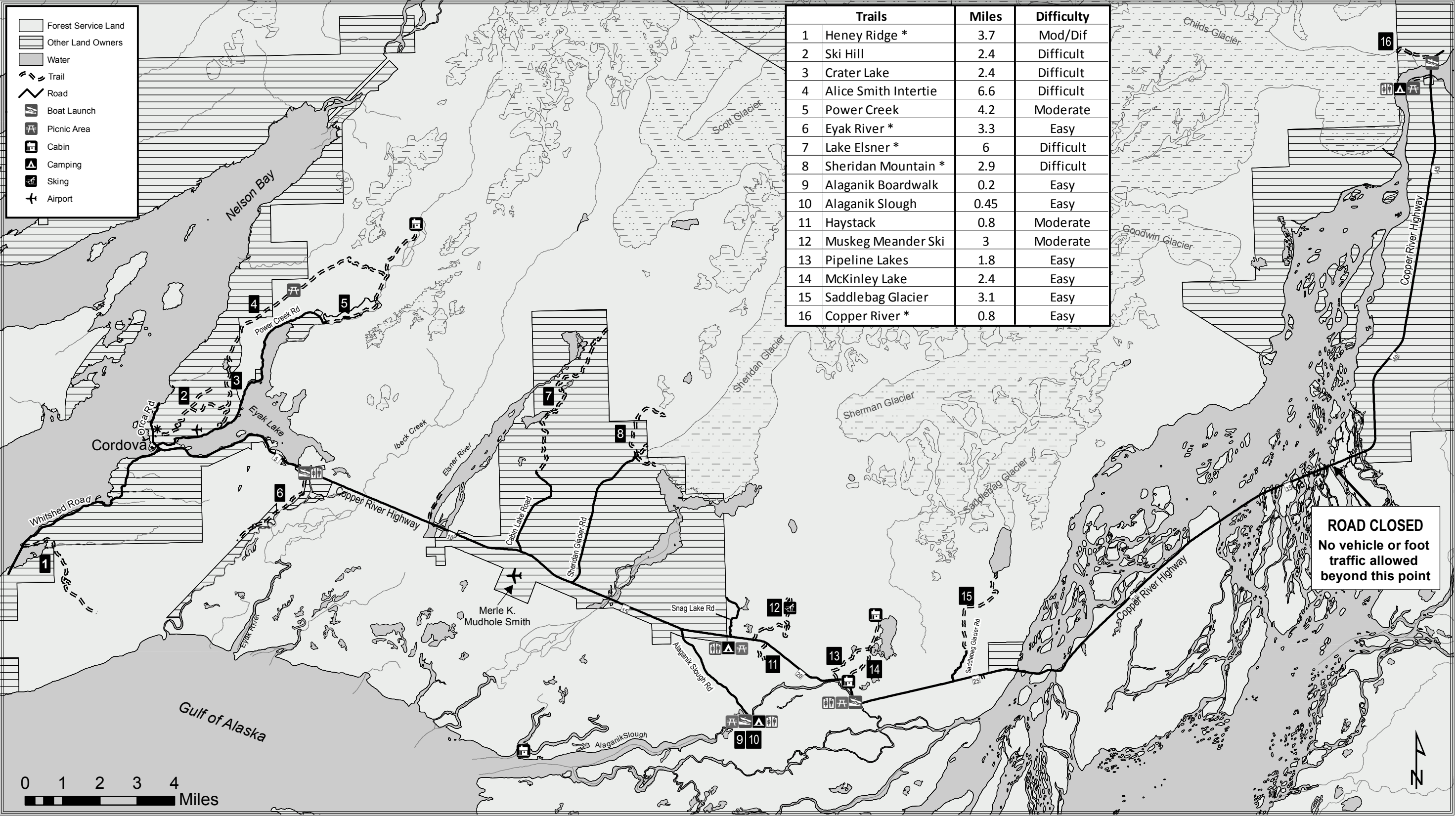


CORDOVA RANGER DISTRICT
HIKING TRAILS



(1) HENEY RIDGE TRAIL

Location: Whitshed Road mile 5.1
Elevation: 50 ft - 1850 ft (15m - 563m)
Length: 3.7 miles (5.9 km) **Time:** 5.5 hours r/t
Recommended Season: Summer, Fall **Use:** Medium
Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult
USGS Map(s): CORDOVA (B-5 & C-5)

The first section of trail follows the contour of Hartney Bay and offers excellent birdwatching and wildlife spotting opportunities. Spawning salmon may also be viewed from mid-July to August. The first mile of trail is a “17(b)” easement.* The next two miles moderately climb through spruce-hemlock forest and muskeg areas scattered with wild-flowers. The last mile is a steep climb onto Heney Ridge following rock cairns above treeline. Once on the ridge you are treated to spectacular views of the Copper River Delta, the Prince William Sound, and Kay-ak Island (on clear days). There are many unique wood structures to assist hikers with traversing the varied terrain. The trail is muddy and wet in places, especially after heavy rain.

(2) SKI HILL TRAIL (City trail)

Location: End of 6th Street at base of ski hill
Elevation: 400 ft - 2506 ft (120m - 763m)
Length: 2.4 miles (3.8 km) to top of Mt. Eyak **Time:** 4.5 hours r/t
Recommended Season: Summer, Fall **Use:** Heavy
Difficulty: Difficult **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (C-5)

The first mile and a half of this trail leads the hiker uphill over open rocky slopes, muskeg meadows, and spruce forest while offering incredible views of Orca Inlet and Eyak Lake. The trail then splits leaving a choice between walking around the south end of Mt. Eyak (approx 1.5 miles) to connect with the USFS Crater Lake Trail (3), or making the steep climb to the top for an excellent panoramic view.

(3) CRATER LAKE TRAIL

Location: Power Creek Road mile 1.5
Elevation: 40 ft - 1500 ft (12 m - 457m)
Length: 2.4 miles (3.9 km) **Time:** 4.5 hours r/t
Recommended Season: Summer, Fall **Use:** Heavy
Difficulty: Difficult **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (C-5)

This trail climbs a steep grade passing through mature spruce-hemlock forest to a picturesque alpine bowl where Crater Lake sits. The first half climbs over rough, rocky sections with numerous switch-backs, and muddy areas as well as wood bridges. The second half continues to climb, but at a gentler grade, through hillsides that are abundant with wildflowers during the summer months. A bench is provided midway up the trail for a great view of Eyak Lake. At 1.2 miles an intertie provides access to the Eyak Ski Hill Trail (2). At the lake the hiker has the option to access the Alice Smith Intertie (4) or climb Mt. Eyak. The entire loop from Crater Lake trailhead to Power Creek trailhead is 12 miles (approximate time is 10 - 12 hours).

(4) ALICE SMITH INTERTIE

Access #1: Via end of Crater Lake Trail (2.4 mile)
Access #2: Via Power Creek Trail (3.0 mile)
Elevation: From Crater Lake to Power Creek
1500 ft - 450 ft (457 m - 137 m), Ridge top 2000 ft.
Length: 6.6 miles (10.6 km) **Time:** 5 hours o/w
Recommended Season: Summer, Fall **Use:** Medium
Difficulty: Difficult **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (C-5)

This ridge route is marked with rock cairns and has extraordinary views of Prince William Sound, Eyak Lake, the Copper River Delta, and the surrounding Chugach Mountains. Approximately halfway on the ridge, a small shelter (amenities not included) is available for day-use or overnight camping on a first-come-first-serve basis. There is excellent berry picking along the loop as well as good possibilities of viewing bears and mountain goats. Be aware of dense fog that can obscure the trail. The entire loop from Crater Lake trailhead to Power Creek trailhead is 12 miles (approximate time is 10 - 12 hours).

(5) POWER CREEK TRAIL

Location: End of Power Creek Road mile 6.9
Elevation: 200 ft - 600 ft (61 m - 91 m)
Length: 4.2 miles (6.8 km) **Time:** 6 hours r/t
Recommended Season: Summer, Fall **Use:** Heavy
Difficulty: Moderate **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (C-5)

This trail follows the river through Power Creek drainage, then leads the hiker up several switchbacks. Midway, at the beginning of Surprise Valley, the recently built Cordova Electric Hydropower Dam can be seen. The last half of the trail follows the creek up the Power Creek Basin, passing by several beaver ponds and hanging glaciers to the Power Creek Cabin**. The cabin site has wonderful panoramic views of the valley and surrounding mountains. At mile 3.0 the Alice Smith Intertie accesses the Crater Lake Trail. The entire loop from Power Creek trailhead to Crater Lake trailhead is 12 miles.

(6) EYAK RIVER TRAIL

Location: Copper River Highway mile 5.7
Elevation: 60 ft - 20 ft (18 m - 6 m) **Time:** 5 hours r/t
Length: 3.3 miles (5.3 km) **Use:** Medium
Recommended Season: Spring, Summer, Fall
Difficulty: Easy **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (C-5)

This trail follows the west bank of the Eyak River for one quarter mile through mature Sitka spruce forest before opening into rolling muskeg meadows. At mile 1.5 the trail reunites with Eyak River for the remainder of the distance before reaching Mountain Slough. At the end of the trail the flora composition changes to a typical delta habitat of dense alder and grasses. This is a popular access site for anglers during the coho salmon season from August to mid-September. The trail is muddy and wet in places, especially after heavy rain. Portions of this trail are “17(b)” easements.*

(7) LAKE ELSNER TRAIL

Location: Via Copper River Highway to mile 12.1. Turn north on Cabin Lake Road. Follow main road 2.8 miles to the end.
Elevation: 200 ft - 300 ft (61 m - 91 m)
Length: 6.0 miles (9.7 km) **Time:** 9 hours r/t
Recommended Season: Summer, Fall **Use:** Light
Difficulty: Difficult **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (C-4)

This lightly sloping trail parallels the east side of the Scott Valley and passes the shores of several small and large lakes. The trail passes through previously logged areas with little maintenance work from beginning to end. The entire trail is a “17(b)” easement.*

(8) SHERIDAN MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Location: Via Copper River Highway to mile 13.7. Turn north on Sheridan Glacier Rd. Follow main road 4.3 miles to the end.
Elevation: 200 ft - 2280 ft (61 m - 694 m)
Length: 2.9 miles (4.7 km) **Time:** 4.5 hours r/t
Recommended Season: Summer, Fall **Use:** Light
Difficulty: Difficult **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (C-4)

This moderately-steep trail begins in a spruce-hemlock forest and follows a stream that provides resting spots with views of waterfalls. Midway, the landscape transitions into a shrub habitat before opening into a small picturesque alpine basin. From this basin rock cairns guide the hiker to the top of a nearby ridge that offers commanding views of the Sheridan and Sherman Glaciers, as well as, the Copper River Delta. This trail has intermittent boardwalk covering much of the wet, muddy areas in the lower sections, and little tread work on the upper sections. The first 1.9 miles is a “17(b)” easement.*

r/t - round trip o/w - one way

Forest Service regulations prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on these trails to prevent excessive soil erosion and to provide a safer, more desirable foot trail for hikers.

(9) PETE ISLIEB MEMORIAL (ALAGANIK) BOARDWALK

Location: Via Copper River Highway to mile 16.9. Turn south on Alaganik Slough Rd. Follow main road 3 miles to the end.
Elevation: 50 ft (15m)
Length: 900 ft (300 m) **Use:** Heavy
Recommended Season: Year round
Difficulty: Easy **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (B-4)

This wheelchair accessible boardwalk crosses an area of delta adjacent to Alaganik Slough. It then leads to an elevated viewing platform that provides a unique perspective of the delta and views of the Chugach Mountains. Interpretive signs provide information on the delta wildlife and habitat. There are excellent birdwatching opportunities in early summer. The Alaganik Recreation Area includes: 5 picnic sites (1 accessible), restrooms, bear proof trashcans, parking areas, and information panels.

(10) ALAGANIK SLOUGH TRAIL

Location: Via Copper River highway to mile 16.9. Turn south on Alaganik Slough Rd. Follow main road 2.9 miles. Trail head is on East side of road.
Elevation: 50 ft (15 m) **Time:** 40 min r/t
Length: .45 mile (.3 km) **Use:** Medium
Recommended Season: Spring, Summer, Fall

Difficult: Easy **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (B-4)
The first half is made of GeoBlock, a hard plastic material allowing the hiker to walk over the fragile wetlands without negative impact on vegetation and soil. Midway, a split log bridge provides easy crossing over a narrow stream. The last half is boardwalk following the bank of the Alaganik Slough, and ends at a bench offering hikers a place to sit and relax. In June wildflowers are abundant, especially irises. This is a popular access site for anglers during the coho salmon season from August to mid-September. Interpretive signs provide information on the natural cycles of the delta.

(11) HAYSTACK TRAIL

Location: Copper River Highway mile 19.2
Elevation: 50 ft - 150 ft (15 m - 45 m) **Time:** 1.2 hours r/t
Length: .8 miles (1.3 km) **Use:** Medium
Recommended Season: Spring, Summer, Fall
Difficulty: Moderate **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (B-4)
This short, mostly boardwalk trail winds through spruce-hemlock forest to a knoll overlooking the Copper River Delta. From this spectacular vantage point one may view the Gulf of Alaska, Kayak Island and many species of wildlife, especially trumpeter swans and moose. The trail has several log staircases. Benches on the trail and at the end offer a place to rest and relax.

(12) MUSKEG MEANDER SKI TRAIL

Location: Copper River Highway mile 18.8
Elevation: 50 ft - 350 ft (15 m - 105 m)
Length: 3.0 miles (4.8 km) **Use:** Light
Recommended Season: Winter
Difficulty: Moderate **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (B-4)
This cross-country ski trail weaves through many muskegs and short sections of forest. It gains elevation gradually and ends in a high muskeg overlooking the Copper River Delta, Heney Range, and the Gulf of Alaska. **The trail is very wet during spring, summer and fall, and is not a hiking trail.**

***17 (b) easements provide access to public lands, granted through ANCSA part 17(b), through privately owned lands of the Alaska Native Corporations. Please respect private property rights by staying on the trails and do not trespass. Activities in this area i.e. berry picking, picnicking, temporary camping, etc. require a permit from the Eyak Corporation (P# 424-7161).**

(13) PIPELINE LAKES TRAIL

Access #1: Copper River Highway mile 21.4
Access #2: Via McKinley Lake Trail
Elevation: 50 ft - 100 ft (15 m - 30 m) **Time:** 2.7 hours r/t
Length: 1.8 miles (2.9 km) **Use:** Medium
Recommended Season: Spring, Summer, Fall
Difficulty: Easy **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (B-4)

Most of this trail is boardwalk. The first 3/4 mile passes through dense spruce-hemlock forest before opening up into muskeg meadows that offer impressive views of the Chugach Mountains. Short spur trails provide fishing access to five small lakes with populations of cutthroat trout up to 12 inches in length. At the junction with the McKinley Lake trail there is an option of returning to the highway or continuing north to McKinley Lake cabin.

(14) McKINLEY LAKE TRAIL

Access #1: Copper River Highway mile 21.6
Access #2: Via Pipeline Lakes Trail
Elevation: 50 ft - 60 ft (15 m - 18 m) **Time:** 3.6 hours r/t
Length: 2.4 miles (3.9 km) **Use:** Heavy
Recommended Season: Spring, Summer, Fall

Difficulty: Easy **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (B-4)
This well-maintained trail winds its way through mature spruce-hemlock forest and ends at the north end of McKinley Lake. Several bridges allow hikers easy crossing over small streams. This trail also provides access to two public use recreation cabins: McKinley **Trail** Cabin *(100 yards beyond the trailhead sign); and McKinley **Lake** Cabin ** at the end of the trail. A rough, unmaintained trail continues and for 1/4 mile past the lake cabin accesses the remains of the Lucky Strike Mine. Interpretive signs guide the visitors through the history and remains of the abandoned mine and mining camp. Midway, Pipeline Lakes Trail joins McKinley Trail for an optional loop.

(15) SADDLEBAG GLACIER TRAIL

Location: Via Copper River Highway to mile 24.6. Turn north on firewood cutting road. Trailhead is 1 mile at end of road.
Elevation: 100 ft - 200 ft (30 m - 61 m)
Length: 3.1 miles (5 km) **Time:** 4.5 hours r/t
Recommended Season: year round **Use:** Light
Difficulty: Easy **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (B-4)

This well-drained, level trail winds its way through stands of cottonwood and spruce trees, and guides the hiker through a small, glaciated valley to the outlet of Saddlebag Lake. Split log bridges at several small stream crossings aide the hiker during high water periods. From the lake outlet, Saddlebag Glacier can be viewed at the far end of the lake. Mountain goats can often be spotted on the cliffs on either side. The lake usually has icebergs near the outlet.

(16) COPPER RIVER TRAIL

Location: Copper River Highway mile 48 at Million Dollar Bridge Information area.
Elevation: 200 ft (61 m) **Time:** 1 hour r/t
Length: 0.8 miles (1 km)
Recommended Season: Summer, Fall
Difficulty: Easy **USGS Map(s):** CORDOVA (C2 & 3)
WARNING: Due to an unstable bridge at 36 mile on the Copper River Highway, the Dept. of Transportation is not allowing any vehicles or foot traffic beyond this point. This trail follows an old road along the Copper River where excellent views of the glacier can be seen at many sections. The hiker first enters thick vegetation, then parallels the river until reaching the Childs Glacier Recreation Area.

****Cabins are available for use through the National Recreation Reservation Service: www.ReserveUSA.com 1-877-444-6777.**