

Use Area 01-05C

Windham Bay – Juneau Ranger District

Recreation Carrying Capacity (Groups At One Time): 26

Description

This use area extends from Pt. Astley to west of Endicott Arm, southward to Windham Bay continuing to the Juneau District Boundary south of Port Houghton. Windham Bay is a popular area for hunting, and for private, as well as commercial vessels, despite its narrow channel. It serves as the entry point to Chuck River Wilderness. Hobart Bay is an area that has had extensive logging, and is under private ownership.

LUD: Old Growth, Semi-Remote Recreation, Scenic Viewshed, Timber Production, Wilderness, Wilderness Monument.

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

National Forest Shoreline Miles: 141

National Forest Shoreline Miles: 35,191

Communities

None.

Alaska Coastal Management Act

Forest Service Facilities

Administrative Cabins Port Houghton.

Trails Taylor Lake.

Non-National Forest Lands

Private property is found in Hobart Bay where active timber harvesting occurs. The state maintains an offshore float for boats at Entrance Island where a recreation residence is permitted. Private lands are also found in Port Houghton, Windham Bay and the Chuck River.

Recreation Use

Area Attractions Close to Tracy Arm allowing for same day visit with shore excursion. Scenic views, unaltered forest, wildlife viewing, kayaking, good beach access, diversity of land forms.

Commercial Use Freshwater fishing, wildlife viewing, nature tours, crabbing, salmon viewing.

Non-commercial Use Fishing, camping, hunting.

Use Patterns Though some activity in this area originates from Juneau there is also influence from Petersburg, approximately 45 miles south.

Primary Use Areas Sandborn Canal, the head of Port Houghton and Windham Bay.

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Areas of Concern

Management/Resource Considerations

Subsistence

There are no anticipated restrictions on subsistence resource users.

Wildlife

NMFS identified two Stellar sea lion haul-outs in this use area, and 258 bald eagle nests have been mapped in this area.

Fisheries

Forty one class one streams have been mapped in this area with 5 identified with high fishing values. This area is far from both Juneau and Petersburg, and therefore receives light sport fishing pressure. Chuck River supports runs of pink, chum, coho, king salmon, Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, and possibly steelhead. Hobart Bay has one stream that was identified as having high fishing values. In addition to this system there is a salt-chuck located within Hobart Bay. These systems contain pink, chum, and coho salmon, as well as Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout. Port Houghton in the southern end of this area contains very productive freshwater systems with 4 streams identified as having high fishing values. The largest of these is the Rusty River, which flows into the salt-chuck at the head of Port Houghton. This stream contains runs of pink, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon as well as Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, and possibly steelhead. Another important stream in Port Houghton is at the head of Sandborn Canal. This stream has runs of pink, chum, coho salmon, Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, and steelhead.

Botany

Poa laxiflora was found at two sites associated with tufted hairgrass. Ten surveys were completed on 0.75 miles of shoreline.

Cultural/Heritage

Thirty surveys covering 51.5 miles revealed eight historic and six prehistoric sites in this use area.