 2020; growing slightly in 2021
- The primary contributor to the visitor profile change was a decrease of Anchorage and Nome users, due to the travel restrictions during the COVID pandemic

Highest Demand

- Yukon Delta NWR, Togiak NWR, and various BLM tracts are the top locations
- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve sees usage as well

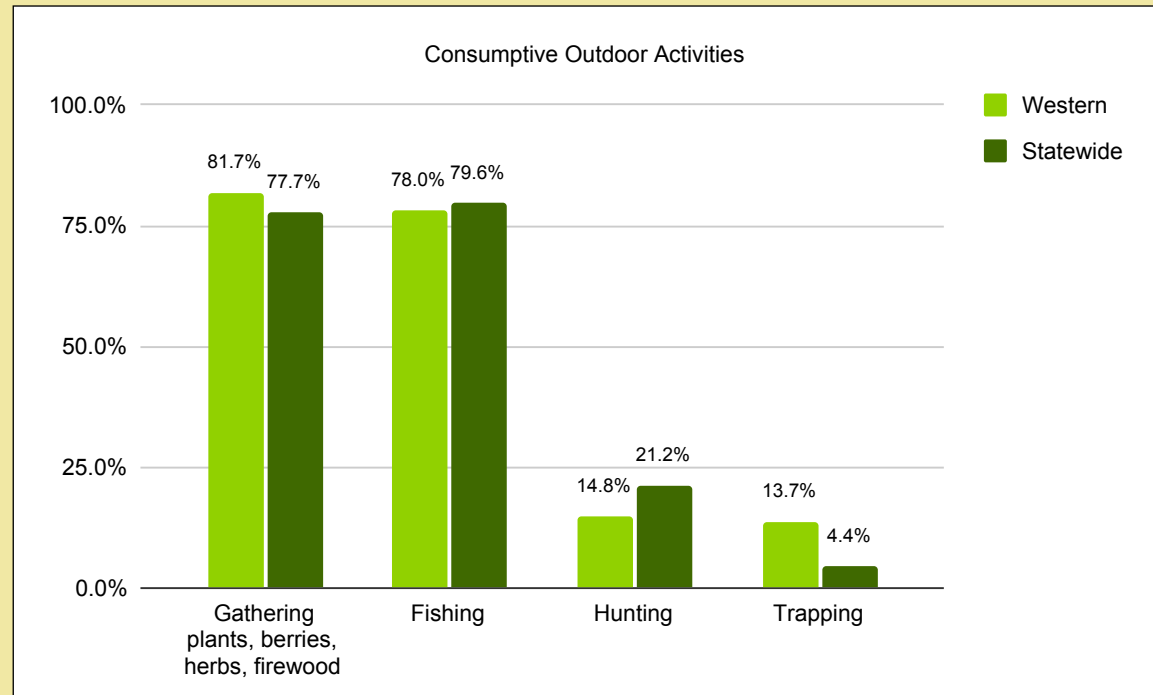
WESTERN REGION OUTDOOR RECREATION STATISTICS

SCORP public survey results indicated that 100 percent of Western region respondents engage in outdoor recreation. Leading ways to spend time outdoors in the Western region included experiencing wild, natural environments (42%), hunting, fishing, and subsistence (40%), mental well-being (39%), and enjoying the scenery (30%). The lack of access to outdoor gear and equipment was the primary barrier to outdoor recreation in the Western region. In fact, this limiting factor ranked highest in the Western region (45%) when compared to the other six regions. Climate change is greatly affecting subsistence access in the region, with unsafe winter ice and reduced snow packs reducing options for winter travel.

The most recent Alaska Visitors Statistics program (AVSP) found that of the 1.86 million out-of-state visitors who traveled to Alaska in summer 2016, 84,000 visited the combination of Western and Southwestern regions. The most visited location was Nome, the gold rush town and Iditarod race terminus, which received 6,000 out-of-state visitors in 2016, 35th of the 35 destinations captured in the AVSP.

Percentage of households participating subsistence activities in the Western Region			
Harvesting Game (%)	Using Game (%)	Harvesting Fish (%)	Using Fish (%)
70	90	98	100

Western Alaska families, like much of rural Alaska, are heavily dependent on subsistence hunting and fishing.⁴



Western Region Residents Consumptive Outdoor Activities

SCORP Public Survey Results Question #10 (percent of respondents): Participation in fishing and gathering is strong (but lower than the Arctic and Southwest regions); trapping is slightly higher.



B.3 SOUTHWESTERN ALASKA

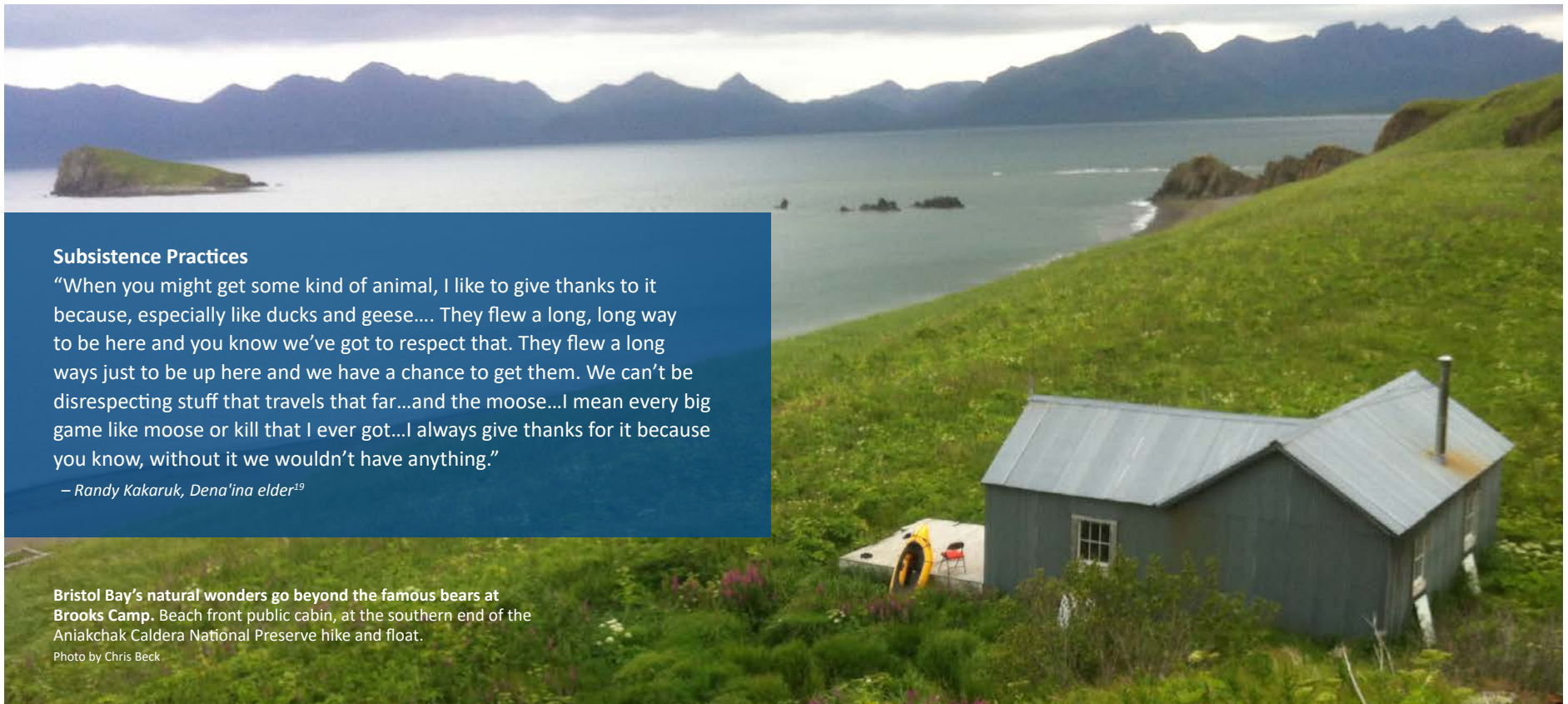
The Southwestern Alaska region includes Bristol Bay, Kodiak, and the Aleutians. The area comprises some of the richest fishing grounds and marine mammal habitats in the world. The landscape ranges from the Ring of Fire (mountains, islands, and volcanoes) to the lake systems of Bristol Bay (including Alaska's largest, Lake Iliamna). Shorelines and lake edges often feature deep footprints of brown bears. Marine mammals include whales and walrus. Millions of birds migrate through the region.⁶

Southwest encompasses three quite different outdoor recreation environments: Bristol Bay – with its

salmon-rich rivers, fishing lodges, and trophy hunting on the large wildlife refuges down the peninsula; Kodiak – with its attractive waterfront community, road system, bears, fishing, and even surfing in Pasagshak Bay; and the Aleutian Peninsula – with its collection of islands, beaches, volcanoes, and challenging weather. By rural Alaska standards, each of these areas attract relatively significant visitor use. Unique resources in the region include:

- Katmai National Park and Lake Clark National Park are world-famous bear viewing and rainbow fishing. This area includes Aniakchak National Monument as well as both Becharof and Ugashik National Wildlife Refuges.

- Kodiak is perhaps the world's largest intact, pristine, island ecosystems famous for its Kodiak brown bears and its commercial, subsistence, and sport fishing. Recreation infrastructure includes DPOR and Kodiak NWR visitor centers, parks, lands, and public-use cabins.
- It is home to the largest state-owned park in the nation, Wood-Tikchik State Park, at nearly 1.6 million acres.
- Bristol Bay is home to the world's largest sockeye salmon runs, supported by the systems of large lakes feeding into the Nushagak, Kvichak, Becharof, Wood, and Tikchik rivers. Commercial, subsistence, and sportfishing provide the traditional foundation for the regional economy.²⁹



Subsistence Practices

“When you might get some kind of animal, I like to give thanks to it because, especially like ducks and geese.... They flew a long, long way to be here and you know we’ve got to respect that. They flew a long ways just to be up here and we have a chance to get them. We can’t be disrespecting stuff that travels that far...and the moose...I mean every big game like moose or kill that I ever got...I always give thanks for it because you know, without it we wouldn’t have anything.”

– Randy Kakaruk, Dena’ina elder¹⁹

Bristol Bay’s natural wonders go beyond the famous bears at Brooks Camp. Beach front public cabin, at the southern end of the Aniakchak Caldera National Preserve hike and float.

Photo by Chris Beck

ANCSA Regional Corporations

Information summarized from corporate websites.
See Appendices for more information.

Bristol Bay (Bristol Bay Native Corporation⁸)

Bristol Bay is well-known for clear, fish-filled rivers and lakes, and dramatic panoramas of lush lowlands against mountain backdrops. The pristine landscape supports an astonishing diversity of wildlife, from marine mammals and fish to land mammals and birds. The freshwater seals living in Lake Iliamna are unique to the area. In addition to salmon, the harvest of caribou, moose, sea mammals, beaver, porcupine, fox, and waterfowl support the subsistence, commercial, and sport activities of regional communities. The world's largest, wild salmon run supports both commercial and subsistence fishing in the region. The regional non-profit is Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA).

Aleutians region (Aleut Corporation⁶)

The Aleut Region is part of the Ring of Fire and stretches over a thousand miles into the Bering Sea

and Pacific Ocean. Island landforms vary from low, rolling hills to rugged mountains. Coastlines are often rugged with steep cliffs and narrow, rocky beaches. Bears, birds, foxes, and caribou make this distinctive land their home. Fish and marine mammals are abundant in the oceans surrounding the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands. The waters are home to a variety of salmon, halibut, crab, and an abundance of seals—all of which have sustained generations of the Aleut people. A visit to the Pribilof Islands offers unique birding opportunities.

Kodiak Region (Koniag¹⁵)

Koniag holds title to approximately 145,000 acres of surface estate and approximately 990,000 acres of subsurface estate. The Karluk River flows through a remote area on the southwest side of Kodiak Island, and Koniag manages most of the land in the Karluk River Basin. Fishing and crabbing are central to the local and state economy. Shuyak Island offers remote sea kayaking opportunities for visitors. The regional non-profit is the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA).



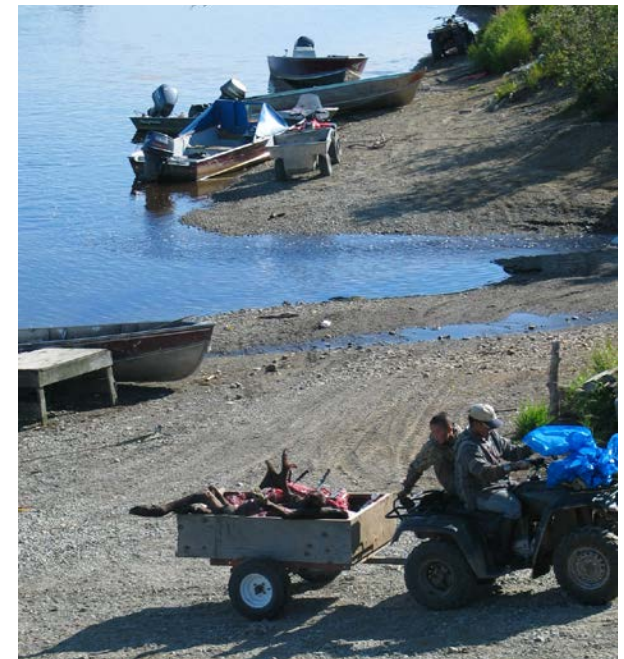
St. Paul Island: Creating a Community Park in the Middle of the Bering Sea²⁰

A resilient recreation space that promotes community health and strengthens sense of place.

The Aleut Community of St. Paul Tribal Government was in the research phase of a downtown improvement project when a deep history of baseball on the island was rediscovered. A planning group was formed to scope out the project site, St. Paul Park, and identify goals. The planning team consisted of members from the Aleut Community of St. Paul Tribal Government and the National Park Service. Inspired to transform the old baseball field and vacant space into a community park, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island applied for technical assistance from the National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program in 2017. The restoration of the field and construction of the park will honor the history of the island and create safe outdoor recreation opportunities for the community.



Photo by Aleut Community of St. Paul Tribal Government²⁰

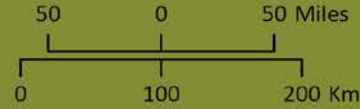


Life on the Nushagak, Bristol Bay – riverboats, ATV'S, skill, and fortune bring home an early fall moose.

Photo by Chris Beck

Southwest Region

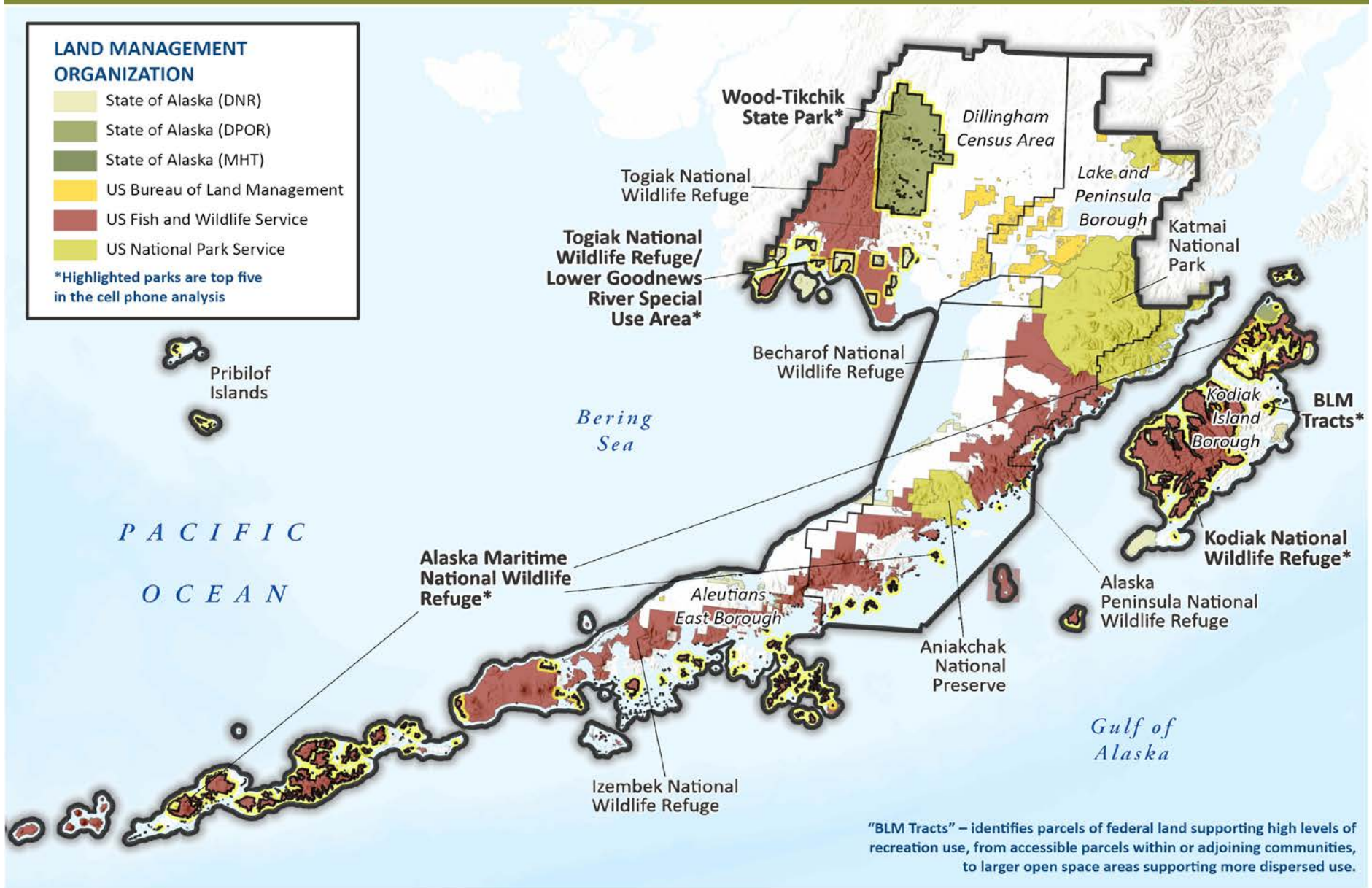
Source Data: State of Alaska, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, Esri, USGS



LAND MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

- State of Alaska (DNR)
- State of Alaska (DPOR)
- State of Alaska (MHT)
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US National Park Service

*Highlighted parks are top five in the cell phone analysis



"BLM Tracts" – identifies parcels of federal land supporting high levels of recreation use, from accessible parcels within or adjoining communities, to larger open space areas supporting more dispersed use.

Southwest Region



SAMPLE SIZE

Annual Average

Southcentral: 955.1K

Southeast: 171.8K

Interior: 101.5K

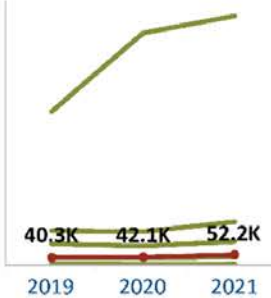
Southwest: 44.9K

Western: 39.0K

Arctic: 10.3K

SAMPLE SIZE

DEVICE DAYS BY YEAR



USE BY AGENCY

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS



TOP 5 LOCATIONS

BY DEVICE DAYS

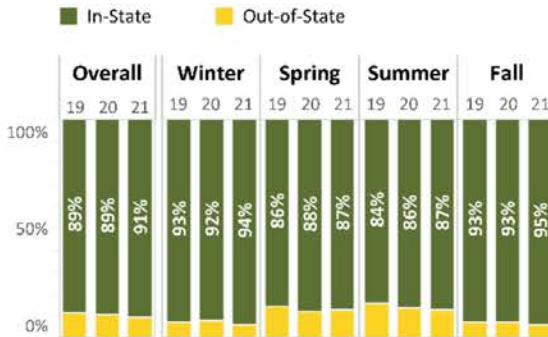
- 1 Togiak NWR/Lower Goodnews River SUA
- 2 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
- 3 Wood-Tikchik State Park
- 4 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
- 5 BLM Tracts, Southwest, Kodiak Island Borough

DISTRIBUTION OF USE



VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR



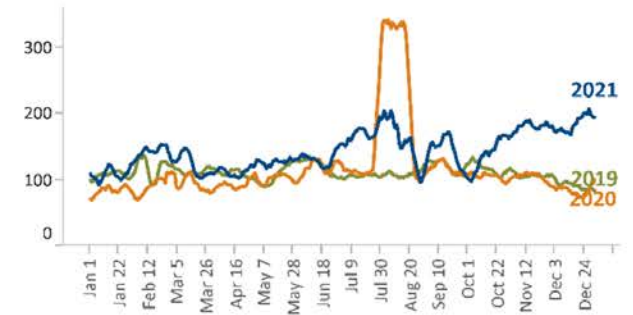
VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR

	2019	2020	2021
Dillingham Census Area	36%	38%	36%
Kodiak Island Borough	24%	27%	29%
Anchorage Municipality	10%	10%	13%
Aleutians West Census Area	5%	3%	2%
Bristol Bay Borough	4%	4%	2%
Other Alaska	9%	6%	5%
Out of State/International	13%	12%	12%

PATTERNS OF USE

7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Trends in Use

- Overall device days remained relatively constant from 2019 to 2020
- Uptick in overall use in 2021
- Summer and fall of 2021 saw more sustained use than in previous years

Visitor Profile

- User profile remained relatively steady over time
- Approximately 36 to 38 percent of device days from the Dillingham Census area and 24 to 29 percent from Kodiak Island
- Out-of-state visitation is steady at 12 to 13 percent of regional recreation area device days

Highest Demand

- Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and the Lower Goodnews River (a State Special Use Area) and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge are the two most used locations
- Wood-Tikchik State Park and Alaska Maritime NWR also rank high

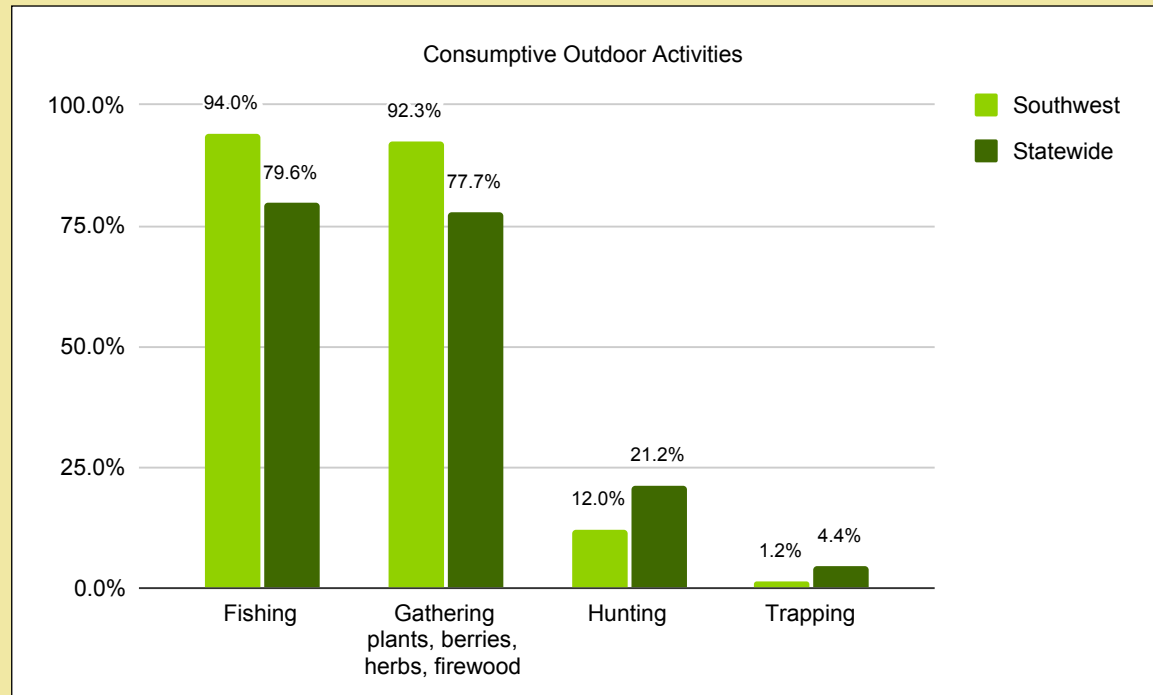
SOUTHWEST REGION OUTDOOR RECREATION STATISTICS

SCORP public survey results indicated that 100 percent of Southwest region respondents engage in outdoor recreation. Leading ways to spend time outdoors in the Southwest region included enjoying the scenery (45%), experiencing wild, natural environments (34%), spending time with friends and family (34%), and mental well-being (39%). When asked to rate the need for improved infrastructure in the Southwest region, trails to access hunting, fishing, and subsistence ranked the highest with 37 percent of respondents indicating more of these trails are needed.

The most recent Alaska Visitors Statistics data found that of the 1.86 million out-of-state visitors who traveled to Alaska in summer 2016, about 84 percent visited the combination of Southwestern and Western regions, up from 58,000 in 2011. In Southwestern Alaska, Kodiak received 40,000 out-of-state visitors. While the total number of out-of-state visitors traveling to the Bristol Bay region in Southwest was low, many of these visitors were on multi-day fishing and bear viewing trips, costing \$500 to \$1,500 per day.

Percentage of households participating subsistence activities in the Southwestern Region			
Harvesting Game (%)	Using Game (%)	Harvesting Fish (%)	Using Fish (%)
65	90	86	94

The southwestern region is another location where families rely heavily on subsistence gathering, hunting and fishing.⁴



Southwest Region Residents Consumptive Outdoor Activities

SCORP Public Survey Results Question #10 (percent of respondents): The 2022 SCORP public survey makes clear the importance of subsistence outdoor recreation in the Southwest region, with fishing and gathering ranking highest among activities. When compared to the Arctic (89%) and Western (78%) regions, fishing ranked highest in the Southwestern region (94%).



B.4 INTERIOR ALASKA

This region extends from the Canadian border on the east and west down the Yukon to include villages like Holy Cross, Anvik, and Grayling. The area is bounded on the north by the crest of the Brooks Range, and the Alaska Range and Chugach Range on the south. Within this large region – the largest of the six regions defined in this SCORP – is a mix of developed, road-accessible communities as well as extensive remote landscapes.

Unique resources in the region include:

- Denali is one of Alaska’s iconic attractions and North America’s highest peak at 20,320 feet. It is the crown jewel of Denali National Park.
- Healthy moose and caribou populations support regional hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Long summer days provide plenty of time for residents and visitors to float rivers, fish for grayling, hike through boreal forests and alpine tundra, spend time at public-use cabins, or take in Alaska’s history.
- Winter skies provide incredible views of the Northern Lights and can be enjoyed while soaking in hot springs.
- Winter conditions provide abundant opportunities for snow machines, dog mushing, and skiing.
- Is home to numerous federal and state designated lands, including Gates of the Arctic and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks and six National Wildlife Refuges. Chena River State Recreation Area is a popular, accessible recreation destination with a well-developed system of trails and cabins. BLM also manages several, extensive recreation areas.



ANCSA Regional Corporations

*Information summarized from corporate websites.
See Appendices for more information.*

Tanana Valley, Yukon River (Doyon, Limited¹⁴)

The Doyon area includes the Fairbanks North Star Borough, a few smaller communities on the Alaska Highway to the east, and a number of remote villages. In addition to 37 villages and 26 village corporations, Doyon also boasts the tallest mountain in North America, four military bases, the longest rivers in the state, the second-largest city (Fairbanks), and the largest number of highways.

The Doyon region borders seven other Alaska Native regional corporations. Many residents, especially outside the larger communities, depend on year-round fishing and hunting. Doyon Corporation is the primary concessionaire at Denali National Park, Alaska’s best-known visitor destination. The regional non-profit is Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Copper River Basin (Ahtna, Inc.¹)

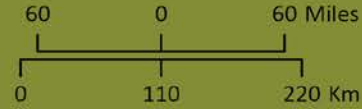
The Ahtna region encompasses the entire Copper River Basin and is bordered by the Alaska Range to the north, the Canadian border to the east, Denali National Park to the west, and the Chugach Mountains to the south. Ahtna owns 624,105 acres within National Park unit boundaries (622,000 acres in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and 2,105 acres within Denali National Park and Preserve). This region is crossed by a system of roads, including the Glenn, Richardson, Edgerton, and Tok-Cutoff highways; these roads connect the region to communities like Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Valdez. Moose and caribou hunting and fishing the abundant salmon runs up the Copper River are central to subsistence for local residents. The regional non-profit is Copper River Native Association.



Denali State Park
Photo by Sarah AnnLoreth

Interior Region

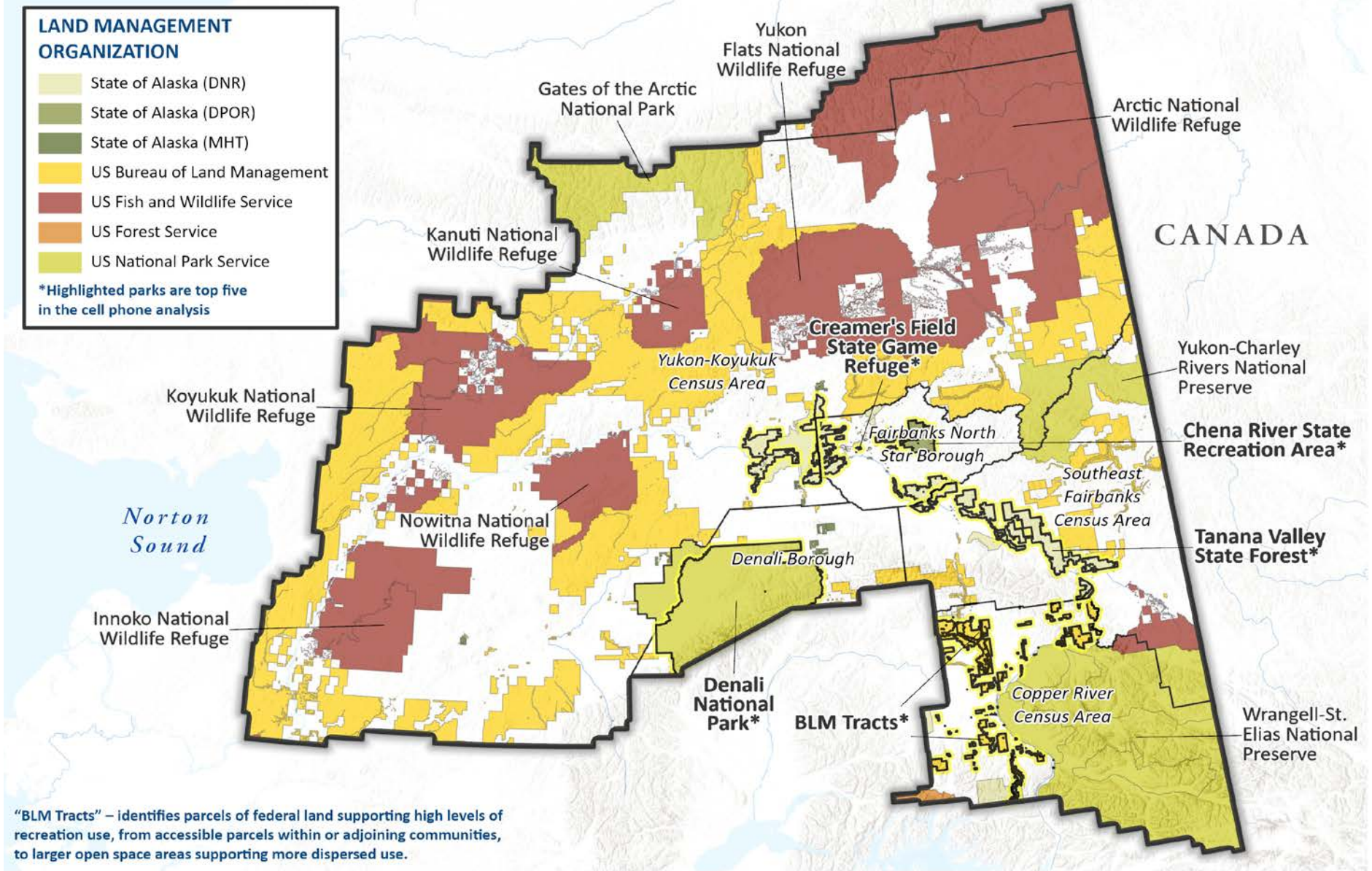
Source Data: State of Alaska, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, Esri, USGS



LAND MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

- State of Alaska (DNR)
- State of Alaska (DPOR)
- State of Alaska (MHT)
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US National Park Service

*Highlighted parks are top five in the cell phone analysis



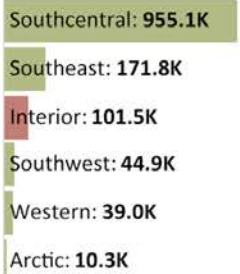
"BLM Tracts" – identifies parcels of federal land supporting high levels of recreation use, from accessible parcels within or adjoining communities, to larger open space areas supporting more dispersed use.

Interior Region



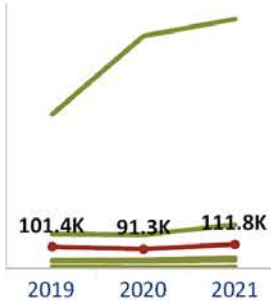
SAMPLE SIZE

Annual Average



SAMPLE SIZE

DEVICE DAYS BY YEAR



USE BY AGENCY

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS

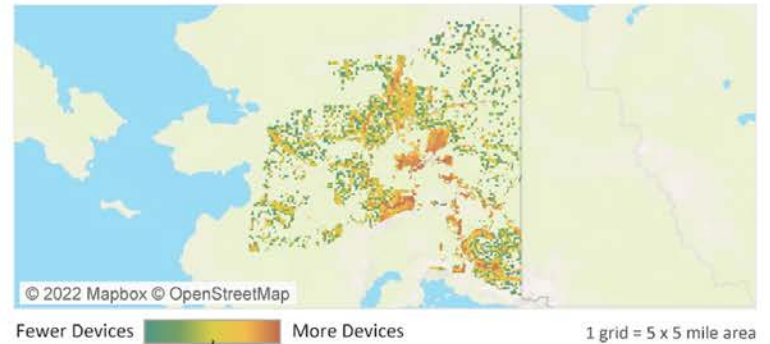


TOP 5 LOCATIONS

BY DEVICE DAYS

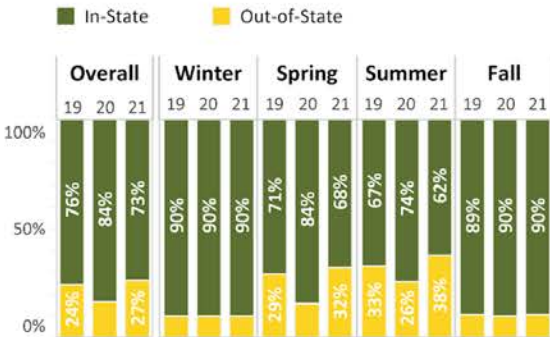
- 1 Denali National Park
- 2 Creamer's Field
- 3 Tanana Valley
- 4 Chena River State Recreation Area
- 5 BLM Tracts , Interior, Copper River Census Area

DISTRIBUTION OF USE



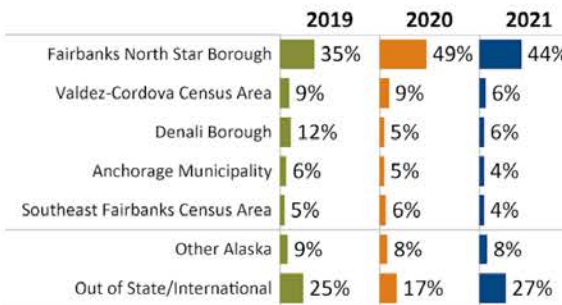
VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR



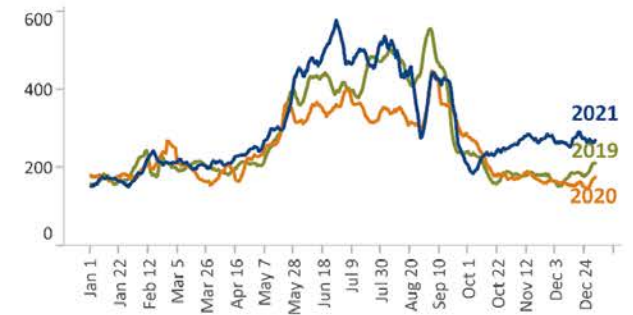
VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR



PATTERNS OF USE

7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Trends in Use

- Overall increase in device days from 2019 to 2021
- Dip in 2020 due to COVID at major destination sites
- Most use peaks during summer season and early fall

Visitor Profile

- Out-of-state use sits near 25 percent in 2019 and 2021 but dipped to 17percent in 2020
- Fairbanks North Star Borough highest usage

Highest Demand

- Denali National Park, Creamer's Field, and Tanana Valley are the top three most used sites
- Chena River State Recreation Area and various BLM tracts are also high in usage

INTERIOR REGION OUTDOOR RECREATION STATISTICS

SCORP public survey results indicate that 99 percent of Interior region respondents engage in outdoor recreation. Leading ways to spend time outdoors in the Interior region included enjoying the scenery (41%), experiencing wild, natural environments, mental well-being (39%), as well as health and exercise (36%).

The most recent Alaska Visitors Statistics data found that of the 1.86 million out-of-state visitors who traveled to Alaska in summer 2016, about 540,000 visited the interior region. Denali and Fairbanks were 7th and 8th (respectively) in destinations most visited by out-of-state travelers in Alaska. Tok, Healy, Delta Junction, and Chicken were also included in the top 35 destinations.

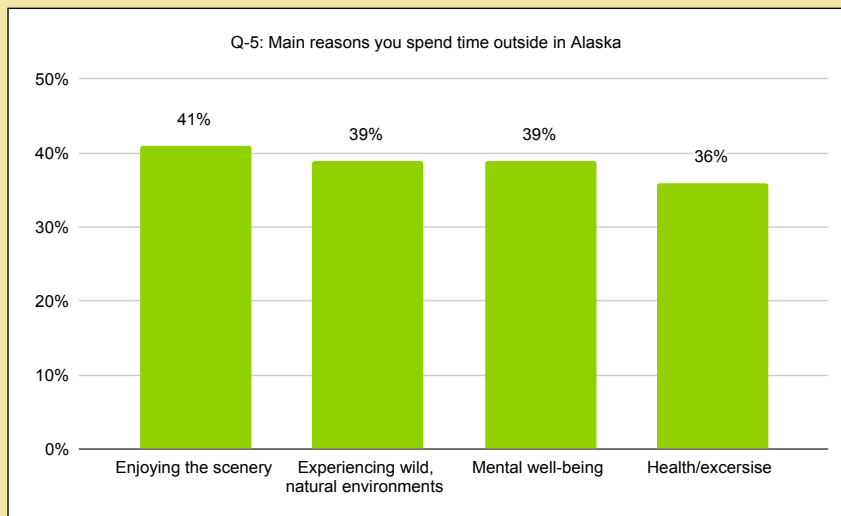
As the mobility data shows, while a substantial number of out-of-state visitors travel to the Interior, much of the outdoor recreation use in the Interior region is by residents. *See Chapter 2, Section C for more information.*

The Interior Region has a growing reputation for winter activities by both residents and visitors. Consistent with this reputation, the public survey found this region had the second highest level of participation (75%) in snow machining.

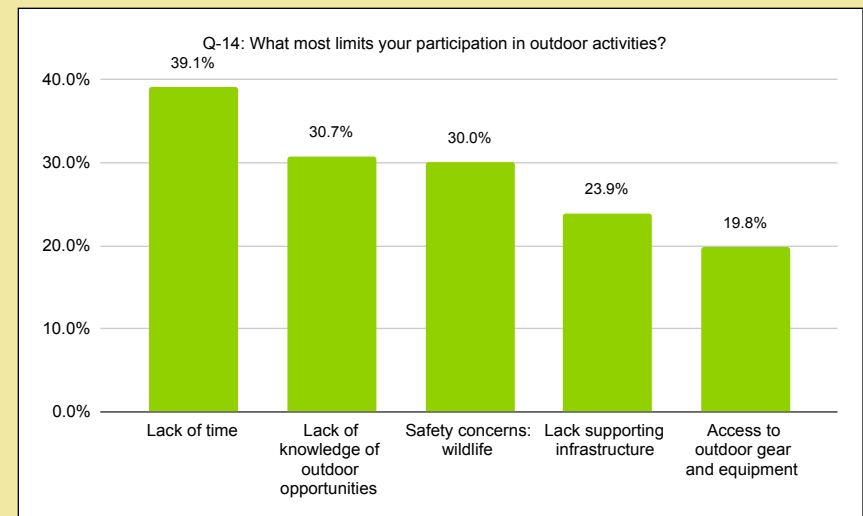
SCORP survey results illustrate the primary barriers to outdoor recreation in the Interior. Like in most other regions of Alaska, the primary limitations to activity are lack of time or work, concerns regarding safety and wildlife, and a lack of knowledge about outdoor recreation opportunities.



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
Photo by Chris Beck



Interior Residents' Main Reasons for Spending Time Outside SCORP Public Survey Results Question #5 (percent of respondents)



Interior Residents' Limits on Participation in Outdoor Activities SCORP Public Survey Results Question #14 (percent of respondents)

HIGH USE RECREATION LOCATIONS

In two high use locations, the Greater Fairbanks area and the Denali Borough, local working groups identified detailed outdoor recreation issues, opportunities, and specific examples of priority outdoor recreation programs and projects. This information is presented in Appendix 1 and briefly summarized below.

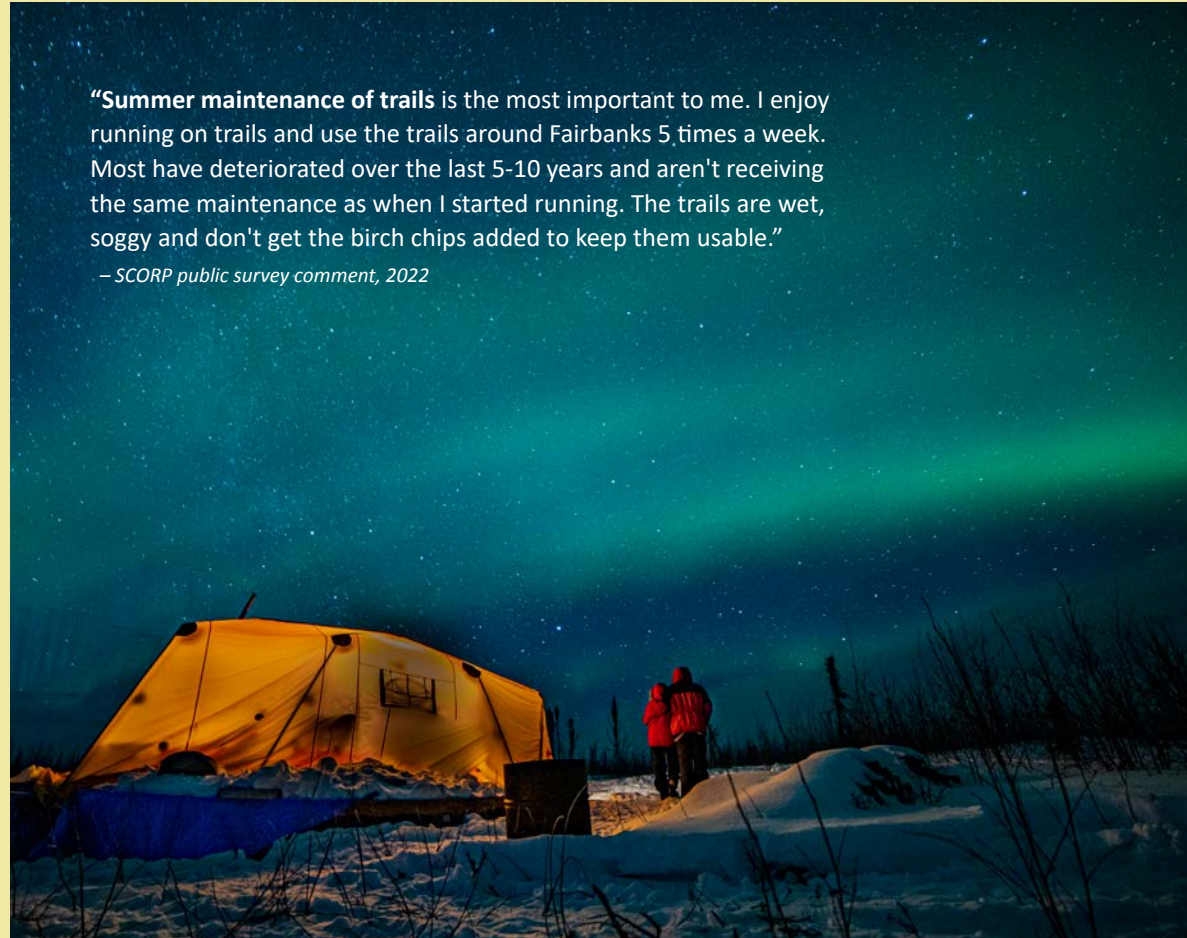
GREATER FAIRBANKS

Partial list of priorities identified by the Fairbanks outdoor recreation working group for improving outdoor recreation in Greater Fairbanks include:

- Establishing, improving, and preserving access to trails, including working with landowners to reserve public right-of-way or easements on traditional trails
- Continuing to develop the growing winter outdoor recreation sector
- Working to expand Fairbanks as a multi-day overnight destination

Principle challenges in the subregion include:

- Lack of adequate outdoor recreation funding and funding mechanisms
- Many commonly used trails and access points to trails cross private lands and are not formally reserved
- Improving public knowledge of trails and trailheads, through better online information, maps, and physical signage
- Need for trailheads and trailhead parking maintenance improvements



“Summer maintenance of trails is the most important to me. I enjoy running on trails and use the trails around Fairbanks 5 times a week. Most have deteriorated over the last 5-10 years and aren't receiving the same maintenance as when I started running. The trails are wet, soggy and don't get the birch chips added to keep them usable.”

– SCORP public survey comment, 2022

Photo by Kalyn Holl Photography

B5. SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

This region includes the large majority of Alaska's population, most visited destinations, and well-developed outdoor recreation infrastructure. Diverse landscapes including long beaches, rivers, lakes, mountains, glaciers, and fjords offer boundless outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

Unique resources in the region include:

- This area has the most road-accessible outdoor recreation destinations, developed recreation facilities, and communities that offer visitor services in Alaska. This includes well-developed city parks and greenbelts.
- Southcentral boasts a mix of the most sought-after outdoor recreation experience. This includes accessing the alpine terrain, fishing on the Kenai Peninsula, visiting the marine mecca of Prince William Sound, visiting a growing network of year-round, in- and out-of-town trails, and discovering walkable "destination" communities such as Homer, Seward, Talkeetna, and downtown Anchorage.
- Large state and federally designated public land recreation areas include Chugach State Park, the Chugach National Forest, the southern side of Denali National Park, Denali State Park, Kenai Fjords National Park, portions of Lake Clark and Katmai National Parks, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and more.
- Parks and trails non-profit organizations in this region are active and successful.



Lake George in the Upper Knik River drainage – a spectacular area with steadily increasing popularity for ATV's, mountain bikes, flightseeing, and exploring.

Photo by Chris Beck



Blackstone Bay, in Prince William Sound, part of the Chugach National Forest
Photo by Chris Beck



Berry Pass in the Chugach National Forest
Photo by Chris Beck

ANCSA Regional Corporations

Information summarized from corporate websites. See Appendices for more information.

The Cook Inlet Region (CIRI)¹²

CIRI is Southcentral Alaska's largest private landowner, with approximately 1.3 million acres of surface and subsurface land. The Cook Inlet region of southcentral Alaska represents Cook Inlet Tribal Council's (CITC's) core service area.⁸ While the region approximates the traditional homeland of the Dena'ina Athabaskan people, CITC participants reflect the diversity of all Alaska Native cultures. Native villages of the Cook Inlet region include Eklutna, Knik, Salamatof, Tyonek, Chickaloon, Ninilchik, Kenaitze, and Seldovia. The region also includes non-federally recognized group sites of Alexander Creek, Caswell, Gold Creek, Montana Creek, and Point Possession.¹³ The CIRI region's

outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities are in especially high demand since the area includes Alaska's two largest population centers: Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. Outdoor recreation options include fishing on the Kenai Peninsula and the Susitna Valley, biking along the shore of Eklutna Lake, or viewing seabirds and marine life in Kachemak Bay. The regional non-profit is CITC.

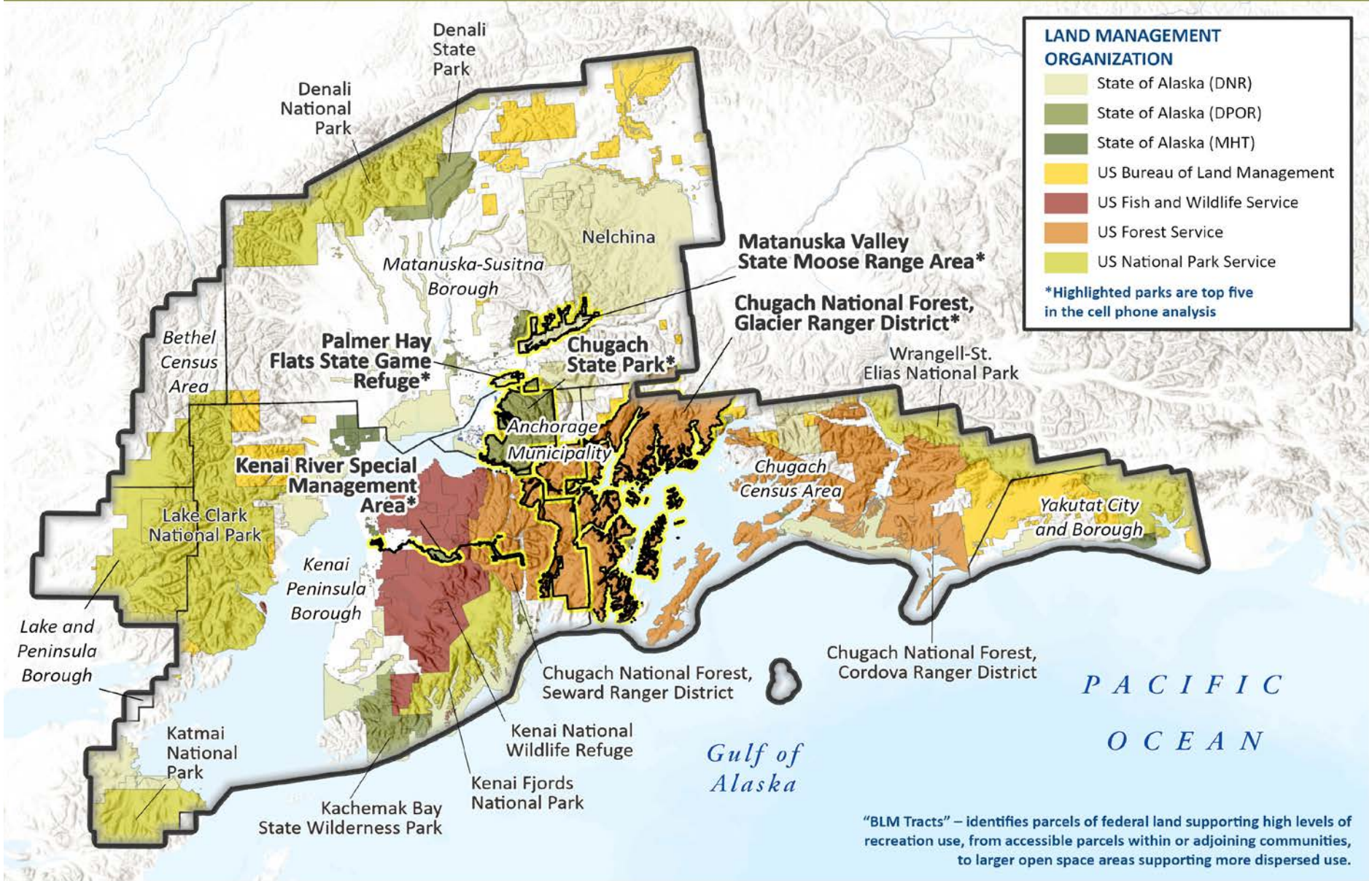
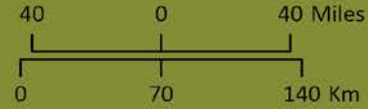
The Chugach Region (Chugach Alaska Corporation¹⁴)

The Chugach region includes the communities of Eyak (Cordova), Seward, Valdez, Port Graham, Chenega, Nanwalek (English Bay), and Tatitlek. This region includes more than 5,000 miles of coastline along the

southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula through Kenai Fjords National Park, Prince William Sound, and the Gulf of Alaska.¹⁰ The Chugach Region boasts incredible scenery and wildlife. It is where the Chugach and Kenai Mountain Ranges encircle Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. Outdoor recreationists can marvel at the spring shorebird migration in Cordova, sea kayak in Prince William Sound, or ski and snow machine on the mountains and glaciers near Valdez. The regional non-profit is Copper River Native Association.

Southcentral Region

Source Data: State of Alaska, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, USGS

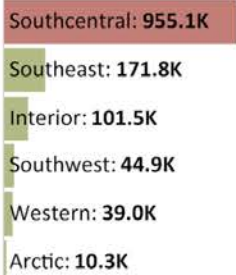


Southcentral Region



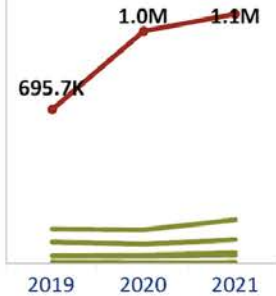
SAMPLE SIZE

Annual Average



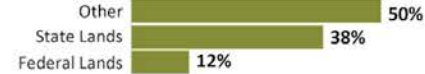
SAMPLE SIZE

DEVICE DAYS BY YEAR



USE BY AGENCY

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS

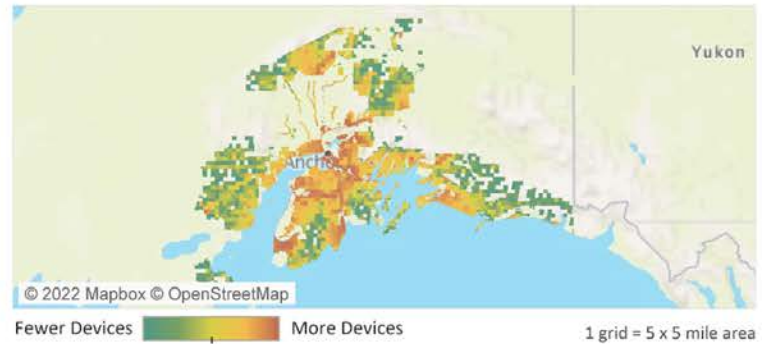


TOP 5 LOCATIONS

BY DEVICE DAYS

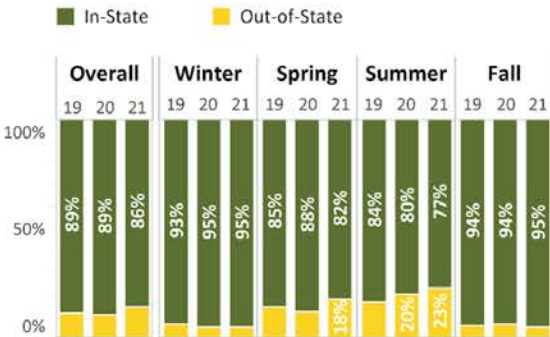
- 1 Chugach State Park
- 2 Kenai River Special Management Area
- 3 Matanuska Valley
- 4 Palmer Hay Flats
- 5 Chugach National Forest, Glacier Ranger District

DISTRIBUTION OF USE



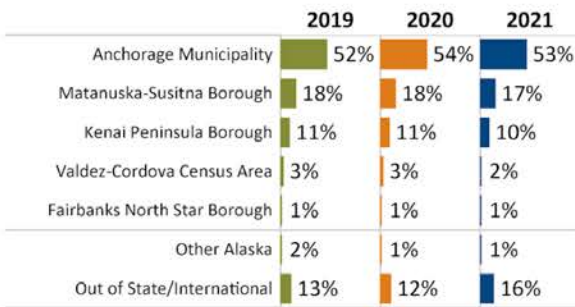
VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR



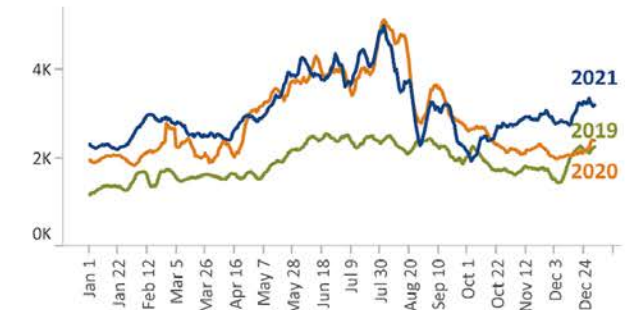
VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR



PATTERNS OF USE

7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Trends in Use

- Use spiked from 2019 to 2021. The increase in use is likely driven by locals getting to their nearby parks during the pandemic
- Use increased across all seasons, but especially during the summer

Visitor Profile

- The visitor profile did not change much at all over the past three years. Just over half the use is by locals of Anchorage, with Mat-Su and Kenai close behind
- Out-of-state use remained steady with a slight increase in 2021

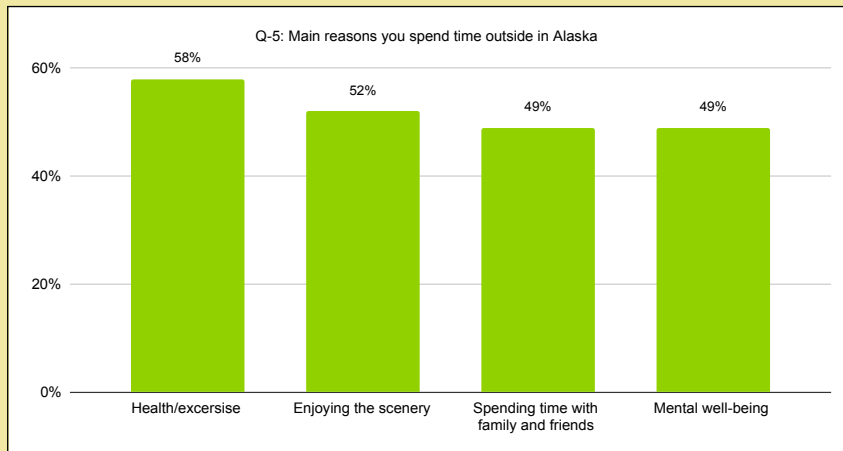
Highest Demand

- Chugach State Park is by far the most used site with the Kenai River Special Management Area following in second
- Matanuska Valley and Palmer Hay Flats see high use in the region as well

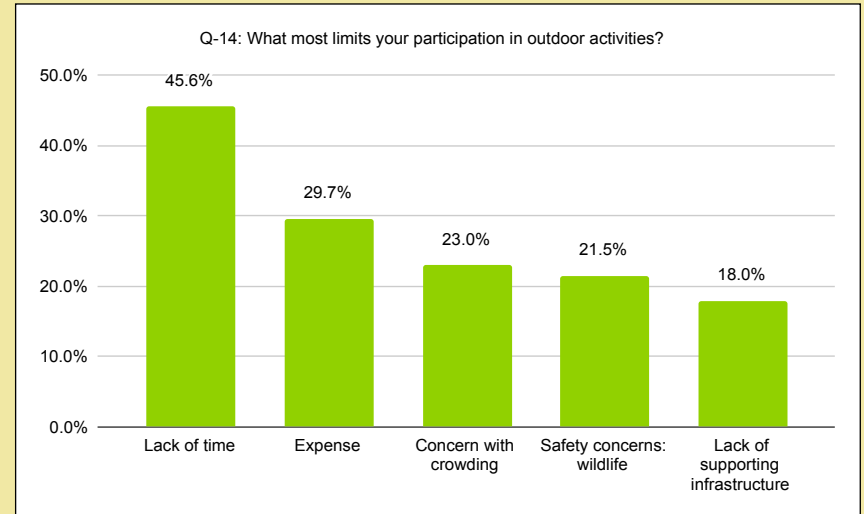
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION OUTDOOR RECREATION STATISTICS

SCORP public survey results indicated that 99 percent of Southcentral region respondents engage in outdoor recreation. Leading ways to spend time outdoors in Southcentral included health and exercise (58%), enjoying the scenery (52%), spending time with friends and family, and mental well-being (49%).

The most recent Alaska Visitors Statistics data found that of the 1.86 million out-of-state visitors who traveled to Alaska in summer 2016, about 975,000 visited the Southcentral region. While Southeast has more total visitors, almost half of all Southcentral visitors overnight in the region versus just ten percent overnighing in Southeast. Of the top eight overnight destinations in Alaska, six are in Southcentral (Fairbanks and Denali are the other two). In the low-cruise, COVID years of 2020 and 2021, Anchorage rental car and bed tax revenues equaled or exceeded the previous high in 2019, driven by a surge in independent travelers (and higher prices)!



Southcentral Residents Main Reasons for Spending Time Outside
SCORP Public Survey Results Question #5 (percent of respondents)



Southcentral Residents Limits on Participation in Outdoor Activities

SCORP Public Survey Results Question #14 (percent of respondents): Like other regions, lack of time and work, expense, as well as concern about safety and wildlife all ranked high as limitations to outdoor activities. Different in Southcentral was the high ranking of “concern with crowding,” which corresponds with mobility data showing a 50 percent increase in device-day counts between 2019 and 2021 with the region having the highest rate of participation (57%). Southcentral respondents also indicated that more facilities are needed across all categories of outdoor recreation infrastructure, but particularly trail head parking areas with signage and restrooms (50%), long, interconnected, summer trail systems linking communities (47%), and trails accessible to persons with disabilities (46%).

B6. SOUTHEAST ALASKA

The Southeast Alaska “panhandle” is a relatively narrow slice of coastal mountains and the 1,100 islands of the Alexander Archipelago. Extreme topography, glaciers pouring down steep mountains from icefields, deep fjords, and scattered islands make most Southeast communities accessible only by boat or plane. This largely pristine, natural area is home to an abundance of recreational opportunities, on land and water. Communities nestled along the Inside Passage sit within America’s largest national forest, the Tongass, which occupies 94 percent of the land. These lands and communities have been stewarded by the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian nations for more than 10,000 years.

Unique resources in the region include:

- A mix of walkable, scenic communities range from Alaska’s state capital of Juneau to remote rural villages.
- Rich and abundant marine and terrestrial life include reliably-visible whales.
- As a world-renown destination for cruises, ships bring millions of visitors to the region each summer.
- There is a variety of visitor attractions including a strong and visible Alaska Native culture. Other attractions include mountains, glaciers, and remote coasts.
- The region is home to the Tongass National Forest, Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness, Glacier Bay National Park, as well as Admiralty Island National Monument with its large concentration of brown bears.
- There is a reliance on the Alaska Marine Highway Service ferries or commercial flights for access to and access within the region.



Photo by Dawson Evenden

ANCSA Regional Corporations

*Information summarized from corporate websites.
See Appendices for more information.*

The Sealaska Region (Sealaska)^{22,23}

Located in Southeast Alaska, the region’s 23,000 shareholders are Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people with more than 10,000 years of ancestral ties to the oceans, forests, and communities. From glacier fed waters in the north to the southernmost reaches of Alaska, the Sealaska region offers outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities on land and water. Residents and visitors explore the coastlines by boats ranging from kayaks to cruise ships. They can get up close with bears on Admiralty Island or Anan Creek, or immerse themselves in Alaska Native culture with its parks featuring totems and other cultural landmarks. The regional non-profit is the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

Sustainable Southeast Partnership (SSP)^{25,26}

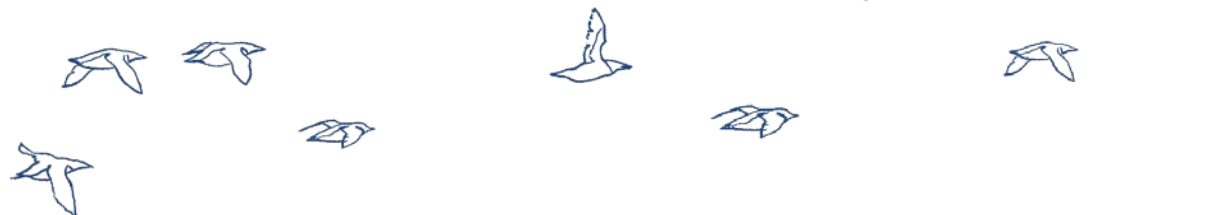
Community-driven initiatives that improve the quality of life and resiliency of Southeast Alaskans

Initially funded through Alaska Conservation Foundation, a network of “community catalysts” throughout Southeast Alaska was established. This was a ten-year effort. This network built solid relationships, trust, and confidence region wide. SSP received \$16 million from Sealaska to support ongoing work for sustainable development, including tourism and recreation. They also received the phase-one federal Build Back Better Grant for \$500,000 and becoming eligible to compete for an additional \$25 to 100 million.

Regenerative Tourism²⁷

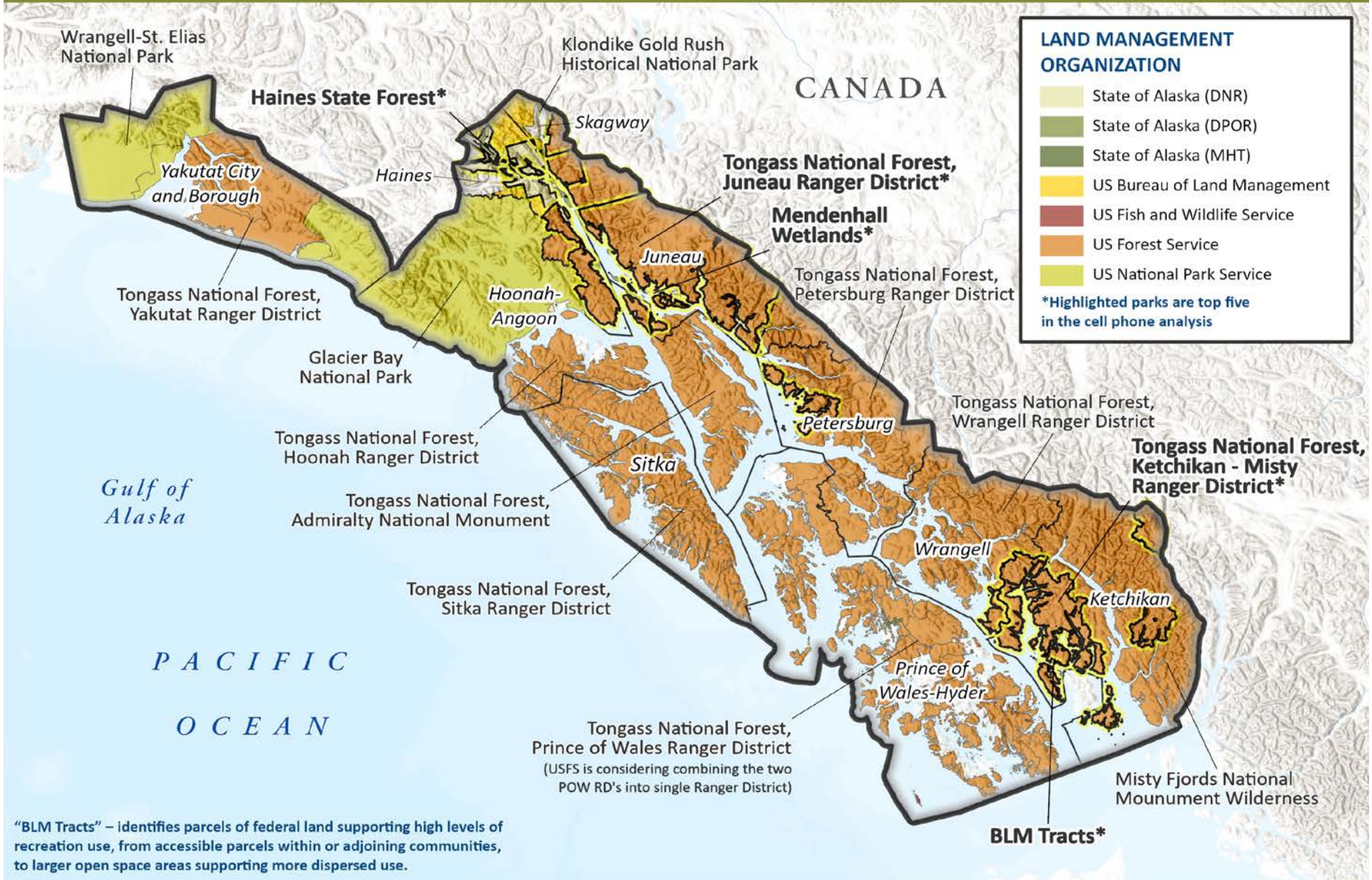
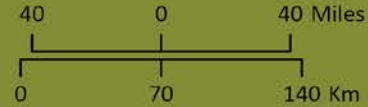
When tourism is done right, the benefits are reciprocal.

The SSP’s regenerative tourism initiatives support community-led planning, assist locally-owned visitor industry businesses, ensure that local lands, waters, and fish are protected, and ensure that the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures are celebrated, respected, and valued.



Southeast Region

Source Data: Esri, USGS, State of Alaska, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, NRCan, Parks Canada

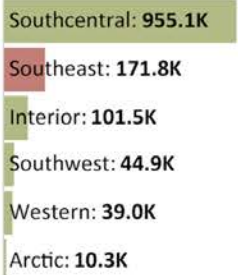


Southeast Region



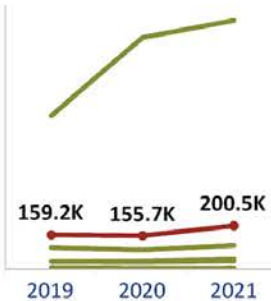
SAMPLE SIZE

Annual Average



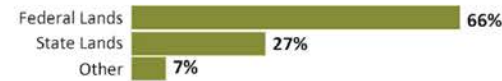
SAMPLE SIZE

DEVICE DAYS BY YEAR



USE BY AGENCY

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS

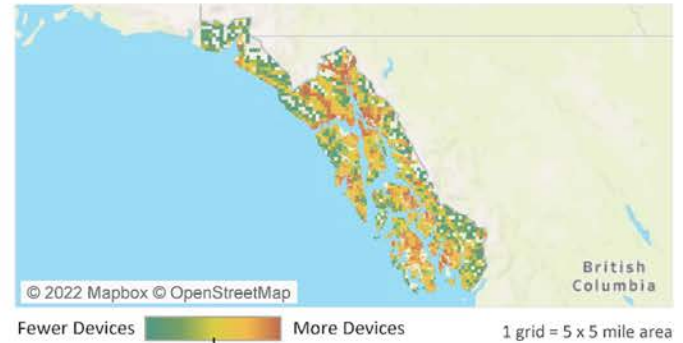


TOP 5 LOCATIONS

BY DEVICE DAYS

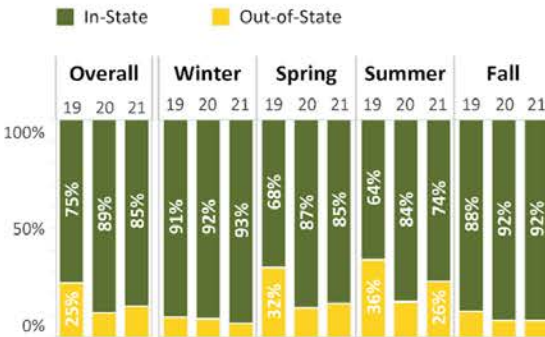
- 1 Tongass National Forest, Juneau Ranger District
- 2 Mendenhall Wetlands
- 3 Haines State Forest
- 4 Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan - Misty Ranger District
- 5 BLM Tracts , Southeast, Ketchikan Gateway Borough

DISTRIBUTION OF USE



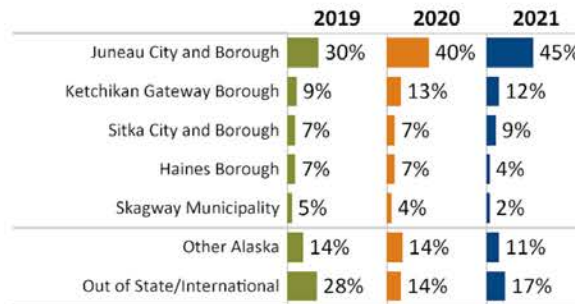
VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR



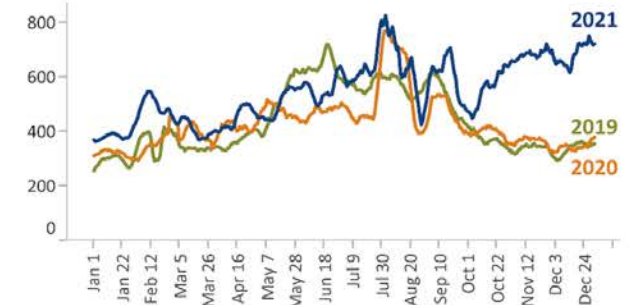
VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR



PATTERNS OF USE

7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Trends in Use

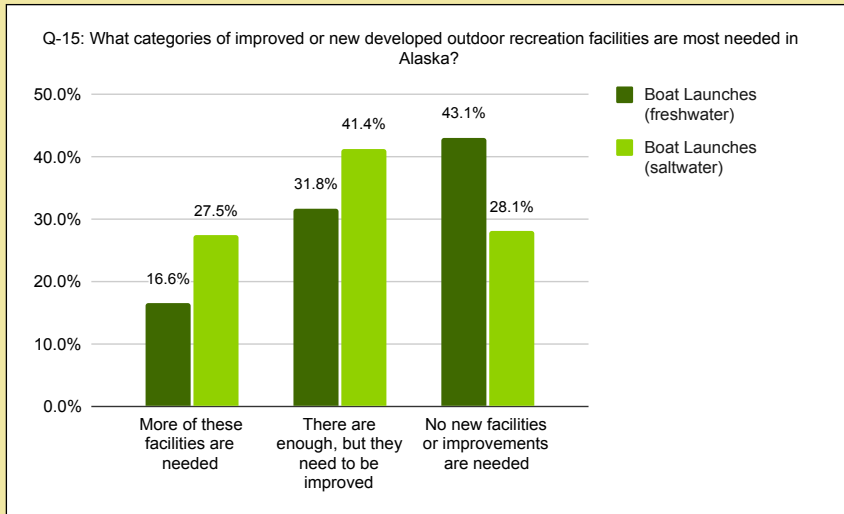
- 2021 increased in device days over both 2019 and 2020
- A slight dip in usage in 2020, but the trend was mostly flat
- Second highest usage among all SCORP regions

Visitor Profile

- The Juneau City and Borough represents the highest use (45% in 2021) which has increased since 2019
- Out-of-state device days has dropped from 28 percent in 2019 to 17 percent in 2021

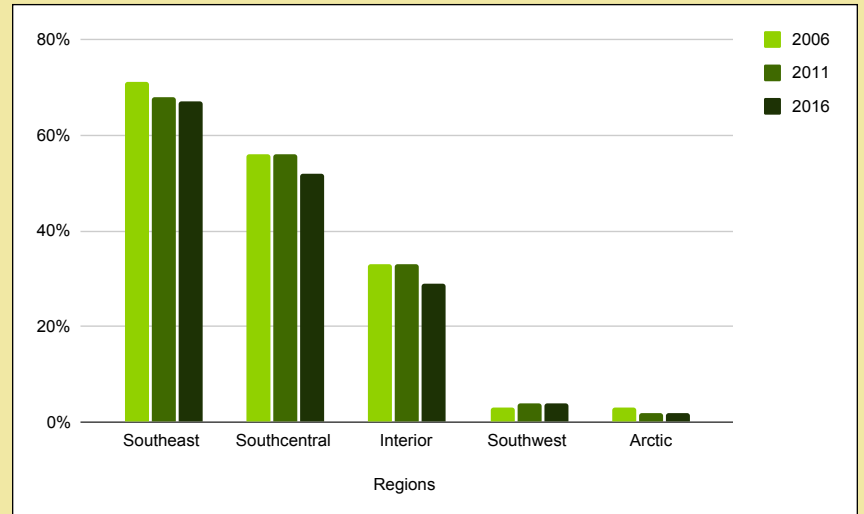
Highest Demand

- The Tongass National Forest and Mendenhall Wetlands represent the most popular locations in terms of device days
- Haines State Forest and various BLM tracts also rank near the top



Southeast Residents' Preferences for Improved or newly Developed Outdoor Recreation Facilities

SCORP Public Survey Results Question #15 (percent of respondents): Regarding biggest needs for new or improved outdoor recreation facilities in the past two years, coastal Southeast stood out among other regions as 26 percent of respondents reporting saltwater boat launch facilities as extremely overcrowded. And directly related, just under 75 percent of Southeast respondents stated there was a need for new or improved saltwater boat launch facilities.



The chart above shows the most recent (2016) Alaska Visitors Statistics data on percentage of out-of-state visitors for all regions of Alaska. Southeast’s inland waterways, scenic coastlines, and small towns make it a popular cruise destination, attracting the most visitors of any Alaska region. Four of the top five most visited destinations in Alaska are Southeast cruise destinations: Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway, and Glacier Bay.

SOUTHEAST REGION OUTDOOR RECREATION STATISTICS

SCORP public survey results indicated that 99 percent of Southeast region respondents engage in outdoor recreation. Leading ways to spend time outdoors in the region included enjoying the scenery (54%), health and exercise (50%), spending time with friends and family (46%), and mental well-being (44%).

The trend toward more visitors and residents engaging in active outdoor recreation and the cruise industry starting to return to pre-pandemic levels, adds the need to expand and improve regional recreation infrastructure. When asked about limitations to outdoor recreation in the SCORP Public Survey, a quarter of Southeast respondents highlighted the lack of outdoor recreation infrastructure such as restrooms, trash cans, parking, warming huts, etc.



Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve

CHAPTER 3

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