



File Code: 1950/2720

Date: March 27, 2012

Dear Friends of the Chugach National Forest:

In September 2004, a decision was made to authorize the expansion of Chugach Powder Guides' (CPG) helicopter skiing operations into Exploratory Units, geographic zones outside of their existing authorized areas (Core Units). See attached map. The use of Exploratory Units has been authorized annually under a special use permit. The decision also outlined that the amount of helicopter use would be monitored to determine whether or not there were noise or visual impacts to nearby communities.

Since 2004, use of the Exploratory Units has been minimal. This year CPG is planning to operate in the Mount Ascension, East Ptarmigan, and East Moose Creek units for a three week period from March 25 through April 14. Staging operations (fueling and loading/unloading clients) will be facilitated at the Seward Airport. CPG may also operate on State of Alaska land east of Seward, which is not under Forest Service jurisdiction.

We would like to give you notice of these operations and request public input. Specifically, we would like to know if helicopter operations cause visual or noise impacts in your community or impact your recreation experience in the Mount Ascension, East Ptarmigan or East Moose Creek areas. For example, we would like to know:

1. How you were affected (including any visual or noise impacts to your community)
2. The date and time of the interaction
3. Your location (e.g., Moose Pass, Seward, Mount Ascension)
4. How many people were in your group (if recreating)
5. What activity you were doing at the time (e.g., skiing, snow machining)

Comments can be called-in to: 907-754-2372 (through May 31, 2012), or sent to: tpaquet@fs.fed.us, or mailed to: Glacier Ranger District, Attn: Teresa Paquet, PO Box 129, Girdwood AK 99587. Comments can be submitted at any time, however they will be most helpful if submitted by May 31, 2012 to give us time to evaluate the information and make decisions on how to proceed for the 2013 season.

In addition, the Forest Service is concurrently monitoring CPG's use of the Mid and East Seattle Creek Exploratory Units (Pyramid Peak) and West Bench Peak Core Unit (west of Johnson Pass Trail and Lynx Creek) located off of the Seward Highway near Turnagain Pass. Specifically we are monitoring for user conflicts and requesting information regarding your winter recreation activities and encounters with heli-skiing operations during the 2012 season.

All comments are appreciated and will be reviewed. Those comments specifically addressing interactions with CPG's heli-skiing operations during the 2012 season, February thru April, will be utilized in the monitoring of CPG's permit and considered for future administrative and decision making process.

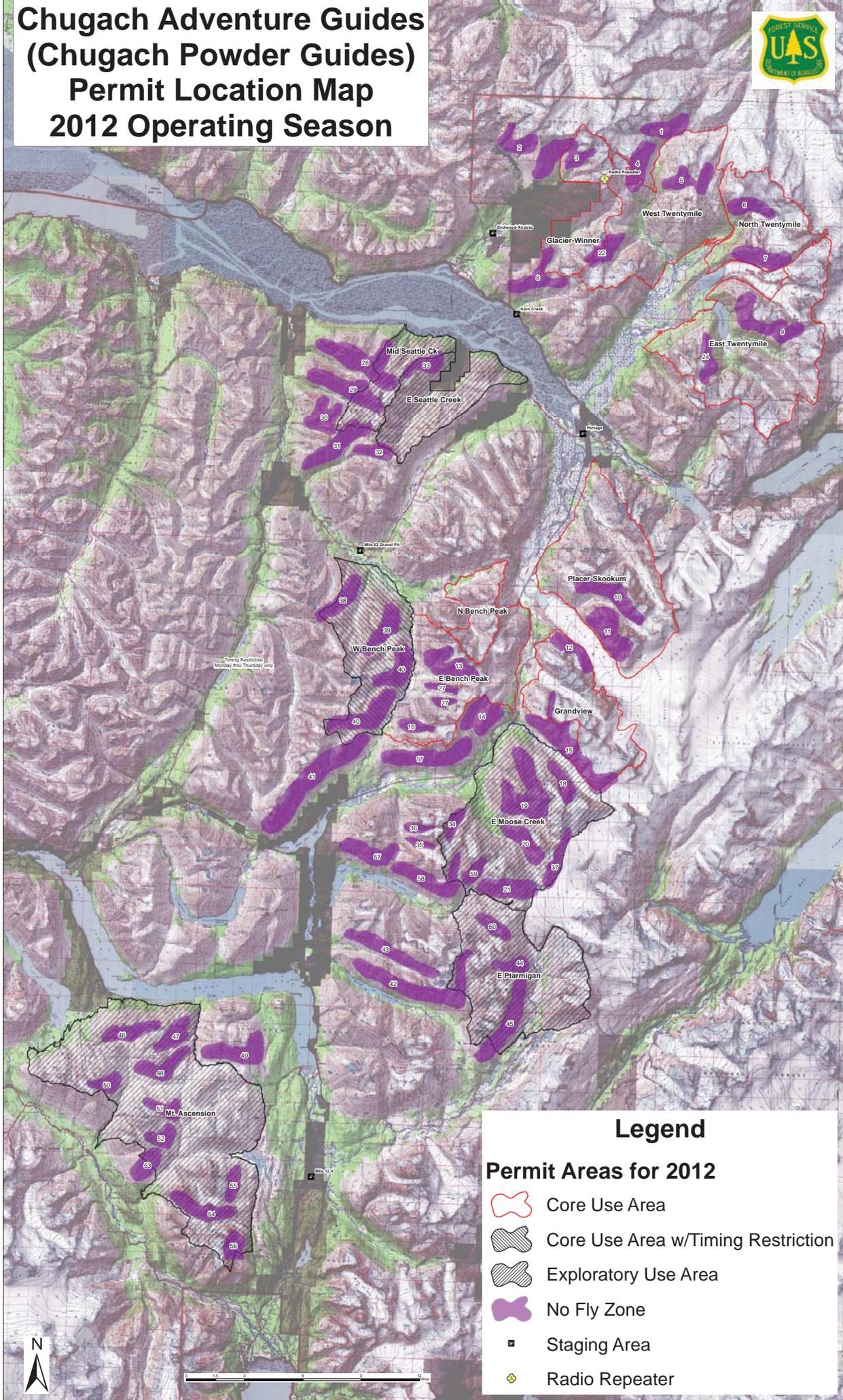
Sincerely,

/s/ Tim Charnon
TIM CHARNON
Glacier District Ranger

Enclosure (1): CPG Use Area Map

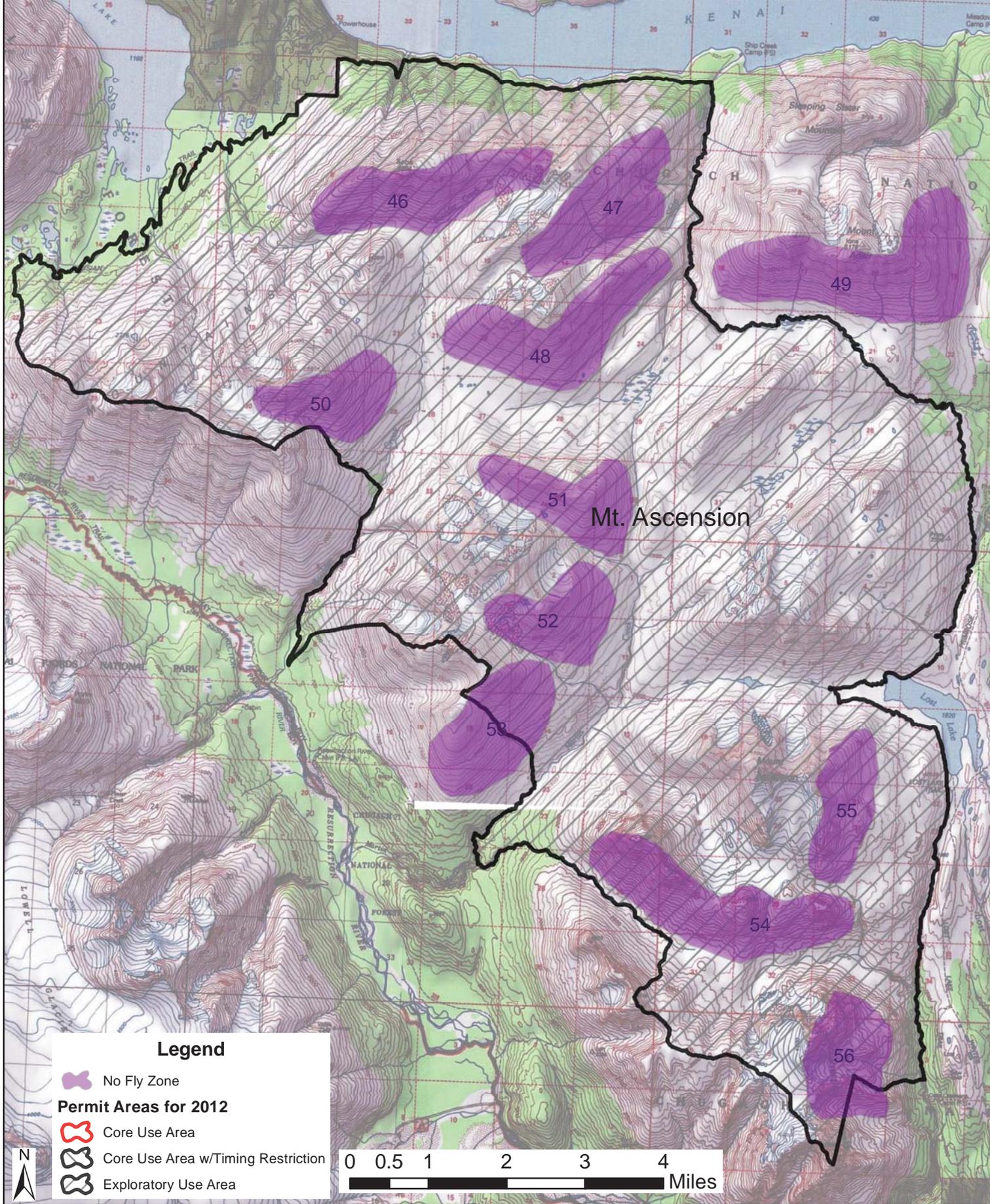


Chugach Adventure Guides (Chugach Powder Guides) Permit Location Map 2012 Operating Season





Chugach Adventure Guides (Chugach Powder Guides) Mt. Ascension Exploratory Area, 2012



Legend

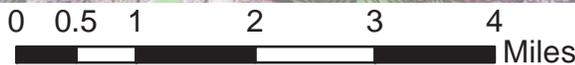
No Fly Zone

Permit Areas for 2012

Core Use Area

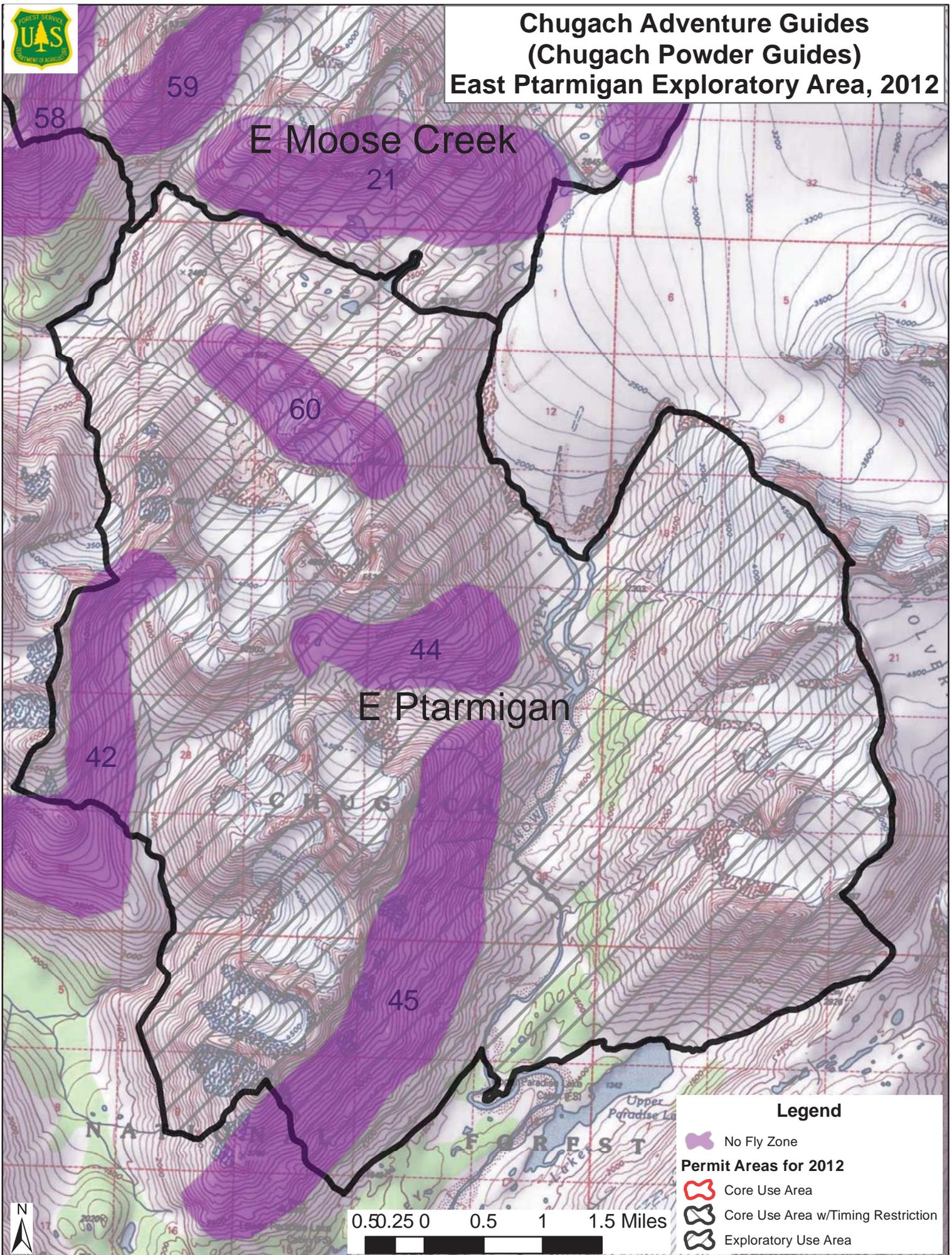
Core Use Area w/Timing Restriction

Exploratory Use Area





Chugach Adventure Guides (Chugach Powder Guides) East Ptarmigan Exploratory Area, 2012



Legend

-  No Fly Zone
- Permit Areas for 2012**
-  Core Use Area
-  Core Use Area w/Timing Restriction
-  Exploratory Use Area

0.50.25 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles



**Chugach Adventure Guides
(Chugach Powder Guides)
East Moose Creek Exploratory Area, 2012**

E Bench Peak

Grandview

E Moose Creek

E Ptarmigan

Legend

-  No Fly Zone
- Permit Areas for 2012**
-  Core Use Area
-  Core Use Area w/Timing Restriction
-  Exploratory Use Area

