

1 **Chapter 6 - Unit Specific Management**

2
3 **Introduction**

4
5 This chapter of the plan identifies management units and provides unit specific management
6 intent and management and facility recommendations. The management intent and
7 recommendations for each unit build upon plan information, area-wide intent, and land-use
8 zone guidelines presented in previous chapters. It makes specific recommendations on how
9 each unit should be managed to meet the area-wide and unit specific intent and guidelines,
10 and what facilities are needed to accommodate current and future recreation. For more
11 detailed trail information, see Appendix F - Trail Plan.
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13

14 **Management Units**

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16 Management units have been identified based on geographic and use similarities, the land use
17 zones, and information presented in previous chapters of this plan. See Map 9 - Management
18 Units on page 109 for a depiction of the units. Management of these park system units not
19 only needs to be responsive to current types and levels of recreational use but must also
20 provide management direction for the level of development and use that is expected to occur
21 over the next 20 years. The management intent and guidelines and the management and
22 facility recommendations provided in this chapter are consistent with the more specific
23 management direction provided for the land-use zones in the previous chapter. The unit
24 specific management intent and guidelines build upon the area-wide intent and guidelines
25 provided in Chapter 5.
26

27 This chapter provides a brief description and an overview of the current uses for each unit. A
28 table is included that details the existing facilities that occur within each unit. Following this
29 background information, the management intent, facility recommendations, and management
30 recommendations are provided for each unit.
31

32 **Unit Descriptions**

33 Unit descriptions include a brief overview of the size and location of the unit, how access
34 to the unit is provided, and a detailed description of the natural environment.
35

36 **Current Uses**

37 Uses that currently occur within the unit are described in greater detail.
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1 **Existing Facilities and Trails**

2 Within this section a table identifies the existing facilities that are found in the unit and
3 the amenities available at each one. Trails are listed at the bottom of the table to provide
4 a comprehensive overview of what opportunities currently exist.

5
6 **Management Intent**

7 The management intent provides a desired future condition for each of the units
8 consistent with the legislative purposes of the parks and the area-wide intent and
9 guidelines.

10
11 **Land Use Zones**

12 Lands classified into different land use zones are identified in this section.

13
14 **Special Management Considerations**

15 Special considerations such as private lands, viewsheds, or cultural concerns are
16 presented in this section. Where identified, adjudicatory staff should consider these items
17 in their siting and design processes.

18
19 **Facility and Trail Recommendations**

20 Facility and trail recommendations are described and a desired outcome of the
21 recommendations is identified for the units. DPOR may develop these recommendations
22 as staffing and funding allows, or facilitate development by a non-governmental group.
23 Locations of facilities and trails provided in this section of the plan are intended to be
24 general in nature. The exact location of a facility or trail is dependent upon more detailed
25 site analysis and design work that is done as part of a specific project.

26
27 Within the Cottonwood Eastland and Grewingk Glacier Units (Maps 10 and 13), certain
28 trails are described as “proposed trails.” These trails were not ground truthed by DPOR
29 staff. These trails are included to convey the concept of areas where multiple trails
30 should be developed to facilitate increase public recreation opportunities. The location of
31 these trails was a product of in office analysis of available imagery and slope
32 information. The number and location of trails to be constructed will be based on an on
33 the ground analysis.

34
35 An 85-mile long “Coast to Coast Trail” from Mallard Bay on the south side of Kachemak
36 Bay to Gore Point on the Outer Coast could be formed by linking existing and proposed
37 trails. The Coast to Coast Trail would start in the Northern Management Unit; pass
38 through the Grewingk Glacier, Halibut Cove – China Poot, and Sadie-Tutka Units; and
39 continue over the mountains on the Tutka Taylor Trail to end in the Outer Coast Unit.
40 The last column in the tables notes if a proposed trail is conceived as part of the Coast to
41 Coast Trail.

42
43 The units identified and addressed in this plan are:

- 44
45 • Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit (2,643 acres)

- 1 • Diamond Creek Management Unit (324 acres)
- 2 • Eveline Management Unit (79 acres)
- 3 • Grewingk Glacier Management Unit (8,901 acres)
- 4 • Halibut Cove – China Poot Management Unit (28,166 acres)
- 5 • Northern Management Unit (12,254 acres)
- 6 • Outer Coast Management Unit (187,762 acres)
- 7 • Overlook Park Management Unit (254 acres)
- 8 • Sadie-Tutka Management Unit (39,069 acres)

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The planning units on the south side are defined by topographic features as well as the boundary of KBSWP, while units on the north side are defined by designated boundaries. Each will be described in this chapter individually regarding its setting, current use, existing facilities, special considerations, and recommendations for future management.

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Map 9 - Management Units

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2 **Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit**

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4 **Unit Description**

5 The Cottonwood Eastland Unit is composed of the Cottonwood Eastland parcels of KBSP.
6 Combined, these cover 2,635 acres on the north side of Kachemak Bay (see Map 10 -
7 Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit, pg. 115). This unit is surrounded mainly by private
8 properties to the west and north, and Kachemak Bay to the south. The Cottonwood-Eastland
9 parcels are legislatively designated portions of KBSP, with most of the lands added after the
10 EVOS settlement. These lands are 18 miles east of Homer, lying between East End Road
11 and the bay. The two larger parcels are separated by the 153-acre parcel of state land
12 acquired in 1997 for the purpose of managing it as part of KBSP. Within the Cottonwood
13 Eastland unit are four private parcels totaling just under 57 acres (where the plan does not
14 apply) and six parcels of state-owned land totaling just over 118 acres that are
15 administratively managed as part of KBSP. One of these parcels provides access to this park
16 unit from East End Road near Eastland Creek.

17
18 This unit is characterized by southeast sloping terrain that falls precipitously at a bluff to
19 Kachemak Bay. Deeply incised, northwest-southeast trending ravines bisect the middle and
20 southern portions of the unit. These ravines make access through the entire unit challenging.
21 The exception is a large area of land in the northern part of the unit that would be suitable to
22 both trail and facility development. East End Road provides direct access to this portion of
23 the unit.

24
25 The vast majority (97%/2,535 acres) of this unit is forest, with less than 45 acres (2%) of the
26 area being freshwater environments along the five streams that enter the bay from the unit.
27 The remaining area is composed of coastal/estuarine habitat along the north side of
28 Kachemak Bay. Since a 2009 burn, 400 acres of the forest area is now Calamagrostis/shrub
29 dominated habitat.

30
31 **Current Uses**

32 Due to lack of parking, facilities, and quality trails, use of the Cottonwood Management Unit
33 is currently limited, although there are some user defined trails. Hunting occurs in this unit
34 for moose, bear, and game birds. Some of the heaviest use originates at beach access points.
35 Camping is common where Cottonwood Creek dumps into Kachemak Bay – this site is a
36 designated stop on the Kachemak Bay Water Trail.

37
38 **Existing Facilities and Trails**

39 No DPOR constructed or maintained facilities or trails exist in this unit.

40
41 **Management Intent**

42 With moderate to high-density development within a portion of the unit, and low-level
43 development in the remainder of the unit, visitors from far and wide can experience the
44 scenic beauty of KBSP without having to cross the bay. More intensive road-based and trail-

1 based recreation opportunities should be facilitated where access and terrain can support this
2 level of use with minimal impact to resources. A campground facility with recreational
3 vehicle camping opportunities should be developed. Trails within the recreational
4 development zone should be developed as multi-modal trails capable of accommodating
5 moderate to high levels of hiking and biking use. The remainder of the unit within the
6 natural zone will be managed to facilitate low levels of use. ADA accessible trails and public
7 use cabins and barrier free facilities should also be developed in this unit.
8

9 **Land Use Zones**

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11 **Recreational Development**

12 Approximately 1,264 acres of land essentially east of the north fork of Eastland Creek are
13 classified as recreational development. Lands in this zone should be developed to facilitate
14 road-based recreation access and provide multi-modal trail-based recreation opportunities.
15

16 **Natural**

17 All other lands in this unit are classified as Natural, and as such, development and use should
18 be low to moderate impact. Development in this zone shall be limited to those facilities and
19 trails that facilitate public use and access and enjoyment of the scenic resources.
20

21 **Special Management Considerations**

22 DPOR should, to the greatest extent practicable, minimize visual and audio impacts to
23 adjacent private properties through appropriate siting and design of facilities and trails.
24 Clearing of trees is expected on some trails, overlook sites, or viewing platforms.
25

26 **Facility and Trail Recommendations**

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Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
CE-01	Campground	Provide new road-based camping opportunities within KBSP. This will be accomplished through development of a campground that offers tent and recreational vehicle sites and potable water. Up to three public use cabins could be incorporated into the campground. All three public use cabins should be ADA accessible and barrier free. One of the cabins should serve as a host cabin seasonally, and be available on the reservation system other times of the year.
CE-02	Trailhead	Facilitate access and use of proposed trail systems and public use cabins through development of a trailhead parking area. A public toilet should be provided at the trailhead.

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Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
CE-03	Viewing Platform	Facilitate public visitation and viewing state park lands through development of an ADA-accessible viewing platform.
CE-04	Trailhead	Facilitate access and use of proposed trail systems in the southern portion of the unit through development of a trailhead parking area. Public toilet should be provided at trailhead.
CE-05	Public Use Cabin	Provide overnight accommodations at up to two trail-accessible public use cabins. At least one of these cabins should be developed as ADA accessible.
CE-06	Public Use Cabin	Provide overnight accommodations at a trail-accessible public use cabin.
CE-07	Terra Trails	Develop looped multi-modal trails designed for bicycle use and managed for hiking. Other uses would include skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Should include Class 4 trails that provide ADA accessibility to viewing overlooks, the campground, the parking area, and the viewing platform. Other multi-modal trails should be developed as Class 3 biking and hiking trails that offer a diversity of looped options. Trails should also be developed to access the beach on Kachemak Bay.
CE-08	Terra Trails	Greatly enhance biking, skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking opportunities through development of multi-modal trails. Trails should be developed as Class 3 biking and hiking trails that provide access within the southern portion of the unit as well as access to the beach of Kachemak Bay. When completed, trails will link the two developed trailheads.

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Map 10 - Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit

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2 **Diamond Creek Management Unit**

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4 **Unit Description**

5 The Diamond Creek Unit is composed of the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, a 324-
6 acre minimally developed area located about 1 ½ miles north of Homer at milepost 167 of
7 the Sterling Highway. (See Map 11 - Diamond Creek Unit Management Unit on pg. 121.)

8 This unit is composed of five parcels of state land that are administratively designated as a
9 State Recreation Site and are managed by DPOR via management rights¹ or agreement².

10 There are no inholders in this small unit.

11
12 The unit is characterized by relatively flat uplands bisected by the ravine formed by Diamond
13 Creek. The uplands drop precipitously to Kachemak Bay at the bluff and are incised by
14 many steep ravines. This unit is mainly treed, with more than 301 acres of forest (93% of the
15 area). A stream cuts through the south side of the unit, with just under 10 acres (3%) of
16 freshwater wetland environments. The remaining lands along the Cook Inlet coastline are
17 coastal/estuarine habitat.

18
19 Access to the unit is via the Sterling Highway, which runs just to the east of the unit. Within
20 the unit, a nearly mile-long gravel road provides access to a small parking area near the
21 western edge. Multiple pull-off areas provide additional parking along the road.

22
23 **Current Uses**

24 Diamond Creek SRS is easily accessible from the Sterling Highway, and is used by
25 birdwatchers, horseback riders, dog walkers, cyclists, and hikers throughout the year. The
26 Homer Cycling Club (HCC) has developed approximately 2 miles of multi-modal trails in
27 the unit – most of the trail use is by mountain bike.

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29 **Existing Facilities and Trails**

30 Facilities are limited to an access road that is minimally maintained by DPOR and the trails
31 currently developed and maintained by HCC. Please see Appendix F - Trail Plan for detailed
32 information on trails.

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34 **Facilities**

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Facility	Comments
Access road and parking area	The 3/4 -mile long road originates at the Sterling Highway and continues west to a small (circa 3,000 sq ft) parking area. A traffic control gate is located at the beginning of the road.

¹ See [ADL 228211](#) for four parcels

² [ADL 228240](#)

1 **Trails**

2 Approximately .5 mile multi-use trail allows beach access. The Homer Cycling Club has
3 constructed trails in a loop near the highway and an out-and-back trail that provides access to
4 the beach.
5

Trail Name	Comments
Beach Access	At just over ½-mile, this trail provides access from the parking area at the end of the access road to the beach at Kachemak Bay. This trail is currently in poor condition.
Diamond Creek Single Track	Several miles of trails managed by Kachemak Bay Bike Club. Trails offer moderately difficult single-track nonmotorized bicycling and are also used by hikers.
Old Access Road	0.75 miles long

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7 **Management Intent**

8 Intent is to continue to manage this unit to provide trails that enhance biking opportunities.
9 Stewardship by local cycling groups to maintain, enhance, and expand the trail system should
10 also continue to be encouraged. Multiple use access to the beach should be maintained on
11 the existing beach access trail. The steep bluff area in the southern portion of the unit should
12 be retained in a natural state.
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14 **Land Use Zones**

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16 **Recreational Development**

17 Approximately 241 acres of this unit is classified as a Recreational Development Zone. As a
18 state recreation site, this unit is intended to be intensively managed to provide for one or
19 more outdoor recreational opportunities. In this case, the site is intended to be managed to
20 enhance single track biking opportunities and to provide access to the beach on Kachemak
21 Bay.
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23 **Natural**

24 Approximately 83 acres of land in the southern portion of the unit will be classified into a
25 natural zone. This area is comprised of a steep bluff with many steep ravines which make it
26 less suitable for development.
27

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28 **Special Management Considerations**

29 Trail development should not exacerbate erosion occurring within the unit. The beach access
30 trail should be signed to notify visitors of the various allowed trail uses.
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1 **Facility and Trail Recommendations**

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Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
DC-01	Parking Area and Materials Storage	<p>Enhance access through development of a small parking area near the Sterling Highway. Associated with this parking area is a materials storage area. The storage of trail building materials on-site will facilitate maintenance of existing trails and development of new trails.</p> <p>Realign park access road at Sterling Highway with Diamond Ridge Road. Vacate existing road easement.</p>
DC-02	Public Use Cabin	Develop a public use cabin to provide overnight accommodations.
DC-03	Public Toilet	Develop a public outhouse near the terminus of the beach access trail.
DC-04	Beach Access Trail	Redevelop the existing trail as a Class 4 terra trail. This trail should facilitate access by a wide range of methods, including pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian.
DC-05	Looped Trails	Development of new looped, Class 3 trails will greatly expand recreation opportunities in this unit.

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PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

*Chapter 6 - Unit Specific
Management*

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Map 11 - Diamond Creek Management Unit

Eveline Management Unit

Unit Description

The Eveline Unit shares the footprint of the 79-acre Eveline State Recreation Site located 15 miles east of Homer. (See Map 12 - Eveline Management Unit on page 127.) Eveline offers hiking opportunities in the spring, summer, and fall and Nordic ski trails in the winter that are widely used by local residents. Sweeping views of the bay and mountains beyond can be had from this site. This unit was donated to the state in the name of Eveline Schuster, who “especially loved the wildflowers as they blew gently in a summer breeze.”³ Eveline SRS is owned by DNR and was administratively designated as an SRS is managed by DPOR via management right.⁴ Nordic ski trails in this unit are managed by the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club (KNSC). The unit is accessible from East End Road via Alpine Meadows Drive, which bisects the eastern portion of the unit. A small, minimally developed parking area off Alpine Meadows Drive provides vehicle access.

The unit is wooded, with large copses of trees separated by open shrublands. The entire area is classified as forest habitat. Due to its significant trail network, the entire unit is zoned as recreational development.

Current Uses

This SRS is used by Nordic skiers in the winter and walkers in the summer, in addition to use as an outdoor educational space for nearby schools. In 2011, volunteers contributed more than 250 hours of service upgrading and maintaining trails in the site.⁵ The trail difficulty is low in this mostly gentle terrain. There are usually trail maps and often a flower guide or other educational display at the trailhead bulletin board that is maintained by volunteers. Summer use is hampered by the generally waterlogged condition of soils in this area. This area is currently designated as a no hunting unit.

Existing Facilities and Trails

This small unit plays a large part in the integrated Nordic ski trail systems in this area. Current facilities include a parking area and toilets. Approximately 3 miles of looped trails (including a short wheelchair-accessible trail to a viewing platform) are found in the unit.

Facilities

The only facilities in this unit are a trailhead, parking lot, viewing platform, and outhouse.

³ “Giving back to, getting back from the land,” Homer News, June 28, 2007, http://homernews.com/stories/062807/oped_4a_019.shtml

⁴ ADL 228451

⁵ “A Taste of the Outdoors for everyone's appetite” In our own backyard, Michael Armstrong, Homer News, July 18, 2012, http://homernews.com/stories/071812/backyard_taste.shtml

Facility	Comments
Eveline Schuster Parking Area	Small parking area lies directly adjacent to Alpine Meadows Drive. Public outhouses are located near this parking area.

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Trails

Many short trails loop through this unit. Together, they total approximately 3 miles of trails.

Trail	Comments
Eveline Schuster Trails	Managed and groomed for skiing cooperatively with KNSC (3.1 miles). Relatively easy hiking and Nordic ski trails (in the winter) with scenic views and wildlife and vegetation viewing opportunities in the summer. Fewer trails usable in the summer due to wet areas.

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Management Intent

This unit is zoned recreational development, and as such should be managed to enhance recreation potential, with a concentration on Nordic ski use in the winter and foot traffic in the summer. This unit should be managed to facilitate moderate to high-density recreation and to accommodate high levels of recreational use through necessary facility development such as terra trails and appropriate toilet infrastructure. Focus should be on enhancing recreation opportunities and enabling visitors to experience and reflect on the scenic resources in this unit and those visible across the bay. Use of bicycles should not be allowed or authorized on trails in this unit and ADA accessibility should be enhanced where possible.

DPOR should continue to work with the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club to facilitate additional Nordic skiing opportunities, and also encourage walking, picnicking, scenery viewing, and school educational use.

Land Use Zones

Recreational Development

The entire 79 acres of this unit is classified as a Recreational Development Zone. As a state recreation site, this unit is intended to be intensively managed to provide for one or more outdoor recreational opportunities. In this case, the site is intended to be managed to enhance winter skiing and summer hiking in addition to providing scenic viewing opportunities.

Special Management Considerations

The State accepted title to these lands subject to restrictions on use as follows: 1. The property will only be used for public park purposes; 2. The property will not be used for motorized recreation, except for accessing a parking facility and for developing and

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1 maintaining trails and facilities; 3. The property will be named after Eveline Schuster and a
2 memorial may be constructed on the site; and, 4. These restrictions will run with the land.

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4 **Facility and Trail Recommendations**

5 Eveline is well located to enable ADA access to view scenery within the unit and KBSP
6 across the bay. Enhanced parking and additional trails will facilitate and enhance winter and
7 summer use. See Appendix F – Trail Plan.

8

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
EV-01	Parking Area and Materials Storage	Enhance access through redevelopment of a small parking area accessible from Alpine Meadows Drive. Install an orientation kiosk. A materials storage area should be developed to facilitate trail development and maintenance. Public outhouses should be redeveloped as part of this facility redevelopment. Develop a warming shelter for winter use, that may also be used for group rentals.
EV-02	Looped Trails	Redevelopment existing looped trails as sustainable terra trails to enhance recreation opportunities in this small unit. The existing trail to the viewing platform should be redeveloped as a Class 4 terra trail that is ADA accessible.

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Map 12 - Eveline Management Unit

Grewingk Glacier Management Unit

Unit Description

The Grewingk Glacier unit occupies 8,902 acres on the south side of Kachemak Bay, generally encompassing the area around Grewingk Lake, Grewingk Glacier, and Grewingk Creek (see Map 13 - Grewingk Glacier Management Unit, page 135). Of this, approximately 16 acres is privately owned with another 120 acres in federal ownership. This is one of the most heavily used portions of KBSP, with significant numbers of visitors hiking the Saddle Trail from Halibut Cove or the Glacier Trail from Glacier Spit to Grewingk Glacier and back. Facilities in this unit include a developed campsite near Glacier Spit and an equipment storage area and public outhouse at Grewingk Lake. Currently there are approximately 16 miles of trails in the unit. A number of concessionaries use this area, offering a yurt for rent at Right Beach and stand-up paddle boards for rent at Grewingk Lake.

Access to this unit is costly for visitors from outside of the area and requires some logistic work in advance of visitation. Local area residents access the site through use of boats and aircraft, including using commercial operators. The Grewingk Glacier unit supports some hunting use, including access to alpine environments from the Emerald Lake and Alpine Ridge trails.

The unit is divided into two zones – a Recreational Development Zone and a Natural Zone. The Recreational Development Zone extends east-west from the middle of Grewingk Lake to Kachemak Bay and north-south from Humpy Creek to the ridge north of Halibut Creek. The Natural Zone is bordered on the east by the state park boundary, to the south by Halibut Creek, and to the west by the Recreational Development Zone and to the north by Humpy Creek.

The terminus of Grewingk Glacier peaks into this unit from the east above Grewingk Lake. Grewingk Creek travels across the Grewingk outwash plain which has significant stands of alder and willow growing in the cobbly outwash material.

Current Uses

Popular activities include hiking, kayaking, exploring the beach, looking for wildlife, watching icebergs in Grewingk Lake, glacier viewing, and camping. This is one of the most visited portions of the park, with many users taking a water taxi from Homer to hike to Grewingk Lake and back. Other uses include stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking at Grewingk Lake, glacier travel, and hunting. Game species pursued in this unit include mountain goats, bear (black and brown), game birds (upland and waterfowl), and moose.

Existing Facilities and Trails

While this unit experiences much of the total use of the lands on this side of the bay, it has surprisingly little development to support that use. This unit's trail system consists of five terra trails that provide access to Grewingk Lake, Creek, and Glacier; Emerald Lake; and

1 Halibut Cove. Access through this unit to adjacent units is possible on existing trails. Two
 2 coastal trailheads, one on Glacier Spit and one in Halibut Cove, provide access from coast.
 3 Overnight use is accommodated at four developed campsites or by staying in the single yurt
 4 operated by a concessionaire.

5
 6 **Facilities**

7 Four identified campsites and one yurt currently exist in the Grewingk unit.
 8

Facility	Comments
Campsite Glacier Spit	Site includes a primitive campsite, outhouse, registration box, and traffic counter.
Campsite Grewingk Creek	Primitive campsite adjacent to a creek and near Grewingk Hand Tram.
Grewingk Hand Tram	Hand tram connects trail systems in the Grewingk Glacier Unit to those in the Northern Unit.
Equipment Storage Area Grewingk Lake	Small area where small boats and equipment are stored for commercial use as part of a concession contract.
Public Outhouse Grewingk Lake	Public outhouse located near the terminus of the Glacier Lake trail.
Yurt Right Beach	Yurt is located southeast of the Glacier Spit Trailhead. There is room for tents at Rusty's campsite on the beach berm, so accommodation in the yurt can be combined with tent camping. Two campsites (Left Beach and Right Beach) exist in area of Kachemak Crack climbing wall.

9
 10 **Trails**

11 Five trails are completely contained within the Grewingk unit.
 12

Trail	Comments
Alpine Ridge	The 1.9-mile trail is a popular and quick route to alpine areas. The trail originates from near the high point on the Saddle Trail and follows a steep ridge through spruce and alder to alpine tundra, ending on a treeless knoll near 2,100 feet elevation. The trail offers moderate to difficult hiking opportunities and provides spectacular views of Grewingk Glacier.

Trail	Comments
Glacier Lake	Perhaps the most popular trail on the south side of the bay, this 1.9-mile trail offers an easy hike over flat terrain to Grewingk Lake. It originates at the Grewingk Glacier Trail and ends on the rocky beach at Grewingk Lake. At trail’s end, there is a pit privy and boat storage area (GG-07).
Grewingk Glacier	An easy 2.4 mile long trail providing the only developed access to Grewingk Glacier, this trail begins at Glacier Spit Trailhead and extends to the Grewingk Creek hand tram. It continues to the north side of the current terminus of the Grewingk Glacier within the adjacent management unit – the Northern Unit.
Saddle	This short and moderately difficult 1 mile trail traverses the relatively low ridge between the Grewingk flats and Halibut Cove. The trail originates on the Grewingk Lake Trail and ends at Halibut Cove to the southwest.
Lagoon	The total length of this trail is 5.9-miles, however only 2 miles of the trail lie within the Grewingk Glacier Unit. This trail originates on the Saddle Trail and ends at the delta of Halibut Creek where hikers need to ford the stream to continue the route. Hiking on the trail is considered moderate to difficult.

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Management Intent

The intent is to manage the Grewingk Glacier unit to accommodate moderate to high levels of diverse recreational use, while maintaining the scenic and natural resources. Redevelopment of existing trails and development of new trails will provide a connected looped system and enhance recreation opportunities and access to scenic lookouts throughout this unit. Bicycles may be allowed on designated trails after they have been redeveloped appropriately. New cabins and developed campsites will enhance overnight use opportunities.

Land Use Zones

Recreational Development

Approximately 3,729 acres of this MU is classified as Recreational Development. This zone is located on lands south of Grewingk Creek and west of Grewingk Lake. This area is already receiving high levels of use seasonally and includes the bulk of current trails and

1 facilities. Soils in this unit are amenable to trail development and can accommodate use with
2 minimal impact to the adjacent resources. Trails are recommended to be upgraded and
3 improved as specified in the Appendix F – Trail Plan.
4

5 **Natural**

6 The Natural zone of the Grewingk Glacier unit covers 5,173 acres of land northeast of
7 Grewingk Creek and west of the Grewingk Lake. Within the Natural zone, low-to-moderate
8 levels of use will be facilitated through limited redevelopment of existing trails.
9

10 **Special Management Considerations**

11 New or redeveloped access facilities, trails, and structures at Halibut Cove should be sited
12 and designed to minimize impacts, if possible, to adjacent private land. Helicopter landings
13 are currently authorized on Grewingk Glacier. As the glacier recedes, an alternate landing
14 site may need to be identified on adjacent land. A landslide along the hillside on the south
15 side of Grewingk Glacier slid into the lake and created a surface wave that impacted adjacent
16 lands. DPOR is currently partnering with organizations to evaluate the condition of the
17 mountain. Notices should be posted on the lake to inform the public of possible damaging
18 waves in this location.
19

20 **Facility and Trail Recommendations**
21

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
GG-01	Dock	Dock to facilitate improved access to Saddle Trail and Grewingk Lake.
GG-02	Mooring Buoy	Mooring Buoy to facilitate access to existing Saddle trail and Grewingk Lake area. Will be superseded by a dock.
GG-03	Campsite with Tent Platform	Campsite will facilitate overnight recreation by visitors to the Grewingk Lake area and people traveling through the unit on the proposed Coast to Coast Trail.
GG-04	Campsite with Tent Platform	Campsite will facilitate overnight recreation by visitors to the Grewingk Lake and Halibut Cove area and those hiking in the alpine via the Alpine Ridge Trail. Campsite will also accommodate overnight use by people traveling through the unit on the proposed Coast to Coast Trail.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
GG-05	Public Use Cabin	Beach accessible cabin will be situated inland of the current trailhead at Glacier Spit. This cabin will support enhanced recreation on multimodal trails and trails proposed for development at the Grewingk outwash plain to enable multiday stays.
GG-06	Public Use Cabin	Public Use Cabin on the southwest upland shore of Grewingk Lake to support recreational users of the Grewingk area and surrounding trails.
GG-07	Boat and Equipment Storage Area	Located at the terminus of the Glacier Lake Trail, an area will be identified for a structure designed for seasonal, secure storage of canoes and kayaks and equipment.
GG-08	Terra Trail	Alpine Ridge Trail will be redeveloped as a Class 3 terra trail to enhance access to the overlook at trail's end.
GG-09	Terra Trail	Glacier Lake Trail will be redeveloped as a Class 3 terra bicycle trail. It will be extended along the uplands on the west shore of Grewingk Lake and adjacent to Grewingk Creek to provide a looped trail that connects to the Grewingk Glacier Trail. This trail will expand recreation opportunities by providing hiking and biking multi-modal access. Segments of this new and redeveloped trail are part of the proposed Coast to Coast Trail.
GG-10	Terra Trail	Grewingk Glacier Trail will be redeveloped as a Class 3 terra trail designed for bicycle use. Segments of this trail are part of the proposed Coast to Coast Trail.
GG-11	Terra Trail	Rusty's Lagoon Trail will be redeveloped as a Class 3 terra trail designed for hiking.
GG-12	Terra Trail	The Saddle Trail will be redeveloped as a Class 3 terra trail designed for hiking. This trail is a segment of the proposed Coast to Coast Trail.
GG-13	Terra Trail	Additional Class 3 trails may be developed within the Recreational Development Zone. It is intended that these new trails would expand recreational biking and

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
		hiking use of the unit and provide access to scenic viewpoints. These trails should offer varying lengths of looped segments.
GG-14	Terra Trail	New Class 3 trail will provide access into the Halibut Creek Valley.

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Map 13 - Grewingk Glacier Management Unit

Halibut Cove – China Poot Management Unit

Unit Description

The Halibut Cove-China Poot unit comprises 28,166 acres between Kachemak Bay and the eastern edge of KBSP, just south of the Grewingk Glacier unit (see Map 14 - Halibut Cove China Poot Management Unit, page 145). This unit has many facilities and is visited often half of questionnaire respondents reporting visiting this area. The unit includes: the lowlands on the south side of Halibut Cove and surrounding Halibut Cove Lagoon; China Poot Lake; Hazel Lake; Moose Valley; and China Poot Peak and extends into the Kenai Mountains.

A wide variety of habitats are found in this unit, ranging from estuarine wetlands to alpine. These include the Halibut Cove Lagoon and China Poot estuaries; saltwater beaches; glacier moraines and outwash plains; spruce and hemlock forests; and alpine tundra.

This unit is bordered by the community of Halibut Cove – a regional tourist attraction. Several well-known resort lodges are in or near this unit, chiefly in Halibut Cove, Peterson Bay and China Poot Bay. The unit has also seen a moderate amount of additional private development.

A relatively new industry in the area is commercial oyster and mussel farming, with mariculture facilities just outside the park units. The farms are known for raising some of the most desirable shellfish in the world.

The Halibut Cove-China Poot units are divided into two zones – Recreational Development and Natural. The Recreational Development Zone is located on the east side of Halibut Cove Lagoon and extends southerly to the north shore of China Poot Lake. The remainder of the unit is zoned Natural.

Current Uses

Tour boats and water taxis from Homer bring many visitors to the community of Halibut Cove (which neighbors this unit) and to trailheads within the unit. Visitors to the park and residents of Halibut Cove can access the unit via water taxi, aircraft, or overland trail. Other visitors can be dropped off by water taxi in the Halibut Cove and China Poot areas to hike or kayak. This unit offers four looped trails that provide access to five public use cabins and five developed campsites. Poot Peak is a popular hiking destination for those seeking a rigorous adventure, while the other trails traverse flat to rolling topography. The five public use cabins in this unit are booked almost continuously during the summer season (June through August) with increased availability during the fall and winter seasons. Two yurts, operated under a concession contract, also provide overnight accommodations.

1 King salmon fishing is popular at times in park waters. In July, sockeye salmon are harvested
2 from China Poot Creek in the Kachemak Bay Personal Use Dip Net Fishery. These sockeye
3 are a hatchery return, originating from broodstock collected in Tutka Bay by Cook Inlet
4 Aquaculture Association and released as fry into China Poot Lake the following year. In
5 addition, China Poot Lake offers good fishing and camping – floatplane access is common.
6 Most of the park’s existing trailheads and campsites are in this unit, concentrated within
7 3 miles of Halibut Cove Lagoon.

8
9 Hunting also occurs in this unit for black bear, moose, mountain goats, and game birds. Most
10 mountain goat hunting in the unit is accessed via the trails that provide relatively easy access
11 to the alpine. Moose hunting is concentrated in the lower valley regions of the unit and black
12 bears and game birds are hunted throughout the unit with most waterfowl hunting occurring
13 on the coast.

14
15 **Existing Facilities and Trails**

16
17 **Facilities**

18 Halibut Cove Lagoon is the former site of a salmon hatchery, with many of the buildings re-
19 purposed for park use, including the ranger station, staff bunkhouse, maintenance shed, and
20 other facilities. The ranger station is staffed full-time during the main summer season by
21 DPOR staff and volunteers. Three public use cabins are available in the Halibut Cove
22 Lagoon area: Lagoon Overlook Cabin, Halibut Cove East Cabin, and Halibut Cove West
23 Cabin. In addition, two tent campsites are available in the lagoon area. Elsewhere in the
24 unit, there are two additional PUCs, three campsites, and two yurts.
25

Facility	Comments
Public Use Cabin China Poot Lake	16’x16’ cabin sleeps 6 and is located on the shores of scenic China Poot Lake. The lake is approximately 2.4 trail miles from Halibut Cove Lagoon trailhead or 13 air miles from Homer. Air taxis can land on the lake, but there is no dock facility at the cabin. Water is available from the lake and a woodstove for heating.
Public Use Cabin Halibut Cove Lagoon East	16’x16’ cabin sleeps 6 and is located on a rock bluff that overlooks the lagoon and the Halibut Cove Lagoon Public Dock. The 1-room cabin is equipped with a double wooden bunk, a wooden sleeping platform, table, counter, and benches. A latrine is nearby. During the summer months water may be available at the East and Overlook cabins but the system may be down at any time for several reasons. A woodstove is available for heat. This cabin is designed for persons with mobility disabilities.

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Facility	Comments
Public Use Cabin Halibut Cove Lagoon Overlook	16'x20' cabin sleeps 8 and is located on a rocky point, overlooking the lagoon. Access the cabin at the Halibut Cove Lagoon Public Dock. The 2-bedroom cabin is equipped with double wooden bunks, a table, counter, and chairs or benches. A latrine is nearby. During the summer months water may be available at the East and Overlook cabins but the system may be down at any time for several reasons. A woodstove is available for heat.
Public Use Cabin Halibut Cove Lagoon West	16'x16' cabin sleeps 6 and is located on a rock bluff overlooking the lagoon. The cabin sits just east of the Halibut Cove Lagoon Trailhead. A long, steep stairway to the beach or a short trail to the trailhead provide access. The 1-room cabin is equipped with a double wooden bunk, a wooden sleeping platform, table, counter, and benches. A latrine is nearby. During the summer months water may be available at a nearby stream. A woodstove is available for heat.
Public Use Cabin Moose Valley	12'x12' cabin sleeps 2 and is located just off the Moose Valley Loop trail. It is approximately 3.1 miles from the Halibut Cove Lagoon Ranger Station. Water can be taken from the stream just off the front porch. A small outhouse is nearby. A small woodstove is available for heat. The cabin is suitable for use later in the season as this trail is not normally cleared until mid to late June.
Administrative Cabins Halibut Cove Lagoon	Several cabins used by DPOR staff and volunteers are located south of the Halibut Cove Lagoon Dock slightly removed from the public use cabins. These buildings include a ranger station, a bunkhouse for volunteers and trail maintenance crews, and a cooking structure.
Dock Halibut Cove Lagoon	This facility consists of a large floating dock and an articulating ramp that provides moorage and access to the facilities and trails in this unit.
Campsite China Poot (Coalition Trailhead)	Tent platform, latrine, fire ring.
Campsite Halibut Cove Lagoon	Tent platform, latrine, fire ring.

Facility	Comments
Campsite Halibut Cove Lagoon Estuary	Developed campsite, latrine, fire ring.
Campsite Moose Valley	5.2 miles from Halibut Cove Lagoon trailhead, developed campsite, fire ring.
Campsite Halibut Cove Lagoon Trailhead	Tent platform, fire ring, latrine.
Yurt China Poot	Tucked on the north side of the very shallow China Poot Bay, this yurt is accessible for most boats when the tide provides a minimum of 8 feet of water.
Yurt Haystack Beach	Access is tidally dependent due to the shallow water approach. The yurt is about 100 yards from the drop-off on a wooded ledge just above beach level. The Wosnesenski River enters the bay almost a mile south of the site.

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Trails

There are seven trails in the Halibut Cove – China Poot unit, totaling more than 38 miles. Trail grades range from easy to difficult, with most trails in the moderate to difficult range. Significant on-going trail maintenance issues exist, including deadfall and overgrowth with many of the trails not receiving maintenance in the last several years.

Trail Name	Comments
China Poot Lake	This popular 2.6-mile trail gently climbs through the forest and over a low ridge passing two small lakes until it ends at China Poot Lake.
Coalition Loop	This 5.5-mile trail connects Halibut Cove Lagoon with China Poot Bay and China Poot Lake and then loops back to Halibut Cove Lagoon. The trail is dedicated to the Kachemak Bay Citizen’s Coalition.
Goat Rope Spur	This 1.5-mile, steep, minimally maintained route begins at the highest point on the Lagoon Trail and leads hikers up to alpine areas. Rock cairns mark the trail to an open alpine ridge, where the trail gently climbs to a summit. This summit rivals Poot Peak for its views, without the hazardous rocky climbs. Travel beyond the 3160-foot summit is difficult.

Trail Name	Comments
Lagoon	At 6.2-miles in length, this minimally maintained route connects the Grewingk Glacier and Halibut Cove - China Poot Management Units. From the Saddle Trail, the Lagoon Trail skirts above Halibut Cove, then drops to Halibut Creek Flats. There is no bridge at Halibut Creek, which must be forded. The trail is indicated by orange trail markers around the tidal flats. A series of steep switchbacks then climbs into spruce forest to an intersection with the Goat Rope Spur Trail, near timberline. The trail continues south, crossing a cascading creek and ends at the Halibut Cove ranger station after steep switchbacks.
Moose Valley	This 6.7-mile trail loop provides access to Two Loon Lake, a developed campsite, and ends on the Poot Peak Trail.
Poot Peak	This 4.6-mile trail begins at the China Poot Lake Campsite, then circles Poot Peak as it climbs the 2600-foot summit. This is a difficult trial and includes rock scrambling near the summit.
Wosnesenski River	This 11.3-mile trail originates on the Poot Peak Trail and continues to the coast at China Poot Spit.

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Management Intent

Halibut Cove and Halibut Cove Lagoon receive moderate to high levels of use seasonally. Because of its current and anticipated use patterns, existing facilities, adjacent community, and connectivity with an adjacent moderate to high use Management Unit (Grewingk Glacier), moderate to high levels of public use should continue to be facilitated and enhanced within this area. This unit should be managed to accommodate moderate to high numbers of visitors while protecting scenic qualities and continuing to be a good neighbor to the adjacent private land owners. There are numerous facilities in this unit, but some structures are not well suited for their current purpose and should be relocated, possibly outside of the unit, or repurposed. The existing ranger station at Halibut Cove Lagoon should be relocated to another area where access is not restricted at lower tides, and the existing structures should be repurposed for use as a group camp facility. Mooring buoys may be placed at trailheads and adjacent to proposed public use cabins or campsites. Land-based recreation will be enhanced through redevelopment of existing trails to sustainable standards and through providing looped trails and connector trails that link with adjacent trails. Public use cabins should be developed to facilitate land-based and water-based recreation, including usage of the proposed Coast to Coast Trail.

1 **Land Use Zones**

2
3 **Recreational Development**

4 Just over 2,828 acres of the Halibut Cove – China Poot unit are zoned Recreational
5 Development, focused around the existing facilities in Halibut Cove Lagoon and extending
6 westward and southward to China Poot Bay and China Poot Lake. These lands are at the
7 heart of KBSP on the south side of the bay, and further development is suggested to enhance
8 recreation opportunities and the connectivity with the Grewingk Glacier and Sadie-Tutka
9 Management Units.

10
11 **Natural**

12 The remaining area of the unit, nearly 22,943 acres, is zoned Natural, and should be managed
13 as a buffer to the Wilderness Zone to the east and south.

14
15 **Special Management Considerations**

16 A significant number of private parcels lie within or are adjacent to this unit. DPOR should,
17 to the greatest extent practicable, minimize visual and audio impacts to adjacent private
18 properties through siting and design of facilities, structures, and trails. Scenic viewsheds will
19 be maintained through visual screening of structures where possible. Only minimal clearing
20 of a site will be undertaken for construction and to enhance views.

21
22 **Facility and Trail Recommendations**

23

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
HC-01	Dock	Upgrade existing Halibut Cove Lagoon dock to meet surrounding facility needs.
HC-02	Mooring Buoy	Mooring Buoy to facilitate access to planned public use cabin (HC-10) and to looped trails within this Management Unit.
HC-03	Mooring Buoy	Mooring Buoy to facilitate access to facilities at the head of Halibut Cove Lagoon and planned public use cabin (HC-11) and tent platform (HC-04).
HC-04	Tent Platform	New platform will provide additional camping opportunities and facilitate use of higher density trails in this area and trails within the Grewingk unit. This platform may be converted to a public use cabin at a future date.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
HC-05	Tent Platform	Tent platform will enhance camping opportunities for people recreating in the Wosnesenski Glacier area and users on the proposed Coast to Coast Trail. This platform may be converted to a public use cabin at a future date.
HC-06	Tent Platform	Tent platform will enhance camping opportunities for visitors to China Poot Lake area and for people recreating on the looped trails within the larger area. This platform may be converted to a public use cabin at a future date.
HC-07	Tent Platform	Develop new tent platform to enhance camping opportunities on the existing Wosnesenski River Trail and China Poot Lake trails.
HC-08	Group Camp	If existing administrative structures at the Halibut Cove Ranger Stations are no longer needed; the structures will be re-purposed to provide a group camp area that can accommodate medium to large numbers of people as part of a group function.
HC-09	Public Use Cabin	New cabin at McKeon Flats will support recreational use of Kachemak Bay Water Trail and visitors to the larger area.
HC-10	Public Use Cabin	Construct new cabin near Coalition Trailhead to support use of looped trails within the Management Unit and water-based recreation including the Kachemak Bay Water Trail. This cabin will replace existing yurt.
HC-11	Public Use Cabin	New cabin near the mouth of Halibut Cove south of Halibut Creek will support use of Halibut Cove - China Poot trails and water-based recreation including the Kachemak Bay Water Trail.
HC-12	Public Use Cabin	New public use cabin on southern shore of un-named lake will enhance use of the Wosnesenski River area.
HC-13	Hand Tram	Provide a hand tram.

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
HC-14	Terra Trail	Develop a new Class 3 hiking trail. This trail segment will greatly expand and enhance hiking opportunities by providing another segment to the proposed Coast to Coast Trail and by linking trails in this unit with trails in the Sadie-Tutka Management Unit.
HC-15	Terra Trail	Expand and redevelop (as a Class 3 trail) the existing social trail that originates in the community of Halibut Cove and extends southerly into KBSP. This trail will connect to the Coalition Loop Trail.
HC-16	Terra Trail	Redevelop the existing China Poot Lake Trail as a Class 3 hiking trail. This trail serves as a major arterial route into the heart of this unit and connects to the Grewingk Management Unit trail system to the north. Redeveloping this trail to the higher standard will enhance access on one of the most used trails in the system. This trail will not be developed to a Class 3 standard where it crosses the tidal flat.
HC-17	Terra Trail	Develop new Class 3 trail to bypass the current trail on the tidal flat at the outlet of Halibut Creek. Requires crossing of Halibut Creek – utilizing a hand tram.
HC-18	Terra Trail	All other existing trails in this unit will be redeveloped as Class 3 sustainable trails. This will minimize the impacts of trail use on the surrounding natural resources.

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Map 14 - Halibut Cover – China Poot Management Unit

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Northern Management Unit

Unit Description

The Northern Management Unit is the northernmost unit on the south side of the bay, and occupies 12,254 acres (see Map 15 - Northern Management Unit, page 153). It is bounded by Kachemak Bay to the west, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to the east, and Grewingk Creek to the south. 46 private parcels, totaling approximately 157 acres, are located within the unit.

The northern portion of this unit consists of moderately rolling topography which gives way to the steep walls of the previously glaciated Portlock River valley and the alpine of Portlock Plateau. The southern portion of the unit consists of the Humpy Creek and Grewingk Creek valleys and a relatively small north-south trending ridge. Elevations in this unit rise to just over 3,000 feet on the plateau. An old-growth spruce forest, showing impact from the recent spruce beetle infestations, covers much of the unit. Chugachik Island is of archeological interest – dating suggests occupation from 360 BCE. 1.2 acres of the island was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

Current Uses

Much of the use of the Northern Management Unit is focused on hiking and hunting, with popular trails including Emerald Lake and Humpy Creek (connecting to the Grewingk Glacier and Glacier Lake trails). Big game species pursued in this unit include black and brown bear, as well as moose and mountain goat; the majority of the mountain goat harvest occurs in the adjacent Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Coastal areas of this unit are of particular importance to waterfowl hunters. With limited lodging available, many users visit for the day, hike out of the unit, or camp in the backcountry.

Existing Facilities and Trails

Little development exists within this unit. Currently, access to the unit is provided by two beach accessible trailheads – Humpy Creek and Mallard Bay – or by hiking the Emerald Lake Loop trail from the Grewingk Glacier unit. Overnight accommodations consist of one yurt at the outlet of Humpy Creek and five developed campsites – one campsite near Mallard Bay, two located at the west end of Emerald Lake, and one located at the Humpy Creek Trailhead. Six trails offer access into and through the unit. A pit privy is provided at the Humpy Creek Trailhead. Please see the Appendix F – Trail Plan for detailed information on trails.

1 **Facilities**

2

Facility	Comments
Emerald Lake Campsites	This site consists of two tent platforms and a developed campsite situated near the west end of Emerald Lake. A bear box is available for food storage. Access to the campsites is provided via the Emerald Lake Spur Trail and Emerald Lake Camp Trail.
Humpy Creek Trailhead	This site is adjacent to the Humpy Creek beach landing site. Facilities consist of a primitive campsite, a yurt, a bear box for food storage, and an outhouse. It is accessed from the beach landing or via the Humpy Creek Trail.
Mallard Bay Trailhead	This site has a tent platform (currently not in a usable state) and is located adjacent to the Mallard Bay beach access site. A primitive campsite is accessed from the beach and the Mallard Bay Trail, which provides access to an overlook on the Portlock River.

3

4 **Trails**

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9

Over sixteen miles of trails in the Northern Unit allow connections to the Grewingk unit to the south, and remote areas such as Emerald Lake, the overlook of the Portlock River, and the Portlock Plateau. Currently, all developed trails in the unit are located south of Mallard Bay and many have not been maintained in years.

Trail Name	Comments
Mallard Bay	Trail is .6 miles long and provides access to the Portlock River Valley.
Humpy Creek	This 5.1-mile trail originates from the Humpy Creek Trailhead and offers access south to the Grewingk Glacier Trail and North to the Mallard Bay Trailhead and Mallard Bay Trail. The trail is considered easy on the flat and rolling sections to the south and difficult as it climbs and descends on the northern portion.
Emerald Lake Loop Trail	The Emerald Lake Trail offers a 5.9-mile loop trail that provides access to Emerald Lake, the Portlock Plateau, and the Humpy Creek Trail and Trailhead to the north. Access to this trail is from the Glacier Lake Trail to the south and the Humpy Creek trailhead to the north. This trail offers moderate to difficult hiking opportunities

Trail Name	Comments
	resulting from almost 2,800 feet of elevation gain as it crosses the Portlock Plateau.
Emerald Lake Spur	This easy, 0.2-mile long spur trail provides access to the west end of Emerald Lake and one of the three developed campsites near the lake.
Emerald Lake Camp	This short trail offers an easy hike to two campsites and the western shore of Emerald Lake.
Blue Ice Trail	This 1.9-mile trail originates at Emerald Lake Loop trail and terminates at a glacier overlook.
Grewingk Tram Spur Trail	This 1.0-mile trail originates at the hand tram that crosses Grewingk Creek and terminates at the Glacier Lake trail.
Mallard/Emerald Connector	1.3-mile trail.

1

2 **Management Intent**

3 This unit should be managed to protect scenic values while facilitating low to moderate
4 levels of use. New and redeveloped trails will enhance hiking, access to camping, and scenic
5 viewing opportunities in the northern most unit on the south side of the bay. A new trail west
6 of Humpy Creek should be developed to provide multi-modal access from the Humpy Creek
7 Trailhead to the multi-modal trails in the Grewingk Glacier unit to the south. A limited
8 number of new trails should be developed in the northern portion of the unit where none
9 currently exist. Trails accessing scenic overlooks should be developed or enhanced to
10 provide hiking and scenic viewing opportunities. Public use cabins should be constructed to
11 facilitate use and access, and the existing yurt at the Humpy Creek Trailhead should be
12 converted to a public use cabin.

13

14 Chugachik Island should be managed to preserve, investigate, document and interpret the
15 unique cultural, archeological and anthropological resources present on the island.

16

17 **Land Use Zones**

18

19 **Cultural**

20 The 44 acres of land on Chugachik Island are zoned Cultural due to the cultural resources
21 found there. Work to provide interpretation of these resources should be considered, as
22 cultural zones are established to preserve, investigate, document and interpret Alaska's
23 cultural resources and heritage" (Framework, page 20). However, care should be taken to
24 protect the integrity of the identified, or any as yet unidentified, resources.

25

1 **Natural**

2 All other lands in this unit are classified as Natural, and as such, development and use should
3 be moderate to low impact. Development in this zone shall be limited to those facilities and
4 trails that facilitate public use and access and enjoyment of the scenic resources.
5

6 **Special Management Considerations**

7 DPOR should, to the greatest extent practicable, minimize visual and audio impacts to
8 adjacent private properties at Bear Cove through appropriate siting and design of trails.
9 Scenic viewsheds will be maintained through visual screening of structures where possible.
10 Only minimal clearing of a site will be undertaken for construction and to improve the view.
11 A seal haul exists behind Chugachik Island and is an area of particular concern within the
12 Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Activities that have the potential to disturb hauled out
13 seals should be minimized.
14

15 **Facility and Trail Recommendations**

16

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
NO-01	Mooring Buoy	Facilitate access to the Mallard Bay Trailhead and proposed public use cabin (NO-02) and existing tent platform.
NO-02	Public Use Cabin	Develop a new public use cabin at Mallard Bay to support use of the Humpy Creek and Portlock River areas.
NO-03	Public Use Cabin	Replace existing yurt at Humpy Creek Trailhead with a public use cabin. This new cabin will facilitate recreational use and access to the Humpy Creek area and trails and use of the Grewingk Glacier area and trails to the south.
NO-04	Public Use Cabin	Develop a new public use cabin at the west end of Emerald Lake to facilitate recreational use and access for hunting.
NO-05	Terra Trail	Develop a new trail that links the Grewingk Glacier Trail with the Humpy Creek Trail and trailhead facilities. It is intended that this trail provide multi-modal access and it should be developed as a Class 3 terra trail designed to include bicycle use. It provides another segment to the proposed Coast to Coast Trail.
NO-06	Terra Trail	Develop new Class 3 hiking trail that will provide access to the toe of the Portlock Glacier. Trail

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Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
		extending on Kenai National Wildlife Refuge lands may be constructed if supported by KNWR. This trail originates at the Mallard Bay trail overlook and continues upstream in the Portlock River Valley.
NO-07	Terra Trail	Develop a new trail that provides access from the Mallard Bay Trail to Martin Lake to the northeast. This trail should provide multi-modal access and be developed as a Class 3 terra trail designed to include bicycle use. This trail should also serve as a winter trail designed for diagonal skiing. It provides another segment to the proposed Coast to Coast Trail.
NO-08	Terra Trail	Develop new Class 3 hiking trail that provides access from Kachemak Bay to the proposed trail to Martin Lake. This is another segment of the proposed Coast to Coast Trail.

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Map 15 - Northern Management Unit

1
2 **Outer Coast Management Unit**

3
4 **Unit Description**

5 The Outer Coast unit encompasses all of the KBSWP and the portion of the KBSP located
6 adjacent to Petrof Lake and Nuka Islands (See Map 16 - Outer Coast Management Unit, page
7 163). The unit’s total area is nearly 260,000 acres. 188,000 acres are uplands and the
8 remainder are tidal and submerged lands. KBSWP uplands comprise approximately 147,500
9 acres of the uplands; the remaining 40,500 acres are KBSP uplands.

10
11 The majority of the uplands in this unit consist of steep mountain terrain, ice fields, and
12 glaciers that give way to the rugged coastline of the outer coast on the Gulf of Alaska. Port
13 Dick, including West Arm Port Dick and Taylor Bay, deeply incise the terrestrial terrain on
14 the south side and offer protected waters for boat moorage. Gore Point juts into the gulf, and
15 is the southern extent of the park units addressed in this plan. Access to this unit is overland
16 from the Sadie-Tutka Unit to the north, or via airplane or boat. Few people visit this unit.
17 The heaviest use is by hunters pursuing black bear and mountain goats. The steep
18 mountains, open vistas and wild areas of this unit provide ideal mountain goat and black bear
19 habitat and have been well preserved. There are few trails and few structures or facilities of
20 any kind in this unit. Despite this, the unit has long been recognized for its recreation
21 potential, with both the 1989 and 1995 plans suggesting facility development.

22
23 This unit is unique in that there is a subdivision on the south shore of Petrof Lake, between
24 the lake and Nuka Passage in the Gulf of Alaska. This 60-lot subdivision was created in
25 1983, and offered in a state land sale in 1984. Lands were conveyed to successful bidders in
26 1987. Lots range in size from 2.5 to 5.2 acres. Of the original lots, 51 (216 acres) are
27 currently privately owned and therefore not classified in zones; if the lands in this
28 subdivision revert to the state, they automatically become part of KBSP.⁶

29
30 The unit contains Nuka Island, the largest island in KBSP and much larger than any island in
31 KBSWP. Nuka Island is 8 ½ miles long, 3 ½ miles wide, and is separated from the Kenai
32 Peninsula by the Nuka Passage, which provides some shelter from the open waters of the
33 Gulf of Alaska. Access to the Gulf of Alaska side of the island is difficult and generally only
34 possible in larger boats.

35
36 **Current Uses**

37 Due to its remoteness, this unit sees very little use as compared to all other units addressed by
38 this plan. Certain areas are used more than others, including: Gore Point – a remote
39 destination that provides panoramic views of the southern peninsula and the gulf coast; Nuka
40 Island – a rugged and remote island with little signs of development; Port Dick and Tonsina
41 Bay – two protected bays that provide anchorages for boats; and Petrof Lake – the remote
42 aforementioned subdivision.

⁶ AS 41.21.131

1 The heaviest use of this unit is currently by big game hunters, the majority from out of state.
2 Big Game Transporters and Guides from the Homer area concentrate efforts in this unit for
3 spring black bear hunting. Mountain goats are pursued when the season opens in late
4 summer.

5
6 Access to the alpine environment east of the Sadie-Tutka unit was recently improved through
7 development of a terra trail. Access and use of this area is expected to increase but remain at
8 low levels. An unexpected and low-level use on the outer coast is visitation by surfers on the
9 remote beaches.

10
11 Airplane use is known to occur on marine waters and beaches throughout this region to
12 transport hikers and hunters. Petrof Lake offers fresh water floatplane access to users and
13 residents of the Petrof Lake subdivision. Home Cove, Herring Pete Cove and Mike's Bay on
14 Nuka Island are common places for camping, while the beach south of Petrof Lake offers
15 favorable landing spots for boats, wheeled aircraft, and kayaks if the ocean tides are not too
16 large.

17

18 **Existing Facilities and Trails**

19 There is an extremely limited trail system and no DPOR-maintained facilities in this unit. A
20 new trail (the second in the unit) was developed starting in 2016 via partnership with a local
21 non-profit group – Ground Truth Trekking. This non-profit conceived, designed, and built a
22 trail connecting Tutka Cove with Taylor Bay. Volunteers constructed the trail, but DPOR
23 staff helped design it to assure meeting DPOR standards. Currently there are no intact cabins
24 located within this unit – the Port Dick Administrative Cabin burned in 2000.

25

26 **Facilities**

27 None.

28

29 **Trails**

30

Trail Name	Comments
Tutka Alpine Traverse or Backdoor	This Class 2, 12-mile long trail is an extension of the Tutka Ascent trail. As such it provides an overland link from Tutka Bay south to Taylor Bay.

31

32 **Management Intent**

33 This unit will continue to be managed to provide a remote wilderness experience where
34 natural processes are maintained and development is minimal. Current and anticipated use
35 levels are considered low due to the area's remoteness and difficult access via aircraft or
36 boat. Trails in this unit should be developed to the minimum standard to provide access
37 while maintaining the wilderness and scenic character of the area. The majority of new trails
38 should be developed to a Class 2 standard with minimal route identification. In some limited
39 cases, trails may need to be developed to a slightly higher standard to address increased use,

1 impacts to resources, or other management concerns. Some facilities will be developed to
2 enhance access, use, provide safety to the visiting public, and to address anticipated impacts
3 to natural resources. These facilities will be sited and designed to minimize visual impacts
4 while still serving to facilitate use. Motorized access shall remain restricted to methods
5 provided in general and unit specific regulations. Use levels are anticipated to be low in the
6 near-term.

7
8 Public use within the wilderness zone presents DPOR with unique management challenges.
9 Since use within the area will result in some level of impact on the resources, and
10 development in this zone should be limited, DPOR has determined that public use should be
11 facilitated in specific areas to minimize and control the impacts. As such, this plan
12 recommends facilities in key locations to provide safety and address potential resource
13 impacts within the wilderness zone.

14 **Land Use Zones**

15 **Wilderness**

16
17 The majority of land in this unit, some 181,470 acres are classified in the wilderness zone. It
18 includes all lands within the KBSWP and land within KBSP in the area of Petrof Lake and
19 Nuka Island. Land within this zone should have the least amount of development of all
20 zones. Consistent with the Framework, lands within the wilderness zone "...should have no
21 man-made conveniences within its boundaries except for the most primitive of trails with
22 minimum trail maintenance, bridges, and signing. Developments or other improvements will
23 be undertaken only if it has been determined by the director of the Division of Parks that
24 significant threats to public safety exist or in order to reduce adverse impacts on the area's
25 resources and values." Accordingly, this plan recommends only minimally developed trails
26 and a few structures needed for visitor safety or to minimize impacts to the resources.

27 **Natural**

28
29 Lands adjacent to the Petrof Lake subdivision recreational development zone are classified as
30 Natural. It is intended that this zone will serve as a buffer between the lands zoned
31 wilderness, and the lands recreational development or where appropriate for proposed facility
32 development. Other areas zoned natural are the areas adjacent to proposed tent platforms on
33 Nuka Island and the portion of land in KBSP southeast of the Yalik Glacier. Within the
34 Natural zone, moderate-to-low impact use and limited development is proposed to enhance
35 access to recreation opportunities.

36 **Recreational Development**

37
38 The Recreational Development Zone is classified in the immediate area around the existing
39 subdivision at Petrof Lake, and extends roughly 500 feet outward from the surveyed
40 subdivision area to the west and is bounded on the north by Petrof Lake, on the east by the
41 Petrof River, and on the south by the high tide line. This zone will have somewhat higher
42 level of development to facilitate use of the lands and waters adjacent to the Petrof Lake
43 Subdivision.

Special Management Considerations

Undirected use results in pioneering of new camping sites, issues associated with human waste, fire pit development, and compacted soil and vegetation loss. These impacts are more visible in the alpine environment; however, they occur wherever multi-day use occurs and is not directed to developed facilities. DPOR should, to the greatest extent practicable, direct use and construct facilities that minimize the impacts of people recreating in this unit to preserve the scenic resources and wilderness character. All structures will be visually screened where possible to preserve the scenic resources and wilderness character. An exception will be the proposed developed mountain huts on the Tutka Alpine Traverse Trail. Due to the location of these structures in alpine habitat, they cannot be visually screened. They will however be constructed to resemble the character of other mountain huts in Alaska. Only minimal clearing of a site will be undertaken for construction of structures and facilities.

Facility and Trail Recommendations

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
OC-01	Mountain Hut	Mountain hut to support existing Tutka Alpine Traverse Trail. These mountain huts are envisioned as a shared shelter available for use on a first-come, first-served basis. Hut should be designed with sleeping space for 6-8 people, animal-resistant food storage boxes, a communal cooking area, and appropriate latrine facilities.
OC-02	Mountain Hut	Mountain hut to support existing Tutka Alpine Traverse Trail. These mountain huts are envisioned as a shared shelter available for use on a first-come, first-served basis. Hut should be designed with sleeping space for 6-8 people, animal-resistant food storage boxes, a communal cooking area, and appropriate latrine facilities.
OC-03	Public Use Cabin	Public Use Cabin near Taylor Bay Trailhead will serve as an administrative cabin. When not used for administrative or management purposes, the cabin will be available on the public reservation system. It will also serve as a safety cabin for people unable to leave due to inclement weather or sea conditions.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
OC-04	Public Use Cabin	Public Use Cabin located adjacent to Petrof Lake in an area of existing cabins. Adjacent to the cabin is one of two designated boat storage areas. A tent platform may be constructed in close proximity to this public use cabin to facilitate larger group camping and to allow the facilities to share a common public outhouse.
OC-05	Public Use Cabin	Public Use Cabin located on the Gulf of Alaska shoreline northeast of Brown Mountain. Adjacent to the cabin is the second of two boat storage areas. Cabin offers an extension of the Kenai Fjord campsite system to the north.
OC-06	Tent Platform	Tent platform located on the Gulf of Alaska shoreline near the public use cabin (OC-05). Proximity allows both facilities to utilize a shared bear resistant food storage box and latrine. Platform is near the second of two boat storage areas. Platform offers an extension of the Kenai Fjord campsite system to the north.
OC-07	Tent Platform	Tent platform located on the small bay on the north side of Nuka Passage. Offers an extension of the Kenai Fjords campsite system to the north.
OC-08	Public Use Cabin	Develop a public use cabin northeast of Cape Horn to facilitate access and use of Nuka Island. Offers an extension of the Kenai Fjords campsite system to the north.
OC-09	Tent Platform	Tent platform located on the protected bay on the southern end of Nuka Island. Platform facilitates access and use on Nuka Island. Offers an extension of the Kenai Fjords campsite system to the north.
OC-10	Tent Platform	Tent platform within the protected waters of Tonsina Bay, an area already experiencing increased use levels. Platform will facilitate water-based access and access to the proposed Gore Point Trail.

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
OC-11	Tent Platform	Located at the head of the West Arm Port Dick, this tent platform site will facilitate water-based access from the south, land-based access from proposed trails from the west and north, and access to Port Dick Lake and the proposed trail to Qikutulig Bay and the Gulf of Alaska to the south.
OC-12	Boat Storage Area	Located adjacent to the public use cabin, an area will be identified for the seasonal storage of boats near Petrof Lake.
OC-13	Boat Storage Area	Located adjacent to the public use cabin and tent platform, an area will be identified for the seasonal storage of boats near on the beach west of the Petrof River.
OC-14	Terra Trail	Develop new 5.1-mile long Class 2 hiking trail that links to the proposed trail in the adjacent Sadie-Tutka Unit. This trail will greatly expand and enhance hiking opportunities. It will be a portion of the proposed Coast to Coast Trail. Trail route will also provide access as a snow trail.
OC-15	Terra Trail	Proposed 7.9-mile long Class 2 trail provides access to West Arm Port Dick and the proposed tent platform site (OC-11) via Rocky River Valley from Tutka Valley. Trail route will also provide access as a snow trail.
OC-16	Terra Trail	Proposed 6.4-mile Class 2 trail that provides access to West Arm Port Dick from the existing Tutka Alpine Traverse Trail via Slide Creek. Trail is a western variant of the proposed Coast to Coast Trail. Trail route will also provide access as a snow trail.
OC-17	Terra Trail	Proposed 4.8-mile Class 2 trail provides access from the proposed tent site (OC-11) and Public Use Cabin (OC-22) to Port Dick Lake and Qikutulig Bay. Trail route will also provide access as a snow trail.
OC-18	Terra Trail	Proposed Class 2 trail will provide access from the existing Tutka Alpine Traverse Trail to Gore Point. Trail route will also provide access as a snow trail.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
OC-19	Terra Trail	Proposed Class 2 trail will provide access from Tonsina Bay to the Tutka Alpine Traverse Trail and the Gore Point Trail. Trail is an eastern variant of the Coast to Coast Trail and is intended to provide access as a snow trail.
OC-20	Terra Trail	Proposed Class 2 multi-modal trail connects the existing Rocky River Road (outside of park units) to the proposed trail and tent platform at the head of West Arm Port Dick (OC-15 & OC-11). Trail will have a designed use of bicycles and is intended to provide access as a snow trail.
OC-21	Terra Trail	Proposed Class 2 trail will provide an overland traverse from the area of Petrof Lake to the head of Taylor Bay.
OC-22	Public Use Cabin	Develop a new public use cabin near the outlet of Port Dick Creek into West Arm Port Dick. This cabin will facilitate recreation within the area and will be available on the public reservation system. It will also serve as a safety cabin for people unable to leave due to inclement weather or sea conditions.

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PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

*Chapter 6 - Unit Specific
Management*

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Map 16 - Outer Coast Management Unit

1 2 **Overlook Park Unit**

3 4 **Unit Description**

5 The 254-acre Overlook Park Unit covers the same area as the Overlook Park State Recreation
6 Site. It is located along the Sterling Highway at milepost 169 north of Kachemak Bay (see
7 Map 17 - Overlook Park Management Unit, page 167) just west of the well-known and
8 popular Baycrest⁷ pull-out site that offers breathtaking views of Kachemak Bay. This unit
9 includes an area between the Sterling Highway and Cook Inlet that slopes steeply down to
10 the ocean. Just to the north of the Overlook Park Unit is an RV park.

11
12 Overlook Park is composed of three parcels⁸, all owned by the state. Two of the parcels were
13 purchased in 1997 with EVOS money and are operated by DPOR under a Management
14 Right; the other parcel was donated to the state in 1999 and is operated under a Management
15 Agreement with DNR. A 2001 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DPOR and
16 the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) provides guidance for research and
17 maintenance at the site.

18
19 Access to the unit is severely restricted: there is no parking, trails or facilities available, and
20 a 600-foot drop down rugged bluffs into the unit from Baycrest Lookout Park. Most access
21 to this unit, outside of the Overlook Park, currently occurs via Bishops Beach and is
22 accessible at most tide levels but best accessed between mid and low tide.

23
24 The majority (222 acres or 87%) of the unit is composed of forest lands. There are three
25 small lakes/ponds covering 11 acres or 4% of the unit, and freshwater wetlands in low-lying
26 areas comprise 21 acres or 8% of the unit. The remaining land area is coastal/estuarine
27 habitat along Cook Inlet.

28 29 **Current Uses**

30 The Overlook Park Unit has been managed by KBCS since the 2001 MOU was executed. As
31 envisioned in the plan developed by KBCS, with community input, the majority of the area is
32 to be preserved as habitat and for research purposes. Planned development on the lands at
33 the bottom of the bluff, while originally included in the plan, is now thought to be too much
34 for the resource. Development planned on the top of the bluff may occur at some point.
35 KBCS intends to continue ongoing research and to provide hikes led by staff. Little public
36 use currently occurs on the lands and it is anticipated that this area will see incremental
37 increases in use in the years to come. User counts supplied by KBCS from the annual
38 Shorebird Fest suggest use is increasing (23 attendees in 2017).

39 40 **Existing Facilities and Trails**

41 No DPOR developed facilities or trails currently exist in the unit.
42

⁷ Baycrest Lookout Park, <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/baycrest>

⁸ ADL 228239, ADL 228213, ADL 228447

1 **Management Intent**

2 Overlook Park Unit is currently identified as a State Recreation Site; however, access is
3 limited, and topography is extreme. Due to the unique remnant habitat contained in this unit,
4 and the importance of the area for ongoing research, it should be converted to a State
5 Preserve. For consistency with the purpose for this area, the site should be referenced as the
6 Overlook Park State Preserve. DPOR will continue to work closely with KBCS to follow
7 and update the 2002 *Community-based Management Plan for Overlook Park* as appropriate.
8

9 **Land Use Zones**

10 The entire unit is classified in the Natural Zone.
11

12 **Special Management Considerations**

13 Increasing use on the tidelands could result in unauthorized use of ATVs in the unit. If
14 monitoring indicates ATV use is occurring, signs should be posted to curtail this use.
15

16 **Facility and Trail Recommendations**

17 No facilities or hardened trails recommended. Facilities suggested in the 2002 *Community-*
18 *based Management Plan for Overlook Park* may be developed on lands atop the bluff;
19 however, KBCS should contact DPOR and ADOT&PF early in any planning process that
20 may lead to development. However, if public use increases and results in resource damage
21 DPOR may consider developing hardened trails to accommodate use.
22

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Map 17 - Overlook Park Management Unit

Sadie-Tutka Management Unit

Unit Description

The Sadie-Tutka Management Unit is the southernmost unit on the south side of Kachemak Bay. It extends from the Wosnesenski River valley boundary with the Halibut Cove-China Poot unit to the north, across Sadie Cove and Tutka Bay to the western boundary of KBSP (see Map 18 - Sadie Tutka Management Unit, page 177). The unit encompasses the waters and the uplands north and west of the KBSWP.

This unit is characterized by two large glacier-carved fjords that indent the mountains of Kachemak Bay and contains tideland and marshes in the wetlands systems and old growth spruce/hemlock trees in the forest habitat. The remainder of the unit is dominated by alpine environments, with the tree line near 1,000 feet of elevation.

There are 28 private inholdings in the unit, primarily in Sadie Cove. Two near the head of Tutka Bay and four along the southern shore of Neptune Bay round out the private ownership.

The Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery, owned by ADF&G and operated by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA), has released pink salmon at this location since 1978. Sockeye salmon, produced at the CIAA owned and operated Trail Lakes Hatchery, have been released into Tutka Lagoon since 2005.

Current Uses

Public use of the majority of the uplands in this area is lower than the most heavily used areas of the park, due to its rugged terrain and challenging trail system (Grace Ridge and Sadie Knob). Use is increasing due to the newly developed Tutka Alpine Traverse connecting Tutka Bay with the Gulf of Alaska. The Sea Star Cove Public Use Cabin is a popular destination, as are the four yurts in the unit, especially when the pink and sockeye salmon are returning to Tutka Bay Lagoon. Private use of the marine waters and tidelands include fishing, hunting, boating, kayaking, beach hiking, and wildlife observation, among others. Commercial use is similar to private use and is facilitated through commercial water taxi operators, transporters, and private lodge operations. Commercial and sport fisheries exist within marine waters. The nearby Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery has been in operation since 1977.

This unit is an important area for mountain goat viewing and hunting, and is very popular with black bear hunters. Mountain goats in this unit can be found right down to the tide line during the spring and winter, providing exceptional viewing opportunities for less mobile park users. Black bear hunters take advantage of the steep slopes for spot and stalk opportunities in the spring; salmon tidal flats provide harvest opportunities for less adventurous hunters.

1 **Existing Facilities and Trails**

2 Currently, development in the Sadie-Tutka unit is composed of a single public use cabin,
3 seven identified campsites, and four yurts operated by a concessionaire. These developments
4 are mostly concentrated at the mouth of Sadie Cove and in the middle of Tutka Bay. A fire
5 pit and pit privy are amenities at all campsites and yurts. A wood stove and pit privy are
6 amenities at public use cabins. See Appendix F – Trail Plan for detailed information on
7 trails.

8
9 **Facilities**

10

Facility	Comments
Public Use Cabin Sea Star Cove	16'x16' cabin sleeps up to 6. Heated by wood stove. Includes table, benches, and counter for food preparation. Latrine located nearby. A fresh water stream near the cabin provides water.
Campsite Kayak Beach	2 tent platforms, 2 outhouses, fire ring. A freshwater stream is nearby.
Campsite North Eldred	Outhouse, hardened gravel campsite.
Campsite South Eldred	Outhouse, tent platform.
Campsite South Grace Ridge	Outhouse shared with yurt, fire ring.
Campsite Tutka Isthmus	Outhouse, fire ring, developed campsite.
Campsite Tutka Bay Lagoon	Outhouse, fire ring, developed campsite.
Campsite Tutka Lake Trailhead	Outhouse, tent platform, fire ring.
Campsite Upper Tutka	Developed campsite, fire ring.
Yurt Kayak Beach	Situated about 10 miles from the Homer harbor, on the SW side of Tutka point, the Kayak Beach yurt is nestled in the alders approximately 250 yards from the beach.

Facility	Comments
Yurt Quarry Beach	Located about 10 miles from the Homer harbor on the opposite side of Tutka point from Kayak beach. Anchorage is marginal, due to the deep water. Quarry Beach yurt sits 30 yards from the rocky shore historically used as a loading area for stones from a nearby quarry.
Yurt Tutka #1	Situated about 12 miles from the spit, on the north shore of Tutka Bay, the South Grace yurt is about 100 yards from the drop-off point on a rocky beach and is protected from wind by the mature forest found in Tutka Bay. The yurt is very close to the South Grace Ridge Trailhead. A solid gravel bottom provides good anchorage.
Yurt Tutka #2	The Tutka Lake yurt sits in mature spruce forest on the south side of the bay, well protected from the day breeze, about 100 yards from the drop-off at the Tutka Lake Trailhead. It's adjacent to a pleasant gravel beach with summer sunset views. There is good anchorage for boats near the drop-off point.

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Trails

Five trails provide just over 20 miles of paths in the unit. Three of the trails are concentrated around the Tutka Bay Lagoon, while the other two reach or traverse the tops of the ridges that separate Tutka Bay, Sadie Cove, and the Wosnesenski River drainage. See the Appendix F – Trail Plan for details on the benefits of trail integration.

Trail Name	Comments
Grace Ridge	The moderate to difficult 9.3-mile trail begins on left side of the gravel beach at Kayak Beach Campsite, then follows an old road before climbing through an old growth Sitka spruce forest on the way to the alpine ridgeline and eventually the top of Grace Ridge (3105 feet). The alpine portions of this route are unmarked, but follow the ridge crest. Descending into the alders again, the trail switchbacks into the spruce forest, ending at Tutka Bay.
Hatchery	This .8-mile trail leads from the entrance of Tutka bay lagoon, up the hillside to the Hatchery.

Trail Name	Comments
Sadie Knob	The Sadie Knob Trail accesses an alpine ridge between Sadie Cove and Kachemak Bay, but does not access Sadie Cove or Sadie Peak. The moderate to difficult 6.3-mile trail connects the north and south ends of Eldred Passage - both join the Ridge Route at Quiet Creek. The Ridge Route climbs through spruce forest and emerges above timberline where the trail is marked only with rock cairns or orange trail markers. The trail terminates at Sadie Knob (2100 feet). The distance from North Eldred Trailhead to Sadie Knob is 4.2 miles and the distance from South Eldred Trailhead to Sadie Knob is 4.5 miles.
Tutka Lake	From Tutka Lake Trailhead, this moderate 2.9-mile trail climbs briefly before intersecting the trail to the Sea Star Cove Cabin. It continues through spruce forest and along Tutka Lake, and intersects the trail to the Tutka Bay Lagoon fish hatchery (0.5 mile to hatchery). The main trail continues along the west shore of Tutka Lake, then turns and crosses a low saddle before climbing and following high above Tutka Creek. The trail currently ends at the Tutka Creek waterfalls, near the Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park boundary.
Tutka/Jakalof	This 2-mile trail joins Tutka Bay Lagoon and the Rocky River Road. It climbs over a series of low ridges and through small valleys. Much of the trail is on Seldovia Native Association owned land, with a five-foot easement.
Tutka Taylor	This 12-mile trail extends from the head of Tutka Bay, through the forest and alpine to the head of Taylor Bay. Only a portion of this trail is in the Sadie-Tutka Unit.

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Management Intent

This unit should be managed to protect scenic values and provide facilities and trails necessary to accommodate relatively low numbers of park visitors. Water-based recreation opportunities will be enhanced through development of public use cabins and tent platform sites. Mooring buoys may be placed at trailheads and adjacent to proposed public use cabins or campsites. Land-based recreation will be enhanced through redevelopment of existing trails to sustainable standards and through providing looped trails and connector trails that link with adjacent trails. Should the existing Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery permanently cease operations, DPOR will work with ADF&G to restore portions of the site and retain certain other structures that can be repurposed for use as a group camp facility.

1
2 All but a small portion of this unit will be classified as a Natural Zone. The exception is a
3 small area of land (about 1,055 acres) classified as Recreational Development Zone to
4 accommodate a group camp facility and a slightly higher concentration of facilities and trails.
5

6 **Land Use Zones**

7 **Natural Zone**

8
9 Most of this unit (38,019 acres) is classified as a Natural Zone. These areas are concentrated
10 along the ridges between the fjords that define this unit – Tutka Ridge, Grace Ridge, and
11 Sadie Ridge; as well as the significant areas of backcountry at the heads of Sadie Cove and
12 Tutka Bay, and between Sadie Cove and the area surrounding Upper Hazel Lake. These
13 areas have limited development and should be maintained in that state to protect their scenic
14 resources. Development in this zone shall be limited, and the area shall be limited to non-
15 motorized, moderate-to-low impact use.
16

17 **Recreational Development**

18 Within the Sadie – Tutka Unit’s Natural Zone is a 1055-acre area of land around Tutka Bay
19 Lagoon zoned as Recreational Development. Within this area development of ‘hard’ facilities
20 – public use cabins, tent platforms, campsites, latrines, and trailheads – will be concentrated
21 to better enable users to access the park in the Tutka Bay Lagoon area.
22

23 **Special Management Considerations**

24 A significant number of private parcels lie within or are adjacent to this unit. DPOR should,
25 to the greatest extent practicable, minimize visual and audio impacts to adjacent private
26 properties through siting and design of facilities, structures, and trails. Scenic viewsheds will
27 be maintained through visual screening of structures where possible. Only minimal clearing
28 of a site will be undertaken for construction and to improve the view.
29

30 **Facility and Trail Recommendations**

31

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreational Opportunity Provided
ST-01	Mooring Buoy	Mooring Buoy to facilitate access to existing Grace Ridge Trail and planned Public Use Cabin.
ST-02	Mooring Buoy	Mooring Buoy to facilitate access to existing Grace Ridge trail and planned Quarry Point public use cabin.
ST-03	Mooring Buoy	Mooring Buoy to facilitate access to existing Sadie tent platform and Eldred Trail.

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreational Opportunity Provided
ST-04	Mooring Buoy	Mooring Buoy to facilitate access to existing Eldred Trail and planned Anisom Cabin and Anisom Point tent platforms.
ST-05	Mooring Buoy	Mooring Buoy to facilitate access to existing Sea Star and planned Sea Urchin public use cabins.
ST-06	Tent Platform	Tent platform with potential to be converted to a public use cabin at Anisom Point to support Kachemak Bay Water Trail and other users.
ST-07	Public Use Cabin	Public use cabin near the existing Sea Star Cabin to enable more recreational use of Tutka Bay and facilitate joint use of Sea Star/Sea Urchin cabins by a group too large for one cabin.
ST-08	Public Use Cabin	Public use cabin to support water-based recreation on Tutka Bay and upland trail use, including the Tutka Alpine Traverse.
ST-09	Public Use Cabin	Public Use Cabin at the western end of Grace Ridge to support Kachemak Bay Water Trail users, hikers, and other users.
ST-10	Public Use Cabin	Public use cabin near head of Tutka Bay adjacent to waterfall to support use of the bay and upland trails.
ST-11	Mooring Buoy	Mooring Buoy to facilitate access to Tutka Bay and adjacent upland public use cabin (ST-08) for recreational use.
ST-12	Tent Platform	Tent platform with potential to be converted to a public use cabin on a small lake to west of Tutka Bay Lagoon, with reasonable access.
ST-13	Tent Platform	Tent platform with potential to be converted to a public use cabin at the head of Sadie Cove to support existing Grace Ridge Trail and additional recreational uses.
ST-14	Tent Platform	Tent platform with potential to be converted to a public use cabin to support use on the Coast to Coast Trail, and support use on Hazel Lake.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreational Opportunity Provided
ST-15	Public Use Cabin	Public Use Cabin next to San Juan Cove in Tutka Bay to support multiday users of Tutka Bay and the Grace Ridge Trail.
ST-16	Public Use Cabin	Public use cabin will support water-based recreation in Tutka Bay and surrounding areas. Due to its location adjacent to the HEA transmission lines, this cabin may offer electricity.
ST-17	Public Use Cabin	Public Use Cabin to support Eldred Trail and Sadie Cove recreational use. Due to its location adjacent to the HEA transmission lines, this cabin may offer electricity.
ST-18	Tent Platform	Provide up to two tent platforms to facilitate overnight use of the Cost to Coast Trail and recreation in the area.
ST-19	Terra Trail	Develop new Class 3 hiking trail. This trail will greatly expand and enhance hiking opportunities. It will link this unit to the adjacent Halibut Cove - China Poot and Outer Coast units and form a portion of the Coast to Coast Trail. This trail may include a Class 3 spur trail to the Woz River.
ST-20	Terra Trail	Develop new Class 3 hiking trail that connects the existing Grace Ridge Trail to the proposed Coast to Coast Trail. Two Class 3 spur trails, one to Sadie Cove and one to Tutka Bay, are proposed to be constructed as part of this trail. The spur trail to Sadie Cove provides access to a proposed tent platform at the head of Sadie Cove. The spur trail to Tutka Bay will provide access to a proposed public use cabin.
ST-21	Terra Trail	Develop a new Class 3 trail connecting the existing trails at Tutka Bay Lagoon to the existing trail at the head of Tutka Bay. The trail will also provide access to the existing Sea Star Cabin and the proposed public use cabin on the south shore of Tutka Bay.
ST-22	Terra Trail	Develop new Class 3 trail connecting existing trails at Tutka Bay Lagoon with the existing trails near Jakolof Bay.

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreational Opportunity Provided
ST-23	Terra Trail	Redevelop the popular Grace Ridge Trail as a Class 3 hiking trail to enhance access.
ST-24	Terra Trail	Redevelop the existing Tutka Ascent Trail as a Class 3 hiking trail. Improvements will enhance access to the proposed Coast to Coast Trail.
ST-25	Terra Trail	Redevelop the existing Tutka Bay Lagoon Trails as Class 3 hiking trails. This will enhance access to the existing public use cabin and facilities at the Lagoon.
ST-26	Group Camp	If existing structures at the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery site are no longer needed for operation of a hatchery; DPOR will work with ADF&G to determine which structures could remain on site and to be re-purposed to provide a group camp area that can accommodate medium to large numbers of people.

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PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

*Chapter 6 - Unit Specific
Management*

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Map 18 - Sadie-Tutka Management Unit