

Deep Creek/Anchor River Off-Road-Vehicle Trails Assessment Trail Descriptions

Watermelon Trail

The Watermelon Trail is approximately 14.29 miles long and crosses six streams, four of which are cataloged as anadromous fish streams by the ADF&G. The trail begins off Ohlson Mountain Road above the town of Homer. After approximately two miles, the trail enters the Anchor River/Fritz Creek Critical Habitat Area (CHA). The trail continues through the CHA, crossing Beaver Creek at a permitted location (FG Permit FG 05-II-GP12), and exits the CHA approximately two miles past the Beaver Creek crossing. Generally speaking, the trail follows ridgelines and high ground, however the watersheds in this area are aligned perpendicular to the trail forcing the trail user into low wet riparian areas and stream crossings. Most of the trail is located on State or Borough lands, however one section of the trail crosses privately owned land. The results of this survey were used to develop a pilot project to reroute the Watermelon Trail onto State land to resolve the trespass issue.

North Fork Trail

The North Fork Trail is approximately 14.77 miles long and crosses five streams, one of which is cataloged as an anadromous stream. The North Fork Trail trailhead is off North Fork Rd., just east of the community of Nikolaevsk at approximately 151° 36' 34.10" West, 59° 47' 36.12" North, approximately 10 miles from the town of Anchor Point. This trail, like the Watermelon trail, generally runs along ridgelines and high ground, but crosses fewer wet areas than the other two trails, although a redundant portion of the trail is situated in a wet area. Most of the trail crosses State or Borough lands. There is some private land near the trail, but not directly crossed by it.

Ninilchik Dome Trail

The Ninilchik Dome Trail is approximately 18.25 miles long and crosses seven stream crossings, four of which are cataloged as anadromous streams. The trail begins on the east side of the Sterling Highway at MP 140. The current parking area is approximately .22 miles south of the beginning of the trail on the west side of the highway. It is a gravel pit leased/operated by the Department of Transportation and is not a designated trailhead or parking area. The first 4+ miles of the Ninilchik Dome Trail can be characterized as lowland muskeg, very wet, and very flat. Along this section the trail intermittently intersects with some old logging roads for short distances on privately owned lands. After approximately nine miles, the trail passes just south of the Ninilchik Dome and then crosses a large riparian area (2 + miles²) that is the headwaters of Clam Creek. The three trails converge a few miles past the Clam Creek headwaters.