

# Use Area 04-02B

## Whale Bay (Southwest Baranof) – Sitka Ranger District

---

### **Recreation Carrying Capacity (Groups At One Time): 18**

#### **Description**

Located on the southwestern portion of Baranof Island, this use area extends from north of President Bay, to south of Little Puffin Bay including a number of offshore islands and the western portion of the South Baranof Wilderness. The analysis area is characterized by an inaccessible outer coast with bays providing protected access to the uplands including: Presidents, Necker, Whale, Sandy, Snipe, Byron, Red Fish, Little Branch, Puffin and Little Puffin Bays, and both Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlets.

<b><i>LUD</i></b>	Remote Recreation, Wilderness.
<b><i>ROS</i></b>	Primitive, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Semi-Primitive Non-motorized.
<b><i>National Forest Shoreline Miles</i></b>	525
<b><i>National Forest Shoreline Acres</i></b>	82,909

#### **Communities**

None.

#### **Alaska Coastal Management Act**

This use area is within the boundaries of the Sitka District Coastal Management Program.

#### **Forest Service Facilities**

<b><i>Public Recreation Cabins</i></b>	Davidof Lake, Plotnikof Lake, Avoss Lake
<b><i>Trails</i></b>	Trail from Davidof lake to Plotnikof Lake.

#### **Non-National Forest Lands**

All the land within this use area is national forest land. An outfitter/guide operates a tent camp in Rakavoi Bay.

# Use Area 04-02B

## Whale Bay (Southwest Baranof) – Sitka Ranger District

---

### **Recreation Use**

<b><i>Area Attractions</i></b>	Hunting, sport and subsistence fishing, Forest Service recreation cabins, remote recreation and scenic values.
<b><i>Commercial Use</i></b>	Camping, brown bear and goat hunting, freshwater fishing, hiking, pic-nicking
<b><i>Non-commercial Use</i></b>	The northern reaches of this guide use receive consistent use by residents and visitors of the community of Sitka. Offshore islands provide a protected water route to Necker Bay. Beyond Necker Bay small skiff travel is determined by sea conditions and recreational use in the southern reaches of the use area is sporadic. Of particular importance to residents are the destinations listed as Special Management Areas in the Sitka Coastal Zone Management Plan.
<b><i>Use Patterns</i></b>	Due to the remote nature of this area use decreases to the south. The northern bays include West Crawfish, Crawfish, and Necker get substantial use by small skiff.
<b><i>Primary Use Areas</i></b>	West Crawfish, Crawfish, Necker and Whale Bay.
<b><i>Areas of Concern</i></b>	None.

### **Management/Resource Considerations**

<b><i>Subsistence</i></b>	There are no anticipated restrictions on subsistence resource users.
<b><i>Wildlife</i></b>	Two NMFS identified Steller sea lion haul-outs located in this use area. Bald eagle nests are thought to exist in numbers at least equal to surveyed areas to the north of this use area.
<b><i>Fisheries</i></b>	Nine streams were identified as having high fishing values. Three of these streams are important to subsistence sockeye systems. Necker Bay contains the second largest producer of sockeye salmon (Benzeman Lake) for subsistence fishermen of Sitka. Politofski Lake is a sockeye producer that drains into Whale Bay. Tumakof Lake drains into Redfish Bay and supports a good run of large sockeye salmon. A somewhat unique summer run of coho salmon passes through Port Banks, returning to Plotnikof Lake. This system also supports a small run of steelhead. Other important fish producing systems include the streams at the head of West Crawfish Inlet, No Name Bay (West Crawfish Inlet) and Sandy Bay.
<b><i>Botany</i></b>	Seventeen surveys have been completed on 3 ½ miles of shoreline with no rare or sensitive taxa found.
<b><i>Cultural/Heritage</i></b>	Twenty-two surveys revealed 7 historic and 8 prehistoric sites.