# **Know Before** You Go

Visit the BLM-Alaska Recreation Web site for more details: https://www.blm.gov/visit

Get BLM-Alaska's recreation brochures, maps and recreation information on-line, at a BLM offi ce, or at an Alaska Public Lands Information Center (APLIC).

## **Safety Guidelines and Information**

- Be prepared, plan ahead.
- Check out your destination for weather, terrain, wildlife, and cell phone coverage which can be unpredictable.
- Never travel alone.
- Leave your plans and schedule with someone before you go.
- Understand the safety guidelines for your recreational activities, especially for water, wilderness, and recreation equipment.
- Bring gear and supplies for an emergency, including a first aid kit. Know the basics of wilderness first aid.
- Think before you drink! Open water sources are not safe and should be brought to a boil for at least 1 minute. Learn about waterborne parasites and giardia infection

## **Outdoor Ethics**

Pack it in, pack it out. Help care for your favorite recreation sites, facilities, and public lands while you enjoy them. Simple steps can make a big difference. Practice Leave No Trace principles, or volunteer for an event.

Learn more about outdoor ethics at www.blm.gov/outdoorethics.

Explore our volunteer opportunities at www.blm.gov/get-involved/volunteers.

## Permits

Special Recreation Permits are for organizations and individuals who commercially or competitively use public lands and their waters.

For more information on how to obtain a special recreation permit for commercial use or for a special event, contact the local field office where your event is proposed.

Note: Large groups using a river or trail may require a permit; call the appropriate BLM field office ahead of time to check.

# Find adventure on your National System of Public Lands!

# Trails 👬 🐼 🕰 🥳

Steese National Conservation Area NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

The 1.2-million-acre Steese National Conservation Area includes Birch Creek National Wild River, important caribou range and calving grounds, and Dall sheep habitat. The Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail skirts its edge. Big Windy Hot Springs and Mount Prindle glaciated alpine regions are natural research and education areas. There are no established campgrounds. Winter and summer routes into the area are unmaintained and unmarked. Popular summer activities include hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildlife viewing, bird-watching, midnight sun viewing, canoeing, rafting, fishing, and rock climbing. In winter, you can move through an untouched landscape by skiing, snowshoeing, snowmachining, or dog mushing. Pick up a map at the Fairbanks District Office.

## Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail

The Pinnell Mountain

Recreation Trail is one of

Interior Alaska's premier

summer hiking trails. The

27-mile (44 km) primi-

tive trail is marked with

rock cairns as it crosses

open tundra and alpine

ridge tops above timber-

at least an eight percent

night sun scenic vistas.

ne. Most of the trail has

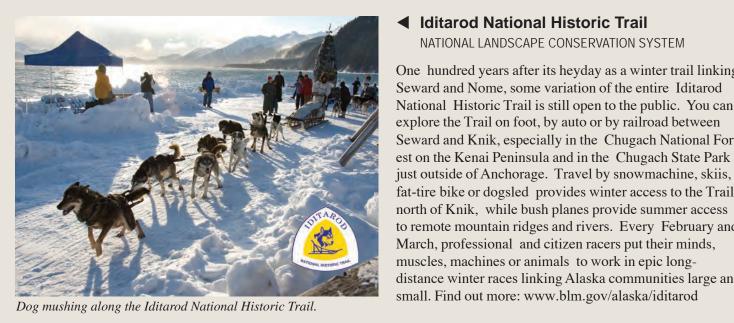
grade. Enjoy Yukon River,

wooden mileposts and



*Hikers at the beginning of the* Alaska Range, and mid-Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail.

Two emergency shelter cabins provide refuge, but hikers should prepare for unexpected and dramatic changes in the weather. The trail is closed to all motorized vehicles. Find out more: Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail brochure.



## ▼ White Mountains National Recreation Area

Just an hour's drive from Fairbanks, the 1-million-acre White Mountains National Recreation Area is Interior Alaska's premier winter recreation destination. Visitors ski, snowshoe, run sled dog teams, fat-tire bike, or snowmachine over 250 miles of groomed trails and stay in 12 BLM public recreation use cabins along the trails. In summer, visitors pan for gold, fi sh, hike and camp under Alaska's midnight sun. Nome Creek Road leads to two campgrounds, trails, a gold-panning area, and fishing. A put-in site on Nome Creek provides access to Beaver Creek National Wild River for a fl oat trip adventure. Find out more: White Mountains National Rec-reation Area Trails and Cabins brochure.

(left) On a winter night's stay at cabins like Eleazar's cabin you might be honored with a viewing of the northern lights. (bottom left) Caribou Bluff cabin, White Mountains National Recreation Area. (right) Backcountry skiing, White Mountains National Recreation Area.



Puzzle Gulch, Steese National Conservation Area.

## Campbell Tract Loop National **Recreation Trail**

The 730-acre Campbell Tract is a forested recreation site and outdoor science education center in the heart of Anchorage. With 12 miles of multi-use trails, including the popular Campbell Tract Loop National Recreation Trail, the tract offers fourseason outdoor recreation opportunities to more than 400.000 visitors annually. You can hike, jog, ski, skijor, great place to recreate.

snowshoe, mountain bike, or ride a horse while enjoying the diverse plants, wildlife, and habitats. Pick up a map at the Anchorage Field Office.



One hundred years after its heyday as a winter trail linking

Seward and Nome, some variation of the entire Iditarod

explore the Trail on foot, by auto or by railroad between

National Historic Trail is still open to the public. You can

Seward and Knik, especially in the Chugach National For-

est on the Kenai Peninsula and in the Chugach State Park

just outside of Anchorage. Travel by snowmachine, skiis,

fat-tire bike or dogsled provides winter access to the Trail

to remote mountain ridges and rivers. Every February and

distance winter races linking Alaska communities large and

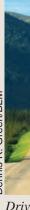
March, professional and citizen racers put their minds,

muscles, machines or animals to work in epic long-

small. Find out more: www.blm.gov/alaska/iditarod

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

Iditarod National Historic Trail







## Delta National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River

The Delta National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River is 175 miles south of Fairbanks and 22 miles west of Paxson on the Denali Highway and flows through the Alaska Range. Year-round recreational opportunities abound throughout the river's watershed,



which includes 150,000 acres, 160 miles of streams, and 21 lakes. The Tangle River connects several of the Tangle Lakes and then drains into the Delta River, which joins the Tanana River, which flows into the mighty Yukon River. The entire river and lake system provides unparalleled opportunities for fishing, boating, camping, hiking, hunting, trapping, berry picking, snowmachining, wildlife viewing, and other recreational activities. The BLM maintains the popular Tangle Lakes campground, the Delta National Wild and Scenic River Wayside at mile 21.5 of the Denali Highway, and a river take-out at mile 212.5 of the Richardson Highway. Find out more: Delta National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River brochure.

## Fortymile National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River

Gold prospectors named the Fortymile River for the point where it joins the Yukon River 40 miles downstream of an old trading post, Fort Reliance. The Fortymile and its forks create 392 miles of National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River. The BLM manages this corridor and its two campgrounds. River float trips, camping, and sightseeing from the Taylor Highway are the primary attractions for visitors to the Fortymile National Wild and Scenic River. For an Alaska river, the Fortymile has an unusual number of access points, making it possible to enjoy float trips that range from one day to several weeks in length. Find out more: Fortymile National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River brochure.

All of the BLM-Alaska's National Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers are a part of the National Landscape Conservation System. Find out more: Alaska River Adventures brochure.



## ▼ Dalton Highway

The Dalton Highway is the only road leading from Livengood (84 miles north of Fairbanks) to Deadhorse and the oilfields of Prudhoe Bay. Recreation along the highway in the summer months includes camping, hiking, biking, birding, gold panning/mineral collecting, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, canoeing, and rafting. River trips include the Jim River, Koyukuk River Middle Fork and Sagavanirktok River. The BLM manages swaths of public lands along the highway and maintains campgrounds, rest areas, interpretive panels, and the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center. This mostly graveled road travels through rolling, forested hills, across the Yukon River and Arctic Circle, through the rugged Brooks Range, and over the North Slope to the Arctic Ocean. Find out more: Dalton Highway Recreational Mining brochure and Dalton Highway Visitor's Guide.



Driving the unpaved Dalton Highway is quite an adventure. There are many educational and recreational opportunities along the way.

For driving adventures, be sure to get an Alaska road map for route numbers and mileage.

# www.blm.gov/visit



Unalakleet National Wild River

The Unalakleet National Wild River's clear, smooth

waters start with swift channels through the rolling

Nulato Hills and meander across miles of arctic tundra

to Unalakleet on Norton Sound. Unalakleet is 400 miles

from Anchorage and accessible only by plane. Summer

activities include fishing, boating, and camping. While

there are no established campsites or public facilities,

floaters camp on and fish from gravel bars. In winter,

recreationists can snowmachine, dog mush, ice fish, hunt,

or trap on the frozen river. The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog

its length, the Unalakleet offers a great diversity of river

characteristics, requires boating skills, and rewards with

Birch Creek National Wild River flows from the Steese

tundra into the vast expanse of the Yukon Flats in central

National Conservation Area's windswept ridges and alpine

Alaska. In the summer months, the river offers convenient

one-week scenic floats through remote country accessible

from BLM recreation waysides at both ends (miles 94 and

140.5) of the Steese Highway. Water is primarily Class I,

110 miles of upper Birch Creek and there is a boat launch

at Mile 94 of the Steese Highway. There are no developed

campsites in the river corridor; camping is best on gravel

bars. Dog mushing, snowmachining, trapping, and cross-

country skiing are popular in the winter. Find out more:

Birch Creek National Wild River brochure.

but there are some Class II and III areas. BLM manages

Race parallels the river en route to Nome. For most of

Birch Creek National Wild River

world-class fishing.

Lupine near Tangle Lakes along the Denali Highway.

## ▲ Denali Highway

The 135-mile Denali Highway is gravel after the first 21 miles from Paxson on the Richardson Highway to the last three miles before Cantwell on the Parks Highway. It is usually open from mid-May to Oct. 1 and is not plowed in the winter. Recreation activities include camping, driving tours, fishing, berry picking, hunting, riding off-highway vehicles, outdoor education, river boating, hiking and trails, and wildlife viewing. A loop trip from Fairbanks is about 436 miles and from Anchorage is nearly 600 miles. Find out more: Denali Highway brochure.

## ► Taylor Highway

The 160-mile Taylor Highway connects Tetlin Junction (11 miles from Tok on the Alaska Highway) to Eagle, on the bank of the Yukon River. The Taylor Highway is paved to the community of Chicken at milepost 66; the rest is gravel. Summer recreation includes hiking, biking, camping, mineral collecting, fishing, gold rush history, and more. The Taylor Highway is not maintained from October through April, so the arrival of snow closes the road to all but snowmachine traffic. Find out more: Taylor Highway brochure.

### Gulkana National Wild River

The Gulkana National Wild River is famous for its abundant fish and wildlife, and cultural and recreation opportunities. It is one of the most popular sportfishing rivers in Alaska, with easy road access at both the put-in and take-out points and the popular BLM-maintained Sourdough campground. A few places can be reached by foot trails. The Gulkana falls 1,250 feet in the 81 river miles between Paxson Lake and its confluence with the Copper River. The most popular trips take place in the mainstem of the river, with nearly 50 river miles ranging from Class I to roiling Class III white water. Find out more: Gulkana National Wild River brochure and Gulkana River Floater's Guide.



### Beaver Creek National Wild River

Beaver Creek National Wild River flows 110 miles through the White Mountains, then north and east to the Yukon Flats and Yukon River. Long a popular river adventure destination, its clear Class I waters and unparalleled scenery make a relaxing trip of 7–10 days before being picked up from a gravel bar by local air service. Some floaters choose to continue for two more weeks, finally entering the Yukon River and exiting at the bridge on the Dalton Highway. Camping is best on the many gravel bars along Beaver Creek. BLM's Borealis-LeFevre cabin at river mile 32 and four other hike-to cabins are available by reservation. The Ophir Creek campground is right next to the Nome Creek put-in for float trips. Find out more: Beaver Creek National Wild River brochure.

## Richardson and Edgerton Highways

The spectacularly scenic Richardson Highway runs north to south connecting Valdez (mile 0) and Fairbanks (mile 586). The paved Edgerton Highway begins at Richardson Highway mile 82.6 and runs east 33 miles to Chitina, skirting Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and the Copper River. Recreation includes camping and other activities. Find out more: Richardson and Edgerton Highways Trails Guide.

### Steese and Elliott Highways

The 175-mile Steese Highway connects Fairbanks with Circle on the mighty Yukon River. The Elliott Highway starts just outside of Fairbanks in the historic mining town of Fox, leads north to the beginning of the Dalton Highway near Livengood, then turns west and ends at the village of Manley. The Elliott Highway is paved to its junction with the Dalton Highway and the Steese Highway is paved for the first 61 miles. Both are main year-round. Recreation opportunities include fishing, camping, boating, hiking, snowmachining, rock climbing, skiing, and more. Find out more: Steese and Elliott *Highways* brochure.

> Snowshoeing is a great winter activity for all ages at Campbell Tract in Anchorage.

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Anchorage District Office 4700 BLM Road Anchorage, AK 99507 (907) 267-1246 www.blm.gov/office/anchorage-district-office

**Anchorage Field Office** 4700 BLM Road Anchorage, AK 99507 (907) 267-1246 www.blm.gov/office/anchorage-field-office

**Glennallen Field Office** P.O. Box 147 Mile Post 186.5 Glenn Highway Glennallen, AK 99588 (907) 822-3217 www.blm.gov/office/glennallen-field-office

## **Contact Us**

**Alaska State Office** 222 W. 7th Ave., #13 Anchorage, AK 99513-7504 (907) 271-5960 www.blm.gov/alaska

> **Nome Field Station** P.O. Box 952 Nome, AK 99762 (907) 443-2177

**Fairbanks District Office** 222 University Ave. Fairbanks, AK 99709 (907) 474-2200 www.blm.gov/office/fairbanks-district-office

> **Barrow Field Station** P.O. Box 250 Utqiagvik, AK 99723 (907) 852-2757

**Kotzebue Field Station** P.O. Box 1049 Kotzebue, AK 99572 (907) 442-3430

Cover Photo: Berry picking along the Denali Highway by Chad Cook/BLM.

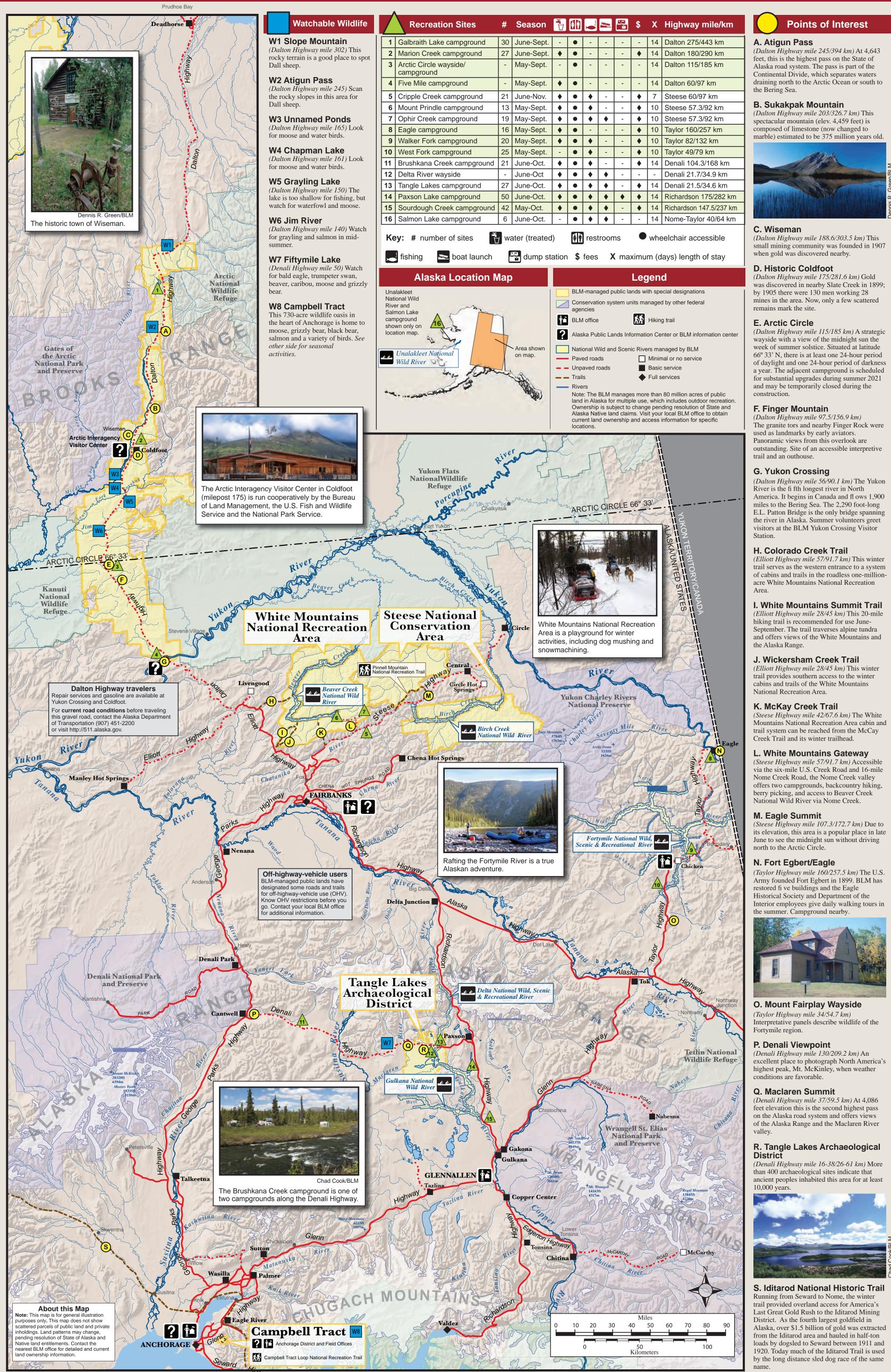


**Everything you need to start** your Alaska adventure! www.blm.gov/ak





# **BLM Recreation Guide - Alaska**



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