

Kachemak Bay State Park

And

Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park

Management Plan

Public Review Draft

September 2018



State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation



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Chapter 1 - Introduction

Regional Characteristics and Planning Area Overview

Located on the southern end of the Kenai Peninsula in Southcentral Alaska, Kachemak Bay extends 40 miles easterly along the base of the Kenai Mountains on the east side of Lower Cook Inlet. The uplands on the north side of the bay are characterized by rolling forested hills sloping down to the bay. In contrast, the snowcapped Kenai Mountains, rise dramatically on the south side of the bay, to heights of over 5,000 feet. Heavily forested forelands, steep rocky slopes, and glacially scoured fjords continue uninterrupted as Kachemak Bay merges into lower Cook Inlet and onto the rugged outer coast on the Gulf of Alaska.

On May 9, 1970, the Legislature approved 105,387 acres as Kachemak Bay State Park (KBSP). The Legislature set aside these lands as special purpose to “protect and preserve ... [its] unique and exceptional scenic nature.” Two years later, the Legislature added nearly 200,000 acres of remote and rugged land and waters adjacent to KBSP to the state park system through creation of the Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park (KBSWP). Today, augmented by several legislative additions, these two park units encompass about 371,000 acres (see Map 1 - Boundaries on page 3 of this chapter and Appendix B – Enabling Legislation).

Located also within the boundaries of the KBSP and the KBSWP are 201 privately owned parcels totaling approximately 845 acres of land. Another 189 acres (7 parcels) are owned by the University of Alaska, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Seldovia Native Association, and (Bureau of Land Management (BLM). While these private and agency owned lands are within the planning area, the plan policies and recommendations do not apply to them.

Plan Scope and Purpose

Management responsibility for the park units is assigned to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) for the purposes of control, development and maintenance. The purpose of this management plan is to provide management direction that facilitates recreational use opportunities while conserving the natural and cultural resources through a set of policies and recommendations that guide permitting activities, uses, facilities, and trail development on all the state owned and managed land and waters within KBSP and KBSWP. In addition to the above described park units, the Management Plan (the plan) for the Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park addresses several small administratively designated park system units

located on the north side of Kachemak Bay. These State Recreation Sites (SRS) include the Eveline SRS, Diamond Creek SRS, Overlook Park SRS, and two relatively small State-owned parcels directly adjacent to the KBSP (see Map 2 - General Land Ownership on page 5 of this chapter). The term “park units” used in this plan refers to all the lands within KBSP, KBSWP, and the smaller park units and recreation areas.

Management issues or opportunities to be addressed in the park units are identified and facility and management recommendations are provided. This plan provides a framework for management and permitting decisions made by DPOR staff. The plan is intended to be a twenty-year document; therefore, it should be periodically reviewed to determine the effectiveness of management recommendations and adapted to reflect changing use characteristics and new issues that affect resources, management, and public use of the park units.

Reason for Revision

Plans are more than a tool to address issues – the planning process allows DPOR to reassess its management policies to determine if they are meeting the needs of the recreating public while ensuring that uses and activities are not significantly impacting the natural and cultural resources. This plan, therefore, addresses several significant issues that have arisen since the last management plan. The primary reason for revising the management plan is to update the management guidelines and trail and facility recommendations where necessary to support an increasing number of visitors to the park units and to provide diverse recreational opportunities consistent with the mission of the agency and the purposes of the units.

State Park Unit Purpose and Definition

Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park were created via legislation in the early 1970s. The founding statute for KBSP provides that it was created to “...protect and preserve this land and water for its unique and exceptional scenic value, the park is established and shall be managed as a scenic park.” (Alaska Statute (AS) 41.21.131) A scenic park is defined in statute as:

“...relatively spacious areas of outstanding natural significance, where major values are in their natural geological, faunal, or floral characteristics, the purpose of which is directed primarily toward the preservation of its outstanding natural features and where development is minimal and only for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment in a manner consistent with the preservation of the natural values such as camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, riding, and related activities which involve no major modification of the land, forests, or waters,



Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park

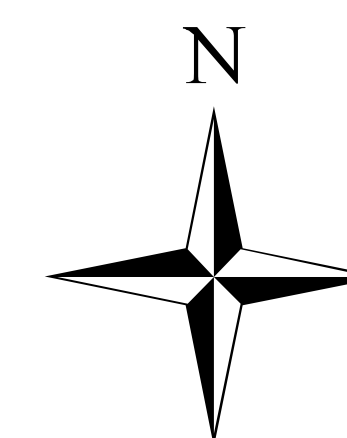
Map 1: General Boundaries

- State Park (AS 41.21.131)
- State Wilderness Park (AS 41.21.140)
- State Park Managed Areas
- State Critical Habitat Area
- Roads



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UTM Zone 6 North



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Cook Inlet

Gulf of Alaska



Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park

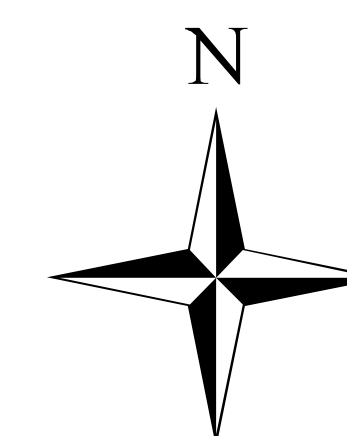
Map 2: General Land Ownership

- State Park (AS 41.21.131)
- State Wilderness Park (AS 41.21.140)
- State Park Managed Areas
- State Land
- Federal Land
- Native Land
- Borough / Municipal Land
- Private Land
- Roads



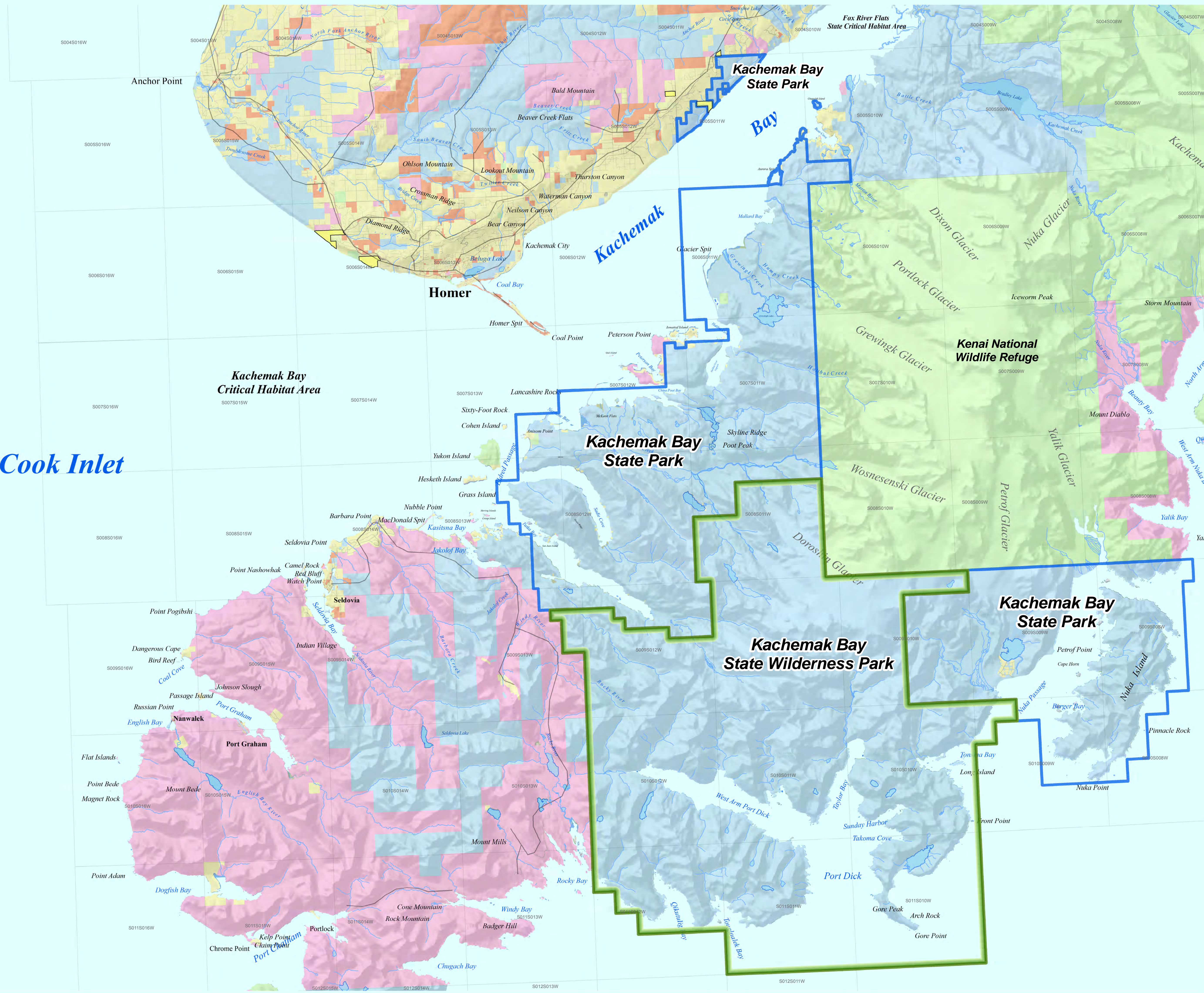
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1 and without extensive introduction of artificial features or forms of recreational
2 development that are primarily of urban character.”¹

3
4 The founding statute for KBSWP provides that it was created to “...protect and preserve this
5 land and water for its unique and exceptional wilderness value, the park is established and
6 shall be managed as a wilderness park.” (AS 41.21.140) A wilderness park is defined in
7 statute as:

8
9 “...an area whose predominant character is the result of the interplay of natural
10 processes, large enough and so situated as to be unaffected, except in minor ways, by
11 what takes place in the non-wilderness around it, a physical condition which activates
12 the innermost emotions of the observer and where development of man-made objects
13 will be strictly limited and depend entirely on good taste and judgment so that the
14 wilderness values are not lost.”²

15
16 The policies found on page 7 of the Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework
17 (Framework) defines a state park as “...a relatively spacious area possessing outstanding and
18 distinct natural, cultural, scenic and/or scientific values.” The purpose of the unit, identified
19 as the dominant management objective, is to “... maintain the park’s natural and cultural
20 resources for long-term use and enjoyment by the public. A level of recreational
21 opportunities, which is compatible with the unit’s resource values, shall be provided.”

22 23 24 **State Recreation Site Definition and Purpose**

25
26 In addition to KBSP and KBSWP, this plan also provides management direction for several
27 relatively small SRSSs on the north side of the bay. Because the Diamond Creek, Overlook
28 Park, and Eveline State Recreation Sites were created administratively, and not by an act of
29 the Legislature, they lack a purpose statement or unit-specific statutes.³ On page 11, the
30 Framework document defines a State Recreation Site as:

31
32 “...a relatively small area and provides one or more outdoor recreational
33 opportunities. A state recreation site may also be established to provide access to
34 outdoor recreational lands and opportunities not managed as part of the State Park
35 System.”

36
37 Management objectives are to be site specific and emphasize “...recreational use over
38 resource protection.”

39

1 AS 41.21.990(1)

2 AS 41.21.990(2)

3 Subsequent to administrative creation, management of the Overlook Park Site was assigned to the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, and, while still listed as a State Recreation Site, it is more closely aligned with the purposes of a State Preservation Area. As such, management intent for Overlook Park is addressed in Chapter 6.

1 “The management of a state recreation site allows for resource modification to enhance
2 outdoor recreational opportunities as long as natural and cultural resources are protected.
3 Activities and developments will vary according to the intent and purpose for which the unit
4 is designated. Developments and activates which may be found at state recreation sites
5 include – but are not limited to picnic areas, campgrounds, parking lots, boat launches and
6 scenic overlooks.”
7
8

9 **Current Planning Process**

10
11 DPOR leadership and managing staff met with DNR planners in late 2011 and early 2012 to
12 discuss known issues within the Kachemak Bay park units and discuss possible needs for
13 revising the existing 1995 management plan.
14

15 The decision to revise the plan was made in 2012, and planning staff began to identify the
16 range of agency issues the plan would address. Research and review of available information
17 and data sources began, and staff initiated development of a public contact list.
18

19 In November 2013, DNR released a two-part questionnaire seeking public input regrading
20 recreational use, access, and facilities for KBSP and KBSWP. Part A consisted of ten
21 questions related to recreation and facilities in the park units; Part B consisted of six
22 questions that were specific to those who own the land within or adjacent to the park units.
23 The purpose of landowner specific questions was to better understand how private property is
24 being used and accessed.
25

26 The planning team held a series of ‘open house’ format public meetings in spring 2014 in the
27 communities of Homer, Seldovia, Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Anchorage.
28

29 Meeting participants voiced many issues at the public meetings (captured by facilitators) and
30 completed and submitted 122 questionnaires to DNR planning staff.
31

32 The public scoping written comment period was open from November 13, 2013 through May
33 15, 2014. After the public scoping period, a series of public stakeholder meetings were held
34 in May 2016. Meetings were scheduled to gain additional information from stakeholders
35 who had detailed knowledge of the area’s recreational uses and public impact. Stakeholder
36 groups were provided with customized questionnaires and given the opportunity to present
37 their ideas/perceptions at the meeting. Following the stakeholder presentations, the planning
38 team, parks staff, and other stakeholders convened a round table discussion.
39

40 The public process outreach associated with this planning effort was typical for management
41 plans of this type and involved multiple opportunities for the public and non-governmental
42 agencies to interact directly with planning and management staff to provide input on the
43 future management of these popular park units.
44
45

Plan Organization

The plan is organized to provide a broad scale overview in the first chapter, then successively more detailed information and management intent and recommendations in subsequent chapters. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the planning area; the statutes and guidance that established and defined the units; and an overview of the planning process. Chapter 2 provides area-wide and unit-specific goals and objectives for the park units. Chapter 3 presents information on the natural and cultural resources; Chapter 4 provides information on uses within the park units and issues identified through this planning process. Chapters 5 and 6 provide area-wide management direction and guidelines and unit-specific management, respectively. Finally, Chapter 7 presents implementation, review and modification information. The appendices contain a glossary of terms; the parks' enabling legislation; a detailed catalog of species in the parks; park management guidelines; summaries of public comment and historically permitted use; guidelines for future permitted use; and the associated Kachemak Bay Trails Management Plan for the park units.

Relationship to Other Plans

Other plans in the area were reviewed during the preparation of this plan. Adopted in January, 2000 the DNR Kenai Area Plan (KAP) guides management of the general domain state lands on the Kenai Peninsula. Because the KBSP and KBSWP park units were removed from the public domain, the KAP does not classify or provide management intent for these lands. Lands within the State Recreation Sites, however, are not withdrawn from the public domain and the KAP does classify and provide management intent for those lands. Should DPOR decide to withdraw from current Interagency Land Management Agreements for these lands, the management intent and classification provided in the KAP will guide management of the lands.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) adopted the latest version of the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas (KBFRFCHA) Management Plan in 1993. The KBFRFCHA management plan area overlaps this plan for approximately 21,439 acres of tide and submerged lands on the south side of the bay (see Map 1- General Boundaries at the end of this chapter). See Appendix G – Cooperative Agreement for a description of DNR's and ADF&G's agreement on managing this overlap area.

Chapter 2 – Goals and Objectives

Introduction

This chapter provides management goals and objectives for the park units addressed in this plan. These goals and objectives were developed considering the enabling statutes (see Appendix B), regulations, and mission statements for the park units and DPOR. They have been developed to establish values that aid in decision making associated with the issues identified in this plan. Goals and objectives are arranged under the headings of Area-wide Goals and Objectives and Park Unit Specific Goals and Objectives, and are not listed in priority order.

Area-wide Goals and Objectives

Recreation: Enhance opportunities for year-round recreational use of the park units while maintaining the scenic, wilderness, and other natural resource values in the plan area.

Objectives:

- Increase public use of park units through development of sustainable facilities that are appropriate to the setting and enrich recreational experiences.
- Work with interested groups and resident experts to promote and conduct First Day Hikes.
- Work with local, regional, or national partners to promote Trails Day events that focus on engaging new recreational users and introducing people to new experiences.
- Initiate/Encourage the Adopt-A-Trail programs.
- Foster community involvement in trail maintenance and creation by developing an Adopt-A-Trail program.

Resource Protection: Protect park resources to allow for diverse visitor experiences and an understanding of the unique and exceptional features of the park units.

Objectives:

- Foster collaborative relationships that promote responsible use and stewardship.

- Preserve and protect park unit recreational and cultural resources for long-term use and enjoyment, including opportunities for visitors to experience solitude, natural environment integrity, and scenic beauty.
- Incorporate scientific and educational information into visitor information programs for better understanding of the parks' values and management direction.
- Facilitate research on the natural and cultural resources of the park units to gain further knowledge to better inform decision making.

Park Unit Specific Goals and Objectives

Kachemak Bay State Park

The purpose of Kachemak Bay State Park as described in AS 41.21.131 is to “protect and preserve this land and water for its unique and exceptional scenic value” (Appendix B). To further this purpose, the following goals & objectives for KBSP are provided:

Goal 1: Protect and preserve the land and water of KBSP for their unique and exceptional scenic values

Objectives:

- 1-1. Identify, establish, protect, and enhance areas of unique and exceptional scenic values.
- 1-2. Define the park's landscape character and apply visual quality criteria to the park's management programs, developments and land use practices.
- 1-3. Assess resource impacts over time to provide information for day-to-day and future park management.
- 1-4. Identify appropriate vegetation management actions to establish, enhance and maintain scenic vistas.

Goal 2: Provide for recreational use and enjoyment by the public, with consideration to public preferences, resource values, regional setting and legislative intent

Objectives:

- 2-1. Monitor, quantify, and assess recreational use changes over time for future park management.
- 2-2. Develop interpretive and educational outreach programs for public users to protect and explain park resources.
- 2-3. Develop educational outreach programs for commercial users to protect park resources.

2-4. Manage the separation of recreation uses and users in time and space to avoid conflicts, protect resources, maintain a high-quality recreation experience, and enable site-appropriate activities.

2-5. Design facilities, camp sites, and trails to blend into the park's natural setting and scenic character while minimizing impact on resources.

Goal 3: Preserve and protect the park's cultural resources

Objectives:

3-1. Establish criteria for research activities to meet management needs for information.

3-2. Investigate, document, evaluate, interpret, and protect the archaeological and historical elements of the park.

3-3. Incorporate scientific and educational information into the park's visitor information program so users can gain a better understanding of the park's cultural value and management direction.

3-4. Establish management practices which employ off-site visitor interpretation of the area's cultural and historic significance without attracting use to sensitive areas.

Goal 4: Enable a self-sufficient, year-round, recreational destination by developing collaborative relationships between DPOR and regional and statewide visitors' bureaus

Objectives:

4-1. Promote the park's tourism potential through marketing commercial operations, concession activities, visitor accommodations, and services within the park.

4-2. Develop partnerships between DPOR and businesses to help create sustainable revenue streams for the park.

Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park

Kachemak Bay State Wilderness park was "established and shall be managed as a wilderness park" in AS 41.21.140 (see Appendix B – Enabling Legislation). In this case, a wilderness park is defined in AS 41.21.990(2) as:

"an area whose predominant character is the result of the interplay of natural processes, large enough and so situated as to be unaffected, except in minor ways, by what takes place in the non-wilderness around it, a physical condition which activates the innermost emotions of the observer and where development of man-made objects will be strictly limited and depend entirely on good taste and judgment so that the wilderness values are not lost."

The following goal for KBSWP is set in accordance with these statutes.

Goal 5: Preserve and protect the land and water of KBSWP for their unique and exceptional wilderness values

Objectives:

- 5-1. Ensure that all KBSWP infrastructure developments (trails, trailheads, or campsites) are of a primitive nature.
- 5-2. Identify and develop minimum-impact terra and water trails that provide access to KBSWP during snow free periods.
- 5-3. Identify type and general location of structures that may be constructed to facilitate use while minimizing physical and visual impact to the resources.
- 5-4. Allow natural ecological processes to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the park unit. Minimal human manipulation may be permitted to restore human-disturbed environments, or offset human-induced restrictions on natural processes.
- 5-5. Permit monitoring, measuring, and scientific study of the wilderness environment using methods and techniques that are as unobtrusive as possible. Restraint should be applied to and by researchers to limit the negative impacts of research, experimentation, and environmental monitoring to protect the wilderness resource and experience.
- 5-6. Establish management practices which employ off-site visitor interpretation of the area's cultural and historic significance without attracting use to sensitive areas.
- 5-7. Monitor park use and respond to such use to protect the wilderness character of the park as necessary.

Overlook Park SRS, Diamond Creek SRS, and Eveline SRS

These three SRSs on the north side of Kachemak Bay (easily accessed by the public and limited in area) are managed under this plan. The following comprise the management goal and objectives for these sites.

Goal 6: Provide a variety of year-round recreational opportunities within road accessible units

Objectives:

- 6-1. Foster collaborative relationships that promote use and stewardship of these recreation sites.

- 1 6-2. Identify and develop trailhead facilities that provide parking for large
2 vehicles, public restrooms, and orientation/informational kiosks. Identify
3 location and capacity of new parking locations.
- 4 6-3. Increase safety of recreational use by re-routing or upgrading existing trails.
- 5 6-4. Develop guidelines for self-guided nature walks for bird and wildflowers
6 watching.
- 7 6-5. Develop and install interpretive panels at key access points that provide
8 information on trails, allowed public uses, and natural and cultural resources.
- 9 6-6. Develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)s with user groups and work
10 with these organizations to develop multimodal sustainable looped trails for
11 year-round use.
- 12 6-7. Develop more winter recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life
13 for visitors and residents.
- 14

Chapter 3 - Natural and Cultural Resources

Introduction

This chapter provides background information on the natural and human environment for the park units and is included to provide context for planning and managing park use. This information was considered when making the management and facility recommendations in this plan.

Natural Environment

Geology

Four general geologic units exist in the area. The oldest rocks, along the southern shore of Kachemak Bay, are composed of the 1) plutonic core and 2) extrusive portions of an intraoceanic island arc of Jurassic age separated from the somewhat younger McHugh Complex and Valdez Group that form the Chugach Mountains, composed of 3) highly deformed trench-fill, trench-slope, and ocean-basin deposits largely of Cretaceous age. These are discontinuously covered by 4) glacial, colluvial, alluvial and beach deposits derived from the underlying material (See Map 3 - General Geology on page 19 of this chapter).

Both glacial and tectonic forces actively shaped the present features of Kachemak Bay. Remnants of huge Pleistocene glaciers are still present, with 15 glaciers contributing melt waters into the bay. Kachemak Bay itself was formed by a glacier, which left behind a terminal moraine – the Homer Spit. Glacial valleys, outwash plains and sediment dominate the morphology of the bay, as seen in the shape and bathymetry of Kachemak Bay. These glaciers occupy a landscape framework formed during shortening and accretion of terranes onto the North American plate.

The Kachemak area is seismically active and earthquakes are common. The most notable seismic event in recent history was the 1964 Good Friday earthquake – the second strongest earthquake ever recorded in the world. The earthquake, centered between Anchorage and Valdez, measured 9.2 on the Richter Scale. Regional uplift and subsidence occurred throughout Cook Inlet, the Kenai Peninsula and the Copper River Delta. In the Kachemak Bay area the most pronounced effects included land subsidence, landslides, earth fissures, submarine landslides, compaction and erosion. Measurements taken along the south side of Kachemak Bay indicate that the total subsidence ranged from three feet near Halibut Cove, to nearly six feet in Seldovia. The effects of this subsidence extended over a two-year period,

causing the gradual loss of uplands due to saltwater inundation and wave erosion. Land subsidence killed trees along the Wosnesenski River, the bars of China Poot Bay and various glacial outwash plains. Due to seismic uplift and subsidence, many landforms of the Kachemak Bay area and Gulf of Alaska coast areas are extremely young. One example is the mouth of the Wosnesenski River. Now draining into Neptune Bay, the river previously entered China Poot Bay to the north before avulsing to its new bed.

Mountains

The landscape of KBSP and KBSWP was driven by the mountains formed by the Chugach terrane. The snow on the mountains collected in cirques to form glaciers; and the glaciers carved the valleys that lead into the mountains, as well as Kachemak Bay itself. The mountains were formed during the subduction of the Pacific tectonic plate under the North American tectonic plate.

The mountains of the parks reach heights of greater than 5,000 feet, and slopes steeper than 30% are typical in the area. Many areas are subject to avalanches and landslides. One major landslide fell into Grewingk Lake in 1967 and other landslide scars exist up-canyon of the glacier. Several avalanche scars also exist on the peaks forming the south edge of the Wosnesenski River valley. Sadie Cove shows extensive avalanche scarring along most of its length.

Soils

There are five soil types in the parks:

Tundra soil – Developed above 2,500 feet of elevation. This soil is thin, with a poorly developed profile and porous.

Forest soil – Developed under the forest canopy and consequently has a high percentage of organic material. This soil is light, has poor mechanical strength and is easily disturbed by human activity.

Marsh soil – Developed at the confluence of rivers and tidal flats or in bogs. This soil is highly organic, composed of fine particles, and retains moisture.

Alluvial soil – Developed along the course of streams. This soil is granular and well drained but low in organic content.

Residual soil – Poorly developed granular soil, with significant evidence of original parent material remining. This soil is typically well drained.

Minerals

There are no significant identified mineral deposits and limited historic mining in the area. Three miles to the west of the parks, chromite was mined at the Queen Chrome/Red Mountain mine in the middle of the 20th century. Gold and silver were mined in the late 19th



Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park

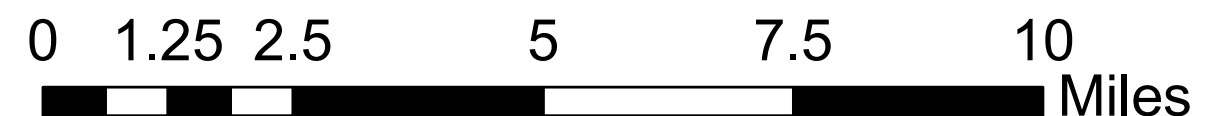
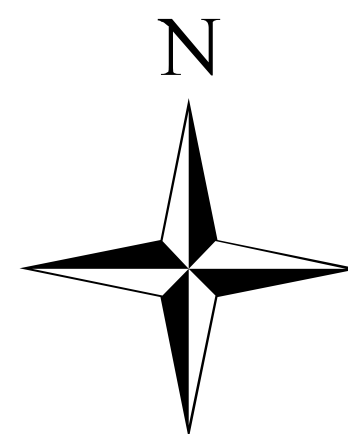
Map 3: General Geology

- State Park (AS 41.21.131)
- State Wilderness Park (AS 41.21.140)
- State Park Managed Areas
- Chugach accretionary complex
- Glaciers
- Limestone and volcanic rocks of the Kenai Peninsula
- Mafic and ultramafic rocks in southern Alaska
- McHugh and Uyak Complexes and similar rocks
- Nearshore and nonmarine sedimentary rocks in southern Alaska
- Quartz diorite and granodiorite
- Unconsolidated and poorly consolidated surficial deposits



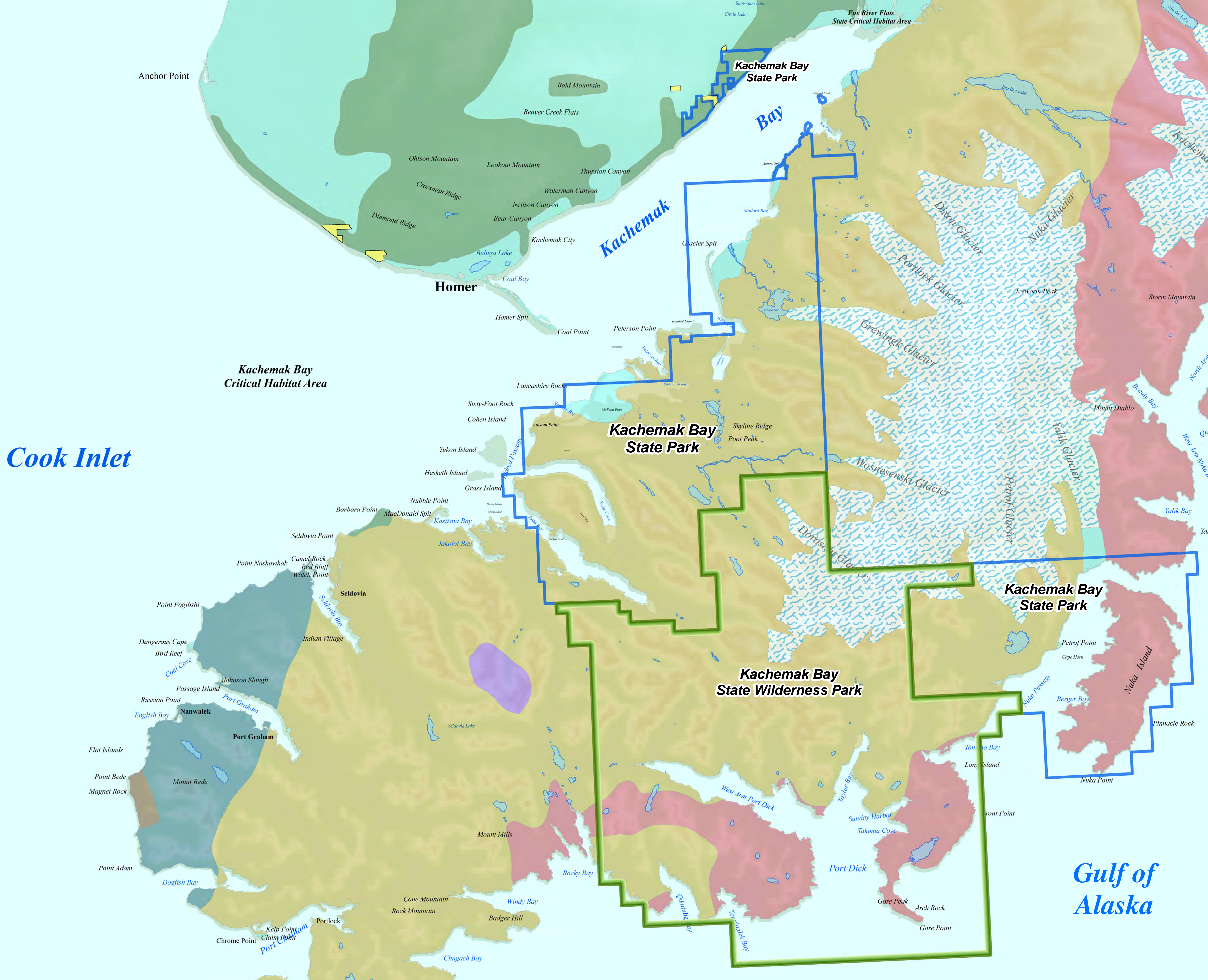
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Cook Inlet

Gulf of Alaska



and early 20th century east of the parks in the hills overlooking Nuka Bay. Analysis of geochemical data from the United States Geologic Survey suggests there is limited potential for mineralization within the parks.

Hydrography

The Homer Spit bisects Kachemak Bay into inner (“upper”) and outer (“lower”) bays. The inner bay is dominated by freshwater influence from the incoming fluvial systems, while the outer bay experiences more restricted marine influence from Cook. Much of the freshwater in the parks are locked in the glaciers of the Grewingk-Yalik Glacier Complex. Meltwater from these glaciers mixes with runoff from precipitation to fill the lakes and streams of the parks.

Glaciers

Grewingk, Portlock, Wosnesenski, Petrof, Southern Glaciers, and many small unnamed glaciers are part of the Grewingk-Yalik Glacier Complex southwest of the Harding Icefield in the Kenai Mountains.

Five glacially-generated geomorphological features found within the parks are:

- Large fjords, such as Sadie Cove,
- “U” shaped glaciated valleys found in various locations throughout the parks,
- Glacial lakes found in cirques,
- Hanging valleys, where a small valley glacier merged with a larger glacier with a deeper base level,
- Broad plains of glacial outwash, composed of material left behind by retreating glaciers and reworked by their meltwater.

Lakes, Rivers and Streams

Numerous rivers and streams dissect the landscape of the parks. Many are sourced from glaciers in the parks and carry significant volumes of glacial sediment. In addition, they drain the more than 70 inches of rain that fall annually on the southern shore of Kachemak Bay and erode the mountains of the parks.

Bathymetry

Kachemak Bay averages 46m (150ft) in depth, the bottom being relatively flat except for a 100-160m (330-540ft) deep trench that runs along the southern edge. The deepest part of the bay is 176m depression located north of Cohen Island at the entrance to the inner bay, known as the Jakolof Trench.

The bathymetry of the inner bay, northeast of the Homer Spit, is controlled by sediment input from the Fox River at the head of the bay, and the deposition of this sediment along the northern edge of the bay. As sediment-laden water enters the bay, it is forced north by the inner bay gyres and deposits its sediment between the Fox River flats and the Homer Spit. Although fed in part by sediment-rich glacial streams, water in the outer bay is generally quite clear with a very low suspended sediment load. In the inner bay, suspended sediment concentrations are normally higher than in the outer bay, particularly in spring and summer. Eroding bluffs along the north side of the inner and outer bay contribute additional sediments.

On the southern side of the Kenai Mountains, the Gulf of Alaska is deeply embayed by glacial fjords. Water depths in the fjords reach 250m (820ft) in Port Dick, but otherwise generally dip to the south-southwest within the marine boundaries of the parks.

Tides and waves

Kachemak Bay and the adjacent Cook Inlet are known for their extreme tidal range. Kachemak Bay has a 4.8m (15.8 ft.) tidal range due to the complex geomorphology of the adjacent Cook Inlet. Average high tides are about +5.5m (+18 ft.), though high tides can reach +8.5m (+28 ft.). Low tide reaches -1.8m (-5.9 ft.).

Homer, Glacier, Aurora, and China Poot Bay Spits all curve inward suggesting flood tide sediment movement dominates over ebb tide erosion. Tide water movement in smaller bays and coves, especially in shallow areas, can be extremely swift.

On the Gulf of Alaska side of the parks, at Takoma Cove, Port Dick, the tidal range is approximately 3m (10ft), with tides as high as +4.8m (+16 ft.) and as low as -1m (-3.5 ft.).

Climate

The Kenai Mountains and significant maritime influence control the climate in the area. To the south and east, the Kenai Peninsula is bound by the Gulf of Alaska and on the west side by Cook Inlet. The presence of the relatively warm, southwesterly flowing Alaska Current in the Gulf of Alaska influences the temperatures of the Kenai Peninsula. The Alaska Current originates to the south as the eastwardly flowing North Pacific Current splits when it hits North America, bringing warm Pacific water north along the Alaskan Panhandle and along the southern edge of the Kenai Peninsula. Even though cold weather occasionally moves in from interior Alaska, this warm water moderates the temperature onshore – the Kenai Peninsula is one of the warmer areas in Southcentral Alaska.

Kachemak Bay is in the rain shadow on the north side of the Kenai Mountains, sheltered from the influence of the Alaska Current. The mountains moderate the effects of storms within the Kachemak Bay area. As northwest-moving moist air masses from the Gulf of Alaska are forced up and over the southeast side of the coastal mountains of KBSWP, the air cools and moisture is precipitated as rain or snow. After passing over the Kenai Mountains,

as the air masses descend into the Kachemak Bay area they warm through the process of compression. The northwest exposures of the Kenai Mountains in the parks are therefore dryer and warmer than the southeast exposures.

Precipitation

Annual precipitation for the Gulf of Alaska side of the parks is high, estimated at more than 70 inches/year. Due to the rain shadow effect of the mountains, the Kachemak Bay area receives significantly less precipitation (around 30 inches/year), while precipitation in the Kenai Mountains is estimated to be more than 130 inches/year.

Annual snowfall in Homer and lower elevations along Kachemak Bay averages 55 inches. Across the bay in Halibut Cove, annual snowfall averages 88 inches. Because of significantly cooler temperatures, higher elevations of inland areas can receive three times or more snow than the lower elevations. Snowfall usually starts in October and continues through April. In sheltered areas, snow frequently doesn't melt until April, while on north slopes and at higher elevations snow can persist until late summer.

Temperature

Winter temperatures at Halibut Cove typically range between 20°F for a low and 31°F for a high, while during the summer, temperatures range between a low of 40°F and a high of 59°F. With elevation increase temperature decreases by about three degrees/1,000 feet. Local variations in aspect, exposure, cold air drainage and mountain valley winds create a multitude of microclimates throughout the parks. Average time between springtime's last freezing temperature and the first freeze in the fall is 133 days.

Winds

In the parks, winds typically range from 10 to 25 knots, with higher winds experienced on mountain ridges and passes, and in open areas such as the mouths of Tutka Bay and Sadie Cove. On Kachemak Bay during the summer months, the wind is typically 15 to 20 knots from the southwest (called the "day breeze"). The day breeze is moderate in the early mornings and late evenings but is stronger at mid-day. With the approach of storms from the Gulf of Alaska, the winds change to southeast. In the fall and winter, winds in the bay are more commonly from the north and northeast. The Gulf of Alaska is subject to the severe storms of the north Pacific.

Clouds

The average cloud cover is 72%. All months except December and January have cloud coverage between 70 and 80%. Longer periods of overcast occur in the mountains.

Homer experiences heavy fog approximately five days per year. Fog most frequently occurs in low-lying areas of the bay where cold air collects, such as downslope from the Doroshin, Wosnesenski and Grewingk Glaciers. The sun usually dissipates fog by mid-day.

Habitat

As seen in Map 4 - General Habitat on page 25 of this chapter, the parks have six types of habitat:

- Marine (23% of the parks/87,400 acres)
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland (2% of the parks/6,950 acres)
- Freshwater Wetland (1% of the parks/4,020 acres)
- Freshwater Lakes and Streams (2% of the parks/8,720 acres)
- Forest (27% of the parks/98,900 acres)
- Alpine (45% of the parks/166,730 acres)

Marine Habitat

Approximately 23% of the area is marine habitat, both in Kachemak Bay and the Gulf of Alaska. Marine habitat is defined as that habitat that is dominated by salt water influence, extending from the tideline to deep water. Water depths range from zero at the tideline to >200 m (deep marine).











Closest to the shore, the Intertidal Zone is alternately exposed and then covered as the tide ebbs and floods onto the tidelands. In these areas, the substrate is either 'hard' (rocky) or 'soft' (muddy), and tends to control the distribution of plant communities and their associated animals. One of the most interesting features of intertidal communities is the horizontal zonation, where the plant and animal communities are divided into distinct horizontal bands of specific species, the location of which is directly controlled by the amount of time it is flooded by the tide.

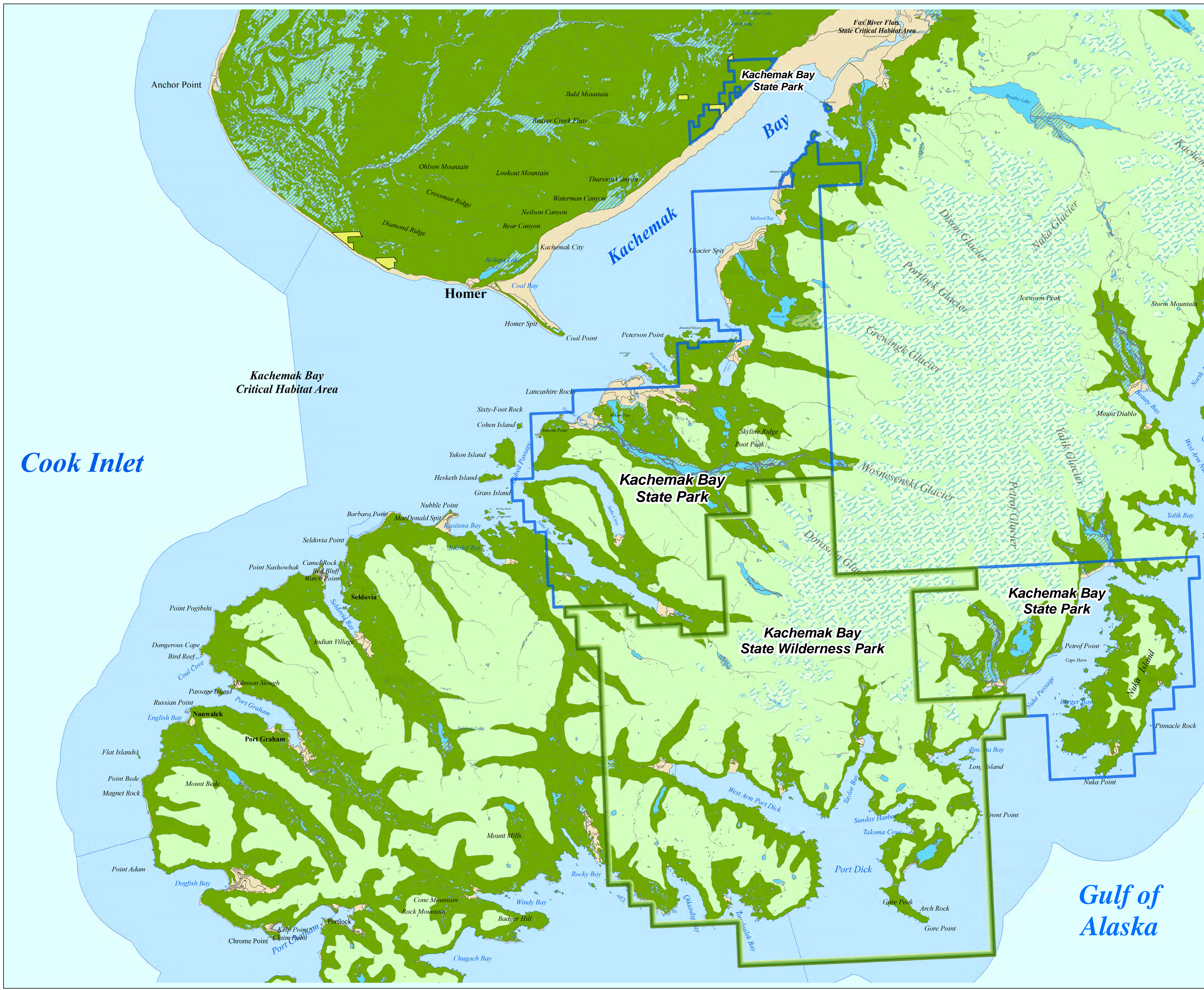
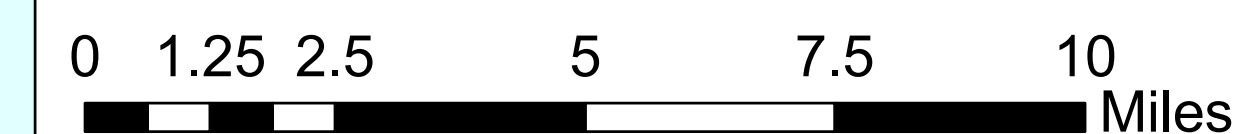
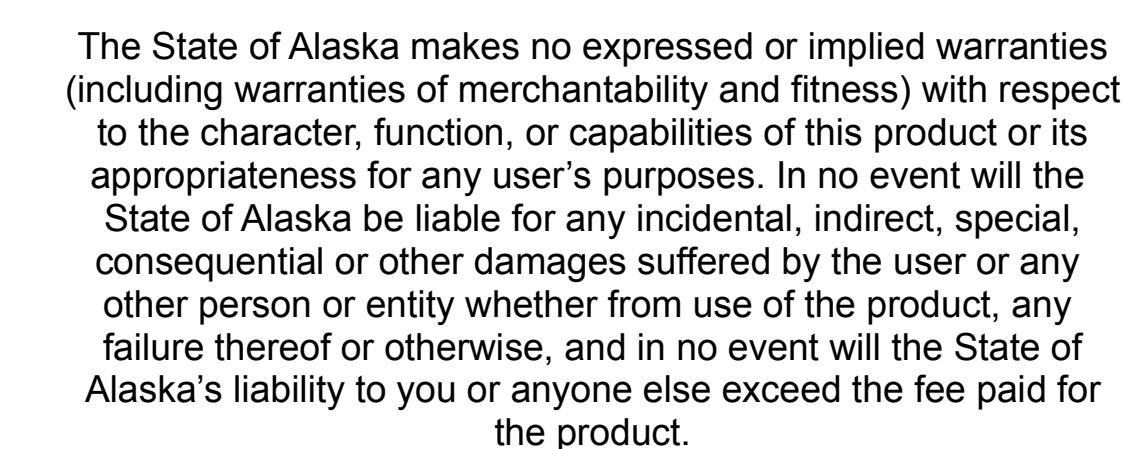
Seaward of the Intertidal Zone, the Subtidal Zone occurs below the low tide line. The Subtidal Zone is the 'nurse' of many shellfish and other small invertebrates which comprise the rich underwater ecosystem that feeds the bay.

Estuarine and Marine Wetland Habitat

Estuaries are partially enclosed bodies of brackish coastal water with one or more inflowing rivers or streams and a free connection to the open sea. They make up 2% of the parks but contribute significantly to the parks' bioproductivity.



-  State Park (AS 41.21.131)
-  State Wilderness Park (AS 41.21.140)
-  State Park Managed Areas
-  Alpine
-  Estuarine
-  Forest
-  Freshwater Lakes and Streams
-  Freshwater Wetland
-  Marine
-  Glaciers



1 Estuaries form a transition zone between maritime environments and fluvial environments.
2 They are subject to marine influences, such as tides and waves, and to riverine influences,
3 such as fresh water and sediment. The mixing of both sea water and fresh water provide high
4 levels of nutrients throughout the water column and within the sediment, making estuaries
5 among the most productive natural habitats in the bay.
6

7 **Freshwater Wetland Habitat**

8

9 Wetlands are “edge” communities that contain poorly drained soils and represent a
10 transitional zone between aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The main types of wetlands found
11 in the parks are bog, grass wetland, and sedge wetland. Wetland habitats can be isolated,
12 ephemeral, or located in riparian areas hydrologically connected to surface waters of rivers,
13 streams, and lakes. Significant wetlands also occur along the coastline and adjacent to river
14 deltas, and within forests throughout the parks. Approximately 1% of the parks are
15 freshwater wetlands.
16

17 **Freshwater Lakes and Streams Habitat**

18

19 There are six large lakes (more than 100 acres in size) and many small lakes within the parks.
20 The largest of the glacially formed lakes is Grewingk Lake at the foot of Grewingk Glacier.
21 Slightly more than 2% of the parks is composed of freshwater lakes and streams.
22

23 During the Quaternary Ice Age, glaciers carved most of the drainages occupied by
24 watercourses in the parks. The headwaters of Tutka, Halibut, Grewingk, Humpy, Portlock
25 and Petrof Creeks are all sourced from active glaciers.
26

27 Most of the streams in the parks are young and are just beginning their erosional processes.
28

29 The water quality in the parks is excellent. The clear water streams and springs are often
30 used for drinking water, although the potential for giardia contamination exists and
31 appropriate precautions should be taken.
32

33 Many of the streams in the parks are spawning areas for salmon.
34

35 **Forest Habitat**

36

37 The parks host two basic forest subzones; Sitka spruce/western hemlock, and black
38 cottonwood. Both are climax forests and occupy approximately 27% of the parks.
39

40 The lower slope vegetation of the Kenai Mountains is dominated by mature stands of Sitka
41 spruce and smaller stands of mixed spruce/deciduous forest. Away from the marine
42 influence, the tree cover changes to black cottonwood. Cottonwood is also common in the
43 river bottoms of the parks. Tall grasses and ferns tend to grow underneath these dense
44 cottonwood stands. Willow is the dominant species in more open areas.
45

At higher elevations and on steeper and wetter slopes below the tree line (500m), tall shrubs (primarily alder, mixed with salmonberry, elderberry and devil's club) are the main vegetation type.

Subalpine Habitat

The transition between Forest Habitat and Alpine Habitat varies by location and is difficult to define. It is highly sensitive to local environmental influences, and microclimates within this zone allow species to interfinger from below and above. Snow slides and geologic activity cause breaks in vegetation. In many areas of the subalpine region small islands of stunted trees are confined to sheltered sites.

Alpine Habitat

The Alpine Habitat (nearly 45% of the parks' area) extends from the upper fringes of the Forest Habitat to the rocky mountain tops. Alpine tundra occurs above tree line elevations in mountain ranges and exposed ridges in Alaska. At these higher elevations, the landscape is increasingly broken by rock outcroppings. Plant communities consist of prostrate, mat and cushion-forming species and shrubby species intermittent in distribution. Barren and lichen-covered rocky areas are dominated by Dryas and mountain heath communities. These plants are adapted to the scouring high winds and widely-ranging temperatures of high elevation alpine regions. Due to steep slopes and relatively thin soil at the higher elevations, areas of alpine tundra lack trees and may have permafrost.

Alpine vegetation experiences severe growing conditions. Summers are extremely short, soils are fragile and shallow, and temperatures only reach the lower end of the growing range. Despite challenging growing conditions, beautiful alpine plants thrive in this zone. Alpine zones are easily disturbed.

Wildlife

A large variety of animals live within the habitats described above. (See Appendix C – Mammal list.) Much more information is available for the northern Kachemak Bay side of the parks than the more remote southern Gulf of Alaska side.

Marine Animals

The marine habitat holds most of the fauna that the parks are best known for. (See Map 5 - Marine Mammals & Terrestrial Species on page 29 of this chapter). Sea otters, harbor seals, Dall's porpoises, and harbor porpoises are commonly seen in Kachemak Bay. Beluga whales and Steller sea lions occasionally enter the bay and are common outside the bay and in Cook Inlet. Humpback whales and orcas have become more prevalent in Kachemak Bay since about 2010.



**Kachemak Bay
State Park &
State Wilderness Park**

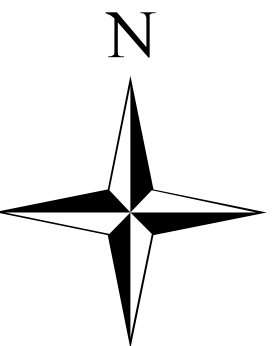
**Map 5:
Marine Mammals &
Terrestrial Species**

- State Park (AS 41.21.131)
- State Wilderness Park (AS 41.21.140)
- State Park Managed Areas
- State Critical Habitat Area
- Beluga Whale
- Harbor Porpoise
- Harbor Seal
- Minke Whale
- Sea Otter
- Steller Sea Lion
- Killer Whale
- Black Bear
- Marmot
- Mink & Weasel
- Moose
- Mountain Goat
- River Otter
- Wolverine

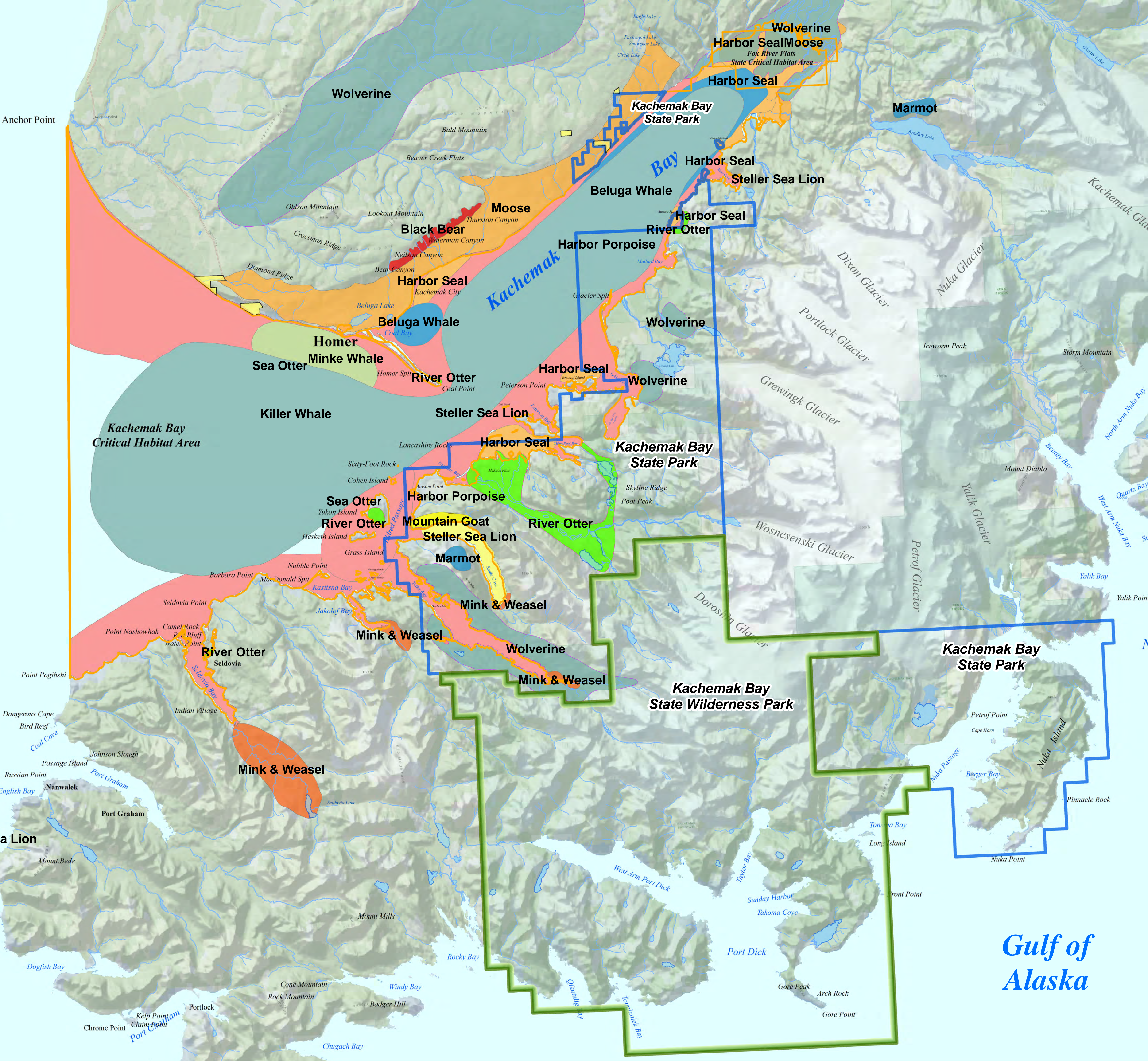


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Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles



1 In the Gulf of Alaska side of the parks, fin, minke and humpback whales commonly migrate
2 through. Both resident and transient orcas utilize the Gulf of Alaska side of the parks and
3 limited numbers of sea otters also live along the coastline.
4

5 Pacific halibut, walleye pollock, lingcod, Pacific cod, and rockfish are found throughout the
6 salt waters of the parks, both within Kachemak Bay and along the Gulf of Alaska. All five
7 species of Pacific salmon that spawn in Alaska are found in the salt waters of the parks, with
8 all spawning in the fresh water streams on both sides of the Kenai Peninsula. A wide variety
9 of other fish species live in the waters of the parks, contributing greatly to its biodiversity and
10 bioproductivity. (see Map 6 - Fishfin Species on page 33 of this chapter.)
11

12 Shellfish are found in Kachemak Bay, with crab, shrimp and clams found throughout the
13 area. Tanner crab are the most common crab, Dungeness and king crab are less common
14 along with small pockets of pink and sidestripe shrimp. Razor, redneck/surf, soft-shelled,
15 littleneck, butter, and gaper clams, as well as blue mussels and cockles, are found in the
16 intertidal waters of Kachemak Bay along the beaches.
17

18 **Terrestrial animals**

19

20 Moose are widespread, in low numbers grazing on timberline plateaus, along the larger
21 streams, and in recently burned areas throughout the parks. Mountain goats range from
22 alpine to old-growth forest below tree line. Dall sheep are found in the rugged, relatively dry
23 area of the parks on the north-west side of the Kenai Mountains.
24

25 Major predators in the area include brown and black bears, lynx, coyote, wolves, wolverine,
26 and ermine. Other common species in the parks include red squirrel, hoary marmot, and
27 snowshoe hare. (See Appendix C – Mammal list.)
28

29 **Birds**

30

31 Due to its high bio-productivity and wide range of habitats, the parks are among the most
32 important marine bird habitats on the Kenai Peninsula and southcentral Alaska. More than
33 250 species of marine migratory and nonmigratory birds have been identified in and around
34 the parks. More than 140 different species reside in the parks at some time during the year,
35 and more than 110 species breed and raise their young in the parks. More than 60 species
36 migrate through the parks. See Map 7 - General Bird Habitat on page 35 of this chapter.
37

38 Major categories of birds identified within and around the parks include waterfowl,
39 shorebirds, gulls, seabirds, songbirds and raptors. (See Appendix D – Bird List.)
40
41
42

Invasive Species and Infestations

Spruce Bark Beetle

During the 1980s and 1990s, the spruce forests of Kachemak Bay's watershed experienced a large spruce bark beetle infestation – part of an infestation that resulted in the death of over 2.3 million acres of spruce on the Kenai Peninsula. These vast acres of dead trees changed the uplands habitat, the hydrology of rivers and streams, and affected the diversity and distribution of wildlife inhabiting the parks. The spruce bark beetle was not new to the area – epidemic scale outbreaks are known to have occurred on the lower Kenai Peninsula as far back as the mid-1800s. However, the recent epidemic was the most significant terrestrial ecological disturbance to the area in recorded history.

Spruce Aphid

The spruce aphid, a nonnative insect originally from Europe, is tentatively identified to be damaging Sitka spruce stands in Halibut Cove. Aphid activity was initially reported in early June of 2015. The aphid also appears to be active in Homer, Icy Bay in Prince William Sound, and Kenai Fjords National Park.

Based on experience with this aphid in Southeast Alaska, outbreaks commonly occur following mild, relatively warm winters. The aphids begin actively feeding and reproducing in early spring and are temperature sensitive. Infested trees usually recover if subsequent winters' temperatures turn cold enough (-14F) to reduce aphid populations.

Individual needles initially show yellow mottled blotches where aphids are feeding. Eventually, needles turn reddish-brown and drop prematurely leaving infested parts of the tree without foliage. Spruce aphids have the greatest impact on trees along the coast and rarely move further into the forest.

Natural Hazards

Avalanches

Avalanche conditions exist whenever unconsolidated snow accumulates to form a slab on a sloped surface that is underlain by a weak snow layer. If there is a sufficiently long and steep slope, a triggering event may cause an avalanche. Most avalanches occur on 34% to 45% slopes with the majority occurring on slopes of 38% or 39%.



**Kachemak Bay
State Park &
State Wilderness Park**

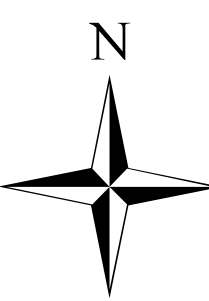
**Map 6:
Finfish Species**

- State Park (AS 41.21.131)
- State Wilderness Park (AS 41.21.140)
- State Park Managed Areas
- State Critical Habitat Area
- Chum Salmon
- Coho Salmon
- Forage Fish
- Halibut
- Herring
- Juv. Lingcod
- King Salmon
- Nearshore Rockfish
- Pacific Cod
- Pink Salmon
- Rock Sole
- Sablefish
- Smelt
- Sockeye Salmon
- Walleye Pollock



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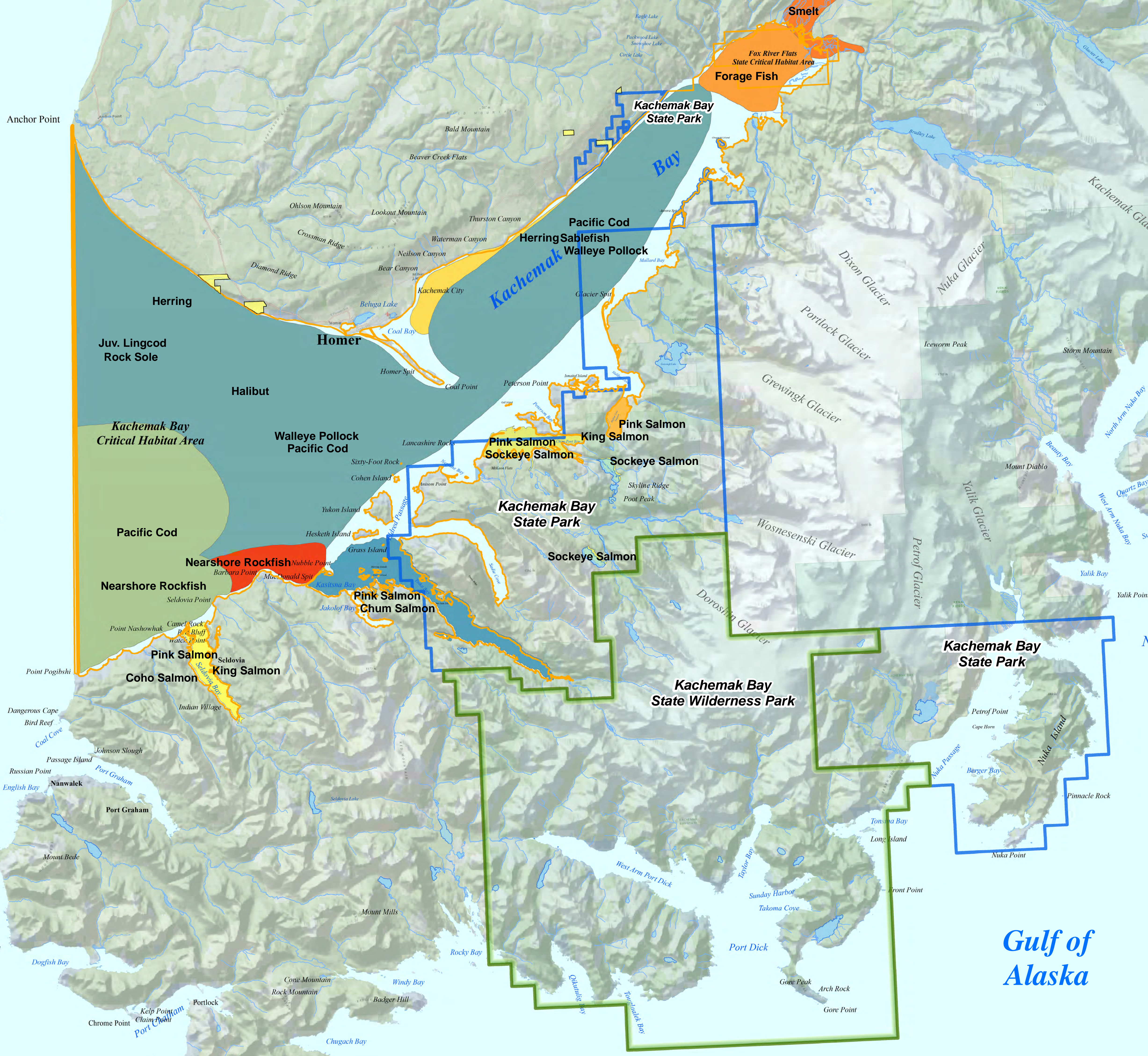
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0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles

Cook Inlet

*Gulf of
Alaska*





Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park

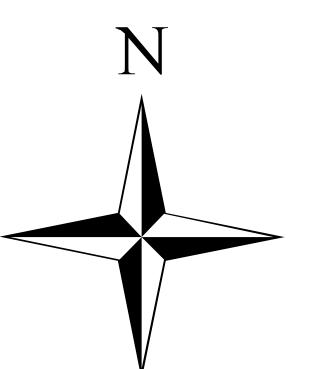
Map 7: General Bird Habitat

- State Park (AS 41.21.131)
- State Wilderness Park (AS 41.21.140)
- State Park Managed Areas
- State Critical Habitat Area
- Brant
- Canada Goose
- Ducks & Geese (fl)
- Ducks & Geese (sp)
- Sandhill Crane & Trumpeter Swan
- Shearwaters
- Shorebirds
- Trumpeter Swan
- Willow Ptarmigan
- eagle

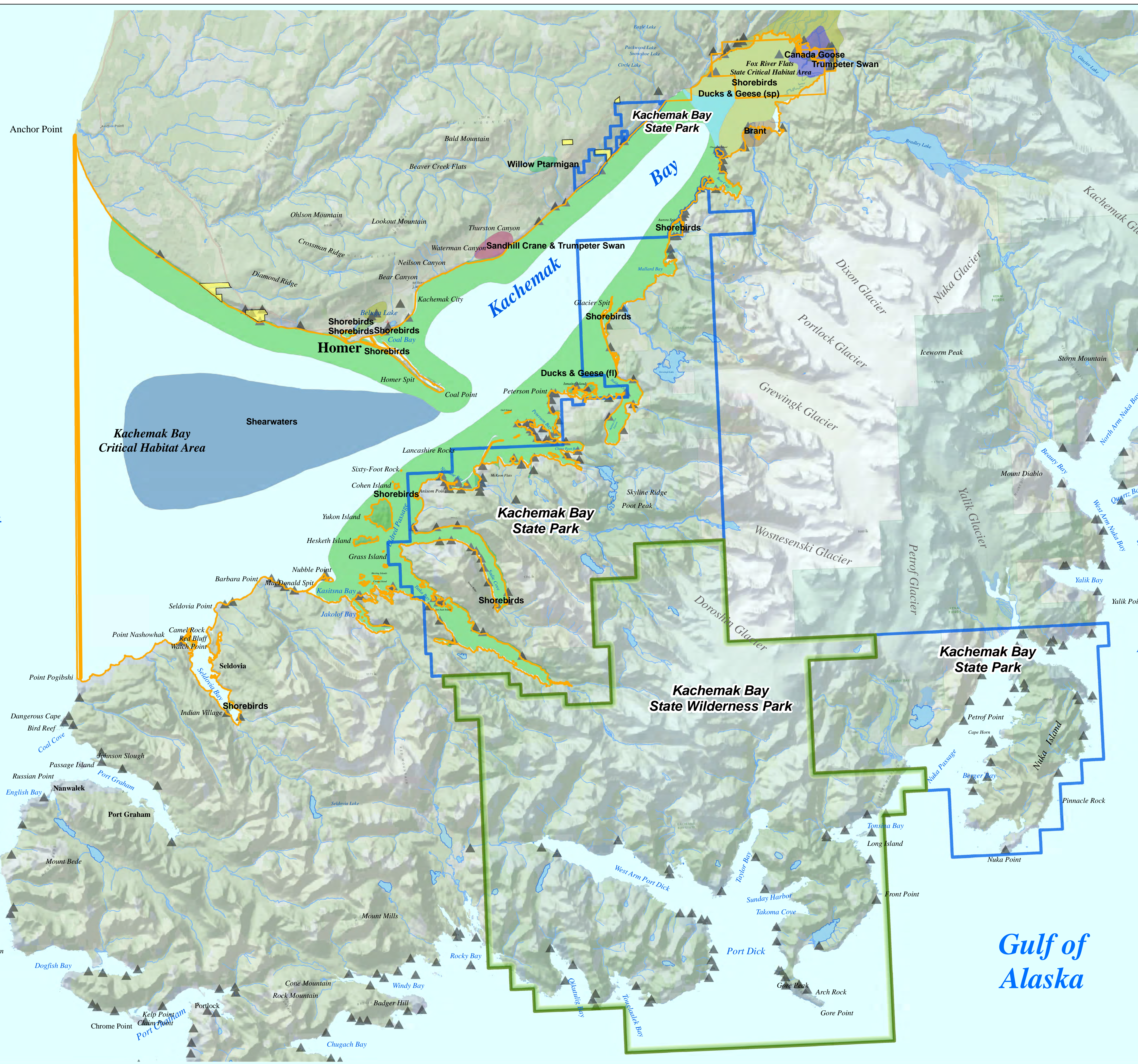


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UTM Zone 6 North



0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10
Miles



Earthquakes

Earthquakes are common within a 600-mile radius of the parks, with three earthquakes greater than 8.0 magnitude occurring since 1938: M8.6 Shumagin Island 1938; M8.6 Unimak Island 1946; and M9.2 Prince William Sound 1964. In 2017, more than 777 earthquakes with a magnitude of greater than 2.5 occurred within 300 miles of the parks. Nine events had a magnitude greater than 5, and four of these were within 100 miles of the parks.

Tsunamis may be generated when earthquakes occur under water. Due to the geography of Kachemak Bay, tsunami risk is relatively low in the park units bordering the bay; however, on the Gulf of Alaska side of the parks the risk is higher due to the exposed coastline.

Steep and Unstable Terrain

The rugged topography of the parks is a significant draw for visitors. These same features also pose a risk to hunters, hikers, mountain climbers and other backcountry travelers. Small land/rock slides have occurred on the buttresses above Grewingk Lake – there is potential for a large event that could trigger a tsunami-like surface wave on the lake.

Hazard Trees/Windfall/Vegetative Change

In spruce-bark-beetle infested areas, infected trees usually die and can be subject to blowdown events after about 10 years. This results in great difficulty traversing the terrain and maintaining trails and facilities. Not only do staff or volunteers need to clear downed or hazard trees, but as the forest canopy opens, devil's club, blueberries, and currants become the dominant species. As vast areas of spruce die, rapid understory growth results in conversion to devil's club or grass meadows where discerning a trail can be difficult. This can lead to disoriented hikers needing assistance by search and rescue staff.

Human Environment

Regional Setting and Overview

The Kenai Peninsula is a rich and varied region of Southcentral Alaska. Mountains and glaciers (including the 1,000+ square mile Harding Icefield) cover much of the peninsula, with extensive lowland forests, meadows and river systems rimming the mountainous spine. The Gulf of Alaska brings saltwater to the shores of the peninsula. The area's abundant fish, wildlife, and breathtaking scenery awe residents and visitors alike.

Most of the Kenai Peninsula's land mass falls within large conservation areas managed by the Federal Government (see Map 2-General Land Ownership, pg. 9). Chugach National Forest, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and Kenai Fjords National Park are managed

1 primarily for multiple use, wildlife habitat, and public recreation/resource protection,
2 respectively.

3
4 The major communities of the Kenai Peninsula are situated along the peninsula's rivers and
5 coastline. Homer, located on Kachemak Bay, is considered the "host" community for KBSP.
6 It has a bustling harbor and deep-water dock. The major economic bases for the region are
7 recreation; tourism; commercial fishing; and oil and gas exploration and production.

8
9 The land "across the bay" was actually settled by Europeans before Homer was. Early
10 settlers were found in Bear Cove and Halibut Cove, and Seldovia was the first major town.
11 KBSP and KBSWP are named for Kachemak Bay, a relatively shallow 39-mile-long
12 nutrient-rich arm of Cook Inlet. The waters and tidelands of Kachemak Bay, a "nursery" for
13 many Alaska marine species, were legislatively designated a State Critical Habitat Area in
14 1974.

15
16 Most of KBSP's 173,435 roadless acres are located on the south side of Kachemak Bay. The
17 park also includes the sand and clay cliffs of the Cottonwood/Eastland Creek area (on the
18 bay's north shore), Nuka Island (the largest island on the southern Kenai coast) and islands in
19 the Petrof Glacier area.

20
21 The Wilderness Park became Alaska's first, and remains its only, state wilderness park in
22 1972. It abuts the southern boundary of KBSP in the Kenai mountains and extends south
23 into the waters of the Gulf of Alaska. It contains approximately 198,408 roadless acres,
24 including 115 miles of rugged coastline on the North Pacific plus 15 miles of combined
25 coastline from 80 islands in the park.

26
27 The uniqueness of the area is a result of dynamic interactions between geology, biology and
28 climate. This interplay between the environment and its inhabitants, and between the people,
29 plants and animals themselves, creates a wide diversity of landscape and organisms that offer
30 an abundance of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

31 32 33 **Surface Estate**

34
35 The surface estate is essentially the visible land in addition to common materials such as sand
36 and gravel within the near-surface. Combined, the park units encompass more than
37 371,000 acres of land. Of that, approximately 845 acres are privately owned (201 individual
38 parcels) and another approximately 189 acres are owned by the University of Alaska, Bureau
39 of Indian Affairs, Seldovia Native Association, and BLM.

Subsurface Estate

The subsurface estate includes the lands below the surface and the leasable minerals¹ and locatable minerals². The state owns the subsurface estate where the surface estate is also owned within park units. Because the lands and waters were withdrawn from the public domain as a special purpose site they cannot be leased for private or commercial development of the subsurface resources.

Cultural History

Pre-Contact

Due to its coastal location, diverse vegetation, relatively benign climate, and abundant marine and terrestrial wildlife, people have been attracted to the Gulf of Alaska and Kachemak Bay areas for millennia. Evidence shows that ancestral Alutiiq lived along the outer Kenai Peninsula coast for at least 7,500 years. Ancestral peoples occupied Kachemak Bay as early as 8,000 years ago. To date, these earliest inhabitants are unidentified culturally; however, archaeologists have identified three cultures called Ocean Bay, Arctic Small Tool tradition, and Kachemak tradition in the area. Sites representing each of these cultures are found on state park land.

Most ancestral peoples probably arrived by kayaks or larger umiaks from the Kodiak archipelago, the Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay and later from Prince William Sound, as evidenced by the types of materials they used and the styles of tools they created.

About 1,000 years ago, Dena'ina Athabascan people migrated into Cook Inlet from the mountains to the west and north of the Kenai Peninsula. In Cook Inlet, communities arose near major salmon streams such as the Kenai and Kasilof rivers and the Beluga River north of Tyonek. Kachemak Bay was the southernmost extension of Dena'ina territory – here people hunted marine mammals such as belugas, whales and seals; fished; and harvested invertebrates. Dena'ina settled around Seldovia, on a few islands in Eldred Passage, at Bear Cove, at small camps on Chugachik Island, and at Cottonwood Creek, leaving middens (refuse deposits) and other indications of habitation. Aleutika and Tutka are place names that speak to the long Dena'ina presence in the parks.

Although all Dena'ina speak Athabascan, four distinct dialect areas exist:

1. Upper Inlet (Turnagain Arm northward to Denali; west to Rainy Pass and Tyonek; and eastward to Chickaloon),

¹ Leasable minerals include deposits of coal, sulfur phosphates, oil shale, sodium potassium, oil, and gas. Leasable minerals do not include locatable minerals.

² Locatable minerals include both metallic (gold, silver, lead, etc.) and non-metallic (feldspar, asbestos, mica, etc.) minerals. Locatable minerals do not include leasable minerals.

2. Inland (Nondalton, Lime Village, and Lake Clark),
3. Iliamna (Pedro Bay, Newhalen, and westward to Augustine Island in Kamishak Bay),
4. Outer Inlet (Seldovia north to Point Possession, and, on the west shore, Polly Creek to Kustatan).

Although the Outer Inlet dialect is extinct now, Dena'ina people still reside in Seldovia.

On the northern shore of Kachemak Bay is the Cottonwood and Eastland Creeks area, annexed to the state park in 1989 for scenic and recreational values. This area also holds additional evidence of prehistoric occupation. Known archaeological sites are located near the mouths of both Cottonwood and Eastland Creeks.

In the late 1800s, Chugach Alutiit people moved from Prince William Sound and from along the outer Kenai Peninsula coast to the tip of the Kenai, where they built the communities of Nanwalek and Port Graham. Descendants still live in those villages and in Seldovia.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources in Alaska are deposits, structures, ruins, sites, buildings, graves, artifacts, fossils, or other objects over 50 years old. They are important evidence of earlier human occupation and if lost are irreplaceable. Cultural sites are studied by evaluating the three-dimensional spatial arrangement of artifacts, features, and specimens within the site. The placement of objects relative to each other tells a story of how people lived. If an object is moved, its context is destroyed. It is therefore unlawful to disturb cultural resources on either state or federal lands.

Intense investigations in the early 1930s (by Frederica de Laguna, the pioneer archaeologist in Southcentral Alaska, and by other archaeologists) documented many significant sites in Kachemak Bay containing middens, artifacts (such as tools), and fire hearths.

Western Contact

Danish Captain Vitus Bering and Russian Captain Alexii Chirikov explored the Alaskan coast on behalf of Russia in 1741. Between 1778 and the late 1790s, British Captains James Cook, George Vancouver, Nathaniel Portlock, and George Dixon explored the waters of Southcentral Alaska, including what Vancouver named Cook Inlet. The Spanish conducted at least five expeditions to Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska between 1774 and 1792.

Permanent western presence in Cook Inlet began in the 1780s. Two rival Russian fur companies established themselves in Cook Inlet from 1784 until 1797. Grigorii Shelikhov's fur hunters were in Kachemak Bay by 1786, primarily hunting land animals or purchasing pelts from the local Dena'ina hunters and trappers. After the flurry of the fur rush, Russian, European, and American scientists focused on mineral exploration. Peter Doroshin, a

1 Russian geologist, explored the Kenai Peninsula in the late 1840s and early 1850s. He
2 recommended that coal seams near Port Graham be mined, which they subsequently were
3 starting in 1855 and continuing into the 1860s.

4
5 After Alaska became a United States territory in 1867, American cartographers and scientists
6 traveled north to map the Alaska coastline and to document the natural resources, especially
7 mineral resources such as coal and gold. A flurry of coal mining along the north shore of
8 Kachemak Bay, including at Eastland Creek in the park, and of gold placer mining near
9 Anchor Point occurred in the 1880s and 1890s. Aurora Spit and the land south of Aurora
10 Lagoon were the site of a bogus gold mining venture in the early 1900s. At least one tunnel
11 was dug into bedrock along Portlock Creek to suggest active gold mining in case any curious
12 investors traveled to Alaska.

13
14 William H. Dall, cartographer, geologist, and scientist, visited Kachemak Bay in 1880, 1895,
15 and 1899. On each trip, he documented the melting of Grewingk Glacier which he named in
16 honor of a German volcanologist. While mapping the shoreline of Kachemak Bay, Dall
17 named numerous features in the parks such as Halibut and Sadie Coves, Eldred Passage, and
18 Tutka Bay.

19
20 Halibut Cove, a small community adjacent to the park, was established around 1911 with the
21 development of a short-lived yet thriving herring fishery. Processing plants, known as
22 salteries, were constructed around Halibut Cove and the nearby lagoon. The herring fishery
23 occurred in late winter and early spring and flourished when the unusually large (12"-14"
24 long) herring spawned in dense beds of eel grass within the bay, particularly in Halibut Cove
25 and Aurora Lagoon. The fishery crashed in the late 1920s, due to depleted stocks, non-
26 existent conservation practices, and competition with foreign fishing fleets. On certain low
27 tides, boaters can still see remnant pilings from the San Juan Saltery in San Juan Cove, Tutka
28 Bay. The saltery, later converted to a salmon cannery, was dismantled in 1946 or 1947 and
29 the building materials were incorporated into other structures around Kachemak Bay.
30 Although not in the parks, saltery pilings near the Saddle Trail trailhead have become a
31 staging area for charter boats to drop off and pick up people hiking nearby park trails.

32
33 Concurrent with the development of the herring fishery was fox farming. Wild red foxes,
34 living in the hills north of Homer, were live-trapped, penned, bred, and raised for their
35 luxurious fur. Fox farmers, preferring quiet locations in which to raise their foxes, settled in
36 remote coves along the bay. They also released arctic foxes, imported from northern Alaska,
37 on uninhabited islands to fend for themselves. The availability and abundance of relatively
38 cheap food, such as moose, porcupines, herring, salmon, and fish offal from the processing
39 plants, allowed for the full development of fox farming. Like the herring fishery, the heyday
40 of fox farm occurred between 1910 and 1930.

41
42 A few trappers operated in the area from the 1920s through the 1940s. Some of their original
43 trails are now part of the parks' trail system. A few place names in the parks also reference
44 early residents, such as miner Jacob "Rusty" Lien (Rusty's Lagoon) and hunting guide
45 William McKeon (McKeon Rock, McKeon Spit). Other names describe land features such

1 as Alpine Ridge and natural resources such as Humpy Creek, Mallard Bay, and Moose
2 Valley. Several park features, such as China Poot Lake and Poot Peak, were named for
3 Henry “China” Poot, a Native man who hunted, fished, and trapped in the region in the early
4 1900s and probably worked with Chinese railroad workers or fishermen.
5
6 “Herring” Pete Sather and his wife, Josephine, resided on Nuka Island from the 1920s to the
7 early 1960s, and operated a fox farm there. The Nuka area also saw exploration and mining
8 activities during this period, but they ended during World War II. Nuka Island was initially
9 federally owned and was once proposed for inclusion in Kenai Fjords National Park, before
10 the state selected the island.

Chapter 4 - Park Use and Issues

Introduction

This chapter characterizes and briefly discusses the current uses and recreational trends within the park units. Later in the chapter, issues identified during the planning process are presented. Management policies and recommendations in Chapters 5 & 6 address many of these issues.

Overview of Current Use

Currently, most of the public use occurs during snow-free periods on the south side of the bay within KBSP (see Figure 1 - Park Use By Month on page 44 of this chapter). Most visitors to this unit arrive by commercial water taxi or personal boats; however, use of commercial and personal aircraft are a common means of access too. Commercial water taxis drop off and pick up clients from landing areas near trailheads or any number of points and beaches. Aircraft accessing the area land on salt water, gravel bars, and at several freshwater lakes. Most use in this area occurs on the salt water and beaches and the developed trail systems on the Grewingk Glacier forelands and the area around Halibut Cove and Halibut Cove Lagoon and China Poot Bay. While other developed trails and facilities exist within KBSP, they receive less traffic than those previously mentioned. Public use cabins are heavily used and can be very difficult to reserve seasonally due to their popularity. With the recent addition of the Kachemak Bay Water Trail, the marine tidelands are receiving increased use by kayakers and other people seeking to experience the bays, coves, and lagoon of the park units along Kachemak Bay. Winter use is low and primarily consists of backcountry skiing (see Figure 2 - Park Visit Activities on page 45 of this chapter), although some hiking, mountaineering, and kayaking also occur. Winter visitors near the year-round communities of Halibut Cove, Seldovia Village, and Seldovia typically access ski terrain adjacent to their residences by skinning.

While exact numbers are not known, use of the lands and waters within KBSWP are significantly lower than the use occurring in the KBSP. The wilderness park can be accessed via an arduous trek over the southern spine of the Kenai Mountains (most commonly on the Tutka Alpine Traverse (AKA Backdoor Trail); via Rocky River Road (although this washed out in several places in 2012); or via boat or plane. For those that do make the trip, a truly remote experience is the reward.

Recreation within the units on the north side of the bay is currently limited due to a lack of developed facilities. Currently, developed recreation opportunities are provided at two of the units and include: mountain bike and beach access trails within the Diamond Creek SRS;

and, winter skiing and summer hiking trails within the Eveline SRS. The Overlook Park SRS and the Cottonwood Eastland Unit of the KBSP have little to no development to support recreational use. That is not to say that recreational use by the public does not occur in these units, it does; however, the use is minimal and primarily occurs on user defined or social trails.

The Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery has been in operation since 1976. This facility is owned by the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, and has been operated under contract by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) since 1992. The hatchery is permitted to collect up to 125 million pink salmon eggs and has produced an average of 40 million pink salmon fry annually during years of operation. While the bulk of those releases have been in Tutka Lagoon, significant releases also occurred in Halibut Cove Lagoon from 1986–1992, as well as from the fishing lagoon on the Homer Spit. On average, approximately 3% of the fish released survive the ocean phase of their life history and return to these sites where they are harvested by commercial or sport users.

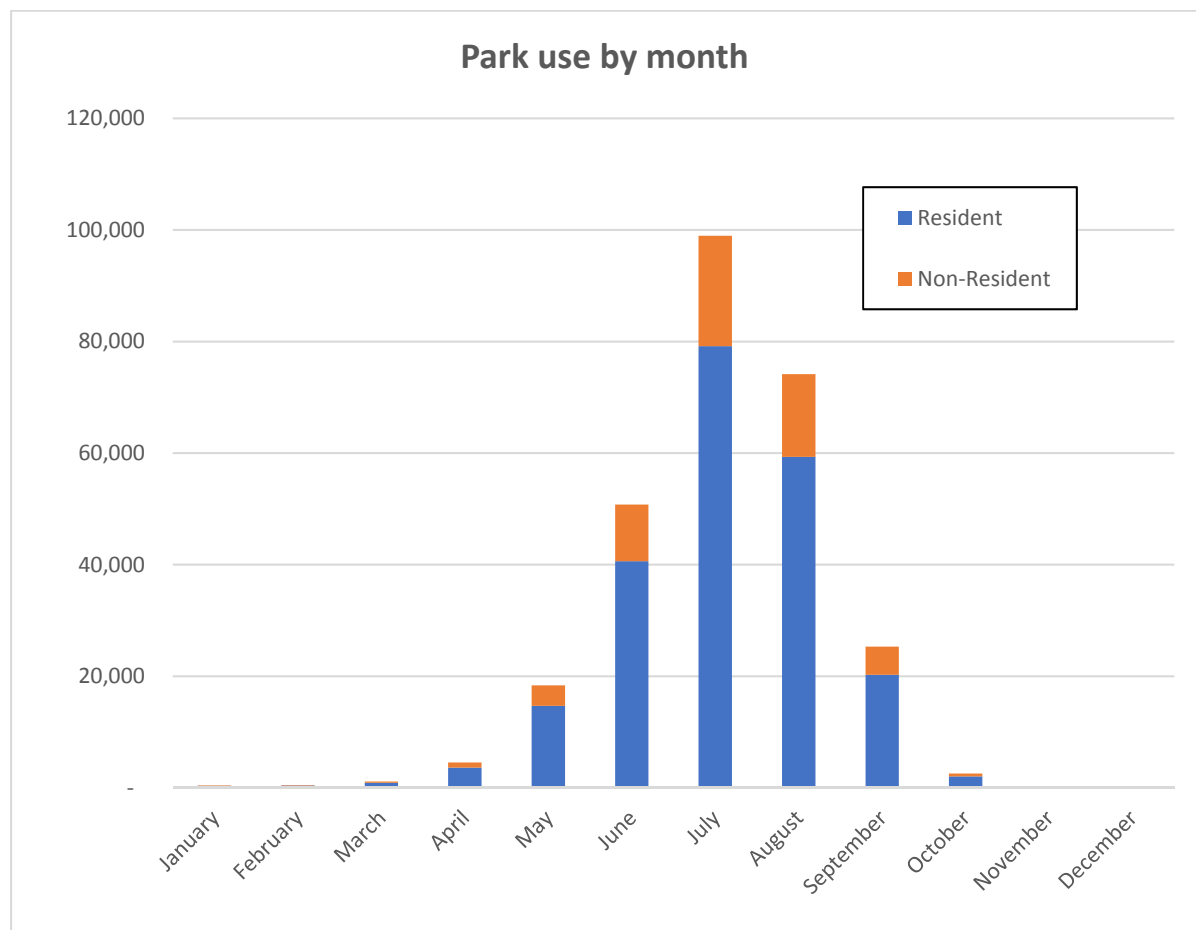


Figure 1 - Park Use by Month.

Use of KBSP and KBSWP by month, for the first 10 months of 2017. Note the extreme spike of use in the summer use. Data from DPOR.

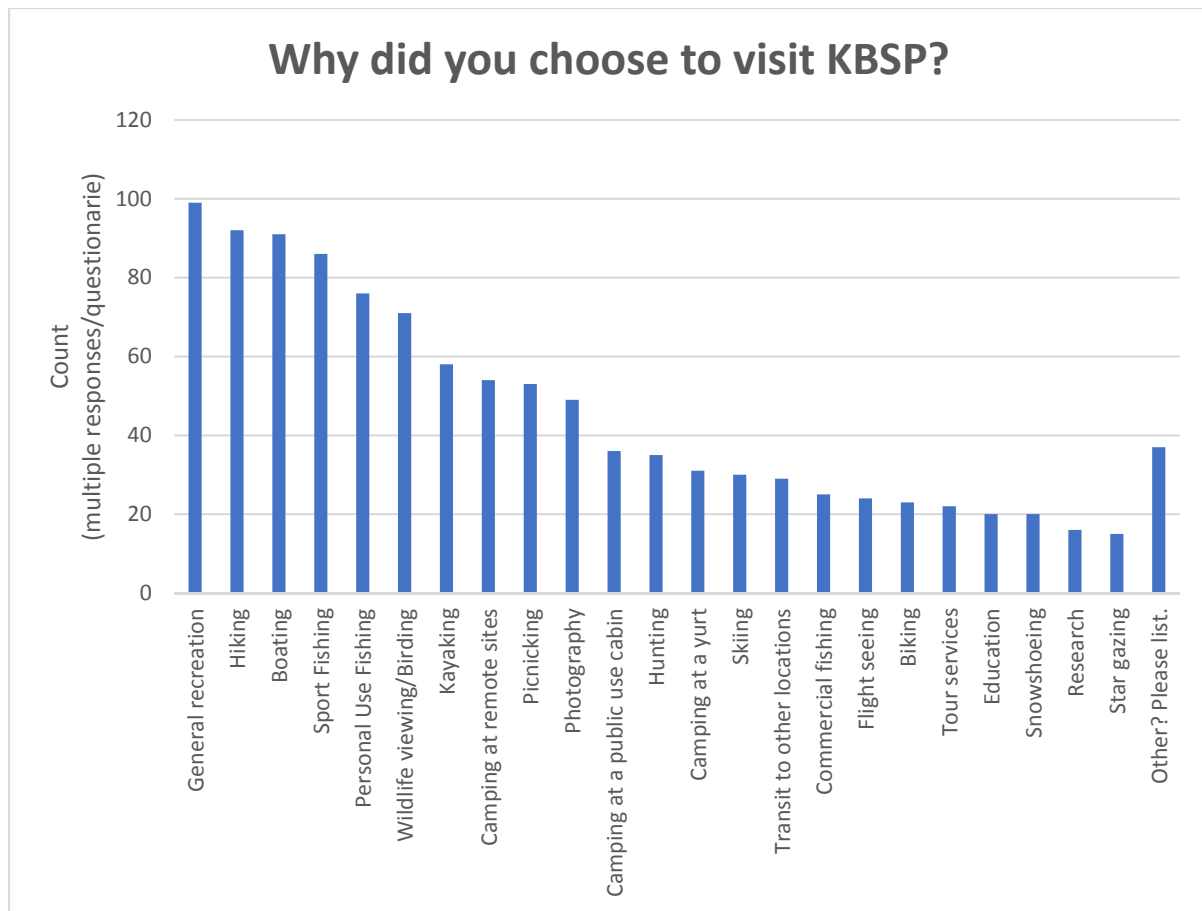


Figure 2 - Park Visit Activities.

Activities respondents used the park units for, based on results of the 2013-14 questionnaire (122 respondents).

Eight tour services had permits to operate in KBSP park units in 2017. Tour options range from half-day guided kayaking instruction sessions to staying at a fully-inclusive, wilderness lodge with gourmet meals. Of the eight operators, half focus on sea-kayaking or other human-powered boating, offering instruction, equipment, and half- to multi-day guided trips. One of the operators is a 'general guide service,' willing to help individuals recreate via multi-sport trips in KBSP. Two of the operators are resort lodges, with fixed assets on the south side of the bay, but whose customers use the park units for hiking, bird-watching, and fishing, amongst other activities.

Fifteen water taxis were permitted to operate in KBSP in 2017. Services offered range from simple 'cross-the-bay' service in landing craft to cargo delivery and research support using larger and more capable vessels. Many of the water taxi permittees offer service to docks at Halibut Cove, Seldovia, public use cabins, and private lodges, as well as beach landings at Glacier Spit, China Poot, Saddle Trail, and elsewhere for hikers looking to explore the park.

Fishing charters use portions of the bay for salmon and halibut fishing. In addition, guided fishing excursions are available to the many streams that flow through the park, offering fishing for salmon, trout and Dolly Varden.

Use Trends

The use of the park has increased over the years since its inception in 1970. In the first 10 months of 2017, more than 270,000 people are estimated to have visited the park. Of these, the majority were Alaska residents (221,317 [80%]) while the remainder (55,327 [20%]) were travelers from outside Alaska. Use is generally controlled by season, with the vast majority (81%) of users visiting in June, July, or August (see Figure 1 - Park Use By Month on page 44 of this chapter).

In late 2013, DNR released a two-part questionnaire seeking public input regarding recreational use, access, and facilities for KBSP and KBSWP. Part A consisted of ten questions related to recreation and facilities in KBSP and KBSWP, while Part B consisted of six questions specific to land owners within or adjacent to the park. 122 completed questionnaires were received by the January 31, 2014 deadline. See Appendix E for the Questionnaire and Response Summary. 117 of the questionnaire respondents had visited KBSP, while 100 had visited KBSWP.

The primary reasons that users visited the park were to enjoy its scenery (87 [71%] respondents); hike an established trail (81 [66%] respondents); because it was nearby and convenient (76 [62%] respondents); and to enjoy the quiet natural setting (72 [59%] respondents) (see Figure 3 - Park Visitor Information on page 47 of this chapter). Users visited the units on the south side of Kachemak Bay more than the northside units, with fewer visitors to areas along the Gulf of Alaska, and the fewest to locations along the spine of the Kenai Mountains (see Figure 4 - Park Use Areas on page 48 of this chapter). Interestingly, there were nearly as many visitors to the points in the park farthest from Homer (Gore Point – 38 users; Nuka Island – 36 users) as there were to the park unit closest to Homer (Overlook Park – 39 users).

Park units north of the bay can easily be visited from the road system, while nearly all visitors to park units on the south side of the bay use a boat to access the park. While in the park, recreational park users hike, camp, boat, stay in public use cabins, ski, fish, hunt, trap, and enjoy many other activities.

Based on responses to the 2014 questionnaire, the most common recreational use of the park units is for general recreation which includes hiking and boating. Many respondents identified hiking as an activity they engaged in within the park units. Water-related activities such as boating, fishing (sport and personal use) were common uses of the marine waters. A good number of people reported that they view wildlife and go bird viewing/birding

(71 [58%] respondents), camping at remote sites (54 [44%] respondents), and photography (49 [40%] respondents) – as ways they used the park units. Figure 2 Park Visit Activities shows the ranges of uses in more detail.

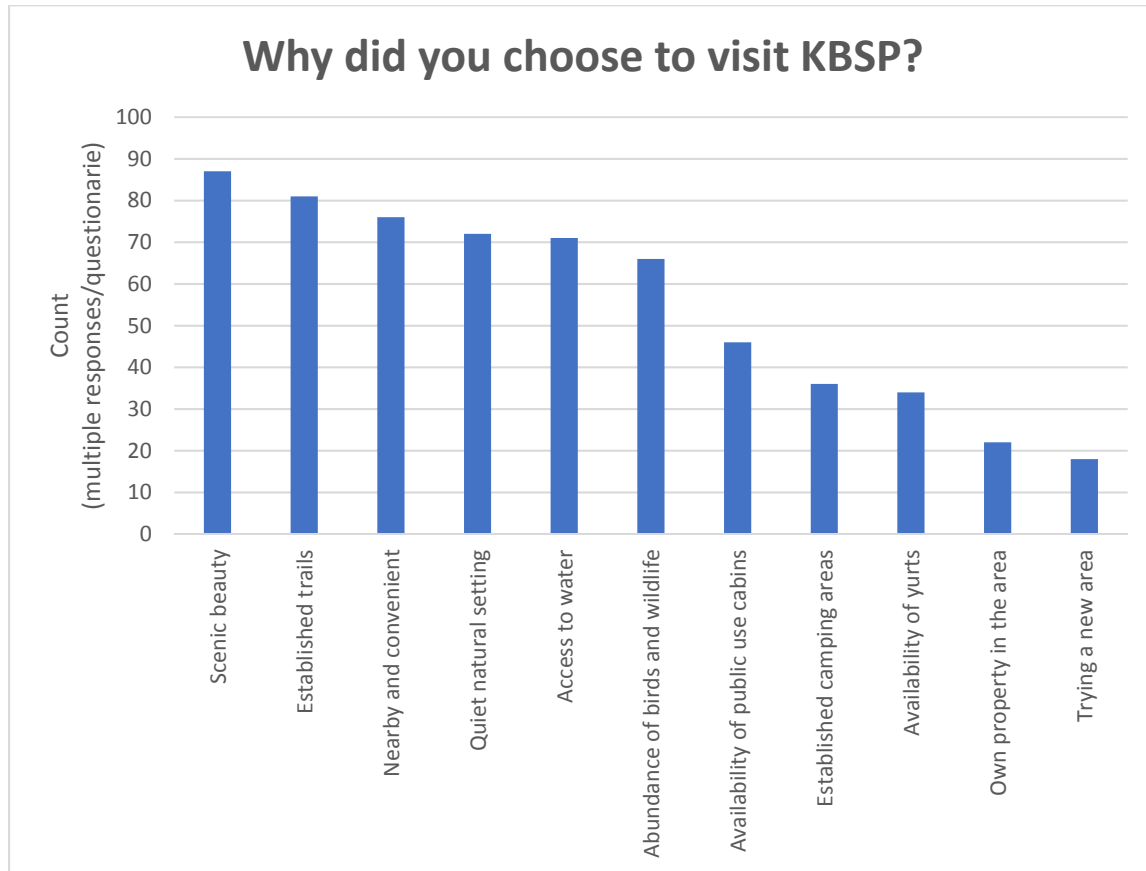


Figure 3 - Park Visitor Information.

Why visitors came to the park units, based on results of the 2013-14 questionnaire (122 respondents).

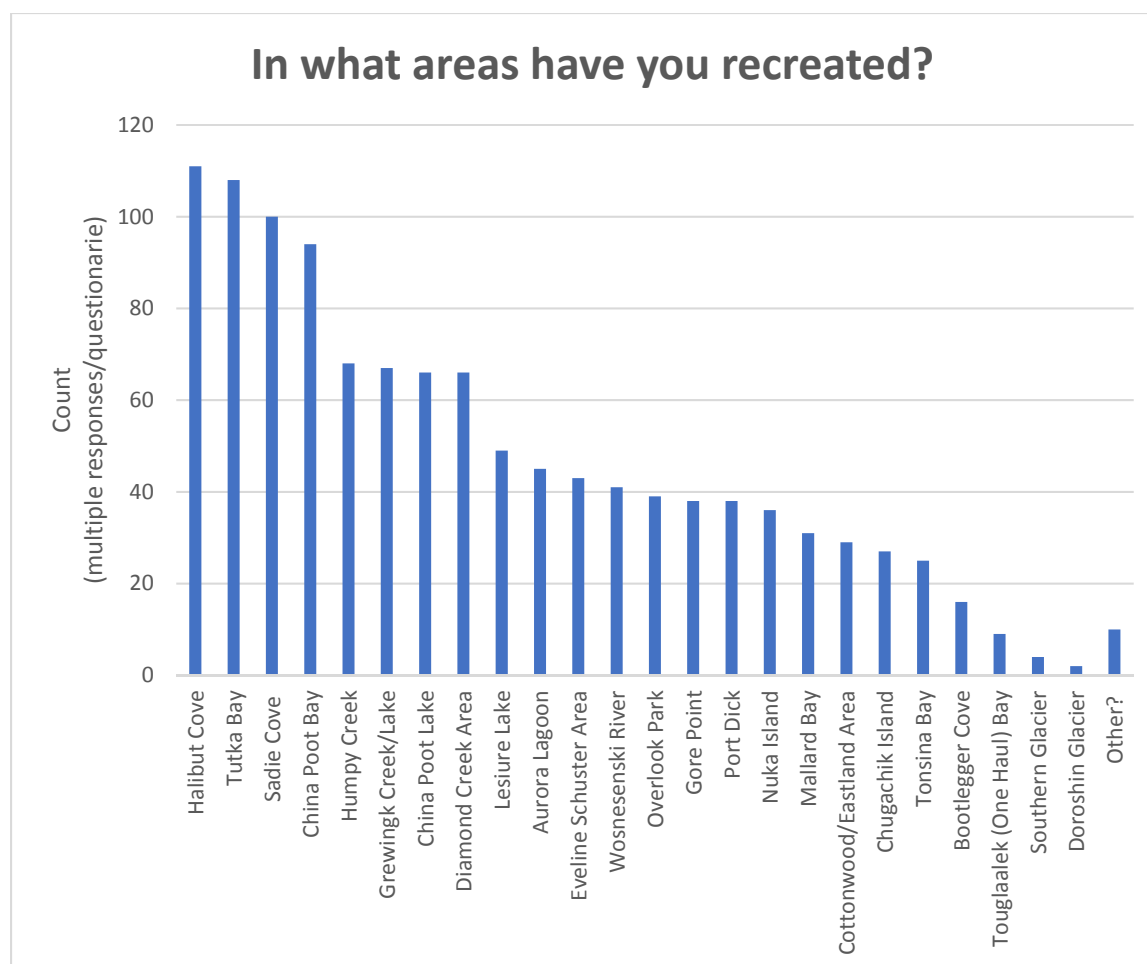


Figure 4 - Park Use Areas.

Geographic areas where respondents reported recreation activities, based on 2013-14 questionnaire results. Respondents could select multiple areas of use (122 respondents).

Changing Recreational Use

In addition to addressing issues, a park plan should also identify new or changing recreational needs and use patterns and adjust management guidelines and facilities recommendations to meet these needs while protecting park resources. Facilities recommended in earlier plans may: be impaired by age; be inadequate for current use levels; need to be re-designed and modernized to enhance use and safety; or need to be replaced to address environmental impacts.

Since the last plan was completed for the park units, changes in technology and recreational use patterns have necessitated a review of current and emerging recreational activities. Park users are creative people, looking to push the limits of themselves, technology, and sport. In

1 some cases, DPOR may offer expanded recreational opportunities; in other cases some uses
2 may be limited to protect resources.

3 4 Bicycling

5
6 Off-road cycling has significantly increased in popularity since the last plan was completed.
7 The recent development of fat-tire bikes, with tire widths > 3.5", enables cyclists to travel on
8 a wider range of ground surfaces with the potential for less surface damage. Park users
9 would like to be able to ride mountain bikes within KBSP and fat-tire bikes on the beaches of
10 Kachemak Bay and the Gulf of Alaska.

11 12 Personal Watercraft

13
14 Personal watercraft are a large segment of overall boat sales. Relatively recent advances in
15 technology and design have largely addressed previous concerns related to fuel and exhaust
16 emissions and noise. Interest in allowing this activity to occur within Kachemak Bay was
17 expressed during the planning process as was support for retaining the current prohibition on
18 their use.

19 20 Rock Climbing

21
22 Kachemak Crack is a popular rock climbing spot and other climbing areas may be pioneered
23 and become popular in the future. Mountaineering occurs within KBSP and KBSWP and
24 includes the use of rock anchors. There are safety issues regarding permanently installed
25 anchors and bolts. Users would like to see the permanently installed protection devices
26 maintained by DPOR staff, but this presents maintenance and liability issues since rock
27 climbing is allowed without authorization and placing a permanent anchor in the rock face is
28 an action that needs to be authorized. DPOR staff are not trained and equipped to perform
29 inspections or maintenance of the anchors to ensure safety.

30 31 Aircraft

32
33 Use of rotary-winged aircraft (helicopters) has occurred in KBSP related to summer
34 operations and relatively new operations have been permitted in the past that offer heli-skiing
35 in the winter. DPOR has received new applications to authorize helicopter use in support of
36 heli-skiing operations. Landing within the park is currently prohibited unless authorized.

37
38 Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), commonly referred to as drones, are increasing in
39 popularity for both private and commercial use. Government agencies are also increasingly
40 using drones to gather aerial data in a cost-effective manner.

41 42 Water trail

43
44 Recently, the Kachemak Bay Water Trail was completed. The planning for this started in
45 2011, and involved volunteers from Homer and the surrounding area. Working with the

1 National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, the volunteers
2 identified a 125-mile water trail from the Homer Spit to Seldovia.

3
4 This route follows a series of waypoints around the bay, linking access locations, points of
5 interest, day-use sites and camping/lodging locations along a “trail” usable by non-motorized
6 and motorized vessels.

7 8 Surfing

9
10 A number of users visit the Gulf of Alaska coastline in KBSP and KBSWP for surfing
11 around Gore Point using aircraft or boats to access the area. At least one guide service offers
12 charters to the Gore Point area for surfing the North Pacific swells.

13 14 15 **Access**

16 The extreme topography that makes the park so visually interesting also makes access to the
17 bulk of the park difficult. The cost of ‘getting across the bay’ is prohibitive for many
18 potential park visitors, and ideal beach landing sites with ready access to the interior of the
19 park are limited. This is especially true on the Gulf of Alaska side of the park, where cost of
20 transport is even higher (from Seward or Homer by boat, or by aircraft).

21
22 Access issues can be separated into issues related to aircraft, human-powered, and motorized
23 vehicle.

24 25 **Aircraft Access**

26 27 **Fixed-wing aircraft**

28 Aircraft landings within KBSP and KBSWP are restricted under 11 AAC 20.110 and
29 11 AAC 20.210, respectively. Current regulations allow aircraft landings on saltwater,
30 gravel bars, Emerald Lake, China Poot Lake, Hazel Lake and Petrof Lake except for the
31 purpose of practice landings. Within KBSWP, current regulations allow landings on
32 saltwater and saltwater beaches or where authorized by the director under 11 AAC 18.010.
33 Most of the landings within the park units are made by commercial flight operators. Flight-
34 seeing and air taxi services offer an important recreation service and access to distant
35 portions of the park.

36
37 Conflicts can arise between those seeking a “backcountry” experience without intrusion of
38 the “modern world” and those reaching the park by air. Aircraft can easily get to remote
39 areas in the park, whereas other backcountry users may have made considerable efforts to get
40 away from exactly this kind of activity.

41 42 **Rotary-winged aircraft**

43 Under 11 AAC 20.110, helicopters cannot land within KBSP without an authorization issued
44 under 11 AAC 18. Since 1989, the DPOR has authorized helicopter landings at a single
45 designated landing zone on Grewingk Glacier as part of commercial flightseeing tours.

1 Recently, helicopter operators have applied for helicopter landings in support of heli-skiing
2 operations. Typically, this type of use includes multiple flights to ferry skiers to the top of
3 the run from the base. Other potential helicopter uses might include heli-hiking (transport
4 from an access point to an elevated drop-off point in the summer, without ferry flights) or
5 heli-backcountry-skiing (transport from an access point to an elevated drop-off point in the
6 winter, without ferry flights).

7
8 Homer Electric Association (HEA) utilizes helicopters for powerline maintenance and a
9 number of landing sites are located at intervals adjacent to transmission lines. Helicopters
10 are also used for search and rescue in the park when needed.

11 12 **Human-powered access**

13
14 Human powered (walking and paddling) is allowed without authorization on all park-
15 managed lands and waters and yet is limited due to most of the park's remoteness. There are
16 no established foot trails connecting the park to the road system. The Kachemak Bay Water
17 Trail is a 125-mile water trail that highlights specific points of interest in Kachemak Bay but
18 is not restricted to human powered transport. Solely human powered access to the south side
19 of the bay is rare due to its distance from access points (Homer or Seldovia). Use of bicycles
20 within the park units is currently allowed without authorization on existing roads and parking
21 areas only under 11 AAC 12.020. Use in other areas is prohibited and can only occur where
22 authorized by the Director or where specifically allowed under unit specific regulations.

23 24 **Motorized vehicle access**

25 26 **Boats**

27 Motorized boats are the most common method utilized to access the park units on the south
28 side of the bay. Their use is allowed under park-specific regulations (11 AAC 20.115 and
29 11 AAC 20.215). Visitors typically hire a water taxi or use their own vessels for access.
30 Once in the park, water taxis typically drop visitors and return later to pick them up while
31 private vessels may moor using an anchor, at a buoy, or at docking facilities. Docks and
32 mooring buoys improve access to the park but can focus use, causing site degradation and
33 sometimes private/public user conflicts.

34 35 **Highway Vehicles**

36 Highway vehicle use is controlled by the same regulations applicable to all park units
37 (11 AAC 12.020). Within these park units, vehicles are only allowed on the maintained
38 roads and parking areas on the north side of the bay. Use of a vehicle within units on the
39 south side of the bay is prohibited as there are no DPOR recognized roads or parking areas.

40 41 **Off Highway Vehicles**

42 Off-road vehicle¹ (ORV) use is currently prohibited by general park regulations at 11 AAC
43 12.020, which address vehicle control on all park units. Some evidence of past ORV use is

¹ ORV is defined in DPOR regulation at 11 AAC 20.990(21)

noticeable on KBSP lands just south of the community of Halibut Cove. Other known use includes that of Homer Electric Association in support of transmission line maintenance. ORV use in other areas is minimal and primarily occurs on the tidelands adjacent to park units on the north side of the bay.

Personal Watercraft

Use of personal watercraft (PWC) is currently prohibited in KBSP and KBSWP by regulation (11 AAC 20.115 and 11 AAC 20.215). A similar regulation prohibiting PWC use exists on marine waters within the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. PWC use was prohibited beginning in 2001 within these areas after being considered by managing agencies for two years.

Comments both in favor and against PWC use were received during the recent public process. Allowing limited use of a PWC through a Special Park Use Permit on the marine waters in the KBSP was considered in the development of this plan but was eliminated from consideration due to joint jurisdiction of the marine waters. ADF&G and DPOR have overlapping jurisdiction within the KBSP, so regulations would need to be changed for both legislatively designated areas to allow PWC use on marine waters within KBSP.

Commercial Use

Commercial Fishing, Aquaculture/Mariculture

Commercial fishing has traditionally occurred within marine waters of KBSP. Currently, commercial fishing occurs for salmon, Pacific cod, lingcod, Pacific halibut, rockfish, and herring. Commercial harvest of shrimp and crab is not open due to low abundance levels.

The Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery (TBLH) was constructed by ADF&G in 1975 and was operated by the department until 1992 when it was leased to Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA). The hatchery cultivated sockeye salmon from 1976–1978 as well as in 1990, 1996, 1997, and 1999, and chum salmon from 1978-1990. Pink salmon have been cultivated since 1976 with no releases occurring from 2005–2011. Tutka Lagoon has been used as a remote release site for sockeye salmon releases from the Trail Lakes Hatchery since 2005. Pink salmon produced at this facility have been remote released at three locations in Kachemak Bay: Halibut Cove (1986–1992), the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (1987–1992), and Halibut Cove bight (2012).

Net pens located outside of Tutka Lagoon have been used historically to provide fishing opportunity outside of Tutka Bay Lagoon (e.g., Halibut Cove Lagoon and Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon).

In 2011 the DPOR received an application from CIAA to imprint pink salmon in net pens at the historic release site in Halibut Cove Lagoon. This permit was rejected with an alternate site outside of the lagoon (Halibut Cove bight) permitted by DPOR. With no proximate

1 freshwater imprinting source and a somewhat exposed location, returns to this site were
2 disappointing. In 2013 the DPOR received an application from CIAA to imprint pink salmon
3 in net pens at the head of Tutka Bay at a site approved by ADF&G. DPOR received
4 numerous comments both in opposition and in support of the proposed move. The initial
5 decision to deny the application to move the pens into the bay was reversed, and a decision to
6 authorize net pens outside of Tutka Bay Lagoon at a location approximately 1 mile northwest
7 of the site approved by ADF&G for a period of two years was made by DNR. Given the
8 disappointing returns from the previous DPOR selected site, CIAA chose not to imprint and
9 release fish from this location in 2017. In addition, remote releases of hatchery produced
10 sockeye salmon have occurred within KBSP in China Poot Lake and Hazel Lake for 35 and
11 26 years respectively. These releases support both commercial and sport fisheries, as well as
12 the Kachemak Bay Personal Use Dipnet Fishery (5 AAC 77.545) that occurs in China Poot
13 Bay.

14 **Commercial Recreation Activities**

15 DPOR generally encourages commercial activities that provide or enhance recreation
16 services in state parks. Commercial activities should be consistent with the purpose of the
17 park and the appropriate level of commercial development must be determined. Commercial
18 uses of park lands and waters (except for some fishing uses) are managed by DPOR through
19 a fee-based commercial use permit system. Commercial operators include such visitor
20 services as water and air taxis, fishing charters, guided hiking and hunting, and wildlife tours.
21 Production of films, publications, video guides, and commercials is also considered a
22 commercial activity. In the face of recent fiscal budget concerns, there have been
23 suggestions for the park to become more self-sufficient through the collection of additional
24 commercial permit fees.
25
26
27
28

29 **DPOR Facilities and Trails**

30
31 Park facilities include structures such as cabins, ranger stations, boat ramps, campgrounds
32 and marine docks to name a few. Often associated with these facilities are trail systems –
33 terra, snow, and water – that further facilitate public use in park units. A primary purpose of
34 a plan is to recommend facility and trail development to not only meet the current
35 recreational needs of the public, but also meet the expected potential recreational needs for
36 the 20-year period of the plan. Costs associated with construction, operation, and
37 maintenance were considered as a factor in recommending facilities and trails as were current
38 and desired recreational use patterns. This plan recommends those facilities and trails that
39 are consistent with the long-term vision for these units. In some instances, existing public
40 facilities are inadequate to accommodate even current use levels (which can lead to
41 degradation of park resources) or are situated in an area that no longer receives high levels of
42 agency or public use (e.g. Halibut Cove Lagoon Ranger Station). Facilities developed by
43 DPOR (when properly sited, designed, and developed) can accommodate use while at the
44 same time minimizing impacts to the surrounding environment or neighboring private
45 property.

Trails provide access for the public to enjoy scenic views, the wilderness quality, and other resources and recreation opportunities within the park units. When viewed as a system in concert with facilities, trails can greatly influence how and where the public chooses to recreate. Currently, most public use of trails occurs at Grewingk Glacier and in the vicinity of Halibut Cove and China Poot Lake. Much of the park units' interior or southern coast is unreachable by trail, and is visited only by those willing to bushwhack or fly in. The existing trails in certain areas are becoming more popular, and many could be upgraded to accommodate increased use and different use types. Although higher class trails (e.g. Class 4 or 5 ADA-accessible terra trails) are suitable in some areas of the park units, they are not appropriate in all areas. There is a desire from users for multi-use trails, paths that can support "hut to hut" hiking between public use cabins, and trail networks that can accommodate 2-3 day long backpacking trips. Many of the trails on published maps were constructed long ago and have since fallen into disuse due to lack of maintenance. Multiple users have discovered trails marked on published maps are impassable due to downed trees and/or overgrown vegetation. Maintenance of existing trails is as important as construction of new trails – otherwise the investment in the new trail is lost. In addition, maps of the park units need to be updated to include changes to the trail system. For more on trails, see Appendix F – Trail Plan.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) directly impacted natural resources and the subsistence, private, and commercial interests that depend on those resources. The EVOS Trustee Council was formed to oversee ecosystem restoration through the use of a \$900 million civil settlement. The Council consists of three state and three federal trustees (or their designees). The Council is advised by members of the public and by members of the scientific community.² When EVOS funding has been used to acquire lands for habitat protection, conservation easements that restrict land use are routinely included. This plan identifies parcels that were purchased through EVOS funding that are being managed as part of the state park system. Management of these lands must be consistent with conservation easements associated with the land.

Fees, Park Pass, and Visitor Use Management

User fees (commercial and visitor) play an important role in funding continued development and maintenance of state park facilities. Fees for camping, parking, and boat launching are generally collected by DPOR at the point of service. In the past user fees (excluding commercial operators) have not been charged in certain parks where facilities such as potable water, latrines, improved campsites, and fire grates are not available – Kachemak Bay State Park is one of these.

² Taken from EVOS website: <http://www.evostc.state.ak.us/index.cfm?FA=aboutUs.home>

1 Collecting fees for access to a remote park, disconnected from the road system, with literally
2 thousands of entry points, would be challenging.
3
4

5 **Invasive and Non-Native Species**

6

7 Invasive and non-native species introduction to lands and waters can impact recreational use
8 and the natural function of the resources. Use of non-native vegetation does occur related to
9 facility development, but DPOR staff minimize this use to needed areas.
10

11 The spruce bark beetle has devastated large sections of the park for the last 20 years. This
12 natural occurrence is part of the native ecological cycle in Alaska, yet still significantly
13 impacts the park. The primary impact is the large number of standing and fallen dead trees
14 throughout park. These trees are a maintenance, public safety, and fire hazard within the
15 park units.
16

17 There are dandelions present in the Upper Hazel Lake area. There is also a recent infestation
18 of spruce aphid and orange hawkweed in KBSP.
19
20

21 **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

22

23 The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal grant program that is
24 administered by the National Park Service (NPS). LWCF provides matching funding to state
25 and local governments to acquire, develop, and plan for public outdoor recreation areas. In
26 Alaska, DPOR is the government agency that disperses federal grant dollars under this
27 program. LWCF provisions require the agency receiving the grant dollars to maintain the
28 funded project for public use and must identify and reserve enough area around the project to
29 ensure continued public use. The boundary for the reserved lands is included on a map that
30 is mutually agreed to by the State and the NPS. Any property where LWCF funds have been
31 expended may not be wholly or partly converted to anything other than public outdoor
32 recreation uses without the prior approval of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the
33 Interior. If for some reason the recreational nature of the property is lost, it represents a
34 conversion of use requiring mitigation in the form of acquisition of other recreational
35 properties or outdoor recreational enhancement as approved by the National Park Service.
36 The process to convert LWCF-protected lands can be lengthy and costly for the agency
37 requesting the conversion.
38

39 The entirety of both KBSP and KBSWP are subject to LWCF program provisions. Actions
40 that may represent a conversion of use include: installing above-ground utilities;
41 development of roads with a non-recreational primary purpose; development for private
42 purposes; or encroachments such as driveways.
43
44

Park User Trespass

Trespass onto private lands can create conflict between park users and land owners. Whether unintentional, or with knowledge of the recreationist, use of private property by visitors to the park units has occurred, but this type of use should be curtailed.

Private Structures and Uses

There are nearly 150 private parcels adjacent to the park units and over 200 private parcels bounded within the park units. (This includes the state and wilderness parks and the park units on the north side of Kachemak Bay.) Private parcels are generally five acres or less in size and are located along prime areas of the coast. Most of these parcels predate the establishment of the park and were obtained through state and federal land disposal programs. Private inholdings present potential areas of conflict between park users, park management, and private landowners regarding management practices, policies and the development of park facilities. The largest communities are Halibut Cove and subdivisions in Peterson Bay, Petrof View, and Bear Cove. There are also a number of private inholdings on the coast of Tutka Bay and Sadie Cove.

DPOR has identified many unauthorized structures that may have been placed, constructed, or maintained in a park unit without a special park use permit issued under 11 AAC 18.010. A more detailed review of many of these structures in relation to property boundaries is warranted prior to contacting the upland owner to determine a corrective action. Other structures, such as docks or water collection and storage structures, that are clearly within a park unit will not need to undergo further review before a corrective action is determined. Similarly, some uses are occurring within park units that are prohibited or need to be authorized before they are conducted. These include: gathering firewood for use at adjacent private property, riding a bicycle off a road or parking area, or using hand tools to clear trails, to name a few. In some instances, DPOR may not be able to authorize structures or other permanent modifications to park resources. In these instances, DPOR will notify the owner of record of the prohibited structure and work with the owner to rectify the issue.

Based on a 2004 survey by ADF&G, over 1000 docks, piers, walkways, and other types of mooring and access structures have been constructed, placed, or maintained on tide and submerged lands below mean-high-waterline within the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area; some of these structures were also located within KBSP. Many of these structures required authorization by both DPOR and ADF&G prior to their construction or placement, but in many cases, this has not been completed. In 2015, ADF&G conducted an outreach effort, which resulted in permit renewals for a number of docks throughout the KBCHA.

A review of available aerial imagery and on-the-ground reconnaissance reveals that electrical lines have been constructed within KBSP. In some cases, these lines appear to have been

constructed outside of existing easements. DPOR will work with Homer Electric Association (HEA) and property owners to rectify this issue.

Many private parcels have unplanned and informal “social trail” networks connecting private land to the park. While relatively minimal in nature, many of these trails extend onto DPOR managed lands and connect to existing hiking trails. These trails invite use by the public – most have not been developed to sustainable trail standards and may be contributing to degradation of park resources.

Disposals

When it created KBSP and KBSWP, the Alaska Legislature withdrew these lands from the public domain and designated them as special purpose sites under Article VIII, section 7 of the Alaska Constitution. This means that the State is prohibited from disposing of any real property interests, including granting leases and easements, from within KBSP and KBSWP. The land in the parks must be managed in accordance with the statutory direction in AS 41.21.131-134 and AS 41.21.140-142, respectively.

KBSP was created May 9, 1970 and KBSWP was created March 9, 1972. As the above statutes state, private property rights and utility easements on land lying within the statutorily-described boundaries of the parks for which there are “valid entries or ...valid applications for lease filed under AS 38.05” before the creation of the relevant park are protected. Park management decisions must respect these valid entries while implementing statutory and regulatory park management mandates and protecting park resources.

Visitor Safety

Recreating anywhere in Alaska’s frontcountry and backcountry comes with inherent risks. Weather, terrain, wildlife, earthquakes, tsunamis, availability of communications, trail conditions, and travel logistics are just a few of the possible variables that visitors to KBSP and KBSWP should prepare for. People are encouraged to research the conditions they are likely to encounter in the area where they are planning to recreate. Visitor safety is important to DPOR and up-to-date information is usually provided through websites, social media, or email.

Chapter 5 – Area-wide Management Direction and Guidelines

Introduction

This chapter provides area-wide management intent and guidelines that apply to the lands and waters within the park units addressed by this plan. It also allocates lands and waters within the park in land use zones. This management intent is consistent with the statutory purposes for the units, the mission of DPOR, and the policy direction contained in the Framework document. The management intent provided below is intended to guide DPOR when implementing guidelines and recommendations contained in this and subsequent chapters of this plan. The area-wide intent and guidelines in this chapter coupled with the unit-specific guidelines for uses and activities and the management and facility recommendations contained in Chapter 6 will guide DPOR management for the park units addressed in this plan. For detailed trail information, please see Appendix F – Trail Plan.

Overarching Management Intent

Inherent in the DPOR's mission is the concept of public use of the resources. As such, the lands and waters were intended to be more than held by the DPOR, they were to be managed to facilitate use, to inform through interpretation, and conserved that all future generations would be able to recreate. Therefore, this plan provides management direction that includes facility and trail development; allows for certain commercial uses; and, identifies and interprets cultural and historic resources all while conserving the lands and waters ensuring that future use will continue. All new, expanded, or redeveloped trails will be constructed consistent with the Alaska State Parks Sustainable Trail Policy.

It is the intent of DPOR to become less reliant on state general funds and more self-sufficient. Some of the options for generating additional revenue for Kachemak Bay State Park and State Wilderness Park include developing new recreation opportunities which could generate additional revenue, implementing a daily park fee or park pass, increasing fees for special park use and commercial use permits, and selling park merchandise.

The management intent for each of the park system units is provided below.

Kachemak Bay State Park Intent

Lands within this unit on the south side of the bay will be managed to preserve the outstanding natural features while providing facilities, trails, and other developments that facilitate year-round public use and enjoyment. Trail-based recreation will be facilitated adjacent to existing popular access points. New and upgraded public use cabins will enhance opportunities to engage in year-round recreational pursuits. Culturally sensitive lands will be preserved with only minimal interpretive development. Within KBSP, motorized use of boats will remain restricted to areas identified in current regulations. Aircraft use will remain restricted to areas identified in current regulations, except this plan recommends a regulation change to open Wosnesenski Lake to this use as well. Helicopter operations may continue to be authorized at Grewingk Glacier during summer operations, and helicopter landings in support of heli-skiing operations may be authorized within the Sadie-Tutka Management Unit.

Lands in this unit on the south side of the bay will be managed to:

- Provide a slightly higher level of trail density and trail class in nodes around popular access points and areas currently experiencing moderate to high levels of use.
- Provide a lower level of trail density and class in areas outside of nodes.
- Expand and enhance the public use cabin system to facilitate year-round recreational use.
- Transition yurt sites to public use cabin sites.
- Expand and enhance non-motorized trail-based recreation opportunities through new or redeveloped trails, some of which will accommodate multimodal access.
- Provide trail connectivity within and between management units.
- Develop camping sites that facilitate land and water-based recreation.

Lands within this unit on the north side of the bay will be managed to preserve the outstanding natural features while providing facilities, trails, and other developments that facilitate recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. Trails will maximize opportunities to view the lands across the bay. Lands on the north side of the bay will be managed to:

- Identify node(s) where road-based campgrounds, including RV campsites, could be developed.
- Provide a higher level of trail class and trail density within and adjacent to nodes, including ADA accessible trails.
- Provide trail connectivity within the unit and with new or existing trails in KBSP.
- Trails away from the node(s) will be lower classed and less dense.

- Provide access to Kachemak Bay.
- Expand the public use cabin system, including at least one ADA-accessible cabin.

Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park Intent

Lands within this unit will be managed to preserve unique and exceptional wilderness values while providing limited trail and facility developments that facilitate access and use with minimal impacts to wilderness park users. Motorized use will largely remain restricted to boats on marine waters and aircraft landings on salt water and salt water beaches. Exceptions are this plan recommends a regulation change to open Upper Hazel Lake to motorized boat use; and aircraft use may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 at Upper Hazel Lake.

Lands within the wilderness state park will be managed to:

- Provide a lower-class trail system that facilitates access across and within the wilderness park.
- Provide limited development to facilitate access and use.

Eveline State Recreation Site Intent

Lands within this unit will be managed to provide year-round medium to high density trail-based recreation opportunities. Lands within this unit will be managed to:

- Provide enhanced parking that includes a waste facility.
- Develop an overlook site with ADA-accessible trail access.
- Provide a diversity of terra and snow trails.
- Develop a public use cabin.

Diamond Creek State Recreation Site Intent

Lands within this unit will be managed to provide high density, trail-based recreation opportunities and to facilitate use through development of a campground and public use cabins. This parcel was purchased with EVOS funds to protect habitat.

These lands will be managed to:

- Provide enhanced parking that includes a waste facility.
- Provide road-based camping and public use cabins.

- Continue relationship with partners group to construct and maintain looped biking trails.

Overlook Park State Recreation Site Intent

The DPOR has entered into an agreement with the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) to manage the lands within this unit. Lands within this unit will be managed to:

- Maintain the area's unique physical and natural resources.
- Continue to provide low levels of public use (as provided in KBCS's Bluff Overlook Management Plan) with an emphasis on educational hikes led by KBCS staff.
- Maintain existing habitat for passerines and other bird species.

This plan also recommends that the Bluff Overlook site be re-designated as the Overlook Park State Preserve based on its habitat and educational values.

Land Use Zones

To further clarify the management intent and to satisfy policies contained in the Framework, state land and waters within park units are classified into one of four land-use zones: Recreational Development, Natural, Wilderness, or Cultural. (The allocation of lands and waters into a land-use zone is based on the current and recommended development provided in this plan.¹) These are the same zones used in the 1995 Plan; however, the configuration of the zones is changed to reflect current and proposed use, access, and management intent for these units. (See Map 8-Land Use Zones) The Guideline Table in this chapter provides specific guidance for uses, activities, and structures within each of the land use designations. The following text describing the Purpose and Characteristics as well as the Development and Activities for each land-use zone used in this plan is taken directly from the Framework.

Recreational Development Zone

Purpose and Characteristics

"Recreational development zones are established within State Park System units to meet the more intensive recreational needs of the public with convenient and well-defined access via roads, railroads, boating anchorages, airstrips, and high standard trails; with more

¹ The Framework states, "For any given park unit, the location of these zones and amounts of land and resources allocated to each zone will be determined during the preparation of a park management plan or site development plan."

intensively-developed recreational facilities such as campgrounds or picnic areas; with guided activities; and with information centers to orient visitors to the unit's special features.

"The landscape within this zone can be modified to support educational and recreational activities and/or to enhance wildlife habitat and scenic qualities. These zones are established where soils, slope, drainage and vegetation can support more intensive recreational activities. Fire suppression and insect and disease control may be used, where appropriate, within this zone to maintain or enhance recreational use. A recreational development zone may already have been influenced by prior developments and is intended to provide a transition area to absorb heavy human impacts.

Developments and Activities

"The highest level of developments and activities is meant to occur in this zone within park units. The developments allowed in this zone include - but are not limited to - roads and trails, private vehicle and public transportation routes or access, campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor and interpretive centers, high-standard trails for all ages and abilities, park management facilities and commercial lodges or resorts as provided for within the unit management or site development plan. High intensity activities related to the use of these developed facilities are generally encouraged. Summer and winter off-road vehicles (ORV'S) and other motorized recreational vehicles may be allowed in this zone within specifically designated areas or through management techniques such as time and/or space allocations." (Framework, p. 17)

Application Areas

Within this plan Diamond Creek and Eveline State Recreation Sites, and the northern portion of the Cottonwood/Eastland Unit are classified as Recreation Development zones. Several nodes of higher development on the south side of the bay near Grewingk Glacier; Halibut Cove Lagoon and China Poot Bay and Lake; Tutka Bay Lagoon; and Petrof Lake are also zoned for Recreational Development.

Certain marine waters adjacent to Recreational Development zones classified on the uplands are similarly classified as Recreational Development.

Natural Zone

Purpose and Characteristics

"Natural environment zones are established to provide for moderate-to-low impact and dispersed forms of recreation and to act as buffers between the recreational development areas and the wilderness areas.

“These zones are relatively undeveloped and undisturbed and are managed to maintain high scenic qualities and to provide visitors with opportunities for significant, natural outdoor experiences. An area’s natural landscape character is the dominant feature within this zone. Landscape modification may be allowed to enhance, maintain or protect the natural setting according to the unit management plan. Use of fire suppression, insect or disease control or wildlife habitat enhancement as management techniques in natural zones will be defined in the unit management plan.

Developments and Activities

“Developments in a natural zone are intended to provide for the safety of park visitors and to provide for a moderate level of convenience in a high-quality natural setting. Allowable developments include - but are not limited to - backcountry shelters, public-use cabins, high standard hiking and bicycle trails (paved or gravel), bridges and roads where necessary to access development zones and as provided for in an approved management plan. A medium level of activity is encouraged in this zone. Activities include - but are not limited to - hang-gliding, bicycling, backpacking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, camping, sledding, tobogganing [sic], berry picking, and rock climbing. Snowmobiles may be allowed in this zone - within specifically designated areas - depending on resource sensitivities and potential conflicts with other park uses. Other private, motorized off-road vehicle use is generally prohibited within this zone.” (Framework, p. 18)

Application Areas

As shown in the Land Use Zones Map, the majority of the KBSP lands are zoned Natural, as a buffer between the Recreational Development zone along Kachemak Bay and the Wilderness zone in KBSWP. In addition, the southern portion of the Cottonwood/Eastland Unit and Bluff Overlook, are also zoned Natural. All marine waters within the park units are zoned Natural.

Wilderness Zone

Purpose and Characteristics

“Wilderness zone are established to promote, to perpetuate and, where, necessary, to restore the wilderness character of the land and its specific values of solitude, physical and mental challenge, scientific study, inspiration, and primitive recreational opportunities.

“Wilderness zones are of such size as to maintain the area’s wilderness character, are tailored to protect the associated values and, if possible, are defined by watershed boundaries. These zones are characterized by the natural landscape, its vegetation and its geologic forms. Resource modification can occur in this zone only to restore areas to a natural state. Natural processes will be allowed to operate freely to the extent that human safety and public and

private property are protected. The use of fire suppression and insect and disease as management techniques may occur only through the implementation of a plan approved by the director of the Division of Parks. Wildlife habitat enhancement activities, such as vegetation manipulation, may not occur in this zone.

Developments and Activities

“A wilderness zone should have no man-made conveniences within its boundaries except for the most primitive of trails with minimum trail maintenance, bridges, and signing. Developments or other improvements will be undertaken only if it has been determined by the director of the Division of Parks that significant threats to public safety exist or in order to reduce adverse impacts on the area's resources and values. Access to and within this zone, for other than rescue or management purposes, will be by foot or other nonmotorized means except for 1) use of designated aircraft landing access sites where alternative means of access do not exist, 2) authorized research projects, or 3) situations specifically allowed by law. Aircraft landing for recreational access or research purposes may be restricted by the director as to daily time or season of use. The dropping of people or objects from aircraft is prohibited except by special permit issued by the director. Activities which threaten the character of the wilderness zone will be restricted. If overuse or misuse occurs, the director may restrict entry and use of the area. Methods of restriction may include separation and control of use activities through time and space allocation, use/area rotation schemes, and/or a permit system.” (Framework, p. 19)

Application Areas

The entirety of Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park is designated Wilderness.

Cultural Zone

Purpose and Characteristics

“Cultural zones are established to preserve, investigate, document and interpret Alaska’s cultural resources and heritage.

“Cultural zones are designated to provide adequate protection of historical, cultural, archaeological, or anthropological resources. These zones may contain a single feature or an assemblage of historic features.

Developments and Activities

“The intensity of development in a cultural zone is managed to ensure that use levels in the area do not impair the integrity of historical, cultural, archaeological, or anthropological resources. Any development within a cultural zone should have minimal impact on the

1 cultural and historical values within the unit and should involve minimal introduction of
2 artificial [*sic*] features for activities not related to the cultural resource and its values.
3 Development generally will be associated with the necessities of public access, safety and
4 interpretation of the cultural resources present. Paved trails, automobile parking, toilets and
5 interpretive displays are examples of such development. Activities in this zone are for
6 educational or scientific purposes. Recreation-related facilities are generally secondary and
7 will be separated from the site(s) of cultural resources by sufficient buffers. Activities in
8 keeping with the historical period of the cultural resource may be encouraged. To protect the
9 cultural values for which the unit was created, resource modification, fire suppression, and
10 insect and disease control management techniques will be utilized only when absolutely
11 necessary in this zone.” (Framework, pg 20)
12

13 **Application Areas**

14
15 Chugachik Island is designated as a Cultural zone.
16



**Kachemak Bay
State Park &
State Wilderness Park**

**Map 8:
Land Use Zones**

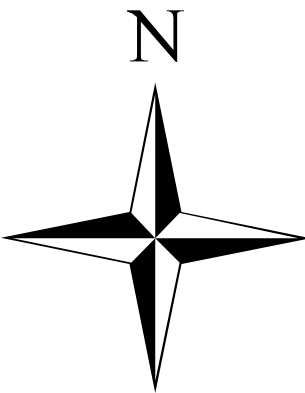
- State Park (AS 41.21.131)
- State Wilderness Park (AS 41.21.140)
- Cultural
- Recreational Development
- Natural
- Wilderness

NOTE: Marine waters within the boundaries of the State Park and State Wilderness Park are zoned as Natural.

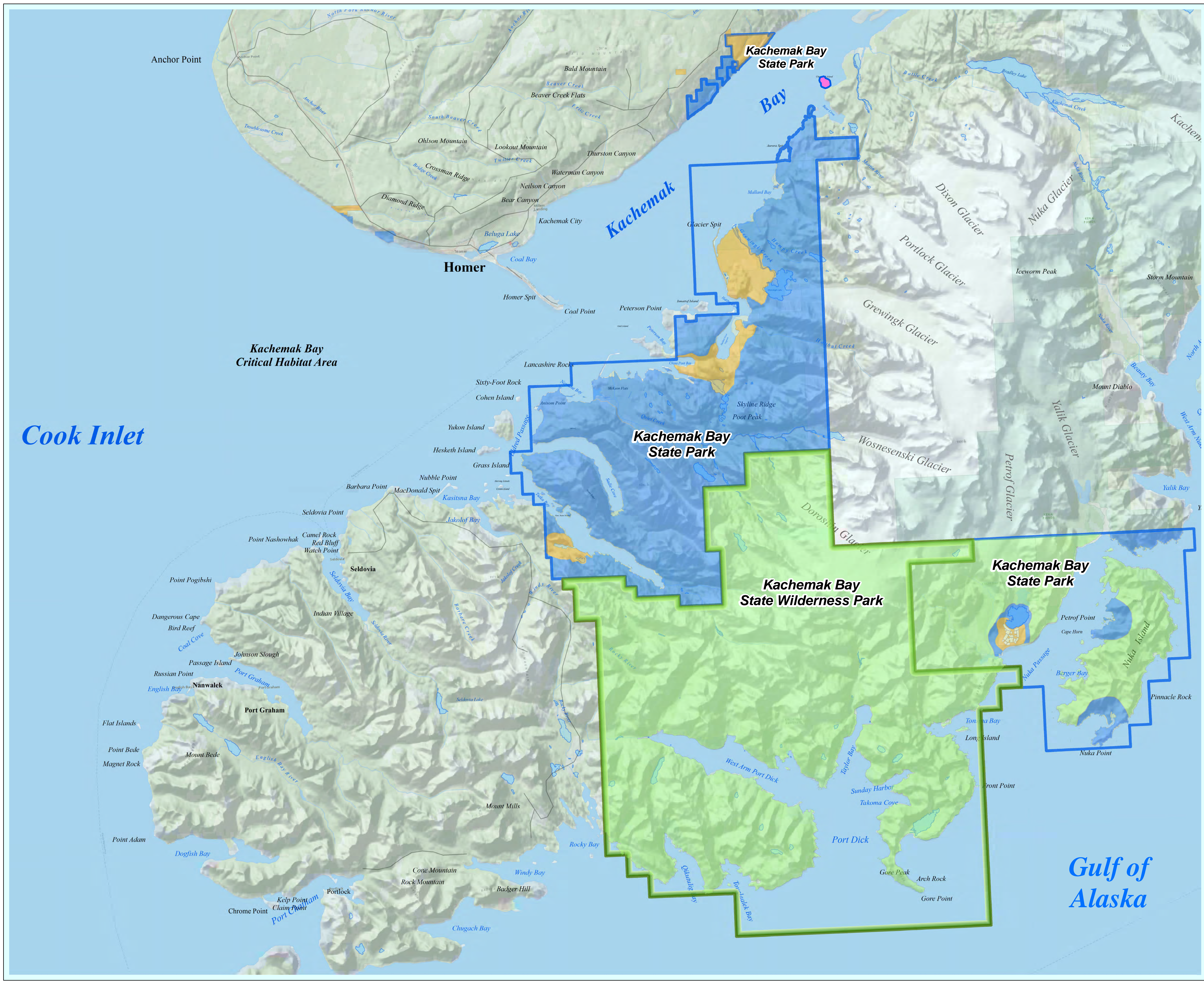


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Created: September, 2018
RJK, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles



Management Guidelines and Compatibility of Uses

In addition to identifying land-use zones to be used within the park system units, the Framework identifies guidelines for many activities for each of the zones. It does this by identifying the compatibility for many public use activities generally for the four land-use zones. The Framework directs DPOR to use this general guidance to determine more specific management direction through a plan.² This portion of the chapter builds upon the general guidelines identified in the Framework and provides specific guidelines that must be followed by DPOR when determining if a use is allowed or may be authorized and identifies the compatibility of specific uses for each land-use zone. The Guideline Table identifies the guidelines and compatibility for many uses that are, or could, occur within the park units. This table will be used by DPOR to determine if a use is allowed or could be authorized and what guidelines must be followed when adjudicating authorizations for certain uses. It is a more specific determination of uses than is provided in the Framework. If inconsistencies exist between the general guidelines of the Framework and the more specific guidelines contained in the Guideline Table, the latter will supersede the former.

Guideline Tables

The Guideline Tables comprising the rest of this chapter are divided by general types of use: Public Use; Private Structures; Commercial Uses; Resource Management Activities. The table shows whether a use is “compatible,” “conditionally compatible,” or “incompatible” within the four zones: Recreational, Cultural, Natural or Wilderness.

Where a use is indicated as “compatible” the use is consistent with the primary function of the land as public recreation land under AS 41.21.130 – 41.21.142. Compatible uses are allowed without authorization or are allowed through area-wide authorization. Areawide authorizations may limit the use to certain locations or time of year or mandate certain design requirements. Seasonal or location limitations placed upon allowed uses are noted in the guidelines in the table.

In cases where a use is indicated as “conditionally compatible,” the use is considered incompatible with the primary function of the land under AS 41.21.130 – 41.21.142 *unless* certain conditions are met. Conditionally compatible uses may be authorized either by a Special Park Use Permit under 11 AAC 18.010 (including 11 AAC 18.010 (a)(11)) and 11 AAC 18.025 or a restricted opening pursuant to 11 AAC 12.335. Conditions may be identified in this plan, in permit stipulations, or may be developed to address a specific use or activity. Conditions are developed and imposed on the use or activity in order to make the use or activity compatible with the statutory purpose of the park or existing regulations, protect park resources, and mitigate use conflicts. Restricted openings, use designations, and use restrictions may be temporary in nature, but management actions that meet the requirements of 11 AAC 12.335 must be adopted as regulations. DPOR may assess the

² The Framework states: “Specific developments and activities for a given park unit’s land use zones will be directed by a specific state park unit management or site development planning process.”

1 demand for certain activities and the impact of certain activities on park resources through
2 the use of special use permits and restricted openings prior to implementing permanent
3 changes through regulations.
4

5 In cases where a use is indicated as “incompatible”, DPOR has determined that the use is not
6 compatible with the primary function of the unit as set forth in AS 41.21.130 – 41.21.142 and
7 implementing regulations. When determining a use incompatible, DPOR considers the
8 statutory purposes of park units, the known impacts of that use, and the history of a particular
9 use. Incompatible uses may be designated as incompatible in this plan or prohibited in
10 existing regulation. Incompatible uses will not be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 and
11 11 AAC 18.025(c), absent exigent circumstances, unforeseen changes in park management
12 requirements, or as described below.
13

14 DPOR may assess the demand for incompatible or unidentified activities and their impact on
15 park resources through the use of special use permits, restricted openings, use designations,
16 and use restrictions prior to implementing permanent changes through regulations. For this
17 purpose, special use permits, restricted openings, use designations, and use restrictions may
18 be implemented on a temporary or trial basis. Management actions that meet the
19 requirements of 11 AAC 12.335(b) must be adopted as regulations. When issuing these
20 types of permits, consideration will be given to the nature of each of the land use zones for
21 determining the appropriateness of the activity in a given area.
22

23 Some activities may be considered a conversion of use under the LWCF grant program.
24 DPOR is required to go through a LWCF approval process to document and mitigate for the
25 conversion prior to the conversion action. The person or agency requesting an activity or use
26 that requires a conversion will be responsible for compensating DPOR for all costs incurred
27 through the conversion process.
28

29 Uses not specifically included in the Guideline Table that are not identical, but are similar, to
30 an included use may be determined compatible and may be authorized by DPOR staff
31 through a determination of compatibility. Uses that are dissimilar to those included in the
32 matrix may be authorized based on a finding in a determination of compatibility that the use
33 is sufficiently similar to other uses that are authorized that the potential use can be permitted.
34 All such uses that are authorized must be consistent with the enabling statutes, regulations,
35 and the management intent provided in this plan, including the management intent of the
36 individual management units.
37

Guideline Table

Public Uses

Included below are the majority of uses and activities that are known to occur or uses that staff thought could possibly occur in the park units. They include most outdoor recreational pursuits commonly conducted in the area already (e.g. hiking, boating, skiing, among others), and uses that are already occurring but are not currently allowed by regulation (e.g. bicycle use on trails, long-term moorage of boats, etc.). Administrative activities carried out by park management in support of daily park operations do not require a permit.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
ADA Access by Wheelchairs Only includes manually operated wheelchairs or other manually driven devices designed for use by people with mobility impairments.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization at personal discretion.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization at personal discretion.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization at personal discretion.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization at personal discretion.
Fixed Wing Aircraft (Private & Commercial) Includes airplanes, non-rigid wing (parafoil), or ultralight aircraft. Landing of fixed wing aircraft equipped with wheels, floats, or skis on certain waterbodies and lands is allowed without authorization within KBSP marine waters, gravel bars, Emerald Lake, China Poot Lake, Hazel Lake, Upper Hazel Lake, Wosnesenski Lake, ³ and Petrof Lake. Practice landings remain prohibited as provided under 11 AAC 20.110. Use in other areas is prohibited.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.110	N/A	Compatible; Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.110. Conditionally Compatible; may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 on Wosnesenski Lake until a regulation allowing use is promulgated.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization on salt water beaches consistent with 11 AAC 20.210. Conditionally compatible; may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 on Upper Hazel Lake until regulation allowing use is

³ Regulations need to be promulgated to allow fixed wing aircrafts to land on Upper Hazel Lake and Wosnesenski Lake without authorization.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
				promulgated.
Paragliding & Hang Gliding Unpowered flight using fixed or flexible wing(s)	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.
Rotary Winged Aircraft (Private & Commercial) Includes private or commercial rotary-winged aircraft including helicopters and gyrocopters. Landing is allowed on salt water and salt water beaches within KBSWP.	Conditionally Compatible; HEA may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 for transmission line maintenance on existing pre-approved landing areas only. The use of helicopters in other areas may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 only for park management purposes, research or in support of other authorized activities.	Incompatible.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 during the summer season at the designated landing area on Grewingk Glacier; and landings for one operator during the winter within the Sadie-Tutka Unit by a competitive permit under 11 AAC 18.040 ⁴ . HEA may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 for transmission line maintenance on existing pre-approved landing areas. The use	Compatible as described in 11 AAC 20.210. Conditionally compatible, may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 in other areas only for park management purposes, research or in support of other authorized activities.

⁴ if there is interest in providing helicopter landings in this unit during the winter months, an RFP for a competitive park use permit may be issued. Only one permit would be granted.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
			of helicopters in other areas may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 in other areas only for park management purposes, research or in support of other authorized activities.	
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) Rotary or fixed wing aircraft, also known as drones, without human pilots aboard. Used recreationally by the public.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Conditionally compatible, may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 if the UAV weighs less than 55 lbs., is flown within visual line of sight, below an altitude of 400', at speeds of not more than 100 mph, during daylight, is not flown above people, and is not used to harass or otherwise come within 500' of wildlife.	Incompatible.
Archery	Compatible; Allowed without authorization	Compatible; Allowed without authorization	Compatible; Allowed without authorization	Compatible; Allowed without authorization

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Bow and arrow use for hunting is not allowed within ½ mile of a facility under 11 AAC 20.100 and 11 AAC 20.200.	subject to state hunting regulations.	subject to state hunting regulations.	subject to state hunting regulations.	subject to state hunting regulations.
Bear Baiting Establishing a bear baiting station to attract bears for hunting. Bear baiting must be consistent with ADF&G regulations, requires registration with ADF&G and requires an authorization from DPOR under 11 AAC 18.010.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Conditionally compatible; Requires authorization under 11 AAC 18.010, and is subject to state hunting regulations.	Conditionally compatible; Requires authorization under 11 AAC 18.010, and is subject to state hunting regulations.
Berry Picking; Vegetation Gathering; Gathering Dead and Down Firewood Gathering edible resources for personal consumption; gathering seaweed and kelp for personal use; gathering dead and downed wood for use in a fire in the park unit; and, disturbing natural objects in a reasonable and customary manner while lawfully trapping is allowed. Gathering dead or burnt wood for personal use off of state park land is prohibited. This use must be conducted consistent with regulations at 11 AAC 12.170.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization, consistent with regulation.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization, consistent with regulation.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization, consistent with regulation.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization, consistent with regulation.
Bicycles (Non-motorized) Use of bicycles is currently restricted to existing	Allowed on existing roads and parking areas consistent	Incompatible.	Allowed on existing roads and parking areas consistent	Conditionally Compatible; may be authorized under

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
roads and parking areas under 11 AAC 12.020. DPOR may allow use of bicycles on certain trails through special use permits or restricted openings to assess the level of use and impact on park resources. These authorizations may occur on certain trails that are recommended to be developed or re-developed as a sustainable trail designed for bicycle use. A general opening of certain trails to bicycle use would require a unit specific regulation.	11 AAC 12.020. Conditionally Compatible; may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 in other areas and trails designated for use until a regulation is promulgated to allow use on designated trails designed to accommodate bicycles without authorization.		11 AAC 12.020. Conditionally Compatible; may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 in other areas and trails designated for use until a regulation is promulgated to allow use on designated trails designed to accommodate bicycles without authorization.	11 AAC 18.010 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.
Airboats and Hovercraft Air-fan driven near-surface vehicles, including boat-hulled, air-cushioned, or wing-in-ground-effect vehicles.	Allowed on salt water only. Prohibited in tidal flats or any uplands.	Allowed on salt water only. Prohibited in tidal flats or any uplands.	Allowed on salt water only. Prohibited in tidal flats or any uplands.	Allowed on salt water only. Prohibited in tidal flats or any uplands.
Motorized Boating Use of inboard and outboard motorized boats and jet boats on rivers, lakes, and salt waters. Does not include small boats with electric trolling motors, house boats, or personal water craft. Use of motorized boats is currently restricted to salt waters, Emerald Lake, China Poot Lake, Hazel Lake, and Petrof Lake under	Compatible without authorization on salt water, and on designated lakes consistent with 11 AAC 20.115.	N/A	Compatible; Allowed without authorization on salt water, and on designated lakes consistent with 11 AAC 20.115 and 11 AAC 20.215.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization in salt water consistent with 11 AAC 20.215. Conditionally compatible on Upper Hazel Lake. May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 on

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
park specific regulations at 11 AAC 20.115 and 11 AAC 20.215.				Upper Hazel Lake until a regulation allowing use is promulgated.
Non-motorized Boating Includes vessels such as canoes, rafts, rowboats, kayaks, pack rafts, sailboats, sailboards, surfing, and stand up paddle boards.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.
Personal Watercraft (PWC) Use of PWC is currently prohibited under 11 AAC 20.115(b) and 11 AAC 20.215(b). Currently, PWC use on marine waters remains prohibited within the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area.	N/A	N/A	Incompatible, use is prohibited under 11 AAC 20.115(b) and 11 AAC 20.215(b).	N/A
Camping Within Developed Campgrounds Camping that occurs within a developed campground facility.	Compatible; Requires registration and payment of applicable fees.	N/A	Compatible; Requires registration and payment of applicable fees.	Compatible; Requires registration and payment of applicable fees.
Primitive Camping – Undeveloped Areas Camping that occurs outside of designated sites or campgrounds is limited to 10 consecutive days in a calendar year at the same location. Camping at the same location for longer periods	Compatible; Allowed up to 10 days at a site without authorization on all lands except camping is prohibited at Eveline SRS.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization; however, camping at the same site in excess of 10 days is conditionally	Compatible; Allowed up to 10 days at a site without authorization on all lands except camping is prohibited at Overlook Park SRS.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization; however, camping at the same site in excess of 10 days is conditionally

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
of time may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010.	Camping at the same site in excess of 10 days is conditionally compatible and requires an authorization under 11 AAC 18.010.	compatible and requires an authorization under 11 AAC 18.010.	Camping at the same site in excess of 10 days is conditionally compatible and requires an authorization under 11 AAC 18.010.	compatible and requires an authorization under 11 AAC 18.010.
Rock Climbing Includes any type of climbing on the rocky bluffs of the park with or without gear.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 12.170.	N/A	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 12.170.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 12.170.
Diving Swimming or exploring under water, either with breathing apparatus (SCUBA/rebreather) or without (skin). A diver down flag is required.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	N/A	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.
Dog Sledding and Skijoring Use of dog teams for sledding or skiing as a means of winter access and recreation.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	N/A	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.
Use of Chainsaw Use of chainsaw for gathering dead and down trees for campfires within the park unit. Must be done consistent with 11 AAC 12.170.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Campfires Fires are restricted to camp stoves, structures provided by DPOR, or on non-vegetated gravel bars and saltwater beaches. Fires in other locations may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.120 or authorization.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.120 or authorization.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.120 and 11 AAC 20.220 or authorization.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.220 or authorization.
Fireworks Use of fireworks by individuals or organized groups is prohibited unless authorized under 11 AAC 18.010.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
Geo-caching The activity where participants use a Global Positioning System receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers or caches. Caching items in areas with identified cultural resources is prohibited. May be authorized under an area-wide authorization under 11 AAC 18.010.	Conditionally compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 but caches must be limited to micro-cache size.	Incompatible.	Conditionally compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 but caches must be limited to micro-cache size.	Conditionally compatible; Only virtual caches will be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010.
Recreational Gold Panning Recreational gold panning is allowed as provided under 11 AAC 20.918 provided no motorized equipment is used, a person uses no more equipment than a gold pan and shovel, and no	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.918.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.918.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.918.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.918.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
chemicals are used. Anadromous fish streams are only open to recreational gold panning between May 16 and July 14 annually. No person may stake a mining claim or leasehold location in a state park and no person may extract or disturb natural materials for the purpose of recreational gold panning above the ordinary high water line or where vegetative material exists.				
Highway Vehicles Includes vehicles such as cars, trucks, motorcycles and other highway vehicles registered for use on state-maintained roads or parking areas with minimal impact. Use of highway vehicles by mobility-impaired park users may be authorized to provide access to a developed facility on the north side of the bay under 11 AAC 18.010. All highway vehicle use is subject to 11 AAC 12.110.	Allowed without authorization on existing roads and parking on lands on the north side of the bay. Prohibited on all lands on the south side of the bay.	Incompatible.	Allowed without authorization on existing roads and parking on lands on the north side of the bay. Prohibited on all lands on the south side of the bay.	Incompatible.
Horses, Pack Animals Use of horses, mules, and burros is allowed under 11 AAC 20.910 ⁵ with the exception of	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.910.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.910.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.910.	Compatible, Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 20.910.

⁵ The use of llamas, alpacas and goats as pack animals is not recommended because of concern of disease transmission to native wildlife. A change to the regulation is recommended to prohibit the use of llamas, alpacas and goats.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
campgrounds, swim beaches, picnic areas, officially designated and marked hiking trails and areas above timberline. Loose herding of animals is prohibited. Groups using 10 or more animals must obtain authorization under 11 AAC 18.010 before entering the parks. Tethering horses and burrows within 100 feet of fresh water is prohibited.				
Human-powered transport Hiking, Skiing, Snowboarding, Snowshoeing, Mountaineering	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.
Hunting and Fishing Hunting and non-commercial, private, and personal use fishing are allowed consistent with ADF&G regulations. Discharge of a firearm or bow and arrow is prohibited within ½ mile of a developed facility (i.e. a public use cabin, campground, RV park, ranger or maintenance station, or parking lot). Special regulations apply to bear bait stations, see previous entry.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.
Anchoring and mooring Anchoring and mooring of boats, and float planes is generally allowed on saltwater up to	N/A	N/A	Compatible; Allowed without authorization consistent with 11 AAC 12.235 up to	N/A

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
30 days ⁶ per calendar year. All such vehicles shall be moored in a manner that will not impede navigation or affect adjacent private riparian interests. An anchored vessel may not be left unattended for more than 72 hours unless engaged in a recreational use on a daily basis. A permit is required from ADF&G to moor for longer than 14 days.			30 days.	
Anchoring and mooring – Greater than 30 days Anchoring or mooring a boat or floating structure on salt water within a park for more than 30 days per calendar year is currently prohibited by regulations at 11 AAC 12.235, unless the use is authorized by DPOR under 11 AAC 18.010. All such vehicles shall be moored in a manner that will not impede navigation or affect adjacent riparian interests. Mooring of boats or personal watercraft in other areas is prohibited. Mooring of boats does not include the mooring of a house boat at the owner's private property.	N/A	N/A	Conditionally compatible, May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 to allow use for more than 30 days in a calendar year. Where a person owns a waterfront parcel on salt waters, the upland owner can request an annual moorage authorization that does not limit the number of days a vessel owned by and registered to the owner can be	N/A

⁶ Recommend promulgating a park-specific regulation to align anchoring and mooring restrictions more closely to the AD&G regulations limiting the activity to 14 days without authorization.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
			moored. Boats shall be moored at the owner's private property within or contiguous to the park unit boundary.	
Off Road Vehicles Includes motorized devices as defined in 11 AAC 20.990(21). Use is currently prohibited under 11 AAC 12.020.	Conditionally compatible, use may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 only for park management purposes, research, or in support of other authorized activities.	Incompatible.	Conditionally compatible, use may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 only for park management purposes, research, or in support of other authorized activities.	Incompatible.
Organized Events Any promotional or entertainment event, including an organized athletic event, competitive recreational event, or spectator event, or an organized or promoted assembly of more than 20 people.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.
Power Driven Mobility Device (Mobility Device) Any mobility device powered by batteries and used for the purpose of locomotion including	Conditionally compatible, may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 on designated trails on the	N/A	Conditionally compatible may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 on designated trails for	Incompatible.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
electronic personal assistance mobility devices such as a 3 or 4 wheeled scooter or a Segway® but not including a golf cart. Use of a mobility device with an internal combustion motor is prohibited on all lands. This does not include manual wheelchairs or other manually driven mobility devices used by a mobility-impaired person.	north side of bay for the mobility impaired only. Prohibited on all other lands.		the mobility impaired only on the north side of bay. Prohibited on all other lands.	
Personal Property Storage Includes storing any personal equipment within the park units and could include items such as camping equipment or small boats among other types of property. This type use is currently prohibited under 11 AAC 12.220 for all park units. This plan identifies several areas where canoes or kayaks may be stored; all storage of other person property is prohibited.	Storage of canoes or kayaks at identified storage areas is conditionally compatible and may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010. Storage of other personal property is prohibited.	N/A	Storage of canoes or kayaks at identified storage areas is conditionally compatible and may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010. Storage of other personal property is prohibited.	N/A
Pets Pets are allowed in developed and undeveloped areas consistent with 11 AAC 12.130. Walking llamas, alpacas and goats in the park units is discouraged due to the concern of disease transmission to native wildlife ⁷ .	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.

⁷ Recommend park-specific regulations be promulgated to limit llamas, alpacas and goats.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Snowmobiles⁸ Snowmobile use on or off of a snow trail. Use is currently prohibited under 11 AAC 12.020.	Conditionally compatible, use will only be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 only for park management purposes, research or in support of other authorized activities.	Incompatible.	Conditionally compatible, use will only be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 only for park management purposes, research or in support of other authorized activities.	Incompatible.
Trapping Trapping of furbearers for private or commercial use.	Compatible subject to state trapping regulations.	Compatible subject to state trapping regulations.	Compatible subject to state trapping regulations.	Compatible subject to state trapping regulations.
Use of Generators Use of a generator for electrical power generation at a developed campground or designated campsite.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization subject to established quiet hours.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization subject to established quiet hours.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization subject to established quiet hours.	Incompatible.
Wildlife and Nature Observation Wildlife, wildlife habitat, and landscape features viewed and enjoyed in their natural setting. Includes photography and filming of natural objects and fish and wildlife for personal use. Encouraged throughout the area and facilitated in	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.

⁸ “Snowmobile” has the same meaning as provided in 11 AAC 20.990(26).

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreational Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
some areas consistent with specific recommendations contained in the plan.				

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Private Structures

State law prohibits granting permanent, exclusive access rights and property interests in legislatively-reserved areas. Furthermore, no person may place, construct, or maintain structures in a state park unless authorized by the Director under 11 AAC 18.010. The uses listed below include the majority of uses and activities commonly associated with the improvement of private waterfront land or access to resources within the adjacent park unit. These structures facilitate access to navigable water or water dependent recreation from the private lands that are within or share a common boundary with KBSP or KBSWP. When considering whether these uses were compatible, DPOR staff considered how these private structures affected the public's ability to access and use the waterbodies and how much of the public trust resource is impacted by the structure. Only private structures that facilitate access to navigable water or a water dependent recreational use are determined compatible in the following section of the table. Installation of structures identified in this table may require authorization from additional state and federal agencies where they have authority to regulate the use or activity. Examples include: discharges regulated by EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; fill materials or structures placed in waters of the United States may be regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers; or, placement of a structure in anadromous waterbodies regulated by ADF&G. These examples are not intended to be an exhaustive list. It is the applicant's responsibility to acquire all necessary authorizations prior to installing or constructing a structure within KBSP or KBSWP.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Private Docks Anchored or pile supported floating docks for private use developed and maintained or anchors by private individuals. Authorization is required prior to constructing or maintaining a structure in a park unit under 11 AAC 12.140.	N/A	N/A	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 to facilitate access to private property. A person must own the waterfront parcel for which the dock is intended to be constructed. Docks must be the minimum size necessary to	N/A

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
			accommodate site development characteristics and moorage. All docks will be constructed of non-polluting materials and any foam floatation used must be commercially encapsulated. Under no circumstances will a dock be authorized that facilitates a non-water dependent use.	
Private Mooring Structures Permanent anchors and buoys where boats can be temporarily secured.	N/A	N/A	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 to facilitate access to private property. The buoy must be placed as close as practicable to the private property in a manner that minimizes impacts to scenery and recreational use.	N/A

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
<p>Discharge Structures</p> <p>Any pipe, ditch, or other structure that discharges surface water, grey water, black water, or any other substance directly into the surface waters within KBSP. This use is prohibited under 11 AAC 12.050.</p> <p>Point and non-point source discharges are regulated by other state and federal governmental agencies: EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and ADF&G.</p>	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
<p>Structures facilitating Storage of Personal Property</p> <p>Storage of personal property such as boats, canoes, or kayaks.</p>	Conditionally compatible; Use may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 at the designated storage sites at Grewingk and Petrof Lakes.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
<p>Water collection and transmission structures</p> <p>Water collection structures and water distribution lines placed on park lands. An authorization is required prior to constructing or maintaining private water delivery structures in a park unit under 11 AAC 12.140. Structures will not be</p>	Conditionally Compatible; Only small, easily removed structures may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010. Structures must be of a	N/A	Conditionally Compatible; Only small, easily removed structures may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010. Structures must be of a	Conditionally Compatible; Only small, easily removed structures may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010. Structures must be of a

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
approved for commercial water delivery operations but may be approved as part of a commercial operation such as a lodge or other similar commercial operation. In some cases, an authorization may be required from the Division of Mining, Land and Water, Water Resources Program and an applicant is encouraged to contact program staff to determine if an authorization is needed.	size and type that they can be removed within 72-hour notice. Placement and size of structures will be the minimum necessary to provide water to the applicant.		size and type that they can be removed within 72-hour notice. Placement and size of structures will be the minimum necessary to provide water to the applicant.	size and type that they can be removed within 72-hour notice. Placement and size of structures will be the minimum necessary to provide water to the applicant.
Electrical Distribution Lines Electrical distribution lines placed on park lands from an existing transmission line to private property. ⁹	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
Easements and rights-of-way for access to private land The department may grant a public easement or right-of-way within a state park unit for access to private property under AS 41.21.024 if it will not unduly affect park resources and is in the public interest.	May be authorized consistent with AS 41.21.024.	N/A	May be authorized consistent with AS 41.21.024.	May be authorized consistent with AS 41.21.024.

⁹ DPOR does not have authority to authorize permanent private distribution lines within a legislatively designate area..

Commercial Uses

Park regulations 11 AAC 12.300 prohibit commercial activities, defined in 11 AAC 12.340(19), within State Park Units unless permitted under 11 AAC 18.030, 11 AAC 18.040, AS 41.21.027 or other legal means. Prior to issuing these permits, a determination must be made that the park facilities and natural and cultural resources will not be adversely affected; the park is protected from pollution; public use values will be maintained and protected; public safety, health and welfare will not be adversely affected; and that the activity is consistent with planning efforts affecting the park and adopted park and local plans. The activity must also not result in an exclusive use of park land and water, meaning that it will neither exclude non-commercial, public use nor other commercial operators by virtue of location, timing, or type of park land and water. There are a number of commercial operators who use KBSP and offer services such as water taxi; guided kayak; sightseeing and hiking tours; and helicopter and fixed aircraft sightseeing tours. A commercial permit requires operators to carry liability insurance, possess appropriate professional licenses and certificates, and provide basic equipment.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Aquatic Farming - Mariculture and Aquaculture Includes the installation of facilities for the purpose of culturing of shellfish and aquatic plant organisms in captivity under positive control in the near shore environments. It includes operations to raise oysters, clams, and mussels.	N/A	N/A	Incompatible.	N/A
Barge Commercial barges used for construction and development of private land adjacent to DPOR managed land and water. Commercial barges may be moored at a project site while being	N/A	N/A	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	N/A

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
used. Long-term or permanent moorage is not authorized on any waterbody.				
Commercial Docks and Other Mooring Structures Anchored or pile supported floating docks for commercial use developed and maintained by commercial landowner. Authorization is required prior to constructing or maintaining a structure in a park unit under 11 AAC 12.140.	N/A	N/A	Conditionally compatible, may be authorized to facilitate access to the privately-owned uplands where the commercial activity occurs. A person must own the waterfront parcel for which the dock is intended to be constructed. Docks must be the minimum size necessary to accommodate site development characteristics and moorage. All docks will be constructed of non-polluting materials and any foam floatation used must be commercially encapsulated. Under no circumstances will a dock be authorized	N/A

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
			that facilitates a non-water dependent use.	
Commercial Fishing Gear Storage Storage of commercial fishing gear, in submerged lands only, longer than 72 hours.	N/A	N/A	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 consistent ADF&G or Board of Fish regulations.	N/A
Commercial Fishing Lawful commercial fishing operations conducted aboard vessels operating in saltwater and not using stationary gear or dredges.	N/A	N/A	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	N/A
Lodges, or Other Recreation Oriented Long-Term Facilities State owned lodging facilities on park lands or waters. May be operated under concession contract if compatible with park purposes. These facilities are subject to commercial regulatory requirements. These facilities may be subject to regulation by other local, state, or federal agencies.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized as part of commercial operation.	Incompatible.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized as part of commercial operation.	Incompatible.
Power Generation Development	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Includes wind, solar, tidal, geothermal, and hydroelectric power development for commercial purposes and any associated support facilities.				
Transmission Lines/Pipelines Extensive transmission lines and associated structures, which predate formation of the park, are located within KBSP. No transmission lines exist within KBSWP. No pipelines exist within the boundaries of KBSP or KBSWP. Maintenance of existing lines and structures or installation of new replacement lines and structures can only occur within the existing right of ways. New easements or rights-of-ways for commercial activities cannot be established without legislative action.	Allowed within existing easement only.	N/A	Allowed within existing easement only.	N/A
Tree/Vegetation Removal Removal of trees or other vegetation from the park for commercial purposes.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only when consistent with KBSP vegetation management policies, when it meets some management objective	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only when consistent with KBSP vegetation management policies, when it meets some management objective	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only when consistent with KBSP vegetation management policies, when it meets some management objective	Incompatible.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
	or when it provides public benefit or for public safety.	or when it provides public benefit or for public safety.	or when it provides public benefit or for public safety.	
Commercial Wildlife and Nature Photography and Filming Includes commercially guided photography and filming.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.
Communication & Transmission Structures Towers, antennas, repeaters, dishes, and other structures used for cellular phone, television and satellite.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
Easements and Right of Ways Easement for any commercial purpose within Legislatively Designated Areas. (LDA). ¹⁰	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
Equipment Storage and Staging	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under	N/A	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under	N/A

¹⁰ Those easements that pre-date the LDA's establishment can continue. New easements and rights-of-way constitute a disposal and are prohibited in an LDA unless consistent with AS 41.21.024 which is for public access to private land only.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Includes the equipment, tools, and materials used for maintenance of HEA installed transmission and distribution lines.	1 AAC 18.010 immediately adjacent to existing transmission line easement only.		11 AAC 18.010 immediately adjacent to existing transmission line easement only.	
Floating Facilities (Commercial) Includes floating lodges, fueling barge/dock, or other structures that facilitate activities on the adjacent upland. Currently not allowed under the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area Management Plan (under revision).	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
Grazing Grazing or loose herding of domestic or wild animals for personal or commercial purposes.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
Guiding and Outfitting Licensed big game hunting, fishing, mountaineering, water sports, and backcountry guiding, outfitting, transporting, and other commercial operations. Must be conducted consistent with regulations for commercial activities.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Incompatible.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.
House Boats (Commercial)	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Includes all boats where the primary purpose is to provide a permanent or temporary domicile whether or not a fee is charged for the occupancy. Currently not allowed under the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area Management Plan.				
Hydroelectric Power Development Power generation from impounded or natural waterbodies.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
Oil, Gas, and Coal Exploration and Development Lands and waters identified in AS 41.21.130 - 41.21.142 were withdrawn from the public domain by the Legislature as a special purpose site consistent with Article 8, Section 7 of the Alaska Constitution. Land within KBSP is no longer subject to management under Title 38 of the Alaska Statutes, including statutes related to leasing and development of oil and gas resources and cannot be disposed.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
Resource Extraction	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only for	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only for	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only for	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only for

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Extraction of minerals, sand, gravel, rock, timber or plants.	government agency use; commercial use will not be authorized.	government agency use; commercial use will not be authorized.	government agency use; commercial use will not be authorized.	government agency use; commercial use will not be authorized.
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)-Commercial Use Rotary or fixed wing aircraft without human pilots aboard, also known as a drone.	Conditionally Compatible, May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 if operator meets requirements for certification, registration and operation of small unmanned aircraft under 14 C.F.R. Part 107	Conditionally Compatible, May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 if operator meets requirements for certification, registration and operation of small unmanned aircraft under 14 C.F.R. Part 107	Conditionally Compatible, May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 if operator meets requirements for certification, registration and operation of small unmanned aircraft under 14 C.F.R. Part 107	Conditionally Compatible, May be authorized under 11 AAC 18 if operator meets requirements for certification, registration and operation of small unmanned aircraft under 14 C.F.R. Part 107

Resource Management Activities

Within this group are the uses conducted by DPOR or by other local, state, or federal agencies. In some circumstances, these uses may be conducted by a qualified individual or non-governmental organization with DPOR authorization. A permit is not required for DPOR to conduct these uses within the park units; however, a policy, procedure, or guideline may require that a permit be acquired by another agency prior to conducting the work or activity. These uses are necessary for the management and understanding of cultural and natural resources within the park units. DNR's Office of History and Archaeology administers archaeological research authorizations on state land.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Archaeological and Historical Study Field-based research and study of historical and archeological sites within the park units by state agencies is compatible and is allowed without authorization. Federal agencies, regional and local Native corporations, and university researchers may be authorized to conduct archaeological and historical studies. All information gathered through studies will be shared with DPOR, Office of History and Archaeology.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization by qualified DPOR staff. Conditionally Compatible for DPOR contractors or other qualified individuals and may be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization by qualified DPOR staff. Conditionally Compatible for DPOR contractors or other qualified individuals and may be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization by qualified DPOR staff. Conditionally Compatible for DPOR contractors or other qualified individuals and may be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization by qualified DPOR staff. Conditionally Compatible for DPOR contractors or other qualified individuals and may be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.
Fire Management Use of fire as a management tool to reduce fire fuel loads or to modify vegetation for some other management purpose. Fire management is typically conducted by Division of Forestry staff on behalf of DPOR.	Compatible; May be conducted pursuant to an interagency agreement.	Compatible; May be conducted pursuant to an interagency agreement.	Compatible; May be conducted pursuant to an interagency agreement.	Compatible; May be conducted pursuant to an interagency agreement; however, this activity should be minimized in this zone.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Fire Suppression Actions taken to suppress wildfires and the potential for wildfires. Suppressing fires by any method deemed appropriate by the incident commander or designated personnel. Fire suppression is typically conducted by Division of Forestry (DOF), or local fire department.	Compatible consistent with the Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plan and other interagency agreements.	Compatible consistent with the Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plan and other interagency agreements.	Compatible consistent with the Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plan and other interagency agreements.	Conditionally compatible consistent with the Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plan and other interagency agreements when life and property are in danger as determined by DOF staff.
Maintenance Agreements DPOR may enter into agreement for the maintenance of a facility, road, trail, or other similar development with another local, state, or federal agency, a non-governmental agency, or an individual. Requires a signed agreement between the parties.	Compatible.	Compatible.	Compatible.	Compatible.
Motorized Equipment Includes, but is not limited to, motorized equipment such as chainsaws, chippers, blowers, and weed eaters used for maintenance and management. A permit is not required for this use in any area of the park units by agency staff or representatives.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Research, Monitoring and Management Studies Collection of data necessary for park management purposes, to increase understanding of recreational use and natural, biological, or physical conditions or for scientific research. Priority will be given to studies that contribute to management of native fish and wildlife populations and their habitats. Studies may be conducted by the Division or by other researchers under Division permit.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization by qualified DPOR staff and its contractors. Conditionally Compatible for other individuals and may be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization by qualified DPOR staff and its contractors. Conditionally Compatible for other individuals and may be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization by qualified DPOR staff and its contractors. Conditionally Compatible for other individuals and may be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization by qualified DPOR staff and its contractors. Conditionally Compatible for other individuals and may be authorized under 11 AAC 18 subject to conditions that mitigate use conflicts and protect park resources.
Resource Extraction Removal of timber, gravel, rocks, sand, plants or other park resources for use by DPOR or for DPOR management purposes within the park units. These resources must be used for projects within the units. If the extraction site is a one-time site, it should be reclaimed as soon as practicable with natural vegetation.	Compatible; DPOR and its contractors are allowed without authorization.	Compatible; DPOR and its contractors are allowed without authorization.	Compatible; DPOR and its contractors are allowed without authorization.	Incompatible.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Traffic Control Devices¹¹ Includes any sign or physical barrier that is placed by DPOR to control access or use of DPOR managed land and water.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization.	Incompatible; use will not be conducted in this zone with the exception of the construction of a gate at the boundary with the Rocky River Road.
Trail Development and Maintenance Trail maintenance performed by individuals or groups. Work must be done consistent with Trail Management Objectives (TMOs) identified by DPOR. See trails management plan for more details. Work performed by DPOR staff does not require authorization.	Compatible; May be conducted as part of a trail maintenance agreement with individuals or groups consistent with the DPOR's approved Trail Management Objectives.	Compatible; May be conducted as part of a trail maintenance agreement with individuals or groups consistent with the DPOR's approved Trail Management Objectives.	Compatible; May be conducted as part of a trail maintenance agreement with individuals or groups consistent with the DPOR's approved Trail Management Objectives.	Compatible; May be conducted as part of a trail maintenance agreement with individuals or groups consistent with the DPOR's approved Trail Management Objectives.
Vegetation Management Cutting and/or removal of vegetation where necessary for management purposes by DPOR staff, Department of Natural Resources staff, DPOR contractors, or recognized representatives acting in an official capacity on behalf of DPOR. ¹² Includes hazard tree removal, tree and	Compatible; Allowed without authorization only for DPOR staff, contractors, or when conducted by DPOR recognized representatives. Incompatible and	Compatible; Allowed without authorization only for DPOR staff, contractors, or when conducted by DPOR recognized representatives. Incompatible and	Compatible; Allowed without authorization only for DPOR staff, contractors, or when conducted by DPOR recognized representatives. Incompatible and	Compatible, will be conducted in this zone for safety & resource protection purposes only. Incompatible and remains prohibited for all others.

¹¹ "Traffic control device" has the same meaning as provided in 11 AAC 12.340(22).

¹² "Recognized representatives" includes those people or groups that have signed a maintenance agreement with DPOR or those people that are identified as volunteers or are acting in an official capacity for DPOR.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
vegetation removal for facility development, trail maintenance, development of open space areas, or other management activities. Also includes the planting of both native and non-native vegetation on disturbed sites, for aesthetic purposes, or as part of a designed facility. (Non-native species should not be planted outside the planters.)	remains prohibited for all others.	remains prohibited for all others.	remains prohibited for all others.	
Waterbody Modification Changing a waterbody to improve use of a boat. Includes alteration of channel or bed morphology and removal of beaver dams and other woody material. Is allowed without authorization for DPOR staff, contractors, and recognized representatives acting in an official capacity on behalf of DPOR.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization for DPOR staff, contractors, or when conducted by DPOR recognized representatives. Incompatible and remains prohibited for all others.	N/A	Compatible; Allowed without authorization for DPOR staff, contractors, or when conducted by DPOR recognized representatives. Incompatible and remains prohibited for all others.	Incompatible.
Aids to navigation USCG approved navigational aids, buoys, markers, and lights used to mark channels and hazards.	Compatible; Allowed without authorization for DPOR staff, contractors, or when conducted by DPOR recognized representatives.	N/A	Compatible; Allowed without authorization for DPOR staff, contractors, or when conducted by DPOR recognized representatives.	N/A

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Wildlife Introduction Introduction of non-indigenous or exotic species.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.
Fisheries Enhancement Action taken to increase fishery stocks above historical levels such as building fish passages, artificially incubating or stocking fish in streams, and fertilizing lakes.	Conditionally Compatible; Use may be authorized at existing release sites or other sites determined appropriate by ADF&G in consultation with DPOR.	N/A	Conditionally Compatible; Use may be authorized at existing release sites or other sites determined appropriate by ADF&G in consultation with DPOR.	Conditionally Compatible; Use may be authorized at existing release sites or other sites determined appropriate by ADF&G in consultation with DPOR.
Fisheries Enhancement- Hatchery Includes construction, maintenance, and operation of a hatchery including imprinting net pens for the purpose of providing fish as a brood stock or cost recovery fishery.	Conditionally compatible, hatchery may only be authorized at the current site adjacent to Tutka Bay Lagoon.	Incompatible.	Conditionally compatible, net pens associated with the existing Tutka Bay hatchery may only be authorized in Tutka Bay Lagoon or Tutka Bay at a site identified and permitted by ADF&G in coordination with DPOR.	Incompatible.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Fisheries Restoration Action taken to restore native fish access to spawning and rearing habitat or to restore populations to historical levels. Includes fish ladders, fish passages, fish stocking and lake fertilization.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized in limited circumstances in conjunction with ADF&G.	N/A	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized in limited circumstances in conjunction with ADF&G.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized in very, limited circumstances in conjunction with ADF&G and with special consideration given to the wilderness values of the area.
Wildlife Restoration Used to re-establish native species within their original breeding range.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized after adequate research to ensure there will be no detrimental impact on other resident species.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized after adequate research to ensure there will be no detrimental impact on other resident species.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized after adequate research to ensure there will be no detrimental impact on other resident species.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized after adequate research to ensure there will be no detrimental impact on other resident species.
Vegetation Enhancement and Restoration Use of Native Plants for revegetation. The introduction of exotic species of plants or animals or those not indigenous to the area shall be discouraged, unless to meet specific and well-defined management objectives. Significant work shall be completed assessing the risks and rewards prior to introduction of any non-native species.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only adjacent to developed facilities for landscaping purposes.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only adjacent to developed facilities for landscaping purposes.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only adjacent to developed facilities for landscaping purposes.	Incompatible.

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Pest and Disease Control The use of poisons or chemicals or other means to control or eradicate invasive or noxious weeds, insect pests and/or diseases to indigenous animals, plants, or forests.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only to control species not indigenous to the area.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only to control species not indigenous to the area.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only to control species not indigenous to the area.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized only to control species not indigenous to the area.
Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat Enhancement or Restoration Modification of habitat to increase or decrease target wildlife population. Includes both enhancement and restoration activities, such as prescribed burning and mechanical manipulation. This type of activity will typically be conducted by, or in consultation with, the ADF&G.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized in limited circumstances in conjunction with ADF&G.	N/A	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized in limited circumstances in conjunction with ADF&G.	Incompatible.
Water Discharge - Storm Water Drainage Causing the shedding of storm water in an unnatural way into the park as a result of development activities within or adjacent to the park.	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized if consistent with the Clean Water Act, and in consultation with the DPOR Design and Construction section.	N/A	Conditionally Compatible; May be authorized if consistent with the Clean Water Act, and in consultation with the DPOR Design and Construction section.	N/A

Use, Activity, Facility	Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Wilderness Zone
Water Discharge - Other Drainage or Discharge Allowing or causing drainage or discharge into the park associated with sewage, gray water, or other waste water and materials.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.	Incompatible.

1

Chapter 6 - Unit Specific Management

Introduction

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

Management Units

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

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

Unit Descriptions

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

Current Uses

Uses that currently occur within the unit are described in greater detail.

Existing Facilities and Trails

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

Management Intent

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

Land Use Zones

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

Special Management Considerations

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

Facility and Trail Recommendations

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

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

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

The units identified and addressed in this plan are:

- 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)

9

10 The planning units on the south side are defined by topographic features as well as the
11 boundary of KBSWP, while units on the north side are defined by designated boundaries.
12 Each will be described in this chapter individually regarding its setting, current use, existing
13 facilities, special considerations, and recommendations for future management.
14



Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park

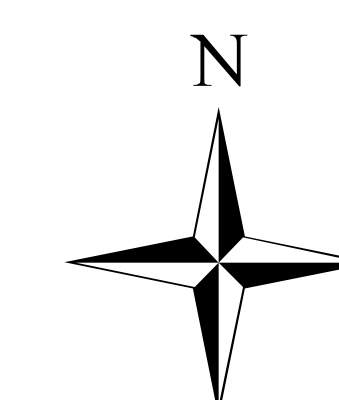
Map 9: Management Units

- State Park (AS 41.21.131)
- State Wilderness Park (AS 41.21.140)
- Cottonwood Eastland Unit
- Diamond Creek Unit
- Eveline Unit
- Grewingk Glacier Unit
- Halibut Cove - China Poot Unit
- Northern Unit
- Overlook Park Unit
- Sadie - Tutka Unit
- Outer Coast Unit

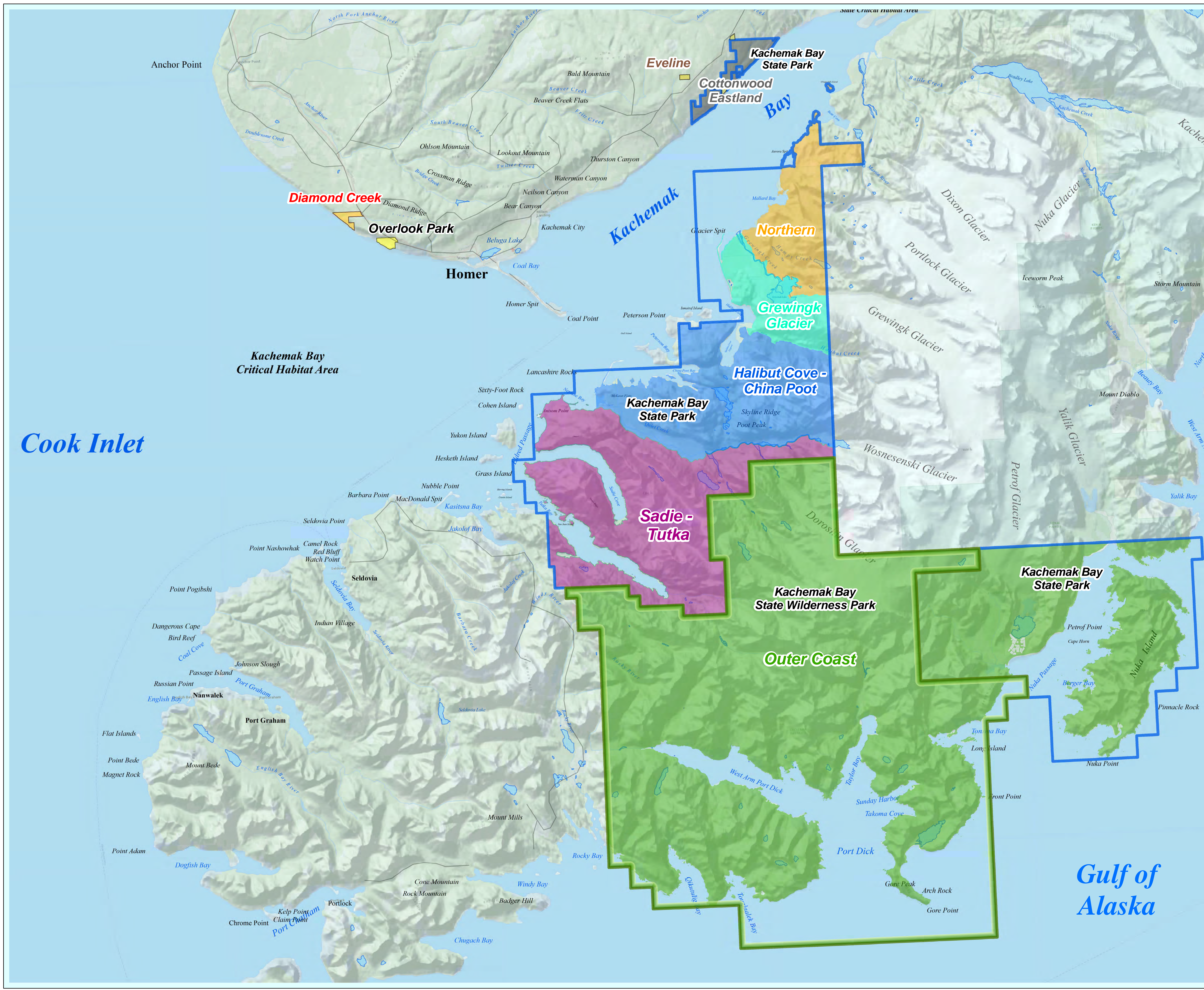


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Created: September, 2018
RJK, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles



Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit

Unit Description

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

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

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

Current Uses

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

Existing Facilities and Trails

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

Management Intent

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

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

Land Use Zones

Recreational Development

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

Natural

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

Special Management Considerations

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

Facility and Trail Recommendations

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.

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.



Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park

Map 10: Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit

- State Park Boundary
- Cottonwood Eastland Unit
- Proposed Development Area
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Trailhead

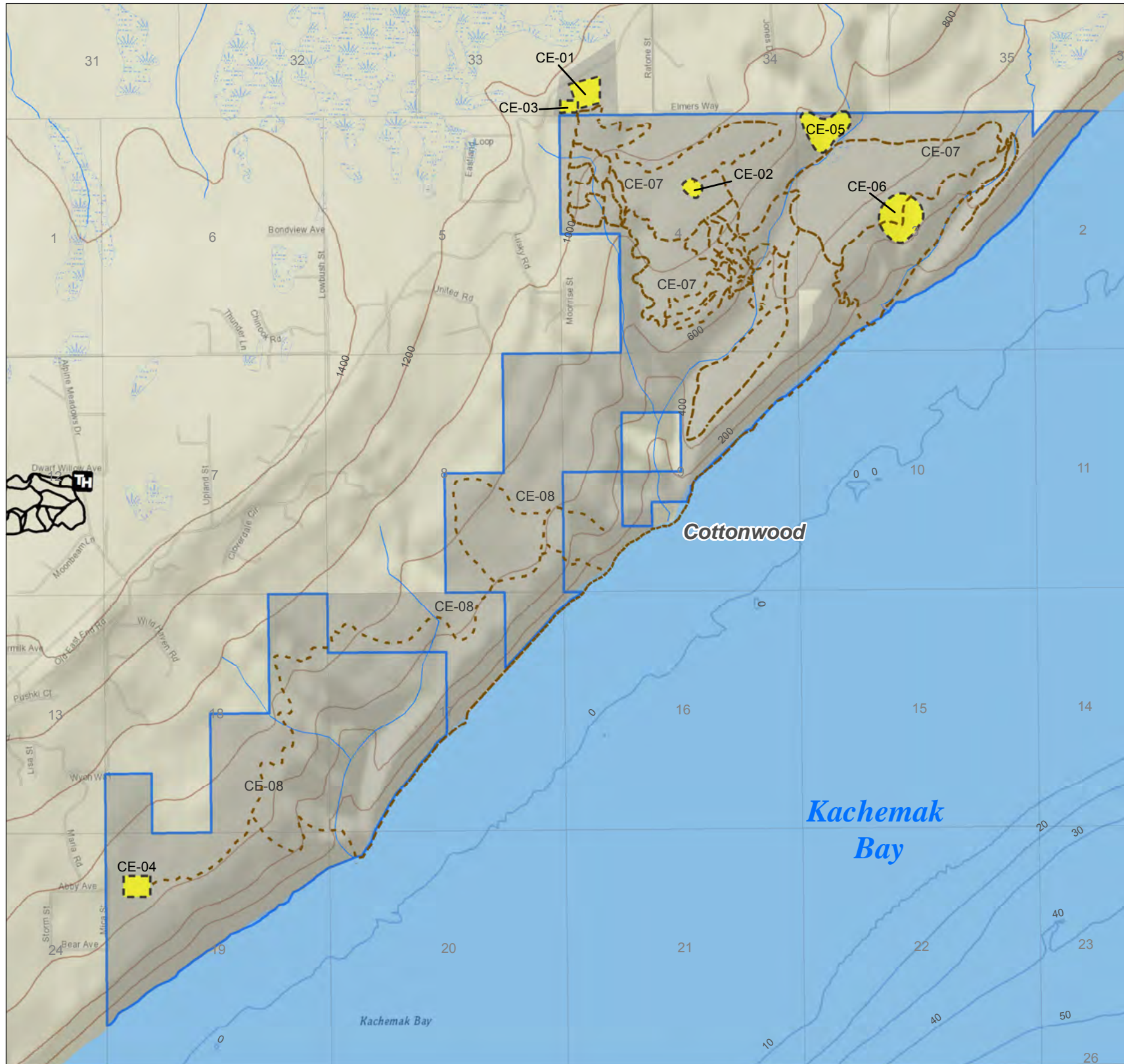


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Created: September, 2018
RJK, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



0 0.4 0.8
Miles



Diamond Creek Management Unit

Unit Description

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

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

There are no inholders in this small unit.

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

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

Current Uses

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

Existing Facilities and Trails

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

Facilities

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](#)

Trails

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

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

Management Intent

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

Land Use Zones

Recreational Development

Approximately 241 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 single track biking opportunities and to provide access to the beach on Kachemak Bay.

Natural

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

Special Management Considerations

Trail development should not exacerbate erosion occurring within the unit. The beach access trail should be signed to notify visitors of the various allowed trail uses.

1 Facility and Trail Recommendations

2

Ref. No.	Facility, Structure, or Trail	Recreation Opportunity Provided
DC-01	Parking Area and Materials Storage	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. Realign park access road at Sterling Highway with Diamond Ridge Road. Vacate existing road easement.
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.

3



**Kachemak Bay
State Park &
State Wilderness Park**

**Map 11:
Diamond Creek
Management Unit**

- Diamond Creek Unit
- Proposed Development Area
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Trailhead

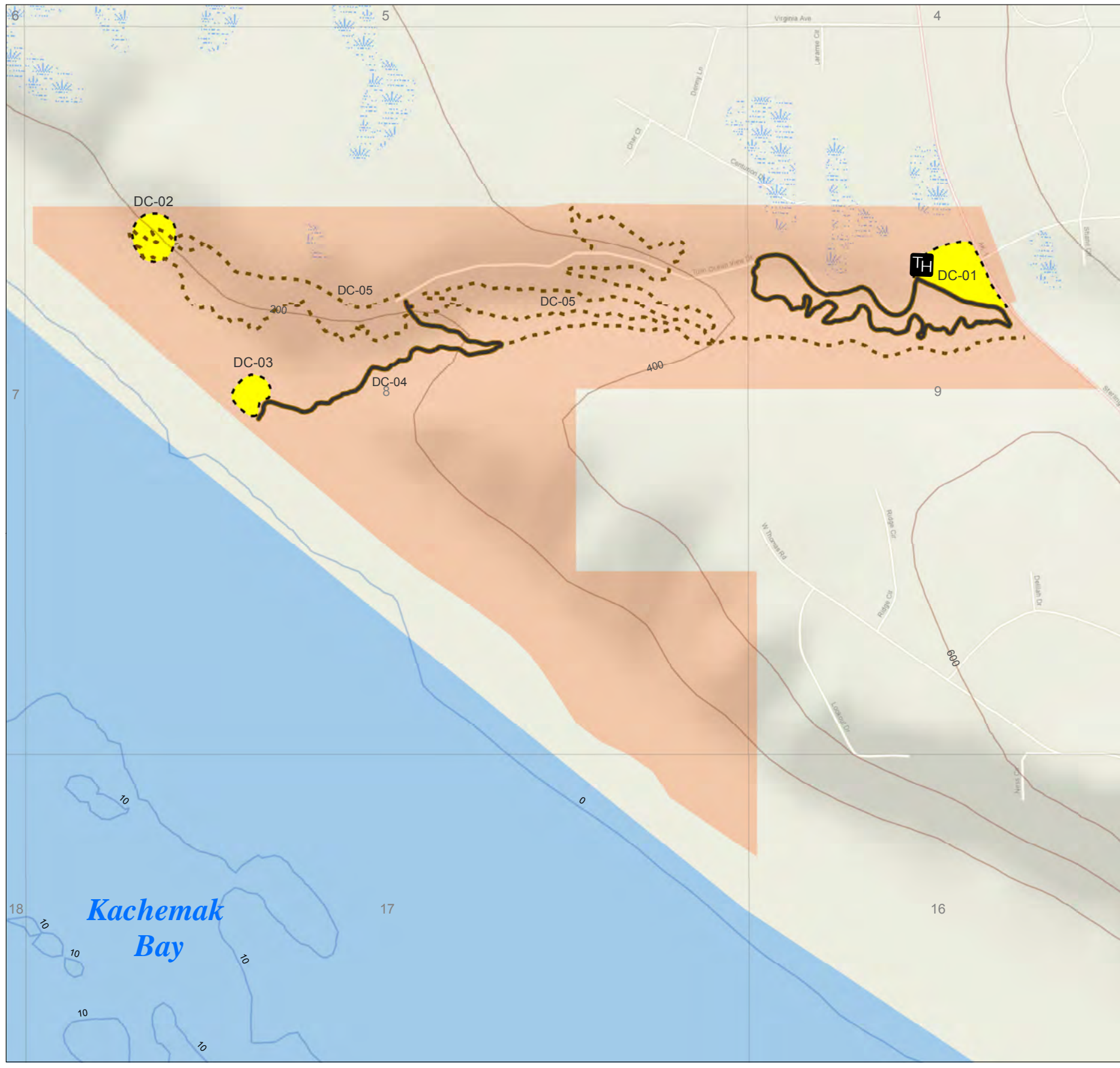


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RJK, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



0 0.1 0.2
Miles



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.

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.

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

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

Facility and Trail Recommendations

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

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.



**Kachemak Bay
State Park &
State Wilderness Park**

**Map 12:
Eveline
Management Unit**

- Eveline Unit
- Proposed Development Area
- Existing Trails

- Trailhead
- Latrine
- Picnic Table
- Viewing platform

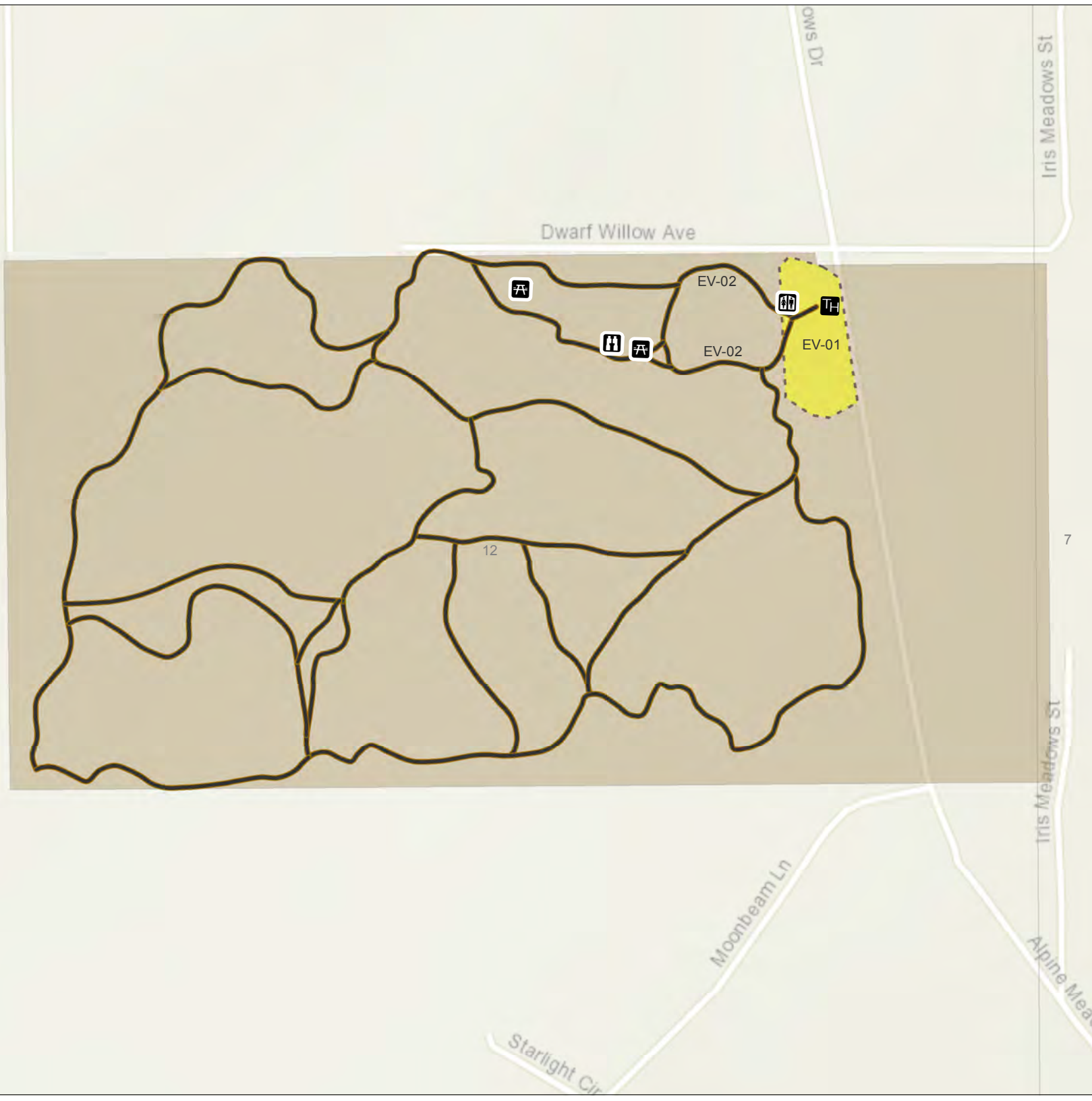


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UTM Zone 6 North



0 0.05 0.1 Miles



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

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

Facilities

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

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.

Trails

Five trails are completely contained within the Grewingk unit.

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.

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

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

Natural

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

Special Management Considerations

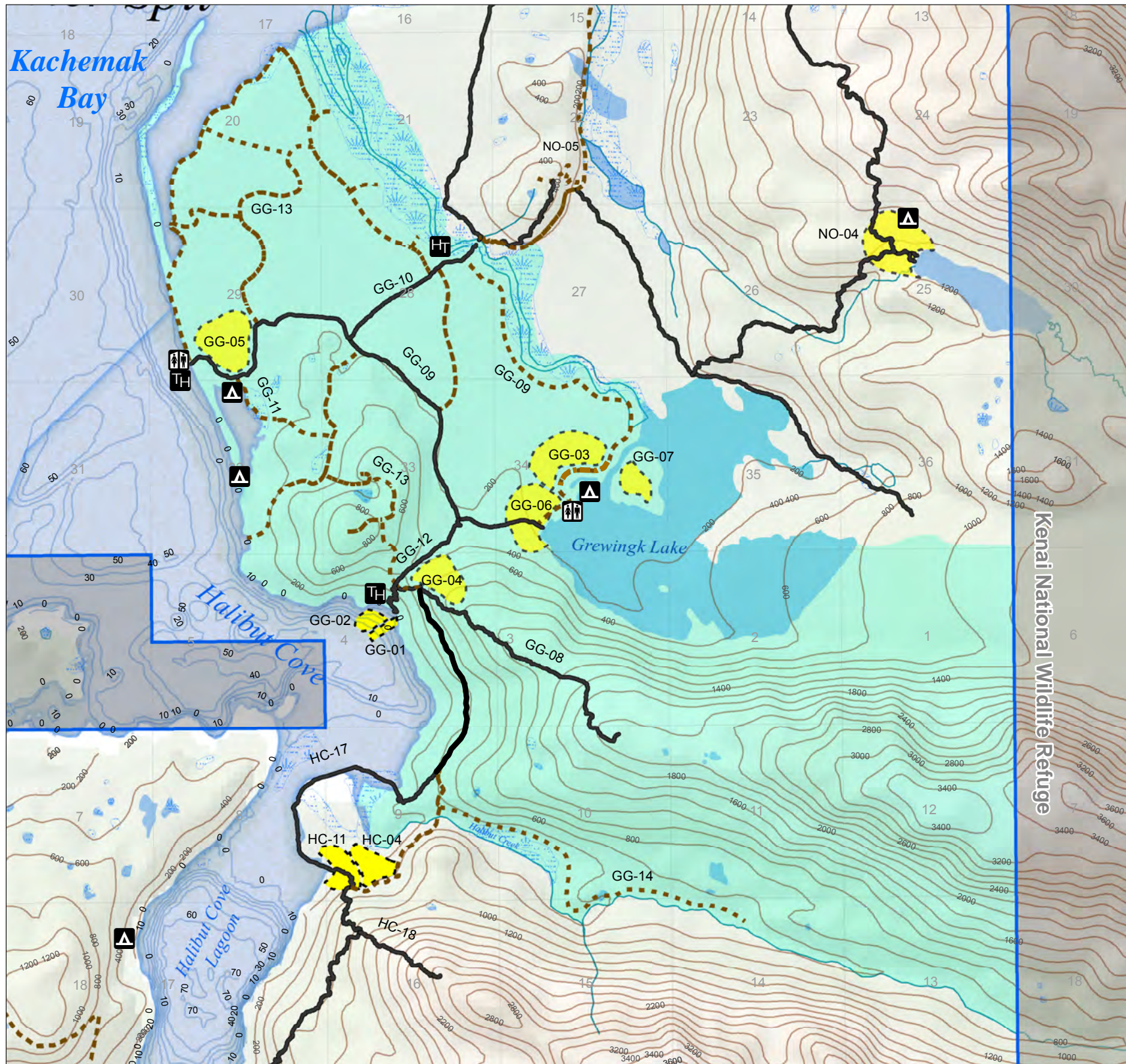
New or redeveloped access facilities, trails, and structures at Halibut Cove should be sited and designed to minimize impacts, if possible, to adjacent private land. Helicopter landings are currently authorized on Grewingk Glacier. As the glacier recedes, an alternate landing site may need to be identified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

Facility and Trail Recommendations

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.

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.



Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park

Map 13: Grewingk Glacier Management Unit

- State Park Boundary
- Grewingk Glacier Unit
- Proposed Development Area
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Outhouse
- Tent Platform
- Trailhead
- Hand Tram



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Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



0 1/2 1 Miles

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.

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

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

Existing Facilities and Trails

Facilities

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

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.

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.

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 trail 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.

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.

Land Use Zones

Recreational Development

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

Natural

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

Special Management Considerations

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

Facility and Trail Recommendations

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.

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.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

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.



**Kachemak Bay
State Park &
State Wilderness Park**

**Map 14:
Halibut Cove -
China Poot
Management Unit**

- State Park Boundary
- State Wilderness Park Boundary
- Halibut Cove-China Poot Unit
- Proposed Development Area
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Cabin - Public
- Outhouse
- Ranger Station
- Tent Platform
- Yurt
- Trailhead

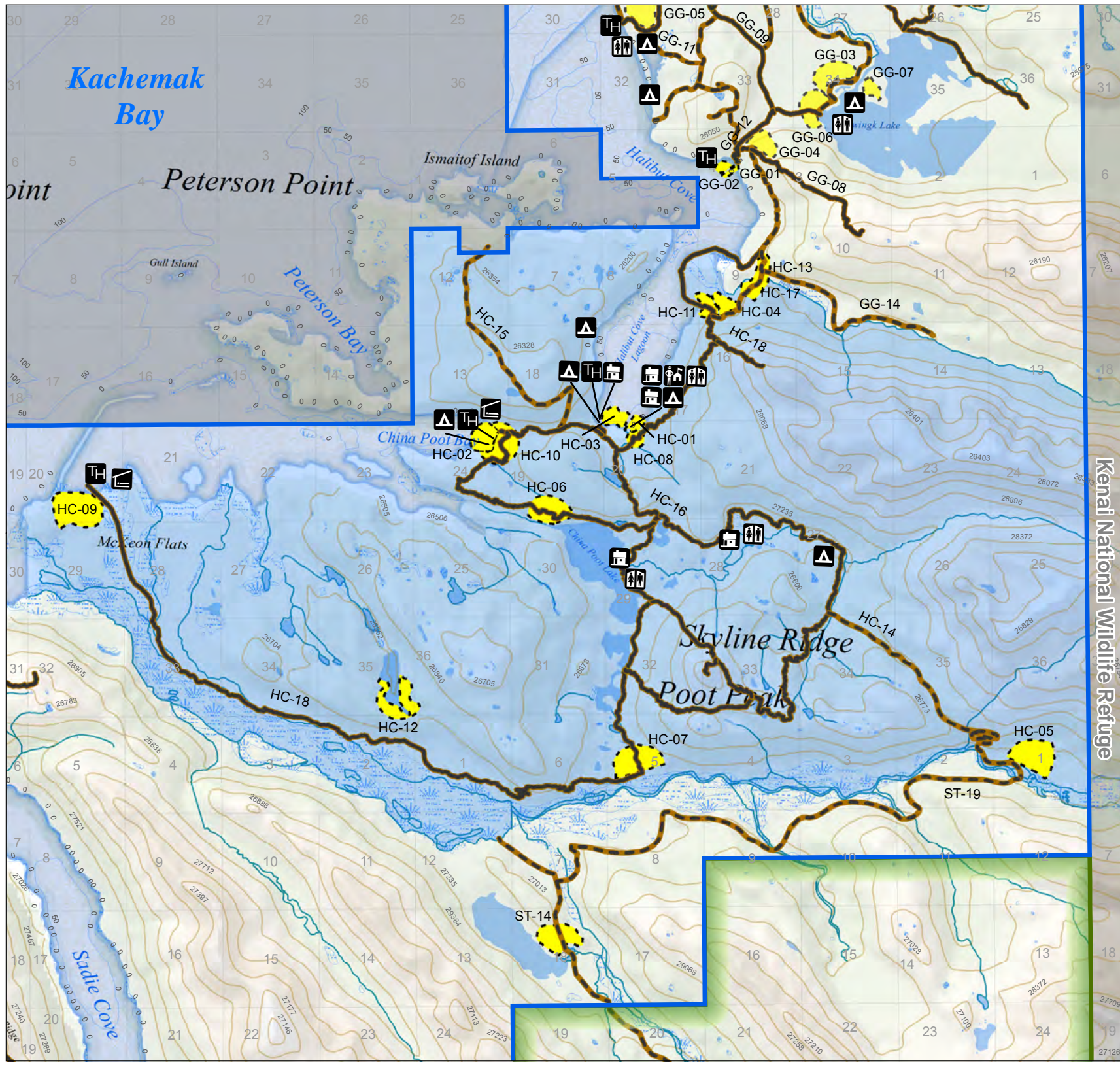


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RJK, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



0 1 2 Miles



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.

Facilities

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.

Trails

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.

Management Intent

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

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

Land Use Zones

Cultural

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

Natural

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

Special Management Considerations

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

Facility and Trail Recommendations

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

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.



Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park

Map 15: Northern Management Unit

- State Park Boundary
- Northern Unit
- Proposed Development Area
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Outhouse
- Tent Platform
- Yurt
- Trailhead
- Hand Tram

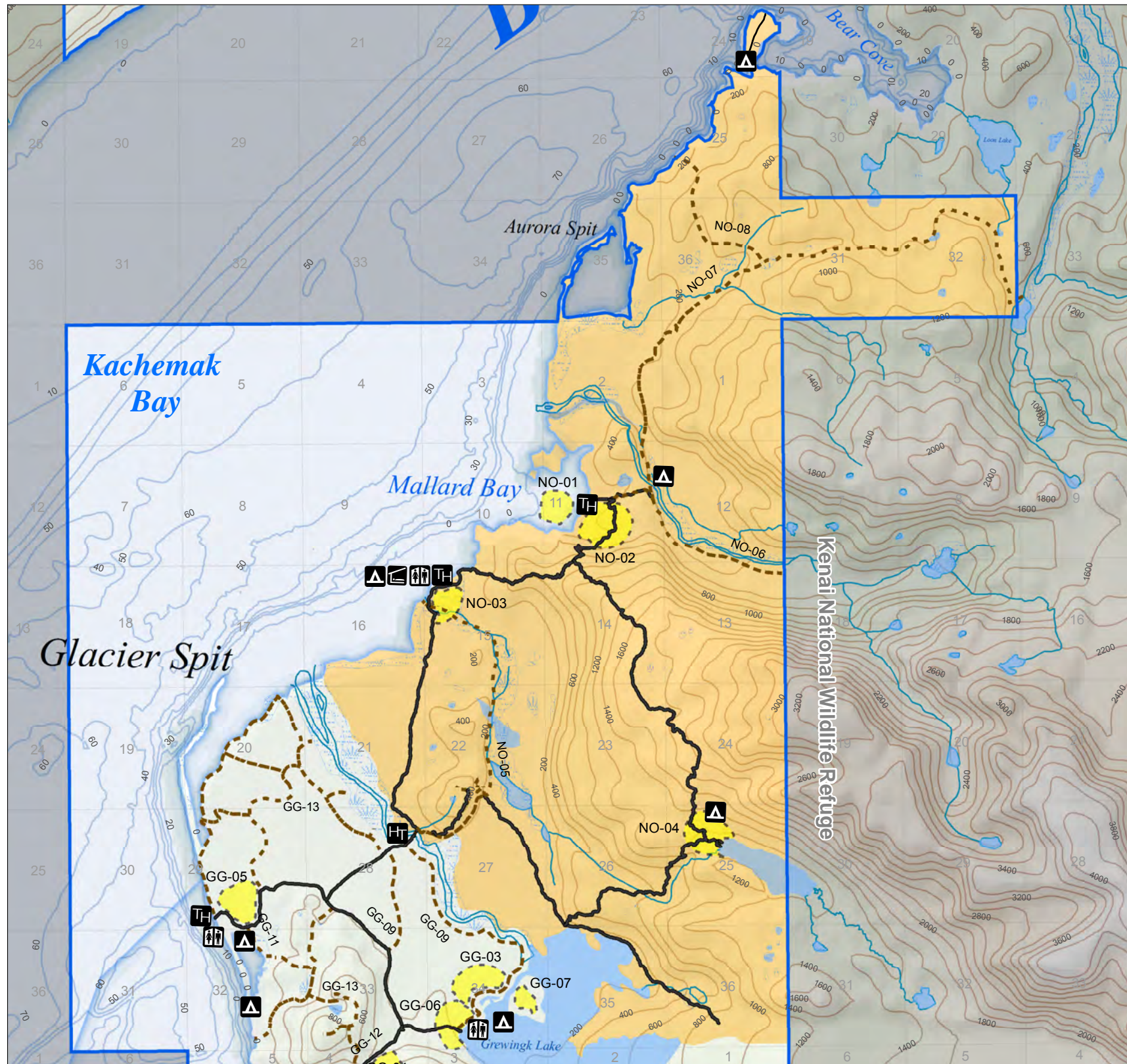


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RJK, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



0 3/4 1 1/2 Miles



Outer Coast Management Unit

Unit Description

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

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

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

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

Current Uses

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

⁶ AS 41.21.131

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

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

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

Existing Facilities and Trails

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

Facilities

None.

Trails

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.

Management Intent

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

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.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

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.

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.



**Kachemak Bay
State Park &
State Wilderness Park**

**Map 16:
Outer Coast
Management Unit**

- State Park Boundary
- State Wilderness Park Boundary
- Outer Coast Unit
- Proposed Development Area
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails

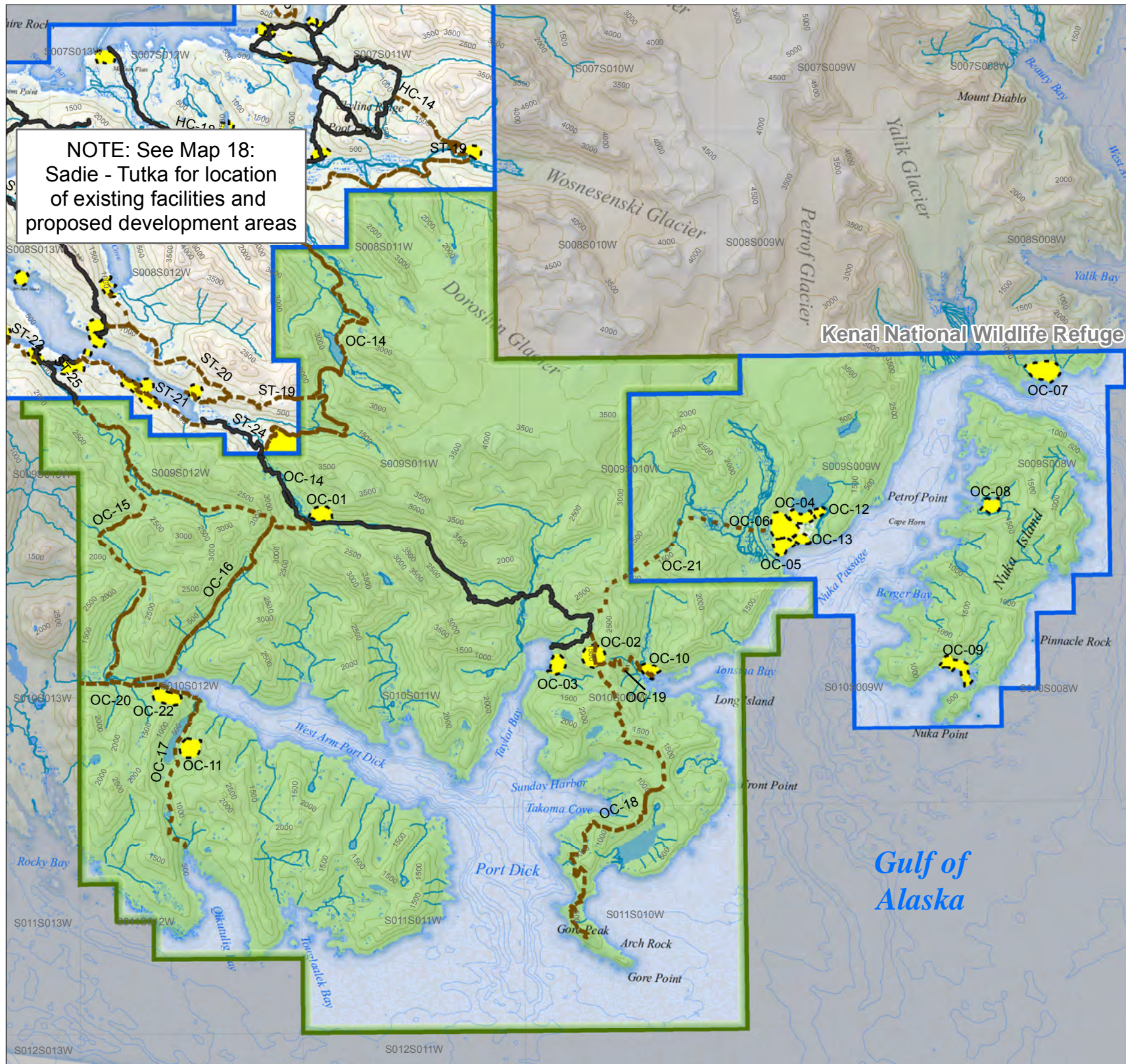


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RJK, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



0 2 4
Miles



Overlook Park Unit

Unit Description

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

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

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

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

Current Uses

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

Existing Facilities and Trails

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

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

⁸ ADL 228239, ADL 228213, ADL 228447

Management Intent

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

Land Use Zones

The entire unit is classified in the Natural Zone.

Special Management Considerations

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

Facility and Trail Recommendations

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



**Kachemak Bay
State Park &
State Wilderness Park**

**Map 17:
Overlook Park
Management Unit**

 Overlook Park Unit

Note: This unit is managed under agreement by the Kachemak Bay Coservation Society.



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Created: September, 2018
RJK, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



0 0.1 0.2 Miles



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.

Existing Facilities and Trails

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

Facilities

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.

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.

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.

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

Land Use Zones

Natural Zone

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

Recreational Development

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

Special Management Considerations

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

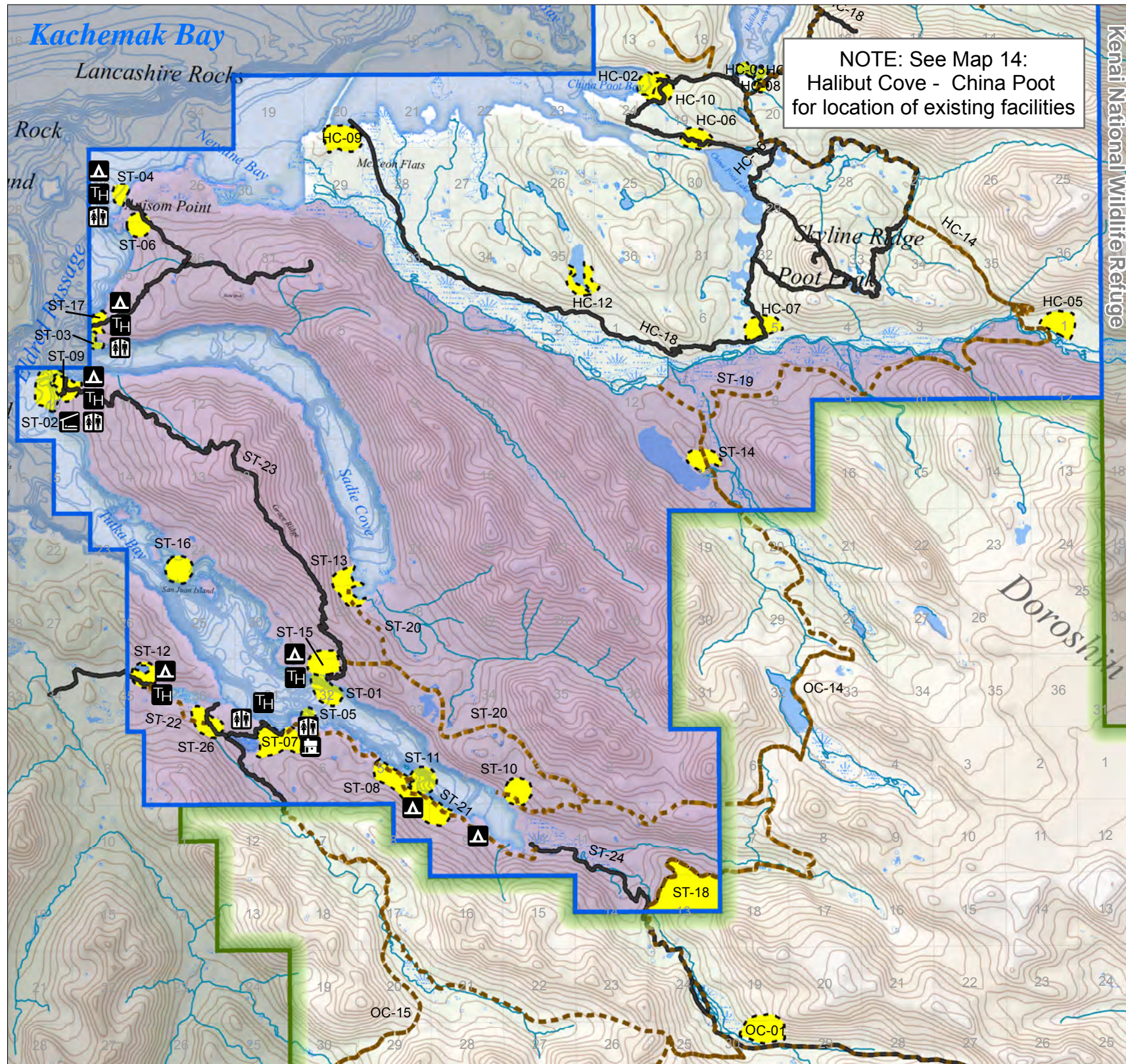
Facility and Trail Recommendations

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.

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.



NOTE: See Map 14:
Halibut Cove - China Poot
for location of existing facilities



**Kachemak Bay
State Park &
State Wilderness Park**

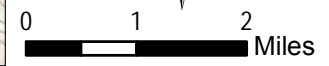
**Map 18:
Sadie - Tutka
Management Unit**

- State Park Boundary
- State Wilderness Park Boundary
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Proposed Development Area
- Sadie - Tutka Unit
- Cabin - Public
- Outhouse
- Ranger Station
- Tent Platform
- Yurt
- Trailhead



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Created: September, 2018
RJK, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



Chapter 7 - Implementation

Facility and trail recommendations included in Chapter 7 of this plan are not implemented automatically when the plan is adopted. The process for a plan recommendation to become a project that is eventually developed involves multiple internal agency steps and may include a legislative process. There is also opportunity for public input on particular projects.

Typical steps from plan recommendation to final development are:

1. Facility and trail recommendations included in the plan are prioritized (based on the needs of the park unit) for possible inclusion as a Capital Improvement Project (CIP).
2. The highest priority CIP projects from a unit or area compete with other DPOR projects to be included as a Division CIP.
3. Division CIP requests are identified in the DPOR budget to the Legislature.
4. If a CIP project is funded, internal DPOR processes are initiated.
5. Preliminary design work begins, as well as field and site work, to determine where the facility or trail should be constructed.
6. Cultural historical reviews are constructed, and any limitations of the site are identified.
7. Design changes are made and plans are finalized prior to construction.
8. Construction begins.

Land Acquisition

In 1989 the Cottonwood/Eastland parcels on the north shore of Kachemak Bay were added to Kachemak Bay State Park. A small purchase of 153 acres in 1995 brought the total unit size to about 2,500 acres with an estimated 4.9 miles of shoreline. Mathison/Hopkins parcels were added to the park in 2016.

In 1998, the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council funded the State acquisition of two parcels on the north side of Kachemak Bay with significant natural habitat values. These parcels included:

- 1) Overlook Park State Recreation Site – 254 acres; and
- 2) Diamond Creek State Recreation Site – 324 acres.

1 These parcels are under the authority of Alaska DNR as State Park units but not as part of
2 legislatively-designated Kachemak Bay State Park. The Overlook Park State Recreation Site
3 is managed by Kachemak Bay Conservation Society through an MOU with the DPOR.
4

5 Additionally, the State received a donation of 79 acres above McNeil Canyon in 2002 in
6 what has become known as Eveline State Recreation Site. These parcels have individual
7 Management Plans and a different level of protection than Kachemak Bay State Park.
8
9

10 **Plan Review and Modification**

11 **Periodic Review**

12
13
14 The management plan may undergo periodic review from time to time to meet the needs of
15 the recreating public and the managing agency. It is intended that this plan be reviewed on a
16 biennial basis to determine the appropriateness of management and facility
17 recommendations; however, a decision to review this plan may occur at any time at the
18 discretion of the area Director. A plan review may also be triggered by other factors
19 including:
20

- 21 • Scheduled review period;
- 22 • Written public or agency requests for review;
- 23 • Policy changes within the Division;
- 24 • Availability of new data;
- 25 • Availability of new technology; or
- 26 • Changing social or economic conditions that place different demands on the park or
27 affect the division's capabilities.
28

29 The plan review will include meetings, as determined appropriate, with the citizen-advisory
30 board, interested groups, the general public, affected agencies, the Area Superintendent and
31 other Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation personnel. The periodic review will lead to
32 one of the following actions:
33

- 34 • No modification of the plan;
- 35 • Modification of the plan;
- 36 • Granting of a special exception; or
- 37 • Amending the plan.
38
39

Modification of the Plan

The following text identifies two general types of modifications to a plan: revision and minor change.

Revision

There are three types of revisions that can be made – plan revision, amendment, and special exception.

Plan Revision

A “plan revision” provides the opportunity to address management and facility recommendations, management orientation, and allowed or prohibited uses on a comprehensive basis for the entire planning area. For example, the management recommendation for a large portion of the recreation area and site may be changed to accommodate new uses or types of recreation that were previously prohibited, or, conversely, to prohibit uses and activities that were previously allowed. Because amendments and special exceptions provide flexibility for the agency to address short-term and day-to-day management concerns, it is anticipated that a full plan revision will only occur after the 20-year “life” of the plan has passed. However, a plan revision can occur at any time if determined necessary by the Commissioner of DNR. This type of modification will require public notice and a public process deemed appropriate by the DPOR and the planner.

Amendment

An “amendment” permanently changes the plan by adding to or modifying the basic management orientation, direction, recommendation, or intent for one or more of the plan’s units. For example, an amendment might allow a use that was determined incompatible in the plan, make a new determination regarding permitting of uses and structures, or propose a facility in an area where it wasn’t previously determined appropriate. These types of changes are anticipated to be very infrequent as they may involve a significant deviation from the plan’s intent, guidelines, or recommendations. While infrequent, the ability to amend the plan will maintain flexibility in management necessary for short-term management of the KBSP and KBSWP. The Director of DPOR has the authority to amend the plan.

Special Exception

A “special exception” does not permanently change the provisions of the plan and cannot be used as the basis for classifying land into another land-use zone or determining the compatibility of a use. Instead, it allows a one-time, limited-purpose variance of the plan’s provisions, without changing the plan. The exception should only occur when compliance with the plan is excessively difficult or impractical, and an alternative procedure can be implemented which adheres to the purposes and spirit of the plan. A special exception might be made if certain unforeseen circumstances exist; the use or activity is necessary to protect

public welfare and safety; or the use or activity is necessary for the protection of natural resources. In all cases the impacts of the user activity must be minimized to the greatest extent practicable. While infrequent, the ability to make special exceptions to the plan will maintain flexibility in management necessary for day-to-day operation of KBSP and KBSWP. Kenai Peninsula Parks Superintendent has the authority to request special exceptions.

The procedure for granting a special exception will be as follows:

1. The person or agency requesting the special exception shall prepare a written finding which specifies:
 - The nature of the special exception being requested;
 - The extenuating circumstances which require the special exception;
 - If the special exception is necessary to protect public welfare and safety;
 - If the special exception is necessary for protection of natural resources;
 - The alternative course of action to be followed by the applicant;
 - How negative impacts to the state resources will be avoided or minimized to the greatest extent practicable; and
 - How the intent of the plan will be met by the alternative.
2. The Director of DPOR will review the finding and issue a determination. If warranted by the degree of controversy or the potential impact, the Director may hold public meetings prior to reaching a decision.
3. The decision of the Director will be posted on the DNR Public Notices and Proposed Regulations website.
4. The decision of the Director may be appealed to the Commissioner of DNR.

Minor Change

A minor change to a management plan is not considered a revision. A “minor change” is a change that does not modify or add to the plan’s basic intent, and that serves only to clarify the plan, make it consistent, facilitate its implementation, or make technical corrections.

Project Phasing

Implementation of the management recommendations should begin immediately upon adoption of the final plan. Some of the larger projects will undoubtedly have to be developed in phases as staffing and funding allow. Because of the uncertainty of the CIP process or other funding processes, it would be impractical to establish a time line for project

development and phasing of specific projects in this document. The phasing of specific projects is best handled through the site and design processes.

While this document will not address phasing of specific projects, it will address phasing generally by identifying those facility and trail recommendations that should be developed first to address existing facility and trail needs and to enhance or expand recreation opportunities. The following facility and trail recommendation would greatly enhance recreational opportunities and address congestion and crowding at existing facilities:

- Repurpose the old ranger station in Halibut Lagoon Cove to a group camp facility.
- Develop public use cabins or tent platforms at every trailhead.
- Develop Upper Humpy Creek Bridge, Halibut Creek Bridge, Woz River Bridge, Sea to Sea Trail Bridge and Tutka Lake Trail Bridge.
- Supply drinking water (well or catchment system) in areas with poor or no water – Sea Star Cabin, South Grace, Kayak Beach, Quarry Beach, South and North Eldred, Haystack Rock Yurt and Humpy Creek Yurt.
- Develop ADA access to Tutka Bay Hatchery and ADA accessible fishing platforms in the lagoon.
- Develop Park Operations Facility on Homer Side to include: a maintenance shop able to house a boat, offices, tools, dry heat storage, and dry cold storage; and a yard able to accommodate multiple vehicles, boats, ATVs, lumber storage and a large fuel storage locker.

Proposed Regulations

Regulations will need to be promulgated to make certain plan recommendations are enforceable by DPOR. It is intended that regulations necessary to implement this plan be developed as soon as practicable after this plan is completed. A list of regulations necessary to implement this plan is provided below. While this list is intended to be comprehensive some regulations may have been inadvertently omitted. Other regulations that are determined necessary in the future will be developed from time to time as determined necessary by DPOR.

- Allowance of bicycles on designated trails.
- Allowance of off road motorized vehicles in Petrof View Subdivision.
- Allowance of fixed wing aircraft landings on Woz and Upper Hazel lakes and to provide access for individuals with mobility impairments.

Recommended Staffing

Adequate staffing of park units is important to provide positive public/staff interactions that foster appreciation and support for state park units; to provide public safety and emergency response to the recreating public; to protect the natural and cultural resources; to maintain facilities so they are safe and clean; and to supervise seasonal workers, contract workers, and volunteers that are critical to day-to-day functions of park units. These additional staff are recommended to properly fulfill current operations, without the addition of any of the facilities proposed in this plan:

- Upgrade existing technician position to a full-time position to provide expertise in trail construction and maintain trails on a year-round basis. As existing trails keep deteriorating and are being redeveloped and new trails are constructed, it will be increasingly important to ensure these trails are properly maintained to minimize impacts on natural and cultural resources and to provide safe recreational opportunities. This position will be involved in the planning, layout, and constructions of trails and it will supervise volunteer and contract construction and maintenance crews.
- Permanent part-time Park Interpreter Position. This position would have a unique opportunity to provide interpretative and educational opportunities. These services would provide a positive interaction with the public and would foster support for parks and park programs. If a contact station/educational center is developed, this position should be stationed there and serve as the front-line contact for DPOR.
- Create two natural resource technician positions (7 months each). These two positions would each oversee a four-person trail crew funded for four months. The park currently has one park specialist that juggles grant funds to work on trail projects. These positions would oversee the proposed trail crew listed below and also provide maintenance on public use cabins and other park facilities.
- Create two four-person Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC) trail crews (4 months each). Currently, the park relies on Recreation Trails Program grant funding to oversee trail maintenance projects. This funding is not guaranteed and is limited to working on specific projects. Dedicated trail crews will help to ensure the maintenance of park trails and greatly improve the condition of the trails by maintaining the them to high standards.
- Create volunteer coordinator (6 months). Currently, DPOR hires a 3-month ACC position to coordinate volunteers for the park. In the two years this has been implemented it has proven to be an excellent way to leverage the volunteer effort in the park.

If additional facilities in the plan are implemented, DPOR should also add the following positions to the park:

- 1 • Create another natural resource technician (8 months) to oversee public use cabin
2 maintenance and supervise the cabin maintenance crew.
- 3 • Create a three-person ACC cabin maintenance crew that is dedicated to cabin
4 maintenance.
5