

# Chapter 6: Unit Specific Management

## Introduction

This chapter of the plan identifies management units and provides unit specific management intent 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 information on trails, see Appendix E: 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 7: Management Units 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 facility recommendations provided in this chapter are consistent with the management direction provided for the land-use zones in Chapter 5.

This chapter provides a brief description and an overview of the current uses for each unit. Following this background information, the management intent, special management considerations, existing facilities, and facility recommendations are provided for each unit. The planning units on the south side are defined by topographic features as well as the boundary of KBSWP, while units on the north side are defined by designated boundaries.

The units identified and addressed in this plan are:

- Eveline Management Unit (79 acres)
- Diamond Creek Management Unit (324 acres)
- Overlook Park Management Unit (254 acres)
- Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit (2,643 acres)
- Northern Management Unit (12,254 acres)
- Grewingk Glacier Management Unit (8,902 acres)

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- Halibut Cove - China Poot Management Unit (28,166 acres)
- Sadie - Tutka Management Unit (39,069 acres)
- Outer Coast Management Unit (187,762 acres)

**Map 7: Management Units**



## 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 8: Eveline Management Unit.) 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.” Eveline SRS is owned by ADNR and was administratively designated as an SRS managed by DPOR via management right.<sup>1</sup> Nordic ski trails in this unit are managed by the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club (KNSC). A small, minimally developed parking area on Alpine Meadows Drive (off East End Road) provides vehicle access. The unit is wooded, with large copses of trees separated by open shrublands. The entire area is classified as forest habitat. Eveline is renowned for its beautiful meadows and spectacular wildflowers and views.

### Current Uses

This SRS is used by Nordic skiers in the winter and hikers in the summer, in addition to use as an outdoor educational space for nearby schools. There is also a popular snowshoe trail. In 2011, volunteers contributed more than 250 hours of service upgrading and maintaining trails in the site. Boardwalks help to provide dry trails except for a few wet spots. 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.

### 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. ADA accessibility should also be enhanced where possible.

### Special Management Considerations

#### Land Use Restrictions

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

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<sup>1</sup> ADL 228451

maintaining trails and facilities; and 3. The property will be named after Eveline Schuster and a memorial may be constructed on the site.

Kachemak Nordic Ski Club

In 2001, DPOR signed an MOU with the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club to manage and maintain a system of hiking, biking, and ski trails in this unit. DPOR should continue to work with the Ski Club to facilitate additional Nordic skiing opportunities, and also encourage walking, picnicking, scenery viewing, and school educational use.

Bicycle Use

Use of bicycles should not be allowed or authorized on trails in this unit, except for a single snow trail from the trailhead to an access point for trails on general state land outside the unit.

**Existing Facilities**

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. For information on trails, see Appendix E: Trail Plan.

Facility	Comments
Eveline Schuster Parking Area	Small parking area lies directly adjacent to Alpine Meadows Drive. Public outhouses, as well as a viewing platform and picnic table, are located near this parking area.

**Facility Recommendations**

Eveline is well located to enable ADA access to view scenery within the unit and KBSWP across the bay. Enhanced parking and additional trails will facilitate and enhance winter and summer use.

Ref. No.	Facility or Structure	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.

**Map 8: Eveline Management Unit**





## 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 1½ miles north of Homer at milepost 167 of the Sterling Highway. (See Map 9: Diamond Creek Management Unit.) 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 rights<sup>2</sup> or agreement<sup>3</sup>. 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 a stream cutting through the south side of the unit. 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 birders, 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 this trail use is by mountain bike.

### Management Intent

As a state recreation site, this unit is intended to be intensively managed to provide for a variety of recreational opportunities.

### Special Management Considerations

#### Bicycle Trails

This site is intended to be managed to enhance singletrack biking opportunities. In 1996, DPOR entered into an MOU with the Homer Cycling Club to “develop and maintain multi-purpose recreation trails” in this unit. This MOU should be maintained.

#### Bluff Area

Approximately 83 acres of land in the southern portion of the unit will be classified as Natural Zone. This area is comprised of a steep bluff with many steep ravines which make it less suitable for development – this area should be retained in a natural state.

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<sup>2</sup> See ADL 228211 for four parcels

<sup>3</sup> ADL 228240

### Beach Access

Multiple use access to the beach should be maintained on the existing beach access trail and include signage to notify visitors of the various allowed trail uses. About \$1 million was requested from FEMA to reconstruct the Diamond Creek Beach Access trail after it was severely eroded by a flood event in 2013. The FEMA funding was scheduled for 2019, but subsequently pushed back indefinitely due to the November 2018 earthquake. Beach signage should include language directing users to avoid hauled out seals when traveling along the beach.

### Access Road Management

A gate will be installed near the highway just past the proposed parking area (DC-01) to control access to the existing road into the area. In order to reduce maintenance costs, DPOR may seek a cooperative agreement with the Kenai Peninsula Borough to manage the road and the easement.

### **Existing Facilities**

Facilities are limited to an access road that is minimally maintained by DPOR. Please see Appendix E: Trail Plan for information on trails.

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

### **Facility Recommendations**

<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Facility or Structure</b>	<b>Recreation Opportunity Provided</b>
DC-01	Parking Area and Materials Storage	Enhance access through development of a 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.

<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Facility or Structure</b>	<b>Recreation Opportunity Provided</b>
DC-03	Public Toilet	Develop a public outhouse near the terminus of the beach access trail.
DC-04	Campground and PUC	Develop a campground in an area west of the existing singletrack trails. The campground may include a public use cabin and a caretaker cabin.

*Chapter 6: Unit Specific Management  
Diamond Creek Management Unit*

**Map 9: Diamond Creek Management Unit**

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Diamond Creek Management Unit*

## Overlook Park Management 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 10: Overlook Park Management Unit) just west of the popular Baycrest Overlook that offers breathtaking views of Kachemak Bay. This unit includes an area between the Sterling Highway and Kachemak Bay that slopes steeply down to the ocean. Just to the north of the Overlook Park Unit, on the Sterling Highway, is an RV park.

Overlook Park is composed of three parcels<sup>4</sup>, 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 ADNR. A 1998 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (updated in 2001) between DPOR and the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) provides guidance for research and maintenance of all three parcels that comprise this site.

Access to the unit is severely restricted: there are no developed trails or facilities, and a 600-foot drop down rugged bluffs into the unit from the Baycrest Overlook. Aside from this overlook, most access to this unit is limited to foot traffic from Diamond Creek or Bishop's Beach, and only during low and mid-tide heights.

The majority of the unit is composed of woodland, shrubs, and grassland. Three small lakes/ponds cover 11 acres, and freshwater wetlands in low-lying areas comprise 21 acres. The remaining land area is coastal/estuarine habitat along Kachemak Bay. These rich, diverse habitats are home to a variety of wildlife such as ducks and birds, moose and bear, and small mammals. As of 2018, total bird species is 83, along with 6 land mammal species, and 2 marine mammal species.

### Current Uses

KBCS intends to continue ongoing research and to provide natural history hikes led by knowledgeable members and invited scientists. 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 spring hikes during the Shorebird Festival show slightly increasing participation (23 attendees in 2017).

### Management Intent

The Overlook Park unit is currently identified as a State Recreation Site; however, access is limited, and topography is extreme. Due to the unique remnant native habitat contained in this unit, and the importance of the area for ongoing research, it should be converted to a State Preserve. The primary management objective of a State Preserve is resource protection;

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<sup>4</sup> ADL 228239, ADL 228213, ADL 228447

the purpose is to provide for applied research, basic research, and/or outdoor environmental education.<sup>5</sup> For consistency with the purpose for this area, the site should be referenced as the Overlook Park State Preserve. This area is zoned Natural, which is in keeping with a State Preserve. DPOR will continue to work closely with KBCS to follow and update the 2002 plan mentioned below as appropriate.

## **Special Management Considerations**

### Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS)

Overlook Park has been managed by KBCS since 1998. As envisioned in the 2002 *Community-based Management Plan for Overlook Park* 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. Interpretive development planned on the top of the bluff may occur in the future.

### Potential for Unauthorized ATV Use

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.

## **Existing Facilities**

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

## **Facility Recommendations**

No facilities 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 such development.

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<sup>5</sup> Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework, Page 14



**Map 10: Overlook Park Management Unit**

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Overlook Park Management Unit*

## Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit

### Unit Description

The Cottonwood Eastland unit is composed of the Cottonwood Eastland parcels of KBSP. Combined, these cover 2,643 acres on the north side of Kachemak Bay (see Map 11: Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit). This area is 18 miles east of Homer, located between East End Road and the bay. This unit is surrounded mainly by private properties to the west and north, and Kachemak Bay to the south. Within the Cottonwood Eastland unit, there are four private parcels, totaling just under 54 acres and six parcels of state-owned land totaling 231 acres that are administratively managed as part of KBSP.

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 of this unit is forested, with five streams entering 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 Eastland 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.

### Management Intent

More intensive multi-modal 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. The Natural Zone will be managed to facilitate lower levels of use limited to development that facilitates access and enjoyment of the scenic resources. ADA accessible trails and public use cabins and barrier free facilities should also be developed in this unit.

### Special Management Considerations

#### Private Parcels

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.

#### Shafford Heights Public Easement

On May 25, 2012, a DPOR director's determination established a public easement<sup>6</sup> within Kachemak Bay State Park to provide legal access to private property owners in Shafford Heights subdivision. (LAS 28480 – Sections 18 & 19 in Township 5 South, Range 11 West, Seward Meridian). DPOR will continue to work with landowners on affordable means to develop the easement in phases. This easement will not be a Kenai Peninsula Borough maintained road.

#### Interagency Land Management Assignment (ILMA) for East End Road Parcel

DPOR will pursue an ILMA for the general state land near mile 17 East End Road with the intent of developing access to the park at this location.

#### Cottonwood Creek Campsite

DPOR should establish an MOU with the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park to manage the campsite at Cottonwood Creek.

#### Cottonwood Creek Cultural Sites

There are cultural sites near Cottonwood Creek. Best management practices should be employed when working around these sites.

#### Coal Seams

Historically, beach campfires have ignited coal seams in Cottonwood Eastland that burned for several weeks. Users should be careful to avoid igniting coal seams.

#### Horse Use

There has been a history of horseback riding and reports of loose herding<sup>7</sup> occurring in this area. Loose herding is not allowed. This plan calls for expanded parking for horse trailers and for trails that would specifically allow horse use. Horses are allowed on designated trails only.

### **Existing Facilities**

No DPOR constructed or maintained facilities or trails currently exist in this unit. There is, however, a campsite managed by Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park by permit. For information on trails, see Appendix E: Trail Plan.

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Campsite (Cottonwood Creek)	This primitive campsite at the mouth of Cottonwood Creek includes a latrine, fire ring, and picnic table. This is a convenient campsite for Water Trail users.

<sup>6</sup> Under AS 41.21.024

<sup>7</sup> 11 AAC 20.910 disallows groups with more than 10 horses from entering any Kenai Peninsula state park without a permit, tethering horses within 100 feet of fresh water, and loose herding.

## Facility Recommendations

Ref. No.	Facility or Structure	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. A parking area for the campground will include parking suitable for horse trailers. <sup>8</sup> 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.
CE-03	Viewing Platform	Facilitate public visitation and viewing state park lands through development of a 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 the trailhead.
CE-05	Public Use Cabin	Provide overnight accommodations at up to two trail-accessible public use cabins. The final site planning for these cabins should minimize conflict with nearby residents.
CE-06	Public Use Cabin	Provide overnight accommodations at a trail-accessible public use cabin.

<sup>8</sup> 11 AAC 20.910 states that horses are not allowed in campgrounds in Kenai state parks. Allowing horse use in this campground will require a regulation change.

*Chapter 6: Unit Specific Management  
Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit*

**Map 11: Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit**

*Chapter 6: Unit Specific Management  
Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit*



## 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 12: Northern Management Unit). 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.

### 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 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. 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.

### Special Management Considerations

#### Private Parcels

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.

### Chugachik Island Cultural Zone

The 44 acres of land on Chugachik Island are zoned Cultural due to the cultural, archaeological, and anthropological resources found there. Regulatory and interpretive signage should be added here, as “cultural zones are established to preserve, investigate, document, and interpret Alaska’s cultural resources and heritage” (Framework, p. 20). However, care should be taken to protect the integrity of the identified, and any as yet unidentified, resources. DPOR should establish an MOU with the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park to manage the campsite on Chugachik Island.

### **Existing Facilities**

Little development exists within this 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, one located at the Humpy Creek Trailhead, and one on Chugachik Island. See Appendix E: Trail Plan for information on trails.

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Chugachik Island Campsite	This campsite includes a bear box, fire ring, picnic tables, tent platform, trail register, and outhouse.
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.

## Facility Recommendations

<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Facility or Structure</b>	<b>Recreation Opportunity Provided</b>
NO-01	Mooring Buoy	Facilitate access to the Mallard Bay Trailhead and proposed public use cabin (NO-02) and existing tent platform. Note that Mallard Bay empties at low tide.
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.



**Map 12: Northern Management Unit**

*Chapter 6: Unit Specific Management  
Northern Management Unit*

## **Grewingk Glacier Management Unit**

### **Unit Description**

The Grewingk Glacier unit occupies 8,902 acres on the south side of Kachemak Bay, generally encompassing the area around Grewingk Lake, Grewingk Glacier, and Grewingk Creek (see Map 13: Grewingk Glacier Management Unit). Of this, approximately 16 acres is privately owned with another 120 acres in federal ownership. Currently there are approximately 16 miles of trails in the unit. 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**

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 fixed-wing aircraft, including using commercial operators.

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 heavily used portions of KBSP, with significant numbers of visitors hiking to Grewingk Lake and other destinations.

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. 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.

### **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. Visitors should be careful neither they nor their dogs disturb birds or bird nests in the area. 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.

### **Special Management Considerations**

#### Facility Development

New or redeveloped access facilities, trails, and structures should be sited and designed to minimize impacts, if possible, to adjacent private land and to avoid hazard areas as appropriate.

Potential for Large Grewingk Glacier Lake Surface Wave

In 1967, a very large landslide slumped into Grewingk Glacier Lake from the mountainside to the south, creating a surface wave that severely impacted adjacent lands and carried debris 4 miles into Kachemak Bay. 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.

Glacier Helicopter Landings

Helicopter operators are currently authorized to land on Grewingk Glacier. As the glacier recedes, an alternate landing site may need to be identified on adjacent land.

**Existing Facilities**

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 the coast. Overnight use is accommodated at four developed campsites or by staying in the single yurt operated by a concessionaire. For trail information, see Appendix E: Trail Plan.

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 and Campsites Near Glacier Spit Trailhead	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 the area of Kachemak Crack climbing wall.



## Facility Recommendations

Ref. No.	Facility or Structure	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.
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	Cabin on the southwest of Grewingk Lake to support recreational users of the area. PUC should be larger than usual size – perhaps 24x24 – and constructed high enough above the lake to mitigate the danger from an avalanche-induced surface wave.
GG-07	Boat and Equipment Storage Area	Located near 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.

*Chapter 6: Unit Specific Management  
Grewingk Glacier Management Unit*

**Map 13: Grewingk Glacier Management Unit**

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Grewingk Glacier Management Unit*

## **Halibut Cove - China Poot Management Unit**

### **Unit Description**

The Halibut Cove - China Poot unit comprises 28,166 acres between Kachemak Bay and the eastern edge of KBSP, just south of the Grewingk Glacier unit (see Map 14: Halibut Cove - China Poot Management Unit). This unit has many facilities and is visited often. The unit includes: the lowlands on the south side of Halibut Cove and surrounding Halibut Cove Lagoon; China Poot Lake; Moose Valley; and 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.

### **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.

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.

### **Management Intent**

Halibut Cove and Halibut Cove Lagoon receive moderate to high levels of use seasonally. 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 landowners. 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.

### **Special Management Considerations**

#### Private Parcels

There are a significant number of private parcels within or 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.

#### Relocation or Repurposing of Existing Facilities

Some structures in this unit 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.

#### Stonehocker Creek Flooding

As described in Chapter 4, in 2015-16 Stonehocker Creek flooded a powerline easement near China Poot Bay, compromising the powerline which serves Peterson Bay and Halibut Cove. In early 2019 DPOR permitted HEA to divert Stonehocker Creek away from the easement. This proved successful only until Stonehocker Creek breached the diversion dam in July 2019. DPOR should continue working with HEA to find a viable solution to this issue.

#### Halibut Cove Lagoon Access

Halibut Cove Lagoon has a narrow and shallow outlet channel that limits flushing and water turnover. Boat access is tide dependent.

### **Existing 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. For trail information, see Appendix E: Trail Plan.

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 is available for heat.
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.
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.

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Facility	Comments
Public Use Cabin Moose Valley	12'x12' cabin sleeps 2 and is located just off the Moose Valley Loop trail. It is approximately 3 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.
Campsite Halibut Cove Lagoon Estuary	Developed campsite, latrine, fire ring.
Campsite Moose Valley	Located about 5 miles from Halibut Cove Lagoon trailhead. Includes a developed campsite and 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.



## Facility Recommendations

<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Facility or Structure</b>	<b>Recreation Opportunity Provided</b>
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 Glacier unit. This platform may be converted to a public use cabin at a future date.
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. This cabin will replace an existing yurt.

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<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Facility or Structure</b>	<b>Recreation Opportunity Provided</b>
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.

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

*Chapter 6: Unit Specific Management  
Halibut Cove - China Poot Management Unit*

## **Sadie - Tutka Management Unit**

### **Unit Description**

The Sadie - Tutka Management Unit is the southernmost (and with 39,069 acres, the largest) of the units bordering the southern shore of Kachemak Bay. The unit extends north to the Wosnesenski River valley boundary with the Halibut Cove - China Poot unit; south across Sadie Cove and Tutka Bay; and west to the edge of KBSP (see Map 15: Sadie - Tutka Management Unit). The unit encompasses the waters and the uplands north and west of KBSWP.

This unit is characterized by two large glacier-carved, silled fjords with deep basins, known for low flushing and circulation patterns. These geological landforms indent the mountains and contain sensitive tideland and very biologically productive nursery habitats of vegetated seagrass and canopied salt marshes and coastal lagoons that rank among the most productive ecosystems on earth. The forest habitat largely consists of old growth spruce/hemlock trees. 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. A hatchery has operated in Tutka Bay Lagoon since 1978, first by ADF&G and as of 1991 by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA).

### **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. Pink salmon produced at the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery have been released at Tutka Bay Lagoon since 1978. Sockeye salmon produced at the Trail Lakes Hatchery have been released into Tutka Bay Lagoon since 2005.

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.

## 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. 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. 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.

## Special Management Considerations

### Private Parcels

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.

### Campsite at Kayak Beach

DPOR should establish an MOU with the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park to manage the campsite at Kayak Beach.

### Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery (TBLH)

There are three legal reasons why TBLH's continued operation within KBSP should end:

1. TBLH is inconsistent with the Legislature's mandate to manage KBSP as a "scenic park;"
2. ADNR lacked the authority to issue an Interagency Land Management Assignment (ILMA) to ADF&G to manage the land as a hatchery; and
3. The functionally irrevocable agreements related to the operation of TBLH yield an impermissible disposal of these legislatively designated lands.<sup>9</sup>

Legislation would be needed for TBLH to continue to operate within KBSP. If TBLH operations cease, any state agencies with interests in TBLH will need to address how to restore the site, which structures should be retained on the site, and any future plans and uses for the site.

## Existing Facilities

Currently, development in the Sadie - Tutka unit is composed of a single public use cabin, eight 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 wood stove and pit privy are amenities at the public use cabin. See Appendix E: Trail Plan for information on trails.

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<sup>9</sup> See Chapter 4, "Disposals" for information on the functionally irrevocable test and disposals.

Facility	Comments
Public Use Cabin Sea Star Cove	16' x 16' cabin sleeps up to 6. Heated by wood stove. Includes table, benches, and counter for food preparation. Latrine located nearby. A freshwater stream near the cabin provides water.
Campsite Kayak Beach	2 tent platforms, 2 outhouses, and a 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, and a developed campsite.
Campsite Tutka Bay Lagoon	Outhouse, fire ring, and a developed campsite.
Campsite Tutka Lake Trailhead	Outhouse, tent platform, and a fire ring.
Campsite Upper Tutka	Developed campsite with a 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.
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.

Facility	Comments
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 is adjacent to a pleasant gravel beach with summer sunset views. There is good anchorage for boats near the drop-off point.

### Facility Recommendations

Ref. No.	Facility or Structure	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.
ST-04	Mooring Buoy	Mooring Buoy to facilitate access to existing Eldred Trail and planned Anisom Point tent platform (ST-06).
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.



<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Facility or Structure</b>	<b>Recreational Opportunity Provided</b>
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 the 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 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 Hazelle Lake.
ST-15	Public Use Cabin	Public use cabin 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 distribution lines, this cabin may offer electricity. The final site planning for ST-16 should seek to minimize conflict with nearby residents.
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 distribution lines, this cabin may offer electricity.
ST-18	Tent Platform	Provide up to two tent platforms to facilitate overnight use of the Coast to Coast Trail and recreation in the area.
ST-19	Group Camp	When existing structures at the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery site are no longer needed for operation of a hatchery, DPOR will determine which structures could remain on site and be re-purposed to provide a group camp area and/or an educational and research area that can accommodate medium to large numbers of people.



**Map 15: Sadie - Tutka Management Unit**



## 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 Island (See Map 16: Outer Coast Management Unit). The unit's total area is nearly 260,000 acres. About 188,000 acres are uplands and the remainder are tidal and submerged lands.

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. 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.<sup>10</sup>

The unit contains Nuka Island, the largest island in KBSP and much larger than any island in KBSWP. Nuka Island is 8½ miles long, 3½ 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.

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<sup>10</sup> 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 are expected to increase but remain at low levels. A perhaps surprising (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 freshwater floatplane access to users and residents of the Petrof Lake subdivision. Float planes drop off and pick up hunters and Tutka Alpine Traverse hikers at Taylor Bay. 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 and kayaks if the ocean tides are not too large.

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

## **Special Management Considerations**

### Petrof Lake Subdivision

An area bordering Petrof Lake Subdivision is zoned Recreational Development. This zone will have a somewhat higher level of recreational use and recreational facility development to facilitate use of the lands and waters adjacent to the Petrof Lake Subdivision. The Natural Zone surrounding this area is meant to serve as buffer between the Recreational Development and Wilderness Zones.

### Development in Wilderness Zone

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. Only minimal clearing of a site will be undertaken for construction of structures and facilities. All structures will be visually screened where possible to preserve the scenic resources and wilderness character. An exception will be the proposed 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.

3-sided Shelters

DPOR should consider, as an alternative to tent platforms, developing 3-sided shelters with shed roofs for increased protection from inclement weather. If tent platforms are developed, they may later be converted to 3-sided shelters or PUCs if interest and the level of use warrants.

Seal Haulouts

DPOR will site any new trails or facilities in this unit at least ¼ mile away from known seal haulout locations.

Legislative Intent for Nuka Island

The 1989 legislation that expanded KBSP and KBSWP states that “the legislature intends that [Nuka] island support (1) a commercial lodge in a suitable place; (2) renovation of existing facilities at Herring Pete’s Cove; (3) the construction and operation of one or two public use cabins; (4) docks, trails, and moorings necessary to provide for recreational use; and (5) maintenance of Berger Bay in an undeveloped state.”<sup>11</sup>

**Existing Facilities**

There are no DPOR-maintained facilities in this unit. Currently there are no intact cabins located within this unit – the Port Dick Administrative Cabin burned in 2000. For trail information, see Appendix E: Trail Plan.

**Facility Recommendations**

Ref. No.	Facility or Structure	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.

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<sup>11</sup> § 4 ch 110 SLA 1989

Ref. No.	Facility or Structure	Recreation Opportunity Provided
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.
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 or Shelter	Tent platform or shelter 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 or Shelter	Tent platform or shelter located on the small bay on the north side of Nuka Passage. Offers an extension of the Kenai Fjords campsite system to the north.



<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Facility or Structure</b>	<b>Recreation Opportunity Provided</b>
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 or Shelter	Tent platform or shelter located on the protected bay on the southern end of Nuka Island. This structure facilitates access and use on Nuka Island. Offers an extension of the Kenai Fjords campsite system to the north.
OC-10	Tent Platform or Shelter	This tent platform or shelter 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.
OC-11	Tent Platform or Shelter	Located near Port Dick Lake, this tent platform or shelter 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 the beach west of the Petrof River.
OC-14	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.

*Chapter 6: Unit Specific Management  
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**Map 16: Outer Coast Management Unit**

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