

Chugach State Park

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Chugach State Park covers 495,204 acres (2,004 square kilometers)^[1] immediately east of the Anchorage Bowl in south-central Alaska.^[2] Though primarily in the Municipality of Anchorage, a small portion of the park north of the Eklutna Lake area in the vicinity of Pioneer Peak lies within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.^[3] Established by legislation signed into law on August 6, 1970, by Alaska Governor Keith Miller, this state park was created to provide recreational opportunities, protect the scenic value of the Chugach Mountains and other geographic features, and ensure the safety of the water supply for Anchorage.^[4] The park, managed by Alaska State Parks, is the third-largest state park in the United States, and consists of geographically disparate areas each with different attractions and facilities.^[5] Only Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in California and Wood-Tikchik State Park in western Alaska are larger.^[5] Hunting and fishing are permitted in the Chugach under regulations established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for game management unit 14c.^{[6][7]} Target practice is not allowed within the park boundaries.^[6]

Contents

- 1 Eklutna Lake
- 2 Eagle River
- 3 Hillside
- 4 Turnagain Arm
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links

Eklutna Lake

The **Lakeside Trail** travels 12.7 miles (20.4 kilometers) along the shores of **Eklutna Lake** until it reaches the mile-long **Eklutna Glacier Trail** that leads in short order to the moraines at the foot of the colossal blue ice of **Eklutna Glacier**.^[8] In the summer, travelers go on foot, by mountain bike, ATV or on horseback, past the lake by way of largely flat trail to the glacier.^[8] A traverse with three huts maintained by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska begins at the end of the trail and heads over the tops of the Eklutna, Whiteout, Eagle and Raven Glaciers, and ends 31 miles (50 kilometers) away at **Crow Pass** near Girdwood on the opposite side of the park.^[8] In wintertime, trail users are able to travel the same route by snowmobile (snowmachine), snowshoes or cross-country skis as permitted by regulation and weather conditions.^[8] As most of the trail is an old



Bashful Peak, at 8,005 feet (2,440 meters), is the tallest mountain in Chugach State Park



Eklutna Lake and Bold Peak in Chugach State Park



Lakeside Trail along Eklutna Lake in winter

Appendix B: Statutes & Regulations for Chugach State Park

Park Enabling Legislation

Sec. 41.21.120. Purpose of AS 41.21.120 – 41.21.125.

The purpose of AS 41.21.120 – 41.21.125 is to restrict state-owned land and water described in AS 41.21.121 to use as a state park. Under AS 38.05.300, state land, water, or land and water containing more than 640 acres may be closed to multiple purpose use only by act of the legislature. Because the area described in AS 41.21.121 exceeds 640 acres, AS 41.21.120 – 41.21.125 are intended to provide for the closing of the described land and water to multiple purpose use in conformity with AS 38.05.300 and its subsequent designation as a special purpose site in accordance with art. VIII, Sec. 7, of the Constitution of the State of Alaska. (§ 1 ch 112 SLA 1970)

Sec. 41.21.121. Chugach State Park established.

The presently state-owned land and water, and all that acquired in the future by the state, lying within the parcels described in this section are designated as the Chugach State Park. The park is established to protect and supply a satisfactory water supply for the use of the people, to provide recreational opportunities for the people by providing areas for specified uses and constructing the necessary facilities in those areas, to protect areas of unique and exceptional scenic value, to provide areas for the public display of local wildlife and to protect the existing wilderness characteristics of the easterly interior area. The eastern area of the park shall be operated as a wilderness area, the central area as a scenic area, and the periphery areas as recreational areas. **The land and water designated as the Chugach State Park and reserved from all uses incompatible with its primary function as a state park is that within the following described parcels excluding valid entries:**

- (1) Township 11 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian
Section 10: Lots 19 - 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 33, 34, 37; and SE1/4, and E1/2 E1/2 SW1/4
Section 14: SW1/4
Sections 15, 22, 23, 25 and 26
Section 24: S1/2 and NE1/4;
- (2) Township 10 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian
Sections 1 - 4;
- (3) Township 11 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 1 - 3

Section 4: Lots 1 - 4, and S1/2 N1/2, SE1/4, NW1/4 SW1/4, NE1/4 SW1/4 and SE1/4 SW1/4

Section 5: Lots 1, 2, 4, and S1/2 NE1/4, SW1/4 NW1/4, W1/2 SW1/4 and SE1/4 SW1/4

Section 7: E1/2 NE1/4 and SE1/4

Section 8: S1/2, NW1/4, and N1/2 NE1/4

Section 9: N1/2 N1/2, SW1/4, and S1/2 SE1/4

Section 10 - 17

Section 18: Lot 4; and NE1/4, SE1/4, and E1/2 SW1/4

Section 19, except Lot 1 USS 4909

Section 20, except Lot 2 USS 4909

Sections 21 - 26

Section 27: E1/2, NW1/4, and SE1/4 SW1/4

Section 28: NE1/4 NE1/4, NW1/4, and E1/2 SW1/4

Sections 29 - 32

Section 33 except USS 2891 and USS 3384

Sections 34 - 36;

(4) Township 12 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian

Section 3: W1/2, SE1/4, and SW1/4 NE1/4

Sections 4, 5, and 7 - 10

Section 11: SW1/4, W1/2 NW1/4, SE1/4 NW1/4, and SW1/4 SE1/4

Section 13: SW1/4 NW1/4, SW1/4, and SW1/4 SE1/4

Sections 14 - 29

Section 31: S1/2 SE1/4 and SE1/4 NE1/4

Sections 32 - 36;

(5) Township 14 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian

Section 11: Lots 74 and 75

Section 13

Section 14: Lots 1 - 3, 13 - 16, 31, 32; and NE1/4 NE1/4 NE1/4, SE1/4 NE1/4 NE1/4, and SW1/4 NE1/4 NE1/4

Section 24: N1/2 N1/2;

(6) Township 10 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 1 - 4

Section 5, except USS 3215 and Indian Valley Subdivision

Section 6, except USS 1868 and USS 3200

Section 8

Section 9, except USS 3680, USS 3382, and USS 1069

Section 10, except USS 3201, USS 3202, and USS 3382

Sections 11 - 14 and 23 - 25

USS 3680: Lot 1;

(7) Township 11 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 1 - 30

Section 31, except USS 3200, USS 1868 and First Addition Indian Valley Subdivision

Sections 32 - 36;

(8) Township 12 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian, except lands covered by PLO 2029;

(9) Township 13 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian;

(10) Township 14 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 1 - 4

Section 5: Lots 1 - 4; and S1/2 NE1/4, SE1/4 NW1/4, N1/2 SW1/4 NW1/4, SE1/4 SW1/4 NW1/4, E1/2 SW1/4 SW1/4 NW1/4, E1/2 SE1/4, and N1/2 NW1/4 SE1/4

Section 6: Lots 1 - 3

Section 9: E1/2

Sections 10 - 13

Section 14 N1/2, E1/2 SE1/4, and N1/2 SW1/4

Section 15: NE1/4, N1/2 NW1/4, SE1/4 NW1/4, and SW1/4 SW1/4

Section 16: SW1/4, S1/2 SE1/4, and NW1/4 SE1/4

Section 17: S1/2

Section 18: S1/2

Section 19: N1/2 N1/2

Section 20: N1/2 and SW1/4

Section 21, except NW1/4 SW1/4

Section 22, except E1/2 NE1/4

Section 23: SW1/4 NW1/4, SW1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4, SW1/4 NE1/4 SE1/4, and S1/2 SE1/4 SE1/4

Section 24: N1/2, E1/2 SE1/4, NW1/4 SE1/4, W1/2 SW1/4 SW1/4 SW1/4, SE1/4 SW1/4 SW1/4 SW1/4, and W1/2 NW1/4 SW1/4

Section 25: S1/2 except N1/2 NE1/4 NE1/4 SE1/4; and SW1/4 SW1/4 NE1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4 SW1/4 NE1/4, SW1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4 NE1/4, S1/2 NW1/4, NW1/4 NW1/4, SW1/4 NE1/4 NW1/4, S1/2 SE1/4 NE1/4 NW1/4, and SW1/4 NW1/4 NE1/4 NW1/4

Sections 26 - 36;

(11) Township 15 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1

Section 2: SE1/4

Section 11: E1/2, N1/2 SW1/4, E1/2 NW1/4, and SW1/4 NW1/4

Sections 12 and 13

Section 14: S1/2, NE1/4, E1/2 NW1/4, and SW1/4 NW1/4

Section 15: SE1/4 and S1/2 NE1/4

Sections 21 - 28

Section 29: E1/2, E1/2 SW1/4, and SW1/4 SW1/4

Section 31: E1/2 and E1/2 SW1/4

Section 32: N1/2, E1/2 SE1/4, and S1/2 SW1/4

Sections 33 - 36;

(12) Township 16 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

Section 25: NE1/4 SE1/4 SE1/4 and N1/2 SE1/4 SE1/4 SE1/4; and Tract B, Thunderbird Heights Subdivision, as shown on Plat 77-226, Anchorage Recording District, October 10, 1977;

(13) Township 10 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian;

- (14) Township 11 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian;
 - (15) Township 12 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian;
 - (16) Township 13 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian;
 - (17) Township 14 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian
- Sections 1 - 29
- Section 30: Lots 2, 4; and N1/2, N1/2 SE1/4, N1/2 SE1/4 SE1/4, N1/2 NE1/4 SW1/4, SW1/4 SW1/4 SE1/4, S1/2 SE1/4 SW1/4, S1/2 NW1/4 SE1/4 SW1/4, and NW1/4 NW1/4 SE1/4 SW1/4
- Section 31: Lots 1, 2, 3, 5; and E1/2 W1/2, SE1/4, S1/2 NE1/4, S1/2 NW1/4 NE1/4, NW1/4 NW1/4 NE1/4, W1/2 NE1/4 NW1/4 NE1/4, SE1/4 NE1/4 NW1/4 NE1/4, SW1/4 NE1/4 NE1/4, and SW1/4 SE1/4 NE1/4 NE1/4
- Section 32: N1/2 NE1/4, W1/2 SE1/4 NE1/4, NE1/4 SE1/4 NE1/4, SW1/4 SW1/4, S1/2 SE1/4 SW1/4, S1/2 NE1/4 SE1/4 SW1/4, W1/2 NW1/4 SE1/4 SW1/4, SE1/4 NW1/4 SE1/4 SW1/4, SW1/4 SW1/4 SE1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4 SW1/4 SE1/4, W1/2 SW1/4 NW1/4 SE1/4 SE1/4, S1/2 NW1/4 SW1/4, NW1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4, W1/2 NE1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4, SE1/4 NE1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4, SW1/4 SW1/4 NW1/4, SW1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4 NW1/4, and W1/2 SE1/4 SW1/4 NW1/4
- Section 33: N1/2 NE1/4, NE1/4 NW1/4, and N1/2 NW1/4 NW1/4
- Sections 34 - 36;
- (18) Township 15 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian;
 - (19) Township 16 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian
- Sections 26 - 29 and 31 - 36
- Section 30: SW1/4 SW1/4;
- (20) Township 10 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian
- Sections 4 - 6, except Chugach National Forest
- Section 7
- Section 8: W1/2, W1/2 NE1/4, NE1/4 NE1/4, and N1/2 SE1/4 NE1/4, except USS 3045
- Section 9: N1/2
- Section 18: N1/2 and SW1/4, except USS 3043 and USS 3042;
- (21) Township 11 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian
- Sections 1 - 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31, except Chugach National Forest;
- (22) Township 12 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian;
 - (23) Township 13 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian;
 - (24) Township 14 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian;
 - (25) Township 15 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian
- Sections 1 - 4, 6, 7, and 10 - 36
- Section 9: E1/2;
- (26) Township 16 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian
- Section 1: S1/2 except USS 3527, USS 3914, USS 4789, and USS 3282
- Sections 2 and 9 - 11: that portion south of the Glenn Highway
- Sections 12 - 16
- Section 17: that portion of the E1/2 south of the Glenn Highway
- Section 19: S1/2
- Section 20: NE1/4

Sections 21 - 28

Sections 30 and 31

Sections 33 - 36;

(27) Township 11 North, Range 3 East, except Chugach National Forest;

(28) Township 12 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian;

(29) Township 13 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian;

(30) Township 14 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian;

(31) Township 15 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian. (§ 1 ch 112 SLA 1970;
am § 3 ch 39 SLA 1987)

Cross references.— For 1974 modifications to the boundaries of the park under AS 41.21.122, see the revisor's notes to that section. For provision authorizing land transfers and conveyances by the commissioner of natural resources affecting relocation or widening of the Seward Highway or relocation of facilities of the Alaska Railroad Corporation within the Chugach State Park, see sec. 6, ch.116, SLA 2000.

Sec. 41.21.122. Management responsibility.

The state land and water described in AS 41.21.121 as the Chugach State Park is assigned to the department for control, development and maintenance, except that the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is responsible for the repair and maintenance of all existing public roads within the park. The control of highway access and roadside structures within the Chugach State Park is the responsibility of the department. The Department of Fish and Game shall cooperate with the department to provide for those purposes under AS 41.21.121 relevant to the duties of the Department of Fish and Game. If, in the exercise of management responsibility under this section, conflicts of land ownership, jurisdiction, or authority are unreconcilable or unmanageable other than at an unreasonable cost and expense to the state, the commissioner after public hearing in accordance with AS 44.62 may modify, subject to the approval of the legislature, the boundaries of the Chugach State Park not to exceed 20 percent of the total acreage described in AS 41.21.121. (§ 1 ch 112 SLA 1970)

Revisor's notes.— Under the authority of this section, the commissioner of natural resources held public hearings and modified the boundaries of the park. By adopting HCR 75 am in 1974, the legislature gave the required approval. The action removed the following land from the park: (1) land lying within the city limits of Girdwood in T10N, R2E, S.M.; (2) land in Sec. 10, T11N, R3W, S.M. south and west of and adjacent to the toe of the bluff that extends from Campbell Point southeasterly to Potter Creek that has been designated as the Potter Point State Game Refuge; (3) USS 3070 in Sec. 9, T16N, R2E, S.M., which is an isolated parcel of foreclosed land not contiguous to the park.

Sec. 41.21.123. Incompatible uses.

(a) The commissioner shall designate by regulation, adopted in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), incompatible uses within the boundaries of the Chugach State Park in accordance with AS 41.21.120 - 41.21.125, and those incompatible uses designated are prohibited or restricted as provided by regulation.

(b) In adopting regulations under this section and in complying with AS 44.62.210, the commissioner shall provide the opportunity for the oral presentation of statements, arguments or contentions. (§ 1 ch 112 SLA 1970)