



# Crescent Creek Trail

Seward Ranger District, Chugach National Forest  
(907) 288-3178



**Recommended Uses**  
**Difficulty** Easy to moderate  
**Public Use** Moderate  
**Length (one way)** 6.2 miles

**USGS Map** Seward B7, C7, C8  
**Trip Time (one way)** 3-4 hours  
**Recommended Season** June-October  
**Elevation Gain** 940 feet

## Trail Access

Trailhead is at Mile 45, Sterling Highway, turn south onto Quartz Creek Road. Drive past Quartz Creek and Crescent Creek campgrounds to trailhead (Mile 3.3 Quartz Creek Road). *Trail is closed to saddle/pack stock from April 1 to June 30 and motorized vehicles from May 1 to November 30.* Miners with permits may use motorized vehicles on trail.

## Trail Grade/Condition

Level path with long gradual grades. Snow on trail often persists into late spring. Well maintained, though may be muddy in places. Downed trees can impede travel year round.

## Recreational Opportunities

Trail is suitable for family outings and day hiking. Trail follows Crescent creek gradually upward through birch-aspen forests. It climbs over a low ridge and drops into scenic Crescent Creek Canyon. Trail alternates between open meadows with many wildflowers, and forested areas. Two day trip with tent camping at Crescent Lake or stay in Crescent Lake Cabin (by reservation only). Crescent Lake lies just below tree line. Most good camping sites located near lake at designated campsites. For a longer hike it is 17.7 miles from the Crescent Creek trailhead to the Carter Lake trailhead via the Crescent Lake Primitive trail, which includes the Crescent Saddle cabin.

Wildlife includes moose, black and brown bears, and Dall sheep. Hunting for these species in designated seasons. Fishing for grayling is best in western half of Crescent Lake. Grayling are also in Crescent Creek. [Review Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(ADF&G\) hunting and fishing regulations.](#)

## Special Considerations

Winter travel beyond mile 2 is not recommended due to several Avalanche areas. The last 1.1 miles of Quartz CR Rd is not plowed in winter to the Trailhead. Summer access may be difficult on the Crescent Lake Primitive trail. Creek crossings at mile 0.3 and 6.3 (from Carter Lake end) do not have bridges and may be difficult to cross during high water. The primitive trail around Crescent Lake is not recommended for children, horse and bike due to difficult trail, tall grasses and brush that obscure travel.

Use caution with bear and moose. Giardia (a microscopic parasite that can infect warm-blooded animals and humans) could be present in all open water sources, filter surface water before drinking. Winter travel may be hazardous due to avalanches, thin lake ice, and white out conditions above tree line. Winter travelers need to be able to evaluate avalanche and over-ice travel hazards. Be prepared for rapid weather changes. Remember to pack out your trash. You can contact a U.S. Forest Service office to receive more detailed information on safety precautions and Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics.

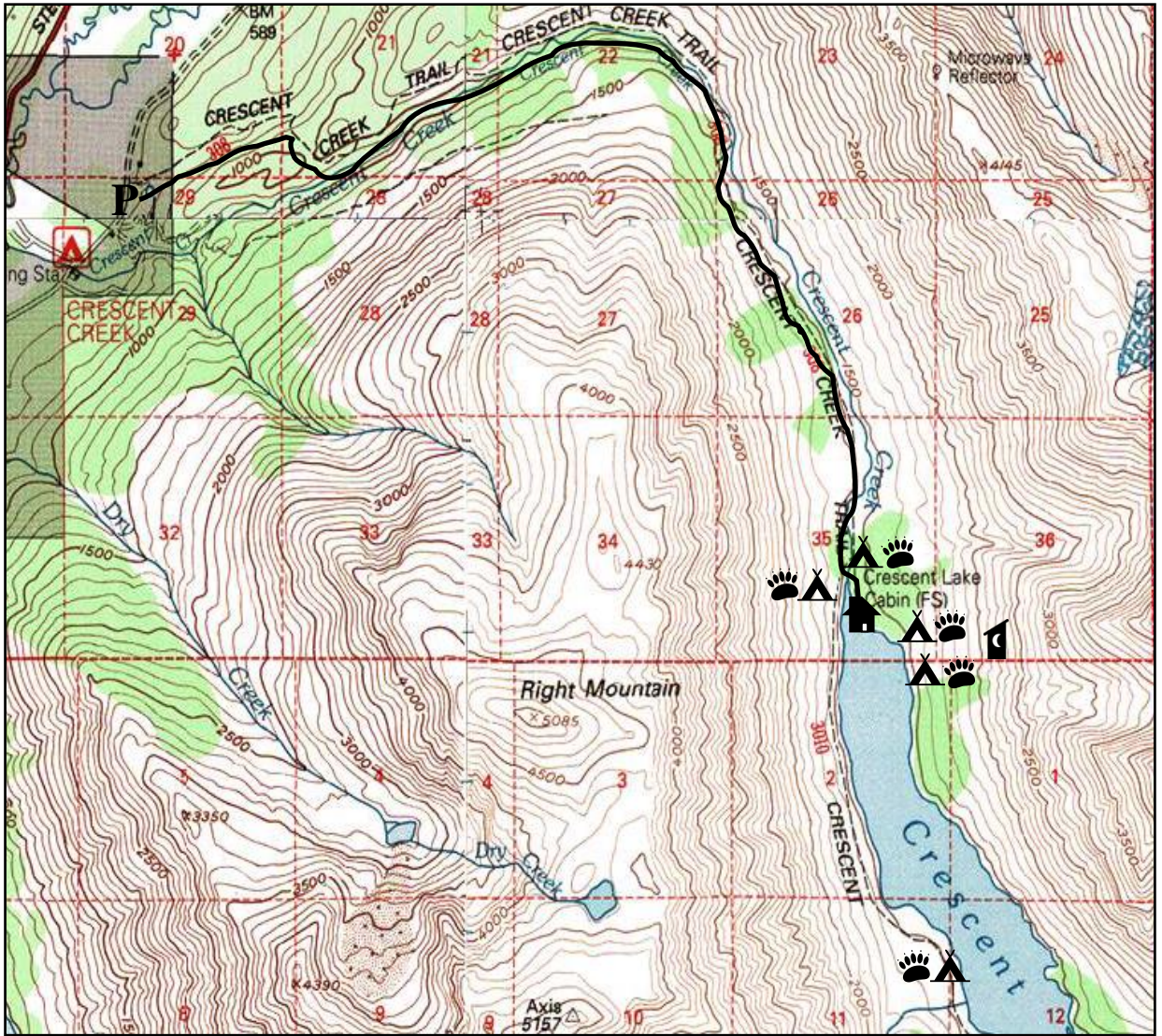
## Cabin Reservations

Occupancy of Forest Service cabins is by permit only. Reservations may be made up to 180 days in advance by calling 1-877-444-6777 or via the Internet at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).



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Map not to scale

## Designated Campsites

- Mile 6.2 N 60° 28' 40" W 149° 34' 32"
- Mile 6.3 N 60° 28' 32" W 149° 34' 22"
- Mile 0.1 Crescent Lake Trail N 60° 28' 25" W 149° 34' 37"
- Mile 2.1 Crescent Lake Trail N 60° 27' 12" W 149° 33' 39"

## Cabins

Crescent Lake Mile 6.3 N 60° 28' 35" W 149° 34' 28"

## LEGEND

-  Crescent Creek Trail
-  Trailhead Parking
-  Forest Service Cabin
-  Designated Campsite
-  Bear Box (food storage)
-  Backcountry Toilet