

Year-round Activities  
The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve has something for everyone from exploring the outdoors and nature watching to river rafting. Visitors to the preserve can stop at several pullouts for bird-watching and wildlife viewing or walk along the two-mile-long Riverside Trail to take in all the sights. Looking for something a little more adventurous? Take a float down the Chilkat river, fish along-side the eagles, or have a picnic and take in all the sight from the water and get up close and personal with nature.

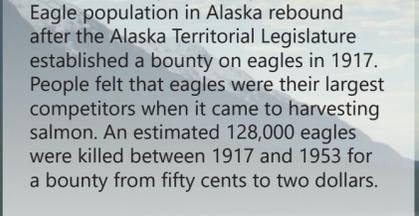


You must have a special use permit in order to use the preserve commercially.

Mountain Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium montanum*)



Artic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)



Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*)



Moose and Raven (*Alces alces* and *Corvus corax*)

More than just eagles make their home within the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. Brown bear, moose, mountain goat, swans, and terns also live along the Chilkat River. The river serves as a travel corridor for wildlife as it slices through the interior of North America from the coastal ecosystems into the river systems within the preserve, in the area. Due to warm water escaping the rivers usually won't freeze, leaving them open for salmon and the eagles that feast on them. The late-October run draws and sustains this large volume of eagles, giving them a spectacular feast over the winter months.

What's on the Menu  
One reason the preserve has the largest population of eagles, especially in winter, is because of the late salmon run that occurs in the river systems within the preserve, into the river systems within the preserve, leaving them open for salmon and the eagles that feast on them. The late-October run draws and sustains this large volume of eagles, giving them a spectacular feast over the winter months.

Chum Salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*)  
Photo courtesy of Ben Adams with NRSAA



MP25 Day Use Area:  
-Riverside Trail end  
-Boat Launch  
MP21 Pullout:  
-Riverside Trail start  
-Viewing Platforms  
-Boardwalk  
-Restrooms  
MP19 Council  
49,000 Acres  
Facilities

Found only in North America, bald eagles are more abundant in Alaska than anywhere else in the United States. The Alaska population is estimated at 30,000 birds. These magnificent birds, recognized for their biological importance as scavengers and predators in the natural world, are admired for their grace and beauty. A national emblem of the United States since 1782, they have been a spiritual symbol for Alaska Natives for far longer than that.



Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)



The best season for viewing is surprisingly not the summer months.

Catching the Sights  
Each October and November, between 3,000 and 4,000 bald eagles descend upon this 49,000-acre preserve centered on river bottoms a few miles north of Haines to feast on late runs of chum salmon. Eagles can be found throughout the preserve with an estimated 300 to 400 of the birds in the area throughout the year.

About the Bird  
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Stream Crossing  
Crossing streams or rivers may be necessary for hunting, fishing, or recreating. If the stream or river is known to support anadromous fish, the physical act of driving through the gravels can affect sensitive life stages of fish (e.g., salmon eggs, juvenile salmon, overwintering resident fish) and disturb migrating adult fish on their way to spawning grounds.

Best Practices  
• Ensure stream conditions are appropriate for a safe crossing.  
• Cross at existing trail or road crossings.  
• Ensure your vehicle is well maintained, clean (e.g., from invasives), and not leaking fuel, oil, or other fluids.  
• Time crossings to avoid sensitive fish life stages.  
• Cross at a safe speed and minimize your time in the water by taking a direct path across the stream from bank to bank.  
• Use locations with gently sloped banks.  
• Cross without placement of fill material.  
• In winter avoid compaction or removal of the insulating snow cover from deep-water pools in rivers and streams.

Land Acknowledgment  
We respectfully acknowledge that these lands are the traditional homeland of the Tlingit people, specifically the Chilkat Indian Tribe, and we honor their care for and affinity with these places.



Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)  
Photo courtesy of ADF&G



Is it illegal to cross a salmon stream? Unauthorized crossing of a salmon stream is a violation of AS 16.05.871. Crossing a stream known to support salmon requires a permit. Many popular trails already have General Permits for preapproved crossing locations. For crossing locations that do not have a General Permit, contact your local ADF&G Habitat Division office for individual permit requirements.

For more information, visit the ADF&G website at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov>.



Photo courtesy of ADF&G

Alaska State Parks



Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve

Southeast Region

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(907) 766-2292  
[www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org)

Alaska State Parks  
Southeast Region Office  
400 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99811  
(907) 465-4563

Area History  
The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve was created by the State of Alaska in June of 1982. The Preserve was established in part to help the Bald Eagle population in Alaska rebound after the Alaska Territorial Legislature established a bounty on eagles in 1917. People felt that eagles were their largest competitors when it came to harvesting salmon. An estimated 128,000 eagles were killed between 1917 and 1953 for a bounty from fifty cents to two dollars.



A group of seven Fort Seward soldiers holding up bald eagle carcasses circa 1920.  
Sheldon Museum Photo no. 1991.300.0004



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Area History  
The Alaska Ch



Klehini and Chikat Confluence



Three juvenile bald eagles sit in their parents' nest. Photo courtesy of Richard C. Bennett



Skagway

**Fishing and Hunting Regulations**

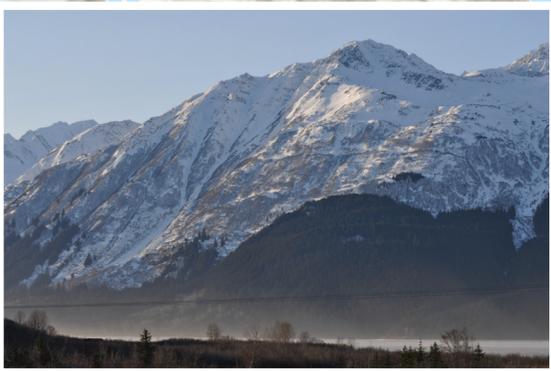
The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, including the Critical Habitat Area is open to most public uses provided the activity, such as hunting, fishing, boating, and camping, does not damage preserve resources, disturb wildlife or disrupt existing public uses.

Many land and water use activities require a Special Area Permit include (as described in SAAC 95.420), but are not limited to:

- damaging or clearing vegetation;
- off-road use of wheeled or tracked equipment;
- boat storage;
- waste disposal;
- any other activity that is likely to be a detriment to fish, wildlife, and their habitat.

For more information on AKF&G allowed activities and required permits, review the Special Area Permit requirements at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov>.

For information on the Eagle Preserve rules, regulations and required permits, go to [dnr.alaska.gov/parks/](http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/)



An eagle hauls in a prized meal.

MAP LEGEND	
	Information
	Parking
	Restrooms
	ASP Volunteer Cabin
	Interpretive Pavilion
	Interpretive trail
	Spotting Scope
	Boat Launch
	Road
	Trail
	Boardwalk
	University of Alaska Inholdings