

Use Area 01-03

East Chilkats – Juneau Ranger District

Recreation Carrying Capacity (Groups at One Time): 20

Description

This use area abuts Glacier Bay National Park to the west including the western shoreline of Lynn Canal from Sullivan Island Marine Park to Point Couverden and the shoreline on the east side of Excursion Inlet. The Homeshore area has had previous logging, and a road system exists in this area.

LUD: Modified Landscape, Old Growth, Semi-Remote Recreation, Scenic Viewshed.

ROS: Roaded Modified, Roaded Natural, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized.

National Forest Shoreline Miles: 101

National Forest Shoreline Acres: 29,324

Communities

In Excursion Inlet, there is a small community and cannery at Ward Cove, as well as the Excursion Inlet Seaplane Base.

Alaska Coastal Management Act

Forest Service Facilities

A logging road system on Point Couverden, storage units, and trailer pads associated with timber sale planning are located within this use area.

Non-National Forest Lands

Private land is located at Sullivan Island, William Henry Bay, and in Excursion Inlet. The State of Alaska administers St. James Bay State Park, a marine park at Pt. Couverden, and maintains a floating dock offshore at Pt. Couverden.

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Recreation Use

Area Attractions	Scenic views, wildlife viewing.
Commercial Use	Brown and black bear hunting, moose hunting, freshwater fishing, sightseeing, bicycle tours.
Non-commercial Use	Non-commercial use is generally offshore sport fishing, moose and black bear hunting.
Use Patterns	Shoreline use in this area is primarily by residents of Haines, Juneau, Skagway, Hoonah, Gustavus, and Excursion Inlet.
Primary Use Areas	Excursion Inlet, Howard Bay, the log transfer site at Homeshore, William Henry Bay, Square Bay, and Boat Harbor. Fixed wing aircraft land at the mouth of the Endicott River to access the area. The area inside the tree line has many trails and old logging roads.
Areas of Concern	

Management/Resource Considerations

Subsistence

There are no anticipated restrictions on subsistence resource users.

Wildlife

345 bald eagle nests have been mapped in this area.

Fisheries

This area contains several productive fish streams important to the commercial fishing industry, non-guided sport fish users, and the guided sport fishing industry. Guided sport fishing use is focused on early season Dolly Varden and mid-season pink salmon fishing opportunities. Twenty-six Class I streams have been mapped in this area. Seven streams in this area have been identified with high fishing values. Most often these streams support populations of chum, pink, and coho salmon, as well as Dolly Varden char and cutthroat trout. A small stream in the area supports a small run of sockeye salmon that are an important subsistence resource for residents of Hoonah. Small runs of steelhead are found in some systems. A stream on the west side of Excursion is productive for its size and contains both summer and fall runs of chum salmon.

Botany

Two different *Botrychium* species in addition to, *Zigadenus elegans*, and *Platanthera obtusata* were recorded during 9 surveys. These species all occurred within the beach meadow or upper estuary meadow vegetation community types.

Cultural/Heritage

Two historic and 11 prehistoric sites were identified in 9 surveys.