

Use Area 04-11

Hoonah Area (Northwest Chichagof)– Hoonah Ranger District

Recreation Carrying Capacity (Groups At One Time): 14

Description

This Use Area is on the Hoonah Ranger District and encompasses the north and northeast portion of Chichagof Island from Chicken Creek east to Freshwater Bay. Icy Strait and Chatham Strait are the surrounding waterways to the north and northeast. Principal bays within Port Frederick include: Neka Bay, Eight Fathom Bight, and Salt Lake Bay. This area also includes Pleasant Island Wilderness, which receives the majority of commercial and non-commercial use from the community of Gustavus.

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

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

National Forest Shoreline Miles: 184

National Forest Shoreline Acres: 40,378

Communities

Hoonah has a population of approximately 900 people and is centrally located in the use area. Hoonah is serviced with a boat harbor, airport, and the Alaska Marine Highway system. Tourist and recreationists visit Hoonah for access to Port Frederick, Icy Strait and the forest road system.

Alaska Coastal Management Act

Forest Service Facilities

Public Recreation Cabins	Salt Bay.
Trails	Wukuklook and Suntaheen.

Non-National Forest Lands

This use area includes a large area of Native Corporation lands in Port Frederick surrounding the community of Hoonah. The community of Whitestone Logging Company is nestled within Native Corporation lands adjacent to Hoonah. Private property is also situated along the mouth of Game Creek.

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Recreation Use

<i>Area Attractions</i>	Scenic views, access to shoreline areas by road.
<i>Commercial Use</i>	Brown bear hunting, freshwater fishing, camping, sightseeing.
<i>Non-commercial Use</i>	Residents and visitors to the community of Hoonah are the primary users of this area. Port Frederick, itself is an important recreation and subsistence area to the residents of Hoonah.
<i>Use Patterns</i>	The Hoonah forest road system includes 170 miles of drivable road extending out to the eastern portion of Chichagof Island allowing access to the shoreline areas of Spasski Bay (Native corporation owned), Whitestone Harbor, False Bay, the Wukuklook/Gypsum creek area, and Freshwater Bay. Each of these shoreline areas receives steady road traffic from local residents and visitors to Hoonah.
<i>Primary Use Areas Areas of Concern</i>	

Management/Resource Considerations

Subsistence

There are no anticipated restrictions on subsistence resource users.

Wildlife

One NMFS identified Steller sea lion haul out is located in this use area. 420 bald eagle nests are mapped in this area. All of this use area is within the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area for state and federal management of brown bears.

Fisheries

The broad valleys found in the area provide for streams with abundant fish habitat and fishing opportunities. Seventy class one streams have been mapped in the area. Eight streams were identified with high fishing potential. Several streams are important fisheries for the people of Hoonah and some can be accessed through the road system.

Botany

No rare or sensitive taxa were identified in 4 surveys that covered 0.5 miles.

Cultural/Heritage

21 historic and 15 prehistoric sites were identified from 41 surveys that covered 63.5 miles.