



Trail Conditions Report

Kachemak Bay State Park

Overall Conditions: **HALIBUT COVE LAGOON DOCK RAMP HAS BEEN LOWERED FOR THE SUMMER.** Expect overgrown and muddy trail conditions on majority of the trails. **Trail Signs:** Signage at trail junctions could be misleading and/or missing. **Known signs that are missing or misleading are:** Poot Peak North/Wosnesenski River Jct; Poot Peak South/Wosnesenski River Jct. **OUTERSPATIAL APP!!** Download the app and maps before going into the park! Can be used in the field without a cell signal.



Drones are incompatible in the following areas: Grewingk Glacier, Halibut Cove Lagoon/China Poot Lake/China Poot Bay, Tutka Lagoon, Petrof Lake, Diamond Cr. SRA, Eveline SRA, the northern portion of Cottonwood Eastland Unit and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park

****Trail Condition Terms****

- Clear: No obstacles and tread well defined, moderate grades - Green
- Clear > Passable: Some brush and/or deadfalls, tread evident, moderate to steep grades - Yellow
- Passable > Difficult: Brushy and/or many deadfalls, evident to faint tread, steep grades - Orange
- Difficult > Impassable: Very brushy to completely overgrown, many deadfalls, tread faint/obliterated, steep grades - Red

* See General information & Announcements

Alpine Ridge:	O	Difficult: Expect brushy, muddy, and slippery conditions.
Blue Ice Trail:	O	Passable: This trail is accessed from the Emerald Lake Loop Trail.
China Poot Lake Trail:	Y	Passable: Flooded area at mile 2*. Water depth can be up to knees with mucky bottom, depending upon rainfall. China Poot Lake Cabin might not be accessible by foot for some users. Use caution if crossing. Expect Helicopter operations on Sept. 27th. Please read General Info. And Announcements for more detail.
Coalition Trail:	Y	Passable: Expect brushy conditions near China Poot Bay Trailhead. 3 trees across the trail. Reported: Balck bear hanging around China Poot Bay Yurt huffing and swatting. Not afraid of large groups with dogs, and will not leave the area. Please read General Info. And Announcements for more detail.
Coalition Loop Trail:	R	Difficult>Impassable. IMPASSABLE TO THE FALLS. DO NOT HIKE TO FALLS. (Trail adopted by Boy Scout Troop 555)
Diamond Creek Trail:	O	Passable: Trail is extremely muddy and slippery. Sluffing events have deposited soft sediment within the trail corridor. The trail tread has cracks developing and Dimond Creek river is undercutting the slope stability. Please avoid walking on the edge of the trail due to a possible landslide event and take caution when hiking with pets and children. Conditions can worsen after a rain event.
Emerald Lake Loop Trail:	R	Impassable: NOT RECOMMENDED TO HIKE TO EMERALD LAKE. Grewingk Tram to Blue Ice Trail: Multiple trees down on Foen Ridge and will get confusing as the vegetation grows. Blue Ice Jct. to Emerald Lake: IMPASSABLE: Many large blowdowns and overgrown from Grewingk Lake/Blue Ice Trail Jct. to Emerald Lake. Humpy Cr to Grewingk Tram-Clear: Trail becomes flooded during heavy rains near the tram. Please be bear aware. Humpy Cr. to Emerald Lake via Portlock Plateau-Passable: Expect brushy conditions as the summer progresses.
Estuary Trail:	G	Clear: .



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Kachemak Bay State Park

Glacier Lake Trail		G Clear: Reported 7/24/23: Black bear sow with 2 cubs encountered within 1/2 mile of Glacier Spit Trailhead. Reminder: No discharge of firearms within a 1/4 mile radius of a developed facility. This includes the Grewingk Lake day use and camping areas, trailheads, trail junctions, and the Grewingk Tram. Please see General Info. and Announcements*
Goat Rope Trail:		R Difficult: Unknown Conditions
Grace Ridge Trail:		Y Passable: Expect brushy conditions in sub-alpine. Please be bear aware.
Grewingk Tram Spur Trail:		G Clear: Please be bear aware.
Grewingk Tram		O Open Challenging. Suggest 2 people and gloves for operation * Depending upon individual upper body strength, pulling the cart across can be strenuous.
Lagoon Trail:		R Difficult/Unknown Conditions. There is no bridge across Halibut Cr. Ford at your own risk.
Mallard Bay Trail:		R Impassable:
Mallard/Emerald Conn. Trail		R CLOSED/IMPASSABLE
Moose Valley Trail:		O Passable: To the Moose Valley Cabin. Difficult From Moose Valley Cabin to Poot Peak Trail: Expect very brushy/overgrown conditions as the summer progresses.
Poot Peak Trail: North Route		R Difficult. Expect a fall line alignment, hiking straight up the flank. There are no trail junction signs here with the Wosensenski River Trail.
Poot Peak Trail: South Route		R Difficult > Impassable: Expect very brushy conditions. There are no trail junction signs with the Wosensenski River Trail. Impassable: From Moose Valley Trail to Summit route. DO NOT HIKE.
Poot Peak Trail: Summit Route		R Difficult. Very brushy with approx. 14 tress down. Steep climb up scree slope and there is a short climb to the actual summit. Rock is unstable near the summit.
Saddle Trail:		G Clear: Bears are eating Devil Club berries along the switchbacks. Report of unafraid black bear near the top of the switchbacks. 7/31/23: Report of black bear sow with 2 cubs. Please use caution if encountered and give her and the cubs space to move out of the area before continuing along the trail. Please be bear aware. Please see General Info. and Announcements*
Sadie Knob Trail:		Y Clear: (Opened by volunteers with Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park)
Sentinel Ridge		R NOT RECOMMENDED TO HIKE: Due to additional construction needs in fragile sub-alpine areas, we are asking the public to refrain from hiking Sentinel Ridge. Please read Gen. Info and Announcements for additional information or follow the link. http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/kenai/pdf/tutkapublicnotice.pdf
Tutka Backdoor		R NOT RECOMMENDED TO HIKE: Due to additional construction needs in fragile sub-alpine areas, we are asking the public to refrain from hiking Tutka Backdoor. Please read Gen. Info and Announcements for additional information or follow the link. http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/kenai/pdf/tutkapublicnotice.pdf
Tutka Hatchery Spur Trail:		Y Clear:
Tutka – Jakolof Trail:		Y Passable: Trail traverses through an old forest clearing and can be obscured on the Jackalof Bay end.
Tutka Lake Trail:		Y Clear:



Trail Conditions Report

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Wosnesenski River Trail:

R

Difficult: Several trees across the trail between China Poot Lake and Poot Peak North Trail jct. **Not Recommended to Hike:** Between Poot Peak North Trail jct. to 3 miles from Haystack Rock. **An overflow channel has made the Wosnesenski River Trail impassable 3 miles from Haystack Rock to mile 9.**



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General Information and Announcements

Please contact us to report problems, file complaints, or complements at 907-235-7024 or 907-262-5581. Email: eric.clarke@alaska.gov , carter.forney@alaska.gov ,and jason.okuly@alaska.gov

Advisory: Trails in KBSP are rough, with steep grades in places, and in some cases only marked routes. It is advisable to add 1/3 to your average hiking time. Use a current map locating trails. **Halibut Cove Lagoon Dock: The ramp has been lowered for the summer.** Please store kayaks, rafts, etc. under the ramp or on the beach at the bottom of the stairs. **Trail Signs:** Trail junction signs could be misleading and/or missing. **Known signs that are missing or misleading are:** Poot Peak North/Wosnesenski River Jct; Poot Peak South/Wosnesenski River Jct.

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LEAVE NO TRACE: Please practice Leave No Trace Ethics while hiking and camping. **PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN.**
THANKS!!!

Drones: Drone use is incompatible, in accordance to the new management plan, in all Recreational Development and Wilderness Zones, which include the following areas: Grewingk Valley SW of Grewingk Creek, Halibut Cove Lagoon; China Poot Bay and Lake; Tutka Bay Lagoon; Majority of the Tutka Backdoor Trail; Portions of Sentinel Ridge Trail; Petrof Lake; Diamond Creek SRA; Eveline SRA; and the northern end of Cottonwood/Eastland portion of the park. These areas are colored Orange and Green on the map. Link to the map below

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/plans/kbay/2022/kbay-2022-map06.pdf>

Hunting: Hunting is allowed year around, per AK Fish and Game Regulations, with in Kachemak Bay State Park. However, no discharge of firearms are allowed within a 1/4 mile radius of a developed facility. This includes campsites, day use areas, trailheads, trail junctions, public use cabins, Ranger Stations, and the Grewingk Tram.

Grewingk Tram: The tram spans approximately 300 feet across Grewingk Cr. A minimum of two people in party, one assisting by remaining on the platforms to pull on the rope, reversing process when first person across completes trip. Depending upon individual upper body strength, pulling the cart across can be strenuous. Gloves are recommended. **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

Saddle Trail: Bears are eating Devil Club berries along the switchbacks of the Saddle Trail. Report of unafraid black bear near the top of the switchbacks. 7/31/23: Report of black bear sow with 2 cubs. Please use caution if encountered and give her and the cubs space to move out of the area before continuing along the trail. **Please be bear aware and report all stress, aggressive, and predatory related behavior, including interactions with sows and their cubs.**

China Poot Lake Trail: Flooded area at mile 2*: Water levels can be up to knee high with a mucky bottom, and can change depending upon fall rains. There is a log bridge located up stream from where the existing trail meets the flooded area. Follow the cleared path, off to the left. The bridge only crosses the main channel. China Poot Lake Cabin is not in the flooded area. The cabin can be accessible by float plane also. Moose Valley Creek has changed course permanently and until the new channel is entrenched and stable, continuing flooding is expected. **Helicopter Operations:** Expect helicopter sling load operations to occur near the China Poot Lake Cabin on Sept. 27 2023. Bridge materials are being flown in for the flooded area. Construction of the bridges will start beginning of June 2024



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Kachemak Bay State Park

Black Bears: **Reported 8/11/23, China Poot Bay Trailhead/Yurt:** Group of 7 with 3 dogs encountered a black bear that would not leave the area during their 2 day stay at the yurt Monday and Tuesday 8/7-8/23. The bear came within 10 yards, huffing and swatting. The group yelled and threw rocks, but the bear would not leave. **Reported 7/31/23:** Black bear sow with 2 cubs along the Saddle Trail. There has been multiple sightings of her along the Glacier Lake and Saddle Trails. She has huffed at hikers, has not moved off the trail, and has acted normally, no stress signs. However, this situation can deteriorate very quickly in the future if she continues to stay in the area. Please report all sightings of her and the cubs State Parks.. Please be bear aware. Keep food in bear proof containers or with you. While hiking, give them their space if encountered. **They are becoming more human habituated and large groups DO NOT scare them off. Especially if cubs are involved. We ask the public to back away the direction you came, til out of sight, and wait until they move off the trail and away. This could take 20-30 minutes and possibly longer if there are cubs involved and they show signs of stress with human activity. These signs are moaning, huffing/woofing, jaw popping, stomping, and following.** Please be bear aware while hiking and report all stress related, aggressive and predatory behaviors and/or encounters. 907-399-2054, 907-756-3851, or 907-435-7595. If contact from a charge and/or mauling occur, call 911.

Brown Bears:

Tutka Backdoor and Sentinel Ridge Routes: Due to ongoing trail construction needs coupled with the increase of impacts to sensitive soils in sub-alpine/alpine areas, and to curb further impacts to these areas, Kachemak Bay State Park is encouraging the public not to hike these routes/trails at this time. For more information, follow the link below. Thank you for your cooperation.

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/kenai/pdf/tutkapublicnotice.pdf>