APPENDIX B: CENTRAL REGION

This appendix includes maps and narrative that summarize the results of the Chugach State Park Access Inventory for the Central Region of Chugach State Park. Access is categorized as *Improved Access*, *Unimproved Access*, *Traditional Access*, and *Potential Access*. Where a particular access point presents particular challenges or problems, it is noted as being *problematic*. All access considered in this inventory is depicted on maps included at the end of the appendix. Access is highlighted in yellow and includes access points and road and pedestrian corridors. *Parcels of Concern* are highlighted in pink and represent areas where platting of roads and easements to the Park boundary can provide future *Neighborhood Access*. Recommendations and References are included for each site when appropriate.

Eagle River (Map p. 49)

C1 Carol Creek Improved Access, problematic. (Fire Lake Recreation Center)

This access point is located in T15N, R1W, Section 31, at the junction of Eldora and Nobb Hill Drive. This area contains gentle wooded terrain and appears to experience light use by neighbors and recreation center visitors. Existing parking for recreation center could be used for Park access. The land is currently held by the Heritage Land Bank and should not be considered reliable secure access until such land is designated PLI-P or Park.

Recommendations: Develop a cooperative relationship with Eagle River Park and Recreation Service Area manager and board and enter into discussions with Heritage Land Bank regarding access.

C2 Mount Baldy Traditional Access, problematic.

C2 and C2a are located in T14N, R1W, Section 6, and T15N, R1W, Section 32, respectively in Eagle River via Golden Eagle Drive off of Canyon View and Upper Skyline Drive. This site (C2) is an alder and grass covered hillside with a muddy trail that is popular with local residents. Local residents use these trails to access Mount Baldy for mountain climbing, berry picking, and enjoying scenic views. The site also provides access to alpine areas. Once reaching Baldy, a long ridge walk leads to Blacktail Rocks. There is no easement for the first 1/4 mile of trail and neighbor complaints revolve around trash, improper behavior, and partying. Parking is believed to be in the road right-of-way (ROW). Land to the east is owned by Eklutna, Inc. A gate to the old Til Wallace homestead is sometimes left unlocked (2a).

Recommendations: Obtain trail easement from Eklutna, Inc or relocate trail to section line common to sections 32 and 5 (to the north of gate). Determine status of section line easement and if road is a public easement or private.

C3 Meadow Creek Traditional Access, problematic.

Meadow Creek is located in T14N, R1W, Section 5, in Eagle River via E. Eagle River Loop Road to Skyline to Jamie to Upper Skyline to Canyon View. Access is initially on public ROW; however, a portion of the road has been routed onto private land where it is

blocked with a locked gate. This area provides important access to the Park for hiking and cross-country skiing. Meadow Creek also provides access to Mount Baldy less than a mile away.

Recommendations: Work with the Municipality to secure public right of way to the Park boundary. Construct Trailhead according to the Chugach State Park Master Plan. **References**: Chugach State Park Master Plan and Chugach State Park Trail Plan

C4 Mile Hi Unimproved Access.

Mile Hi is located in T14N, R1W, Section 9, in Eagle River via East Eagle River Loop Road to Stewart. Access is located in Mile Hi Subdivision at the east end of Brownie Drive (and Lynx) via Mile Hi Subdivision Road to the Park. Moderately sloping forested terrain provides access for mountain climbing, hiking, and berry picking. Mile High provides access to Mount Magnificent and Mount Significant, a ridge walk for hikers of all abilities. This access point also provides access to Ram Valley, which is not accessible to the public from Eagle River Road. Access is through the Meadow Creek drainage. Problems include occasional trash and limited parking.

Recommendations: Implement Chugach State Park Trail recommendations, a 5-10 car parking area to serve Mount Magnificent Trail (Trail #213).

Reference: Chugach State Park Trail Plan

C11 Eagle Crossing #1 Unimproved Access.

Access point is located in Eagle River Crossing Subdivision, Mills Bay Drive and Mountain Point (T14N, R1W, Section 14). Site contains developed and modified terrain which channels surface water flow to the Eagle River. The area is spruce forest with a steep drop to the river. Cliffs above the river may present a hazard. The area is used by local residents for access to Eagle River and the Eagle River Greenbelt. In 2000 erosion occurred in the greenbelt due to problems with the design of storm water runoff system for subdivision. The developer has corrected these problems. Steep cliffs along the rivers edge are being undercut creating a potential hazard.

Recommendations: Finish construction of Eagle Crossing Trail. The Eagle River Greenbelt Plan recommends working with developers to develop access to and within the greenbelt.

References: Eagle River Greenbelt Management Plan

C12 Eagle Crossing #2 Improved Access.

Access point is located in T14N, R1W, Section 17, in Eagle Crossing Subdivision. The site accesses a black spruce and cottonwood forest terminating at a gravel bar at the river at River Mile 14. Site provides neighborhood access to Eagle River and the Eagle River Greenbelt. A trail is being constructed from the parking area to the river with two forks available. Use is expected to include recreational hiking, fishing, and river access primarily for local residents.

Recommendations: Work with developer on completions of project. Sign revised plat. **References**: Eagle River Greenbelt Management Plan

C13 Briggs Bridge

Improved Access.

This site is accessed from Eagle River Loop Road in T14N, R1W, Section 18. This is a developed site providing river access for boaters as well as Eagle River Greenbelt access. *Recommendations*: The addition of picnic sites and interpretation is desirable.

C14 Eagle River North Side Improved Access.

This access point is located in T14N, R2W, Section 10, in Eagle River near downtown. Site is primarily birch forest with Meadow Creek flowing through the parcel. Site provides informal river access. A trail runs to the river and then parallels the river providing access for local residents.

Recommendations: Watch for storm water runoff and water quality problems. Consider a cooperative management agreement with Eagle River Parks and Recreation Service Area. Protect riparian vegetation with light penetrating metal boardwalks as improvements are upgraded.

C15 Eagle River Campground Improved Access.

The Eagle River Campground is located in Eagle River, along the south bank of Eagle River, east of the Glen Highway (T14N, R2W Section 14). The site is forested and provides camping, picnicking and boat launching facilities.

Recommendations: Work with Heritage Land Bank regarding land below the hill. Add more campsites and hiking trails.

References: Chugach State Park Master Plan and Chugach State Park Trail Plan.

C21 Meadow Street

Unimproved Access, questionable.

Access point is a platted road to Park boundary located in T14N, R1W, Section 5, in West Eagle River, in the Meadow Creek area.

C22 Osborne Street

Unimproved Access.

Access point is a platted road to Park boundary located in T14N, R1W, Section 5, in West Eagle River in the Meadow Creek area.

C23 Barclay Drive Eagle River. Unimproved Access, problematic.

Access point is located in T14N, R1W, Section 9 in Eagle River upslope of C4, Mile Hi. Access is very steep with very poor vehicular access. Not a viable Park access alternative. No winter access.

C24 Upper Canyon Drive

Unimproved, questionable.

Access point is located downhill from C4, Mile Hi in T14N, R1W, Section 9 in Eagle River. Access is very steep. No winter access.

C25 Steeple Drive

Traditional Access, problematic.

This access point is located in T14N, R1W, Section 6 in Eagle River accessed via Wren Lane to New England, to Steeple Drive. This point accesses trails leading to Mount Baldy and Black Tail Rocks. Due to its location relative to Heritage Land Bank lands this access should not be considered secure access until HLB lands have been designated PLI-P. *Recommendations*: Work with Heritage Land Bank to ensure that access may continue should development occur in this area.

C38 Savage Drive

Unimproved Access, problematic.

This access point is a platted road leading to Heritage Land Bank land located near the Fire Lake Recreation Center and nearby Chugach State Park. Site is located in T14N, R1W, Section 31 in Eagle River. Site itself is primarily birch forest. Site provides local neighborhood access to MOA and State Park lands and facilities. Due to its location relative to Heritage Land Bank lands this access should not be considered secure access until HLB lands have been designated PLI-P.

Recommendations: Work with Heritage Land Bank to ensure that access may continue should development occur in this area. Work with Eagle River/Municipality Parks and Recreation to develop and manage a trail system in this area.

C39 Knob Hill Drive

Traditional Access, problematic.

This access point is a platted road leading to Heritage Land Bank land located near the Fire Lake Recreation Center and nearby Chugach State Park. Site is located in T14N, R1W, Section 31 in Eagle River. Site itself is primarily birch forest. Site provides local neighborhood access to MOA and State Park lands and facilities. Due to its location relative to Heritage Land Bank lands this access should not be considered secure access until HLB lands have been designated PLI-P.

Recommendations: Work with Heritage Land Bank to ensure that access may continue should development occur. Work with Eagle River/Municipality Parks and Recreation to develop and manage a trail system in this area.

C40 Fire Lake Alaska Subdivision Traditional Access, problematic.

Access in this subdivision is located in T14N, R1W Section 31 in Eagle River. Site itself is primarily birch forest. Site provides local neighborhood access to MOA and State Park lands and facilities. Due to its location relative to Heritage Land Bank lands this access should not be considered secure access until HLB lands have been designated PLI-P. *Recommendations*: Work with Eagle River/Municipality Parks and Recreation to develop and manage a trail system in this area. Work with Heritage Land Bank to ensure that access may continue should development occur.

North Fork Eagle River (Map p. 51)

C5 Mount Magnificent Traditional Access, problematic.

This access point is located in T14N, R1W, Section 14, in Eagle River, Mile 6 of Eagle River Road. Site is located on a moderately steep hillside and provides access to Park, alpine zone and Mount Magnificent.

Recommendations: Obtain management rights from the Division of Mining Land and Water.

Reference: Chugach State Park Trail Plan.

C6 Harka Drive Unimproved Access, problematic.

Harka Drive is located in T14, R1E, Section 32, in the North Fork of Eagle River. The site may provide potential alternate access to Mount Significant and Ram Valley although the terrain is relatively steep. The site has potential; however, there are questions as to whether the road is actually located where it is platted.

Recommendations: Further research is necessary to determine the physical and platted location of the road as well as the section line easement in order to accurately determine viability.

C7 Ram Valley Traditional Access, problematic.

The Ram Valley access point is located in T14N, R1E, Section 33, in Eagle River. Ram Valley is an important alpine valley that can only be accessed via the Mount Magnificent and Mount Significant trail. Public access via Eagle River Road is not available. The valley is a very scenic hanging glacial valley with access to several glaciers, mountain peaks, ridge tops and Bombardment Pass connecting to Peters Creek Valley. Neighbors are not supportive of public access. This is a long-term public access problem. There appears to be no known legal and physically feasible access other than the section line easement.

Recommendations: Legal review of the section line easement is being pursued and the section line, if valid, will be evaluated for trail potential.

C8 Eagle River Nature Center Improved Access.

The Eagle River Nature Center is located in T13N, R1E, Section 9, at Mile 12 of the Eagle River Road. The Center provides interpretive programs, visitor information, campsites and access to a variety of trails including the Iditarod/Crow Pass Trail Trailhead. This area is heavily used by visitors and residents.

Recommendations: The Center needs additional parking.

References: Chugach State Park Master Plan and Chugach State Park Trail Plan

C9 River Access ER Tributary Improved Access.

Access is located in T13N, R1E, Section 5 at Mile 11 of Eagle River Road. The site is forested riverside/valley bottom. The site provides river access and access to the Eagle River Greenbelt. Salmon poaching is an occasional problem.

Recommendations: Evaluate feasibility and desirability of developing a trailhead.

C10 North Fork Eagle River Improved Access.

This site is located in T14N, R1W, Section 25 at Mile 7.4 of Eagle River Road. This site is developed with good trails and river access. Summer activities include boating, walking and hiking. Winter activities include snowmobiling and skiing. The site also provides access to the Eagle River Greenbelt and the North Fork and main stem of the Eagle River. Problems include occasional vandalism and irresponsible behavior. *Recommendations*: If Eagle River Pathway is built, consider a volunteer cabin at this location.

References: Chugach State Park Master Plan and Chugach State Park Trail Plan

C26 O'Reindner Road Unimproved Access, problematic.

This site is a platted road located in T14N, R1W, Section 15, abutting Heritage Land Bank lands adjacent to the Park.

Recommendations: Work with Heritage Land Bank to ensure that access may continue should development of this parcel occur. Heritage Land Bank lands should not be considered secure access until lands have been designated PLI-P.

C27 Valley View Estates Subdivision Unimproved Access.

This site is a platted road to the Park boundary located in Valley View Estates Subdivision, T14N, R1W, Section 13. This site is very steep.

C28 Berry Hill

Traditional Access.

This site is a platted road to the Park boundary located in T14N, R1W Section 33 in Eagle River. The site is steep and wooded but gentle traverses appear possible. Site appears to be used by local residents.

C29 White Spruce Drive Unimproved Access.

Here a platted road parallels Park land to the north. Site is located in T14N, R1W Section 24 in Eagle River. In general, the site is steep and wooded above entry point, but entry point is very gentle.

C30 Eagle River Road, Mile 7.2 Unimproved Access.

Eagle River Road is located in T13 & 14N, R1E, Sections 5, 30, and 31. The Road runs through a forested valley offering opportunities for sightseeing, wildlife viewing, hiking, and walking. With the increase in residential development, these sections of undeveloped road will become more unique and valuable.

Recommendations: Pullouts, trailheads, and trails would enhance neighborhood access to the Park. Coordinate road upgrades and facility development with DOT&PF.

C35 Eagle River Loop Bridge Improved Access.

This crossing of Eagle River located in T14N, R2W, Section 13 and T14N, R1W Section 18 in Eagle River provides opportunities for walking, biking, and vehicular access. *Recommendations*: Work with DOT&PF on any modifications or upgrades to the bridge. Work to connect greenbelt pathway to bike trail on bridge.

C36 Parkview Terrace

Unimproved Access.

This access point is located in T14N, R1W, Section 18 in Eagle River near Briggs Bridge. The site contains a steep south-facing slope providing access to the Eagle River Greenbelt and Eagle River. Neighborhood children appear to be digging holes and building structures.

Recommendations: Work with Eklutna, Inc. to control use problems.

C37 Gruening Middle School Improved Access.

The Gruening High School parking lot located in T14N, R1W, Section 17 in Eagle River provides access to Eagle River Greenbelt Trails. Site is developed with adequate parking. *Recommendations*: Work with Anchorage School District officials to connect school to greenbelt trails.

C38 Savage Drive

Traditional Access, problematic.

This access point is a platted road leading to Heritage land Bank land located near the Fire Lake Recreation Center and nearby Chugach State Park. Site is located in T14N, R1W, Section 31 in Eagle River. Site itself is primarily birch forest. Site provides local neighborhood access to Municipal and State Park lands and facilities. Due to its location relative to Heritage Land Bank lands this access should not be considered secure access until HLB lands have been designated PLI-P.

Recommendations: Work with Eagle River/Municipal Parks and Recreation to develop and manage a trail system in this area. Work with Heritage Land Bank to ensure that access may continue should development occur.

C39 Knob Hill Drive Traditional Access, problematic.

This access point is a platted road leading to Heritage land Bank land located near the Fire Lake Recreation Center and nearby Chugach State Park. Site is located in T14N, R1W, Section 31 in Eagle River. Site itself is primarily birch forest. Site provides local neighborhood access to Municipal and State Park lands and facilities. Due to its location relative to Heritage Land Bank lands this access should not be considered secure access until HLB lands have been designated PLI-P.

Recommendations: Work with Eagle River/Municipal Parks and Recreation to develop and manage a trail system in this area. Work with Heritage Land Bank to ensure that access may continue should development occur.

C40 Fire Lake Alaska Subdivision Traditional Access, problematic.

Access in this subdivision is located in T14N, R1W Section 31 in Eagle River. Site itself is primarily birch forest. Site provides local neighborhood access to MOA and State Park lands and facilities. Due to its location relative to Heritage Land Bank lands this access should not be considered secure access until HLB lands have been designated PLI-P. *Recommendations*: Work with Eagle River MOA Parks and Recreation to develop and manage a trail system in this area. Work with Heritage Land Bank to ensure that access may continue should development occur.

C44 Eagle River Road, Mile 5.4 Traditional Access, problematic.

This access point is located in T14N, R1W, along Sections 22 near Eagle River Road. A section line leads to the Eagle River greenbelt just west of the McIntyre homestead Property, which is used by many neighbors in the Hammond subdivision area. The area is popular for cross-country skiing, skijoring, horseback-riding and hiking. A straight trail on the section line leads to a slough that feeds into Eagle River. The property has recently been purchased for development. Public access along this section line to the Park would be desirable for neighborhood residents.

Recommendations: Research section line easement.

South Fork Eagle River (Map p. 53)

C16 Lower South Fork Eagle River Traditional Access.

The site is located in the south fork of Eagle River. To reach this site follow Hiland Road to River View Drive to Waterfall Drive to River Park Drive to Ken Logan Drive. A trail follows an old roadbed winding through rolling portions of the Eagle River Greenbelt. This access point provides neighborhood pedestrian access with very limited parking to very scenic portions of the Eagle River drainage and Eagle River itself. One can also access the trail along the south side of Eagle River, Harp Mountain, Barbara Falls, and nearby private lands. Activities include hunting, fishing, hiking and biking. This area supports a large population of brown bears and there have been suggestions that the area should be closed to humans seasonally in order to protect the Brown Bear population and minimize human/bear conflicts.

Recommendations: Develop adequate parking facilities. When appropriate, pursue discussions with Eklutna Inc. regarding management of Eklutna lands adjacent to Park lands.

References: Eagle River Greenbelt Plan and Chugach State Park Master Plan.

C17 Upper South Fork Eagle River Improved Access.

This site is located in T13N, R1W, in the South Fork of Eagle River. The site contains wet soils with black spruce and provides access to gentle valley terrain. This site experiences heavy use in the summer for hiking, climbing, berry picking, exercise, and backcountry travel. In the winter, skiing and snowshoeing are popular. The valley is open to horses and trail erosion into Ship Creek is occuring. This site provides a frequently used alternate access to Ship Creek. The Upper South Fork Trailhead provides access to Eagle Lake, Symphony Lake, Lookout Point, Hanging Valley Trail, Cantata Peak, Flute Glacier, Eagle Peak, Symphony Tarns, and Triangle Peak. This Trailhead is also a jumping off place to more remote areas of the Park. Overflow of up to 40 cars (existing lot holds 10) causes neighborhood congestion.

Recommendations: Consider all options to locate and develop a larger trailhead. Residents have suggested expanding the current facilities.

References: Chugach State Park Master Plan and Chugach State Park Trail Plan.

C18 Upper South Fork Harp Mountain Traditional Access.

This access point is located in T13N, R1W, Section 15, in the South Fork of Eagle River. The site contains moderately to steeply sloping alpine terrain utilized by skiers,

snowboarders, snowshoers, hikers, climbers, berry pickers, and mountaineers and provides alpine access. There are also small lakes on the east side of the road at higher elevations. The Harp Mountain access point would provide an alternative access point for many of the popular destinations listed above in the Upper South Fork Eagle River access description (C17). Distributing use between two access points would minimize the impact to any one site and allow more direct access to some of the previously discussed access points. This site is also a potential point for search and rescue efforts. Development of parking would be expensive due to steep terrain.

Recommendations: Monitor situation. Continue to pursue future access and trailhead in the valley. Residents have expressed concern about avalanche danger in the Harp Mountain region, use of the end of the road as an emergency vehicle turnaround, and lack of parking and other facilities.

References: Chugach State Park Master Plan and Chugach State Park Trail Plan.

C31 Hundred Hills Subdivision Potential Access.

This access point is located in T13N, R1W, Section 13 in the South Fork of Eagle River. Access is down a drive marked as private and no trespassing. If improved, access will need to be directed in order to avoid conflicts with adjacent landowners. The ROW across the river leads to a relatively high flat area on the opposite bank, suitable for parking. Site provides a potential trailhead for valley access.

Recommendations: Consider, this site as an option in overall access needs for the South Fork of Eagle River Valley.

C32 Michael Drive Traditional Access.

Michael Drive is a platted and constructed road to the Park boundary. It is located in T13N, R1W, Section 4 in the South Fork of Eagle River. The site provides local residents access to steep alpine terrain. Destinations include nearby mountain slopes in Chugach State Park including Rendezvous Peak and Gordon Lyon Peak. Some illegal ATV and snowmobile use does occur.

Recommendations: Barriers are needed to stop illegal use.

C33 Johnny Drive Traditional Access.

Johnny Drive is a platted road leading to the Park boundary in T13N, R1W, Section 4 in the South Fork of Eagle River. This area contains heavy brush and is very steep. The site provides possible access to alpine slopes in the Park including Rendezvous Peak and Gordon Lyon Peak.

Recommendations: Monitor neighborhood use. Consider for future trailhead.

C34 Hiland Road Traditional Access, questionable.

In this location the road crosses 1/2 mile of Park land located in T14N, R1W, Section 20 in the South Fork of Eagle River. This area is a forested north-facing slope used by local residents

Recommendations: Monitor use.

C41 South Fork Eagle River Pedestrian Access Traditional Access.

C42 Lynx Drive

Traditional Access.

This access point is located in the South Fork of Eagle River where the platted road terminates at the Park boundary. The public has expressed concerns regarding extreme avalanche danger in the areas accessed via this location.

C45 Three Bowls

Traditional Access, problematic.

This access point located in T13N, R1W, Section 4 off Hiland Road is popular with telemark skiers. The area is prone to avalanches and was the site of a 2001 incident, which prompted the property owner to post "No Trespassing" signs. Significant hazards exist during winter months. Parking is also a concern for local residents. This access is not secure and presents users with significant safety challenges.

C46 Cotton Grass Road Traditional Access.

This access point is located in T14N, R1W, Section 33 and is a popular neighborhood access point for people seeking to access the ridgeline above the South Fork of Eagle River. This access is not secure and traverses private land.

Arctic Valley, Ship Creek (Map p. 55)

C19 Arctic Valley Alpenglow Improved Access, problematic.

This site is located in T13N, R1W, Section 6 in Arctic Valley. Site provides access to alpine mountainous terrain. The area is a popular destination for skiing, hiking, snowboarding, berry picking, mountain climbing and viewing scenic Ship Creek Valley. This access point to Chugach State Park provides a trail across tundra to Rendezvous Peak. In late summer, the slopes are full of berries and wildflowers, providing a good hike for families with children. Problems include road maintenance costs and potential road closure by US Army for security reasons.

Recommendations: Conduct cooperative planning effort with Municipality and Army to identify measures to meet needs of the military mission and public recreation. **References**: Chugach State Park Master Plan and Chugach State Park Trail Plan

C20 Arctic Valley Ship Creek Trail Unimproved Access, problematic.

This site is located near Arctic Valley in T13N, R2W Section 1. The site contains a wide turnout for 8 cars and is popular for cross country skiing as well as limited summer hiking and fall hunting. This site provides access to a large wilderness area of Chugach State Park. The Arctic Valley Ship Creek Trailhead is actually located on military property. This Trailhead accesses the Wilderness Area of the Park with a variety of unimproved hiking trails leading into the upper valley. This area is also the jumping off point for the traverse from Arctic Valley to Indian, a 20-mile traverse paralleling ship Creek for a portion of the hike. Due to military exercises, access can be a problem. Popular destinations from this Trailhead include Upper Snow Hawk Cabin, Temptation

Peak, Tanaina Peaks, and Tanaina Lake. Problems include road maintenance costs and potential road closure by the Army for security reasons.

Recommendations: Conduct cooperative planning effort with the Municipality and Army to identify measures to meet the needs of the military mission and public recreation.

References: Chugach State Park Master Plan and Trail Plan.

C43 Snow Hawk Valley Unimproved Access, problematic.

This site is located on the Arctic Valley Road in T13N, R2W, Section 9. This access point is on military land as are most of the trails and natural features accessed from this site. Popular destinations from this Trailhead include Upper Snow Hawk Cabin, Temptation Peak, Tanaina Peaks, and Tanaina Lake. Problems include road maintenance costs and potential road closure by the Army for security and training reasons. *Recommendations*: Conduct cooperative planning effort with Municipality and Army to identify measures to meet needs of the military mission and public recreation.







