

# Use Area 04-03

## Sitka Area (West Central Baranof) – Sitka Ranger District

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### **Recreation Carrying Capacity (Groups At One Time): 40**

#### **Description**

This use area includes a small portion of the West Chichagof – Yakobi Wilderness (along the north shore of Salisbury Sound) and the following islands: Kruzof, Partofshikof, Halleck, Krestof, the Siginaka Islands, and northwest Baranof Island from north of Fish Bay to south of Three Entrance Bay. Mount Edgecumbe Geological Area, a Special Interest Area, is also found in this use area. Much of the shoreline is protected and provides easy access to uplands in numerous bays, sounds, and straits. The outer coastline along Kruzof Island's western shore is relatively inaccessible from the water.

**LUD** Modified Landscape, Old Growth, Remote Recreation, Special Interest, Semi-Remote Recreation, Scenic Viewshed, Timber Production, Wilderness.

**ROS** Primitive, Roaded Modified, Roaded Natural, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Semi-Primitive Non-motorized.

**National Forest  
Shoreline Miles** 417

**National Forest  
Shoreline Acres** 76,413

#### **Communities**

The community of Sitka is located within this use area.

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

Portions of the Use Area are covered under the Sitka District Coastal Management Program and amendments under the City and Borough of Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan.

#### **Forest Service Facilities**

**Public Recreation Cabins** Brent's Beach, Fred's Creek, Shelikof, North Beach, Allan Point, Piper Island, Salmon Lake, Samsing, Suloia Lake.

**Special Use Cabins** There are three private recreation cabins on national forest lands under special use permit: two in Birdsnest Bay and one in Sukoi Inlet.

**Shelters** Neva and Kakul.

**Trails** The Mount Edgecumbe trail is a National Recreation trail that leads to the top of Mount Edgecumbe, a dormant volcano. There is a trail from Silver Bay past Salmon Lake to Redoubt Lake. There are also several road systems only accessible by water that are used as hiking and ATV trails, including Mud Bay to Shelikof and North Beach, Eagle River, Nakwasina, and Saint John Baptist Bay.

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

There are numerous tracts of non-National Forest System lands within the area, including private and municipal lands within the City of Sitka; Native Corporation lands at Katlian Bay, Krugloi Point, and Sealion Cove; state lands at Port Krestof, Lisianski Peninsula, Kalinin Bay, Starrigavan, Silver Bay, and the Magoun Islands; and private lands at Dog Point and on the islands of Sitka Sound. In addition, there are encumbered lands involving Native Allotment Claims at St. John Baptist Bay, Nakwasina Sound, and Sinitsin Cove.

### **Recreation Use**

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Area Attractions</i></b>   | Forest Service cabins, hiking trails, fishing, hunting, scenic views, old growth forest.                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b><i>Commercial Use</i></b>     | Brown bear hunting, camping, freshwater fishing, goat hunting, hiking, picnicking, and sightseeing.                                                                                                                                            |
| <b><i>Non-commercial Use</i></b> | This use area is easily accessible and is heavily used by residents and non-guided visitors to Sitka. 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>       | The entire area is heavily used by residents and non-residents alike. Residents disperse and utilize accessible uplands along the many miles of protected shoreline.                                                                           |
| <b><i>Primary Use Areas</i></b>  | The most heavily used areas include all of the Sitka Accessible sites and the Kruzof road system.                                                                                                                                              |

### **Management/Resource Considerations**

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Subsistence</i></b>       | There are no anticipated restrictions on subsistence resource users.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b><i>Wildlife</i></b>          | NMFS has identified two Steller sea lion haul outs in this use area. There are 192 bald eagle nests in this use area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b><i>Fisheries</i></b>         | This use area receives extensive use by subsistence, sport and commercial anglers. There are at least 12 major anadromous streams with high freshwater fishing values. These systems support returns of coho, chum, and pink salmon. Dolly Varden char are abundant in many systems. Some Sitka subsistence fishermen have concerns about the diminished returns of coho salmon to streams near Sitka and the increase in guided and unguided sport fishing. Though guided freshwater sport fishing on Forest Service lands has not dramatically increased in recent years, saltwater use may explain some of the local crowding concerns. Most of the sport fishing effort in the Sitka area occurs on saltwater. |
| <b><i>Botany</i></b>            | Six surveys were conducted. <i>Romanzoffia unalaschensis</i> was identified adjacent to a stream.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b><i>Cultural/Heritage</i></b> | Sixteen historic and 37 prehistoric sites were identified from 76 surveys.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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