

APPENDIX C: SOUTHERN REGION

This appendix includes maps and narrative that summarize the results of the Chugach State Park Access Inventory for the Southern 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.

Muldoon, East Anchorage (Map p. 71)

S46 Klutina, Chugach Foothills Subd. Traditional Access, problematic.

This site is located in T13N, R3W, Section 27 and provides access via Bicentennial Park to the power line running along the section line to the “Tank Trail” located on military lands, which eventually accesses Chugach State Park and destinations including the North Fork of Campbell Creek, Long Lake, the Dome, Kanchee, Knoya, and Tikishla peaks. Because of the distances from the Park, use of mountain bikes to access these areas is common. In winter cross country skiers, skijorers, snowshoers, and hikers use these same trails. In the fall, bow hunters also use these trails. This site is not a viable access point at this time due to increased use of these lands by the military and heightened concerns regarding security. There is a strong possibility that this area will be permanently closed in the next few years as this area is used for Stryker vehicle training. ***Recommendations:*** This access point should be considered should Fort Richardson ever be decommissioned as residents in this area have few nearby options for access to Chugach State Park.

S50 Muldoon Road End Access Traditional Access, problematic

Residents of East Anchorage utilize roads and cul-de-sacs ending at the boundary of Fort Richardson to access the “Tank Trail” located on military lands and other trails as a means of reaching Chugach State Park and its trail system. These access points are utilized in the winter after the ground freezes for skiing and other winter recreational activities. During the summer, the area is quite swampy and not particularly suited to many recreational activities. These sites are not viable access points at this time due to increased use of these lands by the military and heightened concerns regarding security. There is a strong possibility that this area will be permanently closed in the next few years as this area is used for Stryker vehicle training.

Recommendations: These access points should be considered if Fort Richardson is decommissioned as residents in this area have few nearby options for access to Chugach State Park.

Stuckagain Heights (Map p. 71)

S1 Stuckagain Heights #1 Unimproved Access.

This access point is located in T12N, R2W, Section 7, on the Anchorage Hillside in Stuckagain Heights near power lines found just before entering Stuckagain Heights subdivision, approximately 3.2 miles from Tudor Road. The area is primarily a spruce and birch forest. The area provides access to hillside trails from East Anchorage and is a convenient entrance to Chugach State Park for East Anchorage residents. Destinations include the Dome, Long Lake, and Kanchee, Knoya, Tikishla, Tanaina and Koktoyak Peaks as well as the extensive Glen Alps trail system. The site presents some challenges such as rough terrain for an entrance road.

Recommendations: The Chugach State Park Master Plan recommends a 30 to 50 car trailhead with picnic sites and shelter.

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

S2 Stuckagain Heights #2 Traditional Access, problematic.

This popular access point is located in T12N, R2W, Section 6, in Stuckagain Heights at the end of Basher Road. This popular traditional access point and trail was user developed for neighborhood residential use. Since new residential development has taken place traditional use has shifted to the adjacent section line, which is much steeper and more difficult to traverse. Loss of the traditional access trail has caused significant neighborhood conflict. The traditional trail provided good access for East Anchorage residents. The Stuckagain Heights Trailhead previously located at the end of Basher Road provided a relatively easy entry point to a variety of Chugach State Park trails for an evening or afternoon hike. Longer hikes provide access to the Dome, Long Lake, and Kanchee, Knoya, Tikishla, Tanaina and Koktoyak Peaks, the backside of Williwaw, as well as trails near Glen Alps. No easement for the trail has been reserved in subdivision plats. The new resident has posted and blocked the old trail. Landowner/user conflicts can be expected to continue until a viable alternative is found. The section line easement may provide an alternative but the access is very steep. Local residents appear to have flagged an alternate trail. An additional complication is the existence of military lands adjacent to the section line easement. Public comment strongly supports the pursuit of reserved public access in the Stuckagain Heights area through the platting process.

Recommendations: Evaluate the section line easement and/or seek permission from US Army to construct trail and bridge to access tank trail to gain up valley access to Park lands. Access in this area should be a priority if the military ever disposes of land in this area.

S35 Stuckagain Heights Tank Trail Traditional Access, problematic.

This site is located on the northern edge of T12N, R2W, Section 6 and has been used by residents to access the “Tank Trail” which has spur trails that access Chugach State Park and adjacent military lands including the North Fork of Campbell Creek, Long Lake, the Dome, and Kanchee, Knoya, and Tikishla Peaks. Because of the distances from the Park, use of mountain bikes to access these areas is common. In winter cross-country skiers, skijorers, snowshoers, and hikers use these same trails. In the fall, bow hunters also use these trails. This site is not a viable access point at this time due to increased use of these

lands by the military and heightened concerns regarding security. There is a strong possibility that this area will be permanently closed in the next few years as this area is used for Stryker vehicle training.

Recommendations: This access point should be considered should Fort Richardson ever be decommissioned.

S44 Stuckagain Heights, Midden Way Traditional Access, problematic.

S44 a, b, and c are traditional neighborhood access points located in T12N, R2W, Section 6 along the eastern and southern boundaries off Midden Way in Stuckagain Heights. These three neighborhood access points cross private land in order to reach the Park and access the Chugach State Park trail system. Residents use these access points in summer for hiking and in winter for cross-country skiing, hiking and showshoeing. These trails are also used to access Near Point, Wolverine Peak, Prospect, and the Middle Fork of Campbell Creek. As the remaining large lots in this area are subdivided these access points may be blocked as well. Public comment strongly supports the pursuit of reserved public access in the Stuckagain Heights area through the platting process.

Recommendations: Work with the municipality to address access needs through the platting process in the Stuckagain Heights area.

S45 Stuckagain Heights Old Restaurant Site Traditional access, problematic

This site is essentially an extension of access site S2. Some use has shifted to this site, which provides the same benefits as S2. However, access through this area is not secure and steps will need to be taken to secure permanent access to Chugach State Park as the area immediately to the east is subdivided. This parcel has been identified as a Parcel of Concern. Public comment strongly supports the pursuit of reserved public access in the Stuckagain Heights area through the platting process.

Recommendations: Work with the municipality to address access needs through the platting process in the Stuckagain Heights area.

Anchorage Hillside (Map p. 73)

S3 Prospect Heights Improved Access.

This popular access point is located in T12N, R2W, Section 7, on the Anchorage Hillside. The site experiences relatively heavy use by users of all ability levels. In the summer Park users hike, bike, walk, run, and use the Trailhead to access the backcountry of Chugach State Park. In winter this forested area offers protection from wind for skiing, snowshoeing, and other winter activities. Near Point and Wolverine Peak are accessed from the Prospect Heights Trailhead. In addition, this access point provides connectivity to the Hillside Trail System including the Municipal Hillside Trail System, and the Upper O'Malley and Upper Huffman Trailheads. For many residents, this access point puts Alaska within a 20-minute drive from their door. This site is occasionally full and therefore future site evaluations may indicate a need for expansion of facilities.

Recommendations: Maintain existing facilities with moderate improvements. Build a connecting trail to Far North Bicentennial Park as proposed in the plans for both parks.

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

S4 Upper O'Malley**Improved Access.**

This access is located in T12N, R2W, Section 18, on the Anchorage Hillside. The area experiences moderate use, mostly by local residents. The site provides good access to trails on moderately sloping terrain. The Upper O'Malley Trailhead provides convenient access to the Hillside Trail System and connects to Powerline Trail, the Middle Fork Campbell Creek Trail, the Gasline Trail and Little O'Malley Peak.

Recommendations: Evaluate desirability of trailhead improvements on Park land away from neighbors.

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

S5 Upper Huffman**Improved Access.**

This access point is located in T12N, R2W, Section 19, on the Anchorage Hillside. Area contains some poor soils and wet ground which create muddy conditions during wet times of the year. Summer use includes picnicking, and hiking, winter use includes snowmobiling. The Upper Huffman Trailhead provides convenient access to the Hillside Trail System. A variety of trails connect to Powerline Trail, the Middle Fork Campbell Creek trail, the Gasline Trail and Little O'Malley Peak. During snowmobile season the parking capacity is too small with vehicles lining the residential street. Road maintenance is a problem expressed by several area residents that needs further consideration.

Recommendations: Construct a truck with trailer parking area to the south with loop road connecting existing parking lot. Drain and grub area for a new parking lot. Plant grass to stabilize soils. Use as a play field in summer. In winter, open vehicle gates, plow and use for parking. Build picnic shelter and other amenities.

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

S6 Glen Alps**Improved Access.**

The Glen Alps Trailhead is located in T12N, R2W, Section 29, on the Anchorage Hillside in an alpine setting. Popular activities include sightseeing, walking, hiking, mountain running, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, biking, and wildlife viewing. The site provides easy alpine access and one of the best views of the city, Cook Inlet and distant mountains across the inlet. Glen Alps provides access to the extensive Hillside Trail System. Tourists and residents alike climb Flattop, hike to Blueberry Hill, and walk to the Anchorage overlook for spectacular views of the city below. For the more adventuresome, Glen Alps provides access to the Powerline Trail, Hidden Lake, The Ramp, The Wedge, Ptarmigan Peak, Avalanche Peak, Williwaw Lakes, the Ballpark, O'Malley Peak and Mount Williwaw. On a sunny summer day, it is difficult to secure parking due to the high popularity of this Trailhead. Overflow parking onto Glen Alps Road blocks traffic flow for local residents and emergency vehicles. Access road maintenance is a concern expressed by several members of the public.

Recommendations: Evaluate potential for a summer overflow lot located in the low area to the north of the existing parking lot. Harden area trail surfaces. Consider caretaker cabin to minimize vandalism and monitor use.

References: Chugach State Park Master Plan and Trail Plan

S36 Stroganof Drive**Unimproved Access.**

This access point located in T12N, R2W, Section 18, is located near O'Malley Road on the Anchorage Hillside. The site has gentle terrain and provides local access.

Recommendations: Maintain easement.

Rabbit Creek (Map p. 75)**S7 Rabbit Creek Valley, Upper Canyon Road Traditional Access, problematic.**

This access point is located in T12N, R2W, Section 31, on the Anchorage Hillside from Upper DeArmoun Road. The site is located on a south-facing grass and alder slope. The area is popular as a training run for runners and skiers. Winter use includes snowboarding and mountaineering. The Rabbit Creek Valley is currently not accessible from Canyon Road off Upper DeArmoun. To enjoy this valley, one must hike from the McHugh Trailhead or from Peak Three at Glen Alps. Rabbit Creek Valley provides access to popular destinations such as Rabbit Lake, the Suicide Peaks, Homicide Peak, Windy Gap and McHugh Lake. Problems include trash and neighbor complaints. Overuse of traditional trails is causing erosion.

Recommendations: Potential access point with trailhead, toilets, improved trails and fees may reduce problems of erosion, trash and complaints.

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

S37 Hocker Place**Traditional Access.**

A variety of streets located in T11N, R2W, Section 32, located on the upper Anchorage Hillside in Rabbit Creek Valley provide access points to Chugach State Park. These streets do not necessarily provide usable access and serve primarily as a traditional access point for local neighborhood residents.

S38 Ahtena Circle**Traditional Access.**

A variety of streets located in T11N, R2W, Section 32, located on the upper Anchorage Hillside in Rabbit Creek Valley provide access points to Chugach State Park. These streets do not necessarily provide usable access and serve primarily as a traditional access point for local neighborhood residents.

S39 Hiland Road North**Traditional Access.**

A variety of streets located in T11N, R2W, Section 32, located on the upper Anchorage Hillside in Rabbit Creek Valley provide access points to Chugach State Park. These streets do not necessarily provide usable access and serve primarily as a traditional access point for local neighborhood residents.

S40 Hiland Road South**Traditional Access.**

A variety of streets located in T11N, R2W, Section 32, located on the upper Anchorage Hillside in Rabbit Creek Valley provide access points to Chugach State Park. These streets do not necessarily provide usable access and serve primarily as a traditional access point for local neighborhood residents.

S41 *Echo Street****Traditional Access.***

A variety of streets located in T11N, R2W, Section 32, located on the upper Anchorage Hillside in Rabbit Creek Valley provide access points to Chugach State Park. These streets do not necessarily provide usable access and serve primarily as a traditional access point for local neighborhood residents.

Bear Valley to Potter Valley (Map p. 75)**S8 *McHugh Peak North Rib (Bear Valley)* ***Traditional Access, problematic.*****

This access point is located in T11N, R2W, Section 6, of the Anchorage Hillside. This access point is located in Bear Valley and provides alpine access for hiking, mountain climbing, running, and walking. The main attraction of this access point is access to the McHugh Peak Complex. Development of a trailhead in this location would provide convenient access for local residents to McHugh Peak a popular destination for residents during the snow-free months of the year. Local residents are posting area “Not an access to Chugach State Park” and “No Parking” signs. The road is a dedicated public ROW and posting must be done by the Municipality to be enforceable. Private land to the east blocks Park access. This land is being subdivided and a trail or road easement is needed. Heritage Land Bank land is located to the east of the proposed Grandview Subdivision.

Recommendations: Any access development in this area will require steps to reduce impacts of Park traffic on local residents. Work with Heritage Land Bank to resolve access problems in this area.

References: Chugach State Park Trail Plan, Potter Valley Land Use Analysis

S9 *McHugh Peak NW Rib (via Baldy)* *Traditional Access, problematic.*****

This area is located in T11N, R2W Section 18 of the Anchorage Hillside. It provides access through sub-alpine areas in the area of Mountainside Village Subdivision. Residents of this general area use trails in this area to access the McHugh Peak Complex. Residents currently run, ski, bike, hike, skijor and snowshoe in this area as well as use the northwest rib as an approach to climbing McHugh Peak in Chugach State Park. Development of a neighborhood trail head in this location would provide convenient access for local residents to McHugh Peak and the Northwest Rib, a ridge walk with views of Turnagain Arm, the Kenai Peninsula, and the Alaska Peninsula. Access in this location would provide traditional Park users with secure public access. Trails in this area leading to the ridge walk along the NW Rib of McHugh Peak have been utilized for years by local residents. Development and changes in landownership have resulted in “No Trespassing” signs, gates, and fences blocking access to user-established trails. Conflicts between landowners and local trail users trying to gain access to Chugach State Park and the McHugh complex will continue or increase as development in this area occurs ever closer to the Park. Due to the number of landowners located between existing road access and the Park, development of any access in this area will require a coordinated effort involving the Municipality of Anchorage, local landowners, and residents.

Recommendations: Work with the Municipality to negotiate road or trail easements with local landowners and non-profit organizations to secure a developable parcel for a neighborhood trailhead.

References: Chugach State Park Trail Plan

S10 *McHugh Peak West Rib (Upper Potter)* *Potential Access.*

This site is located in T11N, R3W Section 23 on the Anchorage Hillside overlooking Turnagain Arm. The area of Chugach State Park appropriate for access is located at timberline. There exists a suitable developable site on state Park land, with relatively level terrain providing reasonable access to alpine areas and good views of Turnagain Arm and the Kenai Mountains. Development of a trailhead in this general area would provide reserved public access to Chugach State Park for residents of the Potter Valley Area. Currently there is no road access to Chugach State Park in the upper portion of Potter Valley. A portion of a nearby section line easement has been vacated.

Recommendations: It is important to carefully monitor proposed subdivision plats for this area in order to insure that reasonable road access is obtained. Coordinate with Heritage Land Bank when addressing access issues in this area particularly as they may pertain to HLB Parcel 2-147.

References: Chugach State Park Trail Plan, Potter Valley Land Use Analysis

S43 *Potter Valley Road* *Unimproved Access.*

The Potter Valley Road located in T11N, R3W, Section 15, located just before the Potter Section House provides a point of access to the forested hillside and the Turnagain Trail rather than via the Potter Trailhead (S12). The site primarily provides local residents access to this trail without the need for vehicular travel to the Potter Trailhead.

Recommendations: This point should be maintained as an alternative trailhead to Potter Trailhead for local residents.

Reference: Chugach State Park Trail Plan

S47 *Brewster's Road* *Traditional Access, potential.*

This access point is located in T11N, R2W, Section 7 accessed via the Bear Valley road system to the Brewster homestead. Residents of this general area use trails in this area to access the McHugh Peak Complex. Residents currently run, ski, bike, hike, skijour and snowshoe in this area as well as use these trails as an approach to climbing McHugh Peak in Chugach State Park. Development of Neighborhood Access in this location would provide convenient reserved public access for local residents to McHugh Peak.

Recommendations: Work should continue with the Heritage Land Bank, Municipality of Anchorage and private landowners to secure reserved public access in this area.

S49 *Stewart Road* *Traditional Access, potential.*

The Stewart Road is located in T11N, R3W, Sections 11, 12, and 13 running from Mountain Side Village Subdivision along the base of the Northwest Rib of McHugh Peak above Potter Creek. Residents of this area use the Stewart Road to access the McHugh Peak Complex. Residents currently run, ski, bike, hike, skijour and snowshoe along this road and up the switchback trail to the northwest rib of McHugh and as an approach to climbing McHugh Peak in Chugach State Park. Development of a neighborhood trailhead in this location would provide convenient access for local residents to McHugh Peak and the Northwest Rib, a ridge walk with views of Turnagain Arm, the Kenai Peninsula, and the Alaska Peninsula. Development and changes in landownership have resulted in "No Trespassing" signs, gates, and fences blocking access to user-established trails. Conflicts

between landowners and local trail users trying to gain access to Chugach State Park and the McHugh complex will continue or increase as development in this area occurs ever closer to the Park.

Recommendations: Work with the Municipality to negotiate road or trail easements with local landowners and non-profit organizations to secure a developable parcel for a neighborhood trailhead.

Turnagain Arm (Maps p. 77, 79)

S42 Seward Highway Road Access Unimproved Access.

Highway access to Chugach State Park along the Seward Highway in T11N - T10N, R1E-R3W as it follows Turnagain Arm is popular for residents and tourists alike. The rocky forested shoreline provides opportunities for scenic and wildlife viewing, biking, hiking, picnicking, rock and ice climbing and special events. Currently, conflicts exist between through traffic and recreational traffic.

Recommendations: Work with DOT&PF in the reconstruction of these sections of the Seward Highway to reduce safety problems and enhance recreation and wildlife and scenic viewing opportunities.

Potter to Windy Corner (Map p. 77)

S11 Potter Section House Improved Access.

The Potter Section House is located in T11N, R3W, Section 10. This site is the location of Chugach State Park Headquarters and provides Park information, a rest stop and displays related to history of the Alaska Railroad. The site experiences heavy traffic and is often congested during the peak of the tourist season in the summer.

Recommendations: It is important to work with DOT&PF to redesign this facility when this section of the Seward Highway is reconstructed.

References: Chugach State Park Trail Plan

S12 Potter Trailhead Improved Access.

The Potter Trailhead is located in T11N, R3W, Section 10 across the Seward Highway from the Potter Section House. This Trailhead provides access to the Turnagain Trail, which runs along the shoreline through the coastal forest located above the Seward Highway and provides views of Turnagain Arm, the Kenai Peninsula and the Alaska Peninsula through the trees. This is a good trail for hikers of all abilities and is commonly used for hiking, walking and skiing during all seasons of the year. The Turnagain Trail runs from Potter to Windy Corner with several additional access points in between.

References: Chugach State Park Trail Plan

S13 Crack-in-the-Woods Unimproved Access, problematic.

Crack-in-the-Woods is located in T10N, R3W, Section 23 along Turnagain Arm at Mile 112.4 of the Seward Highway. The area is rocky and popular for rock climbing and bouldering. Parking is limited and can be problematic.

Recommendations: Ask DOT&PF to place fill in the ditch to provide safer parking for climbers. When this section of the Seward Highway is rebuilt, construct a 10-15 car parking area.

S14 McHugh Creek

Improved Access.

The McHugh Creek Trailhead is located in T10N, R3W Section 25 along Turnagain Arm off the Seward Highway. The site is highly developed and very popular. Popular activities include hiking, walking, climbing, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. This site was designed to provide good access for visitors of all abilities and interests. McHugh Creek Trailhead provides access to many popular destinations and is heavily used by residents and tourists alike. From McHugh one can access Rabbit Lake, the Suicide Peaks, Homicide Peak, Windy Gap, the Falls Creek Trail, and McHugh Lake. In addition, McHugh provides access to the Turnagain Trail, a pleasant hike along the shoreline above Turnagain Arm with views of Turnagain Arm, the Kenai Peninsula and the Alaska Peninsula through the trees. The Turnagain Trail runs from Potter to Windy Corner with several additional access points in between. The area experiences some overcrowding during the summer tourist season.

Recommendations: Monitor use.

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

S15 Beluga Point Oceanside

Improved Access.

This access point is located in T11N, R2W, Section 30, along Turnagain Arm at the Beluga Point oceanside turnout. The site is developed and provides opportunities for viewing Turnagain Arm, the Chugach Mountains and wildlife.

Recommendations: Work with DOT&PF to improve this site when this portion of the Seward Highway is reconstructed.

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

S16 Beluga Point Mountainside

Improved Access.

This access point is located in T11N, R2W, Section 30, along Turnagain Arm at Beluga Point on the mountain side of the Seward Highway. The site is developed with trail access and a highway pullout. The site provides climbing access. There have been problems with youth parties with fires upslope.

Recommendations: Reduce fuel hazards in the area.

S17 Rainbow

Improved Access.

Access at Rainbow is located in T11N, R2W, Section 33 at Rainbow on Turnagain Arm. Access is located in the old highway roadbed and provides access to the Turnagain Trail. The Turnagain Trail provides views of Turnagain Arm, the Kenai Peninsula and the Alaska Peninsula. The Turnagain Trail runs from Potter to Windy Corner with several additional access points in between. There have been occasional vehicle break-ins at this location.

Recommendations: Work with DOT&PF to upgrade this site when this portion of the Seward Highway is reconstructed. Restoration of Rainbow Creek should also be a priority.

References: Chugach State Park Master Plan

S18 Windy Corner**Improved Access.**

Windy Corner is located in T11N, R2W, Section 3, along Turnagain Arm. These rocky headlands provide sheep viewing and trail access. This site is the best sheep viewing opportunity in Alaska. The Windy Corner Trailhead provides access to the Turnagain Trail, which runs from Potter to Windy Corner with several additional access points in between. This site is a significant traffic hazard with sheep viewing and through traffic moving at significantly different speeds.

Recommendations: Work with DOT&PF to build a safer facility when this portion of the Seward Highway is reconstructed.

Indian to Bird Point (Map p. 79)**S19 Falls Creek****Unimproved Access.**

Falls Creek is located in T11N, R2W, Section 2, along Turnagain Arm. This is a developed roadside trailhead providing access to the Falls Creek Trail, which accesses uplands such as South Suicide Peak. The trail follows Falls Creek and is nestled in a valley surrounded by steep mountainsides.

Recommendations: Work with DOT&PF to enlarge and improve this access point when this portion of the Seward Highway is reconstructed.

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

S20 Upper Indian Creek**Improved Access.**

This access point is located in T11N, R1W, Section 32, in Indian, located along Turnagain Arm. The site is developed and provides access to Indian Valley Trail and Powerline Pass Trail as well as other portions of the backcountry of Chugach State Park. The trailhead at Upper Indian Creek Valley is the starting point for the traverse from Indian to either Glen Alps or Ship Creek.

Recommendations: This site should be maintained as is, expanding parking if necessary in the future. Monitor use for neighborhood impact.

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

S21 Indian Creek Ballfield**Improved Access.**

This access point is located in T10N, R1W, Section 5, in Indian located along Turnagain Arm. The site is a developed baseball field with a trailhead and pathway. There is local sports and pathway parking.

S48 Utility Gate, Indian**Improved Access.**

This site provides gated access for utilities at Indian off the Seward Highway in T10N, R1W, Section 5.

S22 Bird Ridge Trailhead**Improved Access.**

The Bird Ridge Trailhead is located in T10N, R1W, Section 9, along Turnagain Arm. The Trailhead provides access to Bird Ridge, which is a steep mountain hike. This access is popular for hiking, climbing, mountain races, exercise, and scenic viewing. An Americans with Disabilities (ADA) accessible trail is available. The Bird Ridge

Trailhead provides access to one of the first spring hiking opportunities in Chugach State Park. While this trail is somewhat steep and rigorous, views of Turnagain Arm and the Park's interior make the effort worthwhile for many. Ample parking and a short interpretive trail that is easily accessible are features of a recent renovation. More parking is needed, particularly in the spring months.

Recommendations: Expand parking and complete connector trail to Indian Trailhead.

Reference: Chugach State Park Trail Plan

S23 *Bird Creek*

Improved Access.

The Bird Creek access point is located in T10N, R1W, Section 9, located at Bird Creek along Turnagain Arm. The area is an extremely popular fishing spot making parking overflow a significant issue as it relates to highway safety. A new parking facility is needed to accommodate anglers.

Recommendations: Work with DOT&PF to address parking as Seward Highway upgrades are developed.

S24 *Bird Creek Campground*

Improved Access.

This access point is located in T10N, R1W, Section 9, near Bird Creek along Turnagain Arm. The wooded site provides overnight camping, picnicking and pathway access for Park users of all ages and abilities.

Recommendations: The facility needs rehabilitation and expansion including campground expansion. Any improvements to the site should be designed to protect existing large spruce trees.

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

S25 *Bird Creek Overflow*

Improved Access.

Bird Creek Overflow is located in T10N R1W, Section 9, near Bird Creek along Turnagain Arm. The site is developed and accommodates overflow parking and camping with paved and level Recreational Vehicle sites.

S26 *Bird Valley Trailhead*

Unimproved Access.

This Trailhead is located in T10N, R1W, Section 10, near Bird Creek along Turnagain Arm. The Trailhead accesses a wooded valley with numerous old logging roads. The area is popular for hiking, biking, ATV use, snowmobiling, skiing, and mushing. The site accommodates dispersed recreation on relatively gentle terrain. The Bird Valley Trailhead provides access to Penguin Peak, home of Dall Sheep and a common source of winter avalanches. Bird Peak is another destination that can be reached from this Trailhead. The trail to Bird Peak contains some of the most rugged hiking in Chugach State Park. Problems include some illegal summer ATV use off-trail, and salmon poaching at the falls.

Recommendations: Improve trails, replace Penguin Creek Bridge, improve parking area and surface of access road.

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

S27 *Avalanche Gate Pullout****Improved Access, problematic.***

The Avalanche Gate Pullout is located in T10N, R1W, Section 15, at approximately Mile 100 of the Seward Highway along Turnagain Arm. The site is developed and provides access to the pathway which follows the shoreline on the ocean side of the Seward Highway through the Bird area. The site provides access to general recreation opportunities such as hiking and biking. There is a need for a turnaround when avalanche gate is closed.

Recommendations: Work with DOT&PF to address turnaround. Any improvements to this site should include the addition of barriers to prevent vehicles getting on pathway.

S28 *Alaska Rail Road Worker Memorial****Improved Access, problematic.***

This recently created access point is located in T10N, R1W, Section 15, at Mile 99.4 of the Seward Highway along Turnagain Arm. The site is developed with a pullout for the memorial with limited parking, although improvements are expected to occur when this section of the Seward Highway is reconstructed.

Recommendations: Work with DOT&PF to reconstruct this facility with a better design when the Seward Highway is rebuilt.

S29 *Bird Point Oceanside****Improved Access.***

Bird Point is located in T10N, R1E, Section 30, off the Seward Highway along Turnagain Arm. An old rock quarry was recently reconstructed to create a scenic viewpoint, with interpretation and access to the Bird to Girdwood trail. The area is popular with residents and tourists alike and a caretaker cabin is on site.

S30 *Bird Point Mountainside****Improved Access.***

This mountainside access point is located in T10N, R1E, Section 9, on the mountainside of the Bird Point area off the Seward Highway along Turnagain Arm. The site provides informal access to the Bird to Girdwood pathway.

Girdwood (Maps p. 79, 81)**S31 *Bird-Girdwood Turnouts******Improved Access.***

A variety of turnouts created as part of the Seward Highway reconstruction are located along the Seward Highway as it runs along Turnagain Arm from Bird Point to Girdwood. These turnouts provide scenic views and interpretive panels focusing on environmental and cultural topics relating to Chugach State Park and Turnagain Arm.

S32 *Bird-Girdwood Path****Improved Access.***

This path provides access to Chugach State Park in T10N, R1E. The pathway begins at the Bird Point access point and runs along the Old Seward Highway roadbed between Bird Point and Girdwood. The pathway can also be accessed in Girdwood using trails located near the intersection of the Girdwood turnoff from the Seward Highway. The pathway is popular for biking, walking, running, and a variety of special events.

S33 California Creek**Unimproved Access.**

This access point is located in T10N, R2E, Section 8, in Girdwood. The site provides access through the coastal forest to the upper California Creek Drainage. This site can provide overall recreational access for hiking, skiing and other winter sports. There are problems with squatters.

Recommendations: Work with the Girdwood Board of Supervisors to construct and manage a future trailhead and trail. Work with Heritage Land Bank to ensure access across HLB lands is preserved should development of adjacent parcel occur.

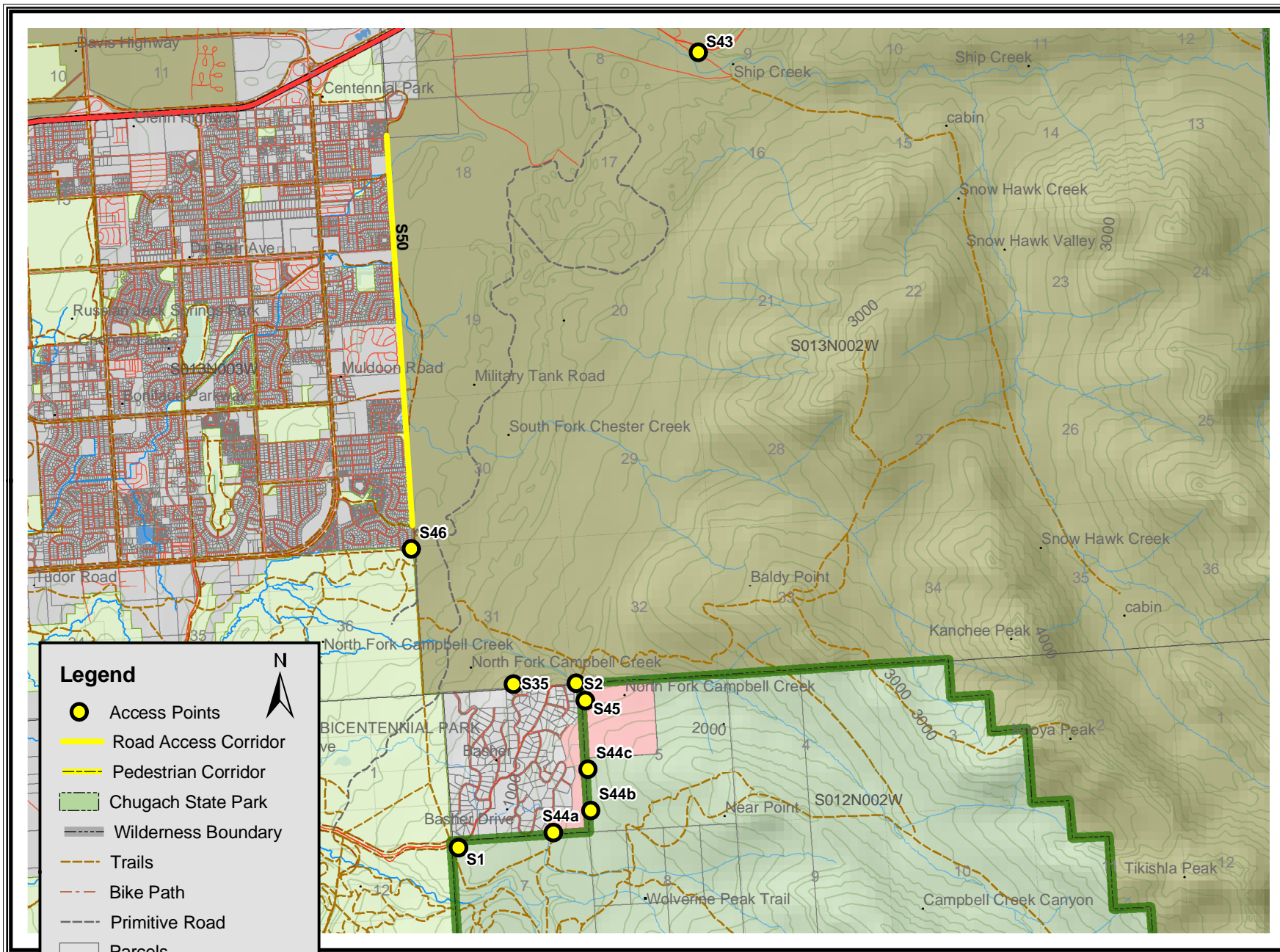
Reference: Chugach State Park Master Plan and Chugach State Park Trail Plan

S34 Crow Pass Trailhead**Improved Access.**

The Crow Pass Trailhead is located in T10N, R2E, Section 21, in the Upper Crow Creek Valley in Girdwood. This site provides access to the Historic Iditarod Trail more commonly known as the Crow Pass Trail, a popular traverse to Eagle River. Access is near timberline. The traverse is done as a multi day trip, or for endurance athletes, the annual one-day Crow Pass Run. From the Crow Pass Trailhead one can access glaciers, deep valleys, deep tarns, and historical mining sites. This trail is well used and well maintained. Other destinations from this Trailhead include Jewel Mountain, Crystal Lake, Milk Glacier, Raven Glacier, Grizzly Bear Lake, Camp Robber Peak and Archangel Lakes. Access is developed through a cooperative relationship with the US Forest Service.

Recommendations: Work should continue with US Forest Service and the Department of Natural Resources to transfer trailhead and portions of trail outside the Park to Chugach State Park management at some future date.

Reference: Chugach State Park Trail Plan



Legend

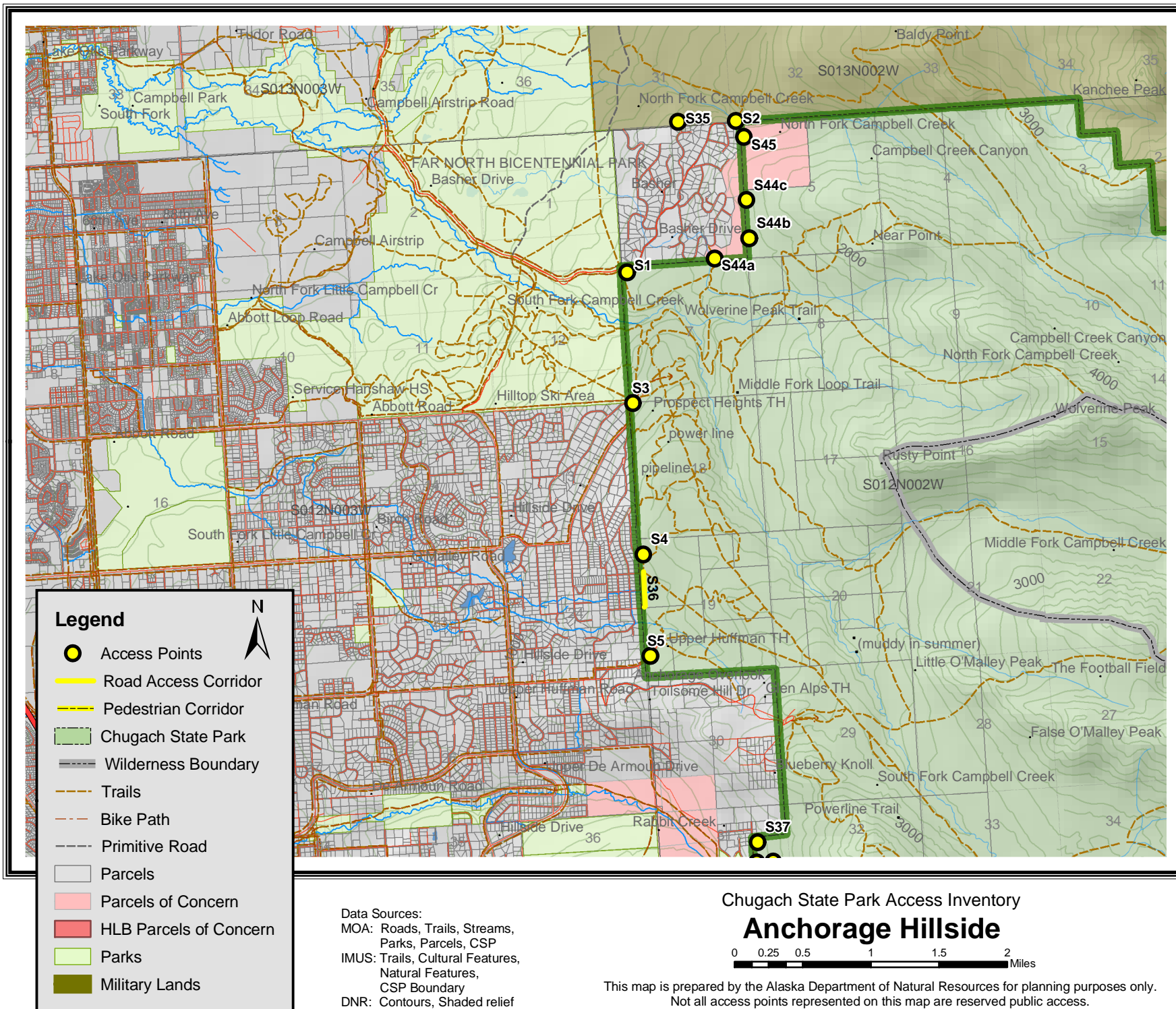
- Access Points
- Road Access Corridor
- Pedestrian Corridor
- Chugach State Park
- Wilderness Boundary
- Trails
- Bike Path
- Primitive Road
- Parcels
- Parcels of Concern
- HLB Parcels of Concern
- Parks
- Military Lands

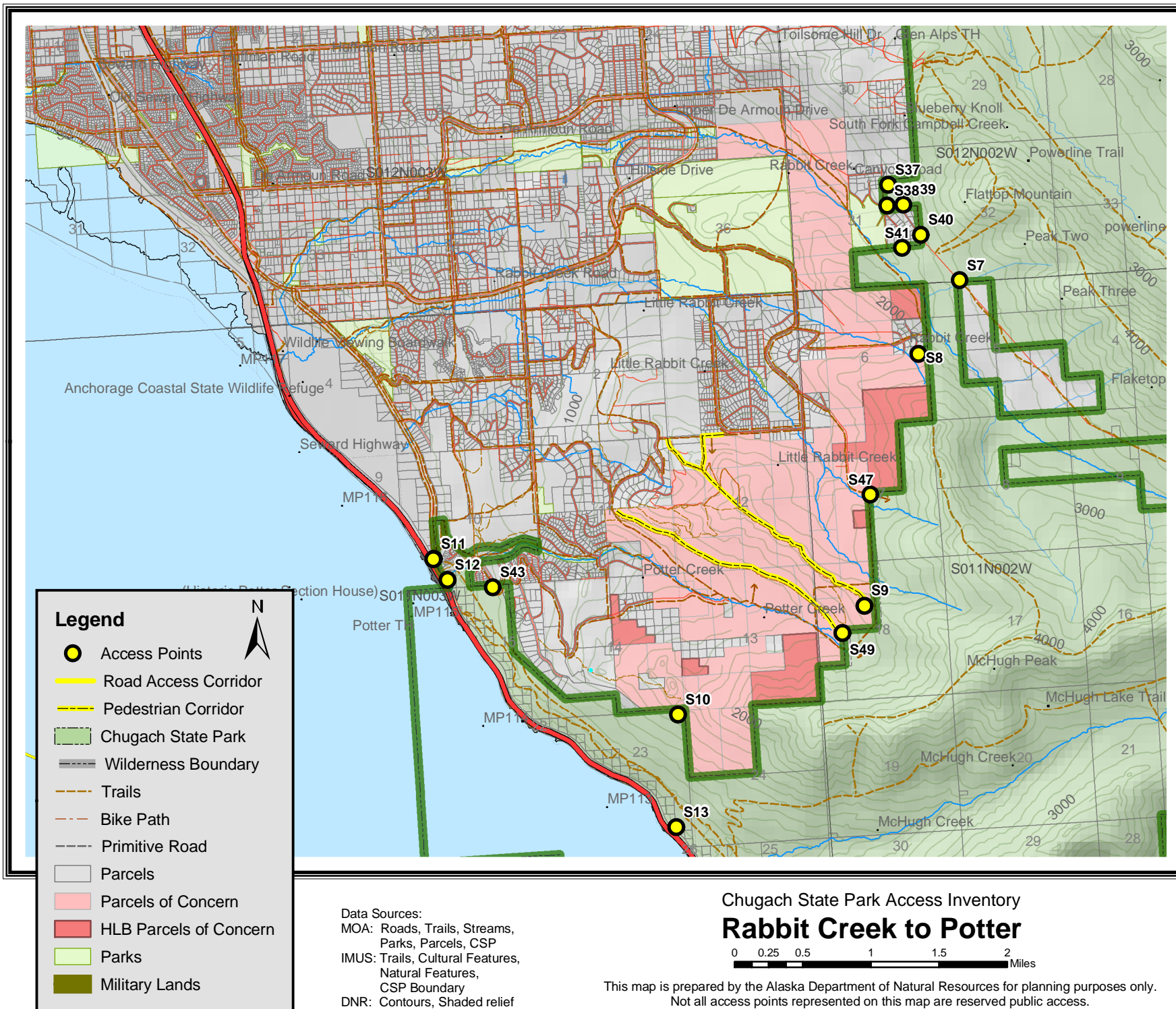
Data Sources:
 MOA: Roads, Trails, Streams,
 Parks, Parcels, CSP
 IMUS: Trails, Cultural Features,
 Natural Features,
 CSP Boundary
 DNR: Contours, Shaded relief
 Township and Section line grid

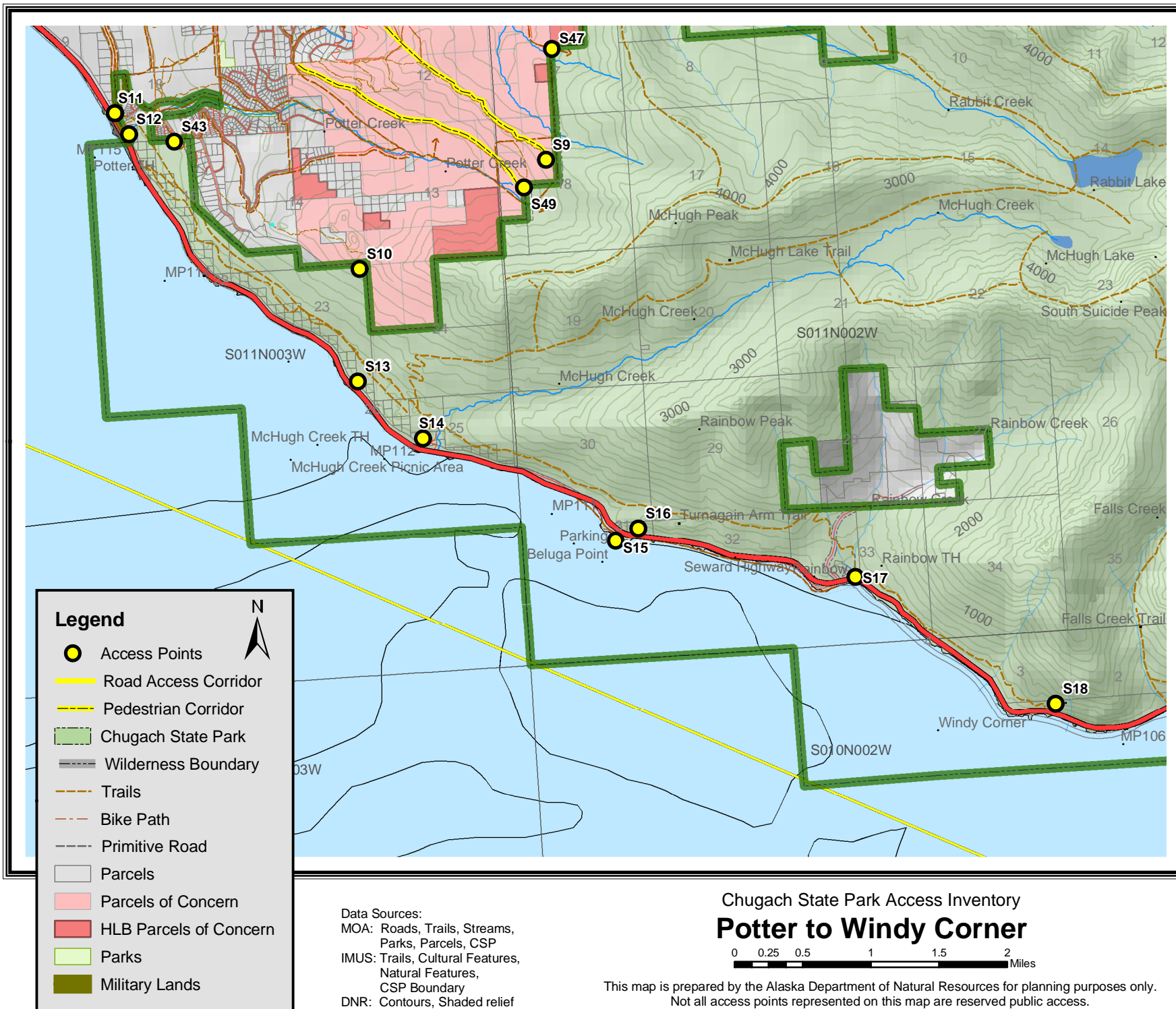
Chugach State Park Access Inventory Muldoon, Stuckagain Heights

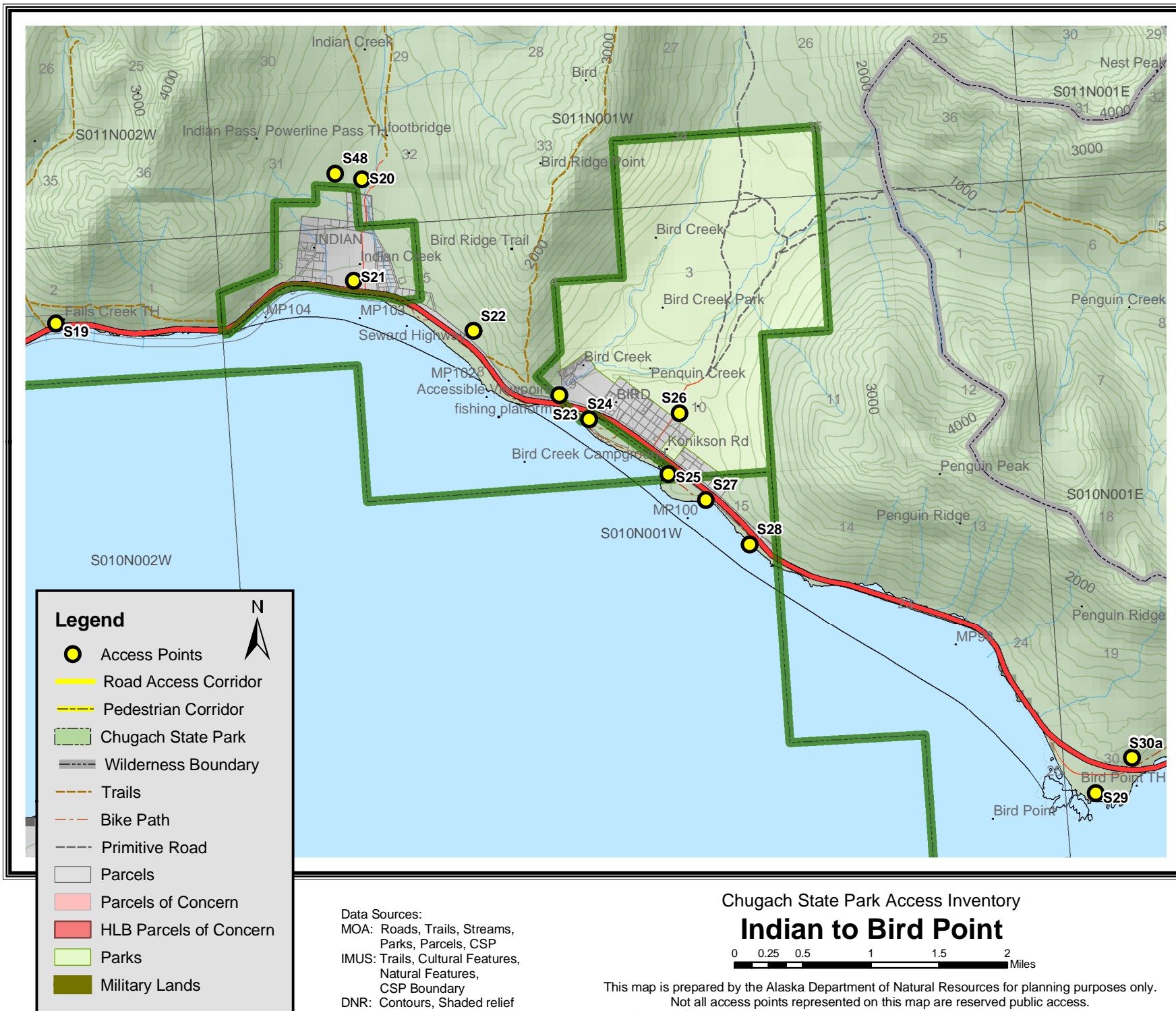
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

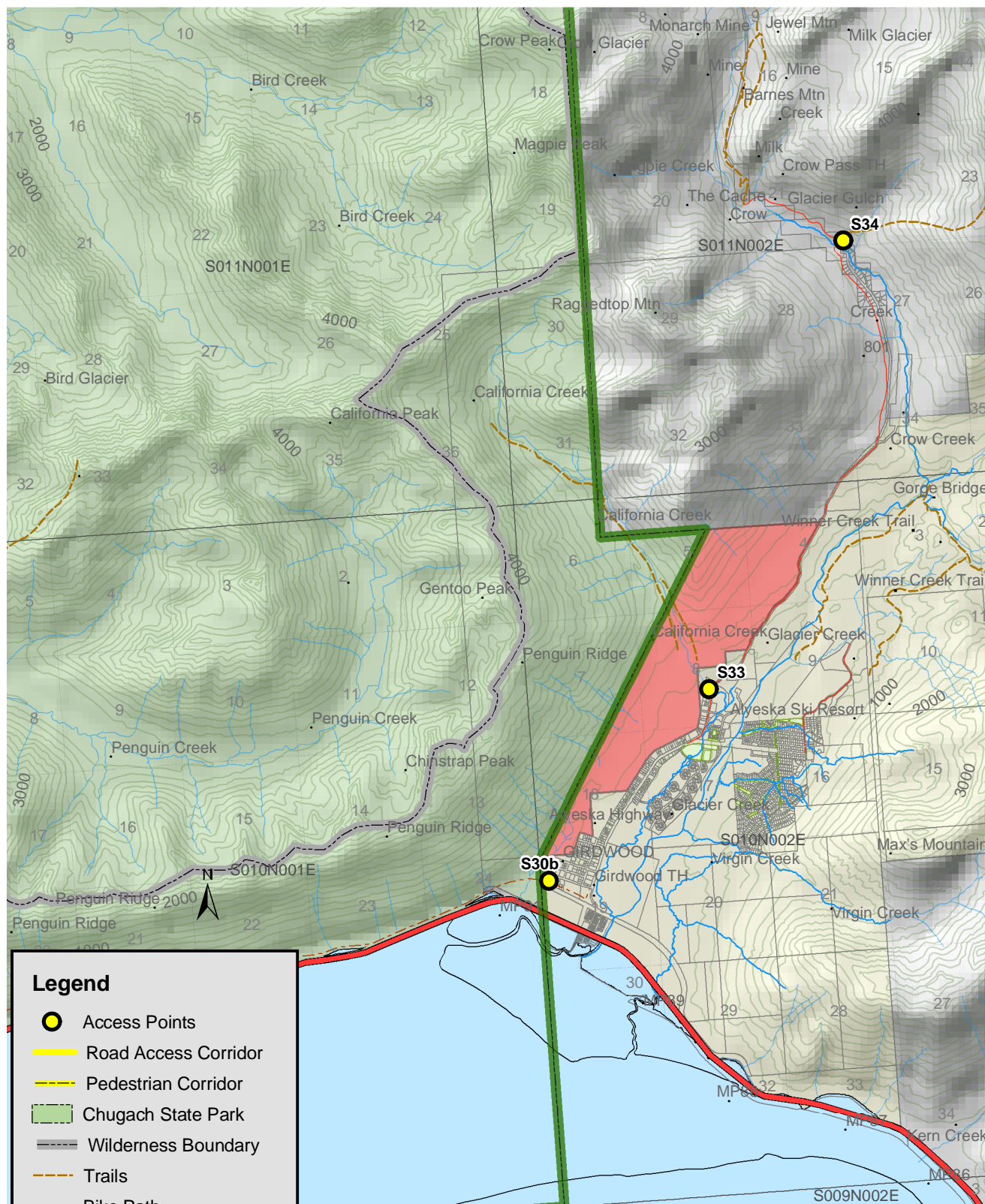
This map is prepared by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for planning purposes only.
 Not all access points represented on this map are reserved public access.
 Chugach State Park users should access Chugach State Park via marked trailheads only.











Legend

- Access Points
- Road Access Corridor
- Pedestrian Corridor
- Chugach State Park
- Wilderness Boundary
- Trails
- Bike Path
- Primitive Road
- Parcels
- Parcels of Concern
- HLB Parcels of Concern
- Parks
- Military Lands

Data Sources:
 MOA: Roads, Trails, Streams,
 Parks, Parcels, CSP
 IMUS: Trails, Cultural Features,
 Natural Features,
 CSP Boundary
 DNR: Contours, Shaded relief
 Township and Section line grid

Chugach State Park Access Inventory Girdwood

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

This map is prepared by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for planning purposes only.
 Not all access points represented on this map are reserved public access.
 Chugach State Park users should access Chugach State Park via marked trailheads only.