Welcome

The Eklutna Lake Valley was carved by the Eklutna Glacier. When the glacier receded, Eklutna Lake was left in its wake, buried in a valley flanked by the towering Chugach Mountains. This 7-mile-long lake is fed by glacial and freshwater streams and dominates the Eklutna Lake like an inland sea.

Located in Chugach State Park, the Eklutna Lake Valley includes a campground, day-use area, and miles of trails to enjoy. The Eklutna Lakeside Trail provides recreational opportunities for bikers, snowmobilers, and ATVers, while a boat launch provides access for fishermen and boaters to explore Eklutna Lake.

Whether you want to hike, ski, horseback ride, or dog mush, the Eklutna Lake Valley offers great ways to enjoy Chugach State Park year-round.

Area History

Den3na Athabascans

Eklutna Lake (Idlu Bon) is a culturally significant area for local Den3na Athabascans, who have lived in Eklutna (Iduyet) for hundreds of years. The mountains surrounding Eklutna Lake were the upland hunting area for the Eklutna people, who hunted Dall’s sheep, bear, and ground squirrels.

Water

Eklutna Lake is a critical resource for local residents. Every day, the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWU) delivers nearly 200 million gallons of water to Municipality of Anchorage residents. That is roughly 127 gallons of water per person per day! Almost 80% of the water comes from Eklutna Lake.

Power

The first Eklutna hydroelectric power plant began servicing Anchorage in 1929. Today, the Eklutna Power Plant provides approximately three percent of the area’s energy requirements.

Chugach State Park

In 1970 Governor Keith Miller signed the bill creating Chugach State Park. Thanks to the efforts of concerned and organized citizens, the wild Chugach will always be part of the Alaskan experience.

Area Highlights

Wildlife

The lake and the surrounding alpine landscape are home to diverse wildlife such as moose, muskrats, brown and black bears, ptarmigan, mountain goats, and Dall’s sheep. Make sure to bring your camera.

Trails

The Eklutna Lake Valley has 25 miles of trails for people of all abilities. You can go for a bike ride on the Eklutna Lakeside Trail or venture deep into the backcountry following the East Fork Eklutna River Trail. Check the map inside to plan your next adventure.

On the Water

Enjoy a day fishing or boating on Eklutna Lake. Electric motor boats and non-motorized boats are allowed, and kayaks can be rented locally. The boat launch is for hand-carry vessels only. Make sure you always wear your life jacket.

Camping

Eklutna Lake Campground has 50 campsites with an additional eight overflow sites. Each site has a fire pit and picnic table, with access to water and latrines. There is a picnic shelter for group activities in the day-use area.

Campsers heading into the backcountry can use three remote campgrounds along the Eklutna Lakeside Trail: Bold Adyak Campground near mile 8, Eklutna Alex Campground at mile 8.8, and Ranches Campground at mile 11. There are latrines at each campground and a picnic table and fire ring at each site.

Public-Use Cabins

There are two public-use cabins accessible from the Eklutna Lakeside Trail: Yuklina Creek Cabin (at mile 3) sleeps a maximum of eight and has a woodstove and nearby latrine. The Serenity Falls Hut (at mile 12) is a multiple-party hut that sleeps a maximum of 11. Both huts are managed on a reservation basis (http://dn.alaska.gov/parks/baktns/).