



## Hiking Trail

**Difficulty:** Moderate / Strenuous

**Total Elevation Gain:** Approx. 900 ft.

**Special Features:** Granite outcrops, rock climbing area for experienced and equipped climbers.

### Trail Description:

A 3.5 mile loop trail leads to large granite outcroppings near the north boundary of the recreation area. It is an easy day hike for most people, as the top of the rocks is less than two miles from the trailhead.

The trail begins at milepost 48.9 Chena Hot Springs road. Turn right just before the bridge and follow the trail upstream from the parking lot along the North Fork of the Chena River. Keep right at the fork in the trail. After passing a small stream bubbling over mossy rocks, at about mile 1.25, the trail turns sharply uphill for a short distance before coming to Overlook Rock. It starts a moderately steep ascent, passing by many granite outcrops before emerging onto the ridge top.

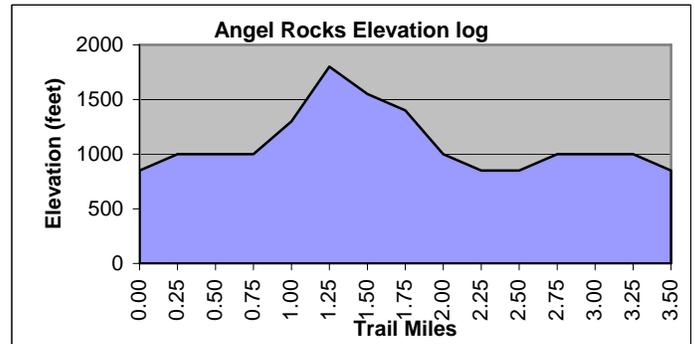
At this point you have four choices:

1. Return on the same trail
2. Continue down the steep unimproved trail through the rocks on the north ridge and down to the base of the hill. Look for the wooden hiker sign on the left and follow along the small slough to the fork mentioned above and back to the trailhead.
3. Scramble on up the hill to the treeless alpine ridge for views of the Alaska Range, Chena Dome, Far Mountain and the Butte.
4. Continue on to the Chena Hot Springs Resort. (see separate trail handout: Angel Rocks to Chena Hot Springs)

### Features:

The granite outcrops (tors) were formed millions of years ago when molten rock pushed upward, cooling before reaching the surface. The surrounding earth has slowly eroded, exposing the harder rock pinnacles.

Hikers will find some interesting plant communities along the trail, especially in July. Look for broomrape and witches-brooms near the first part of the trail, and purple and yellow violets along the stream. Sage, poppies, arnica, and dogbone can be found on steep, south-facing slopes. On north-facing slopes, you'll find completely different vegetation. Plants such as moss campion, saxifrage and bunchberries thrive in the damp coolness found there. These plants are remnants of the vegetation that covered the interior 10,000 to 20,000 years ago during the Pleistocene era.

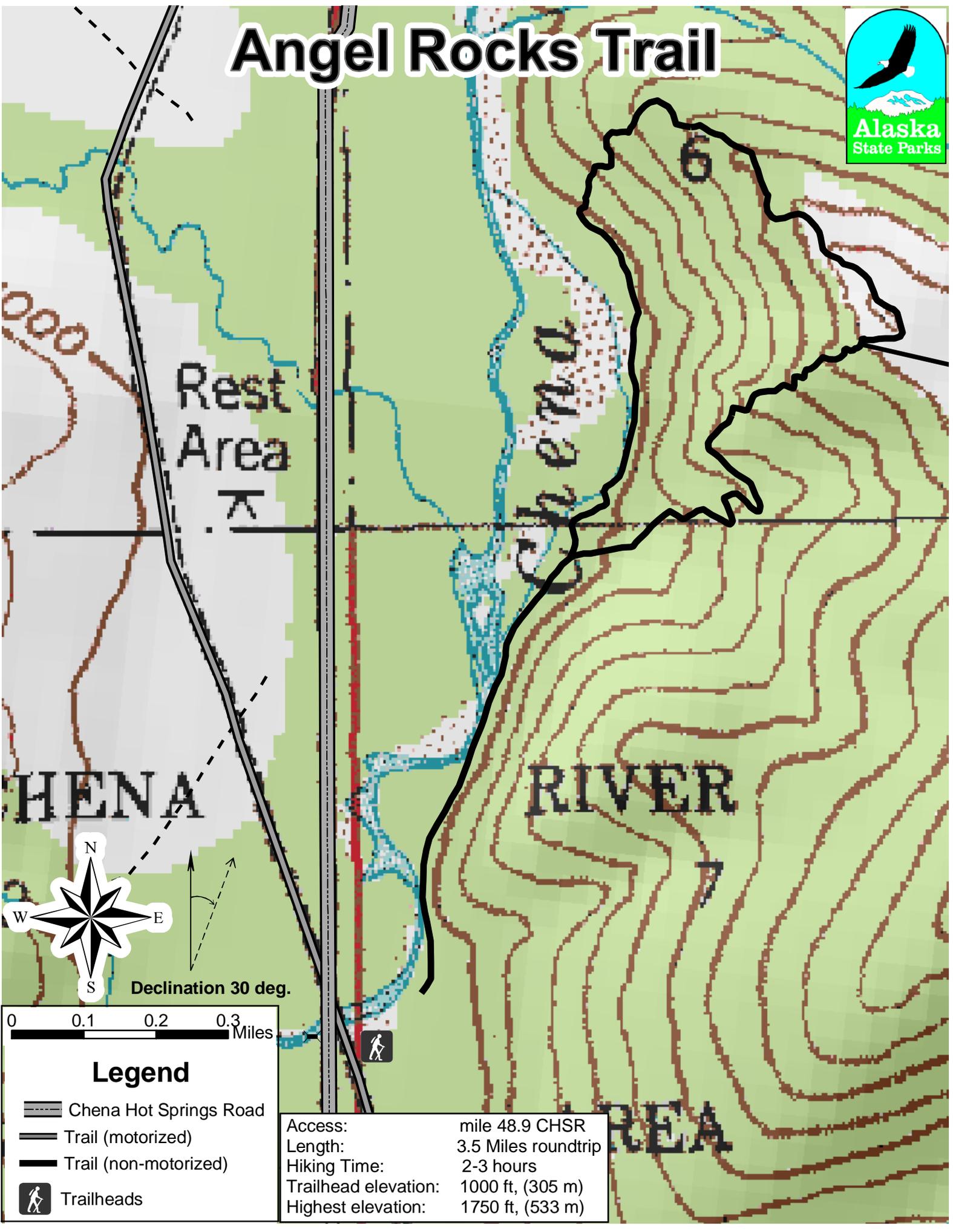


### Cautions and Rules:

- Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Portions of the trail are steep and rocky, and can be treacherous. Wear suitable footwear.
- Weather can change rapidly; carry raingear warm clothes, and be prepared.
- Water sources may be unreliable and unsafe. Carry at least one day's supply of water.
- Mosquitoes and gnats are abundant in summer; carry insect repellent.
- Fires must be confined to designated fire pits or gravel bars, except in case of emergency. Use a portable stove for heat and cooking in the backcountry.
- Vehicles including mountain bikes are prohibited.
- Minimize your impact on the area; camp away from the trail, pack out what you pack in, and bury human waste away from the trail.
- Shortcutting of switchbacks accelerates erosion and kills fragile vegetation. Please stay on the trail.
- Target practice is not allowed in the Recreation Area except at the mile 36.5 shooting range. The discharge of weapons is allowed only for the lawful taking of game.
- Disturbing or gathering natural materials is prohibited in the Recreation Area, except for berries, mushrooms, and similar edibles for personal use.
- Stay alert and cautious of any trapping activities in the area, traps and bait may be located near trails. Children and pets should be monitored closely.

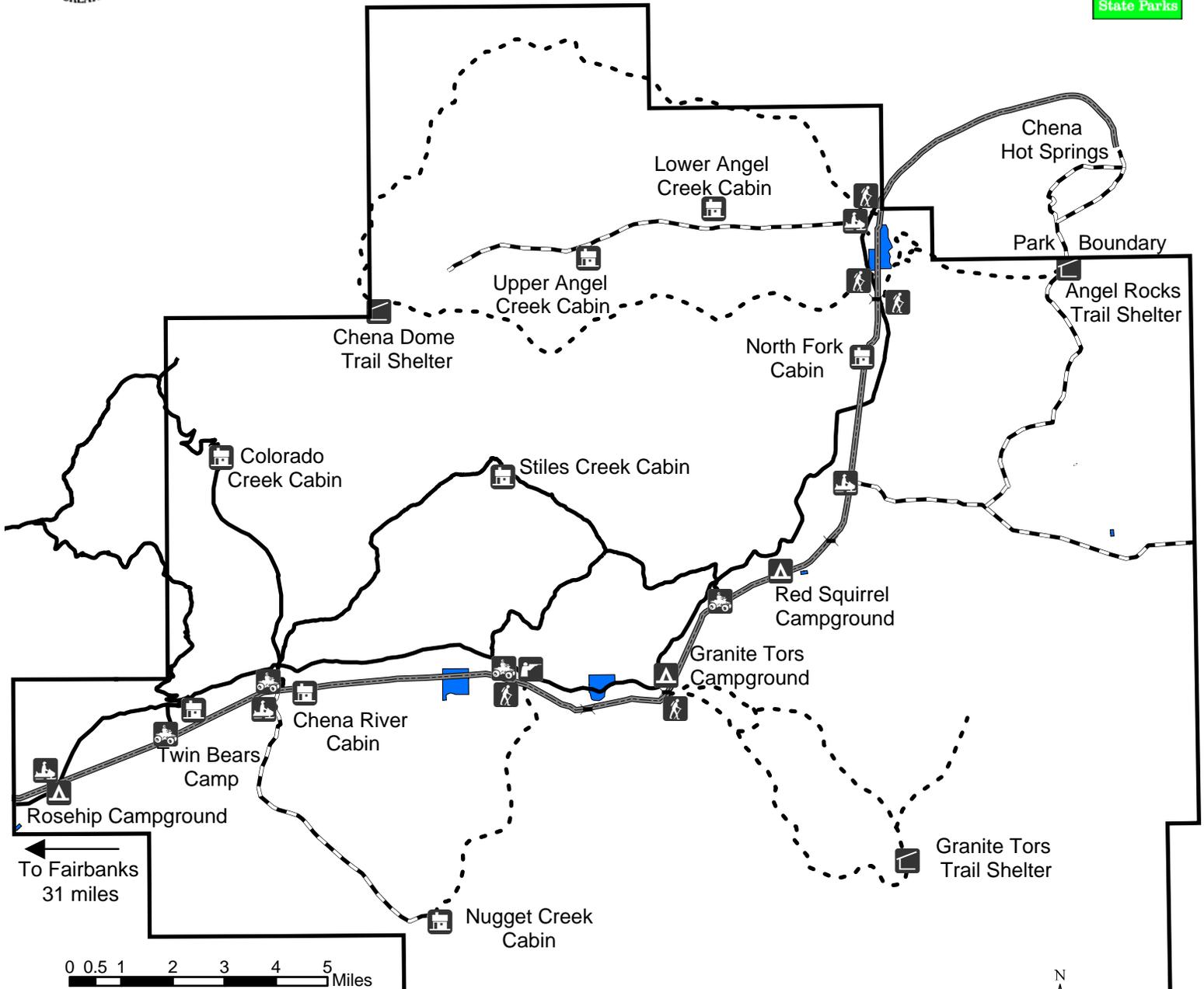


# Angel Rocks Trail



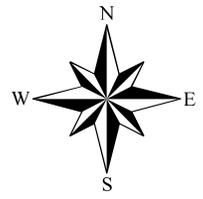


# Chena River State Recreation Area

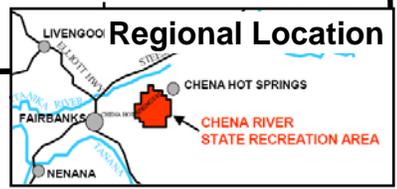


**Legend**

Chena Hot Springs Road	Cabins
Motorized Trail	Shelters
Winter-motorized Trail	Campgrounds
Trail (non-motorized)	Non-motorized Trailheads
Military Land (permit needed)	Motorized Trailheads
Private Property	Winter Trailheads
Bridges	Shooting Range



TAS 10/05/2006



Map is intended for reference only.