

Use Area 04-15

West Chichagof – Hoonah/Sitka Ranger District

Recreation Carrying Capacity (Groups At One Time): 20

Description

This area includes territories of the Hoonah and Sitka Ranger Districts incorporating National Forest System lands of northwest Chichagof Island from Three Hill Island (west of Port Althorp) west along the outer coast of Chichagof to Khaz Bay. It includes Yakobi Island and encompasses the northern ¾ of the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness. The outer coast of west Yakobi and west Chichagof is characterized by extremely rocky shoreline with intermittent coves and tiny islands. Storms come directly from the Gulf of Alaska making the area very treacherous for boaters. This GUA also includes the inside waterways of Lisianski Inlet, Lisianski Strait, and Stag Bay on the Hoonah District. South of Point Urey lies the Sitka Ranger District which is recognized by the numerous coves, rocky islands, streams, and inland lakes.

LUD: LUD II, LUD II Wild River, Semi Remote Recreation, Wilderness.

ROS: Primitive, Rural, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized.

National Forest Shoreline Miles: 605

National Forest Shoreline Acres: 66,021

Communities

The community of Pelican is situated along the east shore of Lisianski Inlet. The corporate boundary is spread out over about 10 miles of shoreline and includes several remote inholdings isolated from Pelican City proper.

Alaska Coastal Management Act

Forest Service Facilities

Public Recreation Cabins

Greentop and White Sulphur.

Trails

White Sulphur springs and Goulding lakes

Non-National Forest Lands

The community of Pelican is situated along the east shore of Lisianski Inlet. The corporate boundary is spread out over about 10 miles of shoreline and includes several remote inholdings isolated from Pelican City proper.

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Recreation Use

Area Attractions

Remote setting.

Commercial Use

Brown bear hunting, freshwater fishing, camping, sightseeing

***Non-commercial Use
Use Patterns***

Hunting, hiking, sightseeing, kayak camping

Primary Use Areas

West Yakobi includes the popular recreation places of Hoktaheen Cove, Deer Harbor, Squid Bay, Takanis Bay, and Greentop Harbor. Popular recreation areas on the Sitka Ranger district portion include Porcupine Bay, White Sulphur Hot Springs, Sea Level Slough, Goulding Harbor, Dry Pass, Black Bay, Bertha Bay, and Klag Bay.

Areas of Concern

Management/Resource Considerations

Subsistence

There are no anticipated restrictions on subsistence resource users.

Wildlife

Three NMFS identified Steller sea lion haul outs are located in this use area. 45 bald eagle nests are mapped in this area.

Fisheries

One hundred six Class I streams have been mapped in this area with 9 streams identified as having high fishing values. Hoktaheen Lake and the associated outlet stream produce a significant return of sockeye. Hoktaheen Lake is 126 acres in area and the outlet stream is approximately 1.5 miles long. The average reported subsistence harvest over the 1995-1999 period was approximately 1100 fish from an average of 45 permits. Hoktaheen sockeye harvest is important for residents of small communities in the Cross Sound area including Hoonah, Pelican, and Elfin Cove. Two nearby systems on West Yakobi Island, Surge Bay and Takanis Bay, have minor subsistence harvests.

Harvests of sockeye from the Hoktaheen system have increased dramatically in recent years from an average of 406 during the 1988-1994 period to an average of 1,222 fish during 1995-1999. There has been recent concern that the system may be over harvested. If harvest trends continue to increase the stock may be at risk to decline. In response to increasing harvest trends, ADF&G management staff restricted subsistence and sport fisheries in 1999 and 2000 as a precautionary measure and sought funding for stock assessment programs to provide information necessary to assess the stock status and current regulations. Beginning with the 1999 season the department reduced the season by permit allowing harvest from June 1-July 20, ensuring that the final 20% of historic run timing would be available for escapement. Similar action was taken at Surge Bay and Takanis Bay.

Botany

Twenty-eight surveys covering 4 miles of shoreline revealed *Poa norbergii* in the rocks next to a beach and *Rhododendron camtschaticum* was found in a muskeg just back from the beach.

Cultural/Heritage

12 historic and 10 prehistoric sites were identified from 61 surveys that covered 19.25 miles.