

Area History

Yup'ik people have lived here for hundreds of years, thriving in an area that is renowned for its natural bounty and stunning beauty. Their first contact with European explorers happened around 1818 when the Korsakovsky expedition explored the mouths of the Nushagak and Wood rivers for the Russians. A Russian fur-trading post was established in the area that survived until the U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867 and salmon canneries became more important than fur hunting.

At first, the National Park Service proposed taking this area under their management because of its "magnificence;" however, the State of Alaska selected it as a state park. In June 1978, the Alaska State Legislature designated it as Wood-Tikchik State Park, creating the largest state park in the nation.

For More Information

Wood-Tikchik State Park and
Lake Aleknagik State Recreation Site:
P.O. Box 1822
Dillingham, AK 99576
(907) 842-2641

wtsp@alaska.gov

Welcome to Wood-Tikchik State Park

Welcome

Wood Tikchik State Park (SP) is the largest state park in the U.S. with nearly 1.6 million acres of some of the most remote and pristine mountains, rivers, glaciers, lakes, tundra, and wetlands in the nation.

Lake Aleknagik State Recreation Site (SRS) is on Dillingham's road system and is a convenient access point to Wood-Tikchik SP as well as a destination for relaxing and fishing.

The Wood-Tikchik SP is named for its two systems of large interconnected lakes—the Wood River Lakes and the Tikchik system, which includes the upper Tikchik Lakes and Tikchik River. These ecosystems are biological treasure troves and the first-class fishing attracts trophy-seeking anglers from the world over.

This park's natural beauty draws adventure seekers and those who simply want to experience the amiable solitude and musical sounds of Alaskan wilderness. It disappoints neither.

Top Five

1. Spend a week floating the Wood River Lakes Water Trail and camping in the shadow of the Wood River Mountains.
2. Row the tranquil Tikchik River for great fishing, stunning scenery, and exhilarating hikes.
3. View the Lake Kulik ice caves, created by mountain streams eroding the winter's snow pack along north-facing mountain slopes.
4. Fish for rainbow trout, voracious char, or hard-fighting salmon in one of the finest sport fisheries in the world.
5. Paddle Chikuminuk Lake, one of the quietest, most scenic and remote lakes in the park.



Camping along Wind River in view of Kulik Spire
Photo courtesy of Kyle Joly

www.alaskastateparks.org



Winter camping in Denali State Park
Photo courtesy of Jason Nielsen

Alaska State Parks

Background photo courtesy of Kyle Joly

Highlights

Lake Aleknagik State Recreation Site

Lake Aleknagik SRS is the gateway to Wood-Tikchik SP. This seven-acre parcel has a picnic shelter, toilets, a boat launch, and limited boat and float plane accommodations. Come spend a day fishing Lake Aleknagik and enjoy a nice evening picnic, or launch your expedition into Wood-Tikchik SP.



Bird's Eye View

Air travel is one of the best ways to see the park. Aircraft often provide excellent views and terrific opportunities to visit many remote areas. A number of air charter companies rent equipment and do drop offs in remote locations in the park. Helicopter landings are prohibited in the park.

Bird Viewing

Wood-Tikchik SP is full of perfect "rest areas" for birds during annual spring and fall migrations. It also provides ideal nesting and rearing areas for a large variety of birds. Raptors, including eagles, ospreys and a variety of hawks, can be seen congregating near streams and rivers preying on fish. Loons, swans, geese and numerous species of ducks, gulls, shorebirds, owls, and a variety of songbirds keep birders on their toes with binoculars on their nose.



Osprey
Photo courtesy of Robert Burton, USFW

Play it Safe

Bear Safety

Always be aware of your surroundings and do your best to avoid bears, but be prepared for encounters. Choose a campsite away from salmon spawning streams. Take precautions. Store scented items, including food, toothpaste, and lotion, away from your tent and hang them if possible. Bears frequently bite inflatable boats, fuel cans, and anything scented or malleable. To help protect your gear, store fuel cans in your boat and thoroughly rinse all fish slime off equipment.

Make plenty of noise to warn bears of your presence, but if you do meet a bear, give it the right of way and make a lot of noise. For more information about traveling in bear country go to www.adfg.alaska.gov and search for "Living with Wildlife."

Preparation is Key

File a trip plan with a friend, your air taxi, or with the Wood-Tikchik SP ranger station. Include all names of those traveling, route, destination, and expected return date. Don't forget to close the trip plan when you return safely.

A survival kit is highly recommended for backcountry travelers. Always include a GPS device or compass and USGS topographical map, fire starters, signaling devices, shelter, rain gear, water filtration, and first aid equipment in your kit. Be sure to have plenty of extra food and water for an extended stay as bad weather can limit air travel. For winter travel, also include snowshoes, extra clothing, a small cook stove, and a metal cup to melt snow.

Boating

Wood-Tikchik SP has 12 large lakes, many connected by shallow clear-water rivers. Power boats, kayaks, and canoes offer an intimate view of the vast waters and lands of the park. Visitors are often rewarded with spectacular views and excellent fishing.

However, some boating restrictions apply:

- Airboats are prohibited.
- Personal watercraft are allowed *only* on Lake Aleknagik.
- Motorized boats are prohibited on Chikuminuk Lake and on the Agulowak River.

For more on boating regulations, visit: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/wtc/>

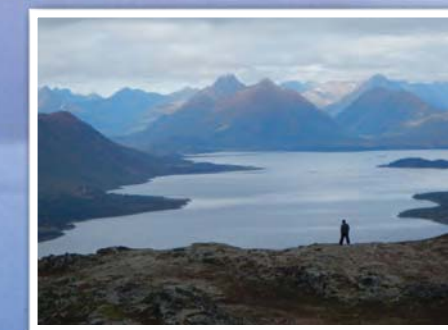
Be prepared for an extended stay and always wear a life jacket!

Low-Impact Camping

Camping facilities in Wood-Tikchik are rustic and few, with great emphasis placed on low-impact camping and ethics. Use established campsites, minimize campfire impacts, and properly dispose of waste.

- Camp on gravel beaches rather than the sensitive forest floor covering.
- Use gas stoves for cooking, rather than firewood.
- Deposit solid human waste into six-to eight-inch deep catholes at least 200 feet from any water body. Pack out toilet paper, sanitation wipes, and hygiene products.
- Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter left by others. Bears and other wildlife have an excellent sense of smell and are attracted to garbage.
- Leave no visual impact. Disassemble fire rings and scatter cold ashes, and carefully inspect your campsite for litter before leaving.

The entire park is open to camping. However, permits are required to float the Tikchik River and to camp at Nishlik, Slate, Upnuk, and Chikuminuk Lakes. Permits are limited and require a fee. Please call the Dillingham Parks Office at (907) 842-2641 for additional information and permit availability.



View from Bumyok Ridge



Rainbow trout

Fishing

This park sustains some of the most productive sport fisheries in the world and is renowned for the salmon and rainbow trout fishing that attracts anglers from all over the world. The Agulowak and Agulukpak, two shallow and relatively short clear-water rivers, inspire Wood-Tikchik's status as a world-class sport fishery.

Several lodges operate within the park from early June until early October and provide fishing guides for their customers. Unguided visitors can camp in the park or access fishing from Lake Aleknagik SRS.

Hunting, Trapping, and Photography

Moose, brown bear, and caribou are found throughout this park and are popular with big-game hunters. Black bears can be seen in the northern and eastern portions of the park and are also sought by hunters. Small game hunted and trapped for meat or fur include beaver, muskrat, river otter, fox, wolverine, mink, porcupine, ground squirrel, and marten.

Hunters must carry all hunting licenses, tags, and permits while hunting and must abide by all park and hunting regulations. If you are "hunting" with your camera, don't forget to keep a safe distance from the wildlife you are "shooting."



Grayling



Photo courtesy of Fishing Bear Lodge

Float Trips

Floating through Wood-Tikchik SP is great way to see the park and make memories that will last a lifetime. However, before you head out, make sure you know what to expect and are prepared for the unexpected.

Wood River Lakes Water Trail

The Wood River Lakes Water Trail boasts over 85 miles of scenic waters, including five lakes varying from 20 to 45 miles in length interconnected by relatively short, shallow, and swift rivers. It often takes five to 10 days to complete. The surrounding terrain includes spired Wood River Mountains, rolling mixed upland forest, and large open tundra fields. Short stretches of Class II whitewater exist on several of the rivers. The trail ends at Aleknagik.

Tikchik River Water Trail

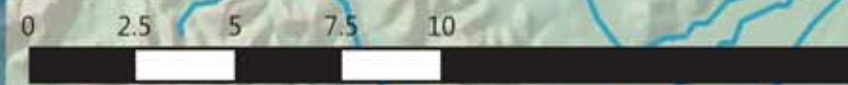
The Tikchik River can be floated from Nishlik or Upnuk lakes. It flows about 60 miles to Tikchik Lake through a few Class II-III rapids. Both crystal-clear lakes are above tree line amongst the rugged Wood River Mountains and provide swift, Class I boating until they join, approximately 10 river miles below Upnuk Lake. Numerous large granite domes, rising up to 1,000 feet in sheer cliffs from Tikchik Lake's southern shore, make the trail's terminus as exciting as its beginning.

Allen River Water Trail

The Allen River cuts a swift, snaky course through mixed forest and tundra, draining Chikuminuk Lake into Lake Chauekuktuli. Severe rapids, especially near its outlet at Lake Chauekuktuli, discourage most boaters from floating this river. The upper rapids are difficult; the lower rapids may be impassable. It is highly recommended to portage several Class V+ rapids if you choose to boat on this river.

Nuyakuk River Water Trail

The Nuyakuk River flows from Tikchik Lake and continues out of the park. A Class II rapid is located just below the outlet from Tikchik Lake. The Nuyakuk River Falls, Class IV and Class V rapids, is five miles downstream of the outlet. Portage is highly recommended for this extremely difficult stretch of river. Use the portage trail located on the river right to hike downstream around the rapids to the beach. The rest of the river is a suitable float for families and novices with portaging experience, and the fishing is excellent.



Tikchik River



Grant River Falls



Nuyakuk River Falls



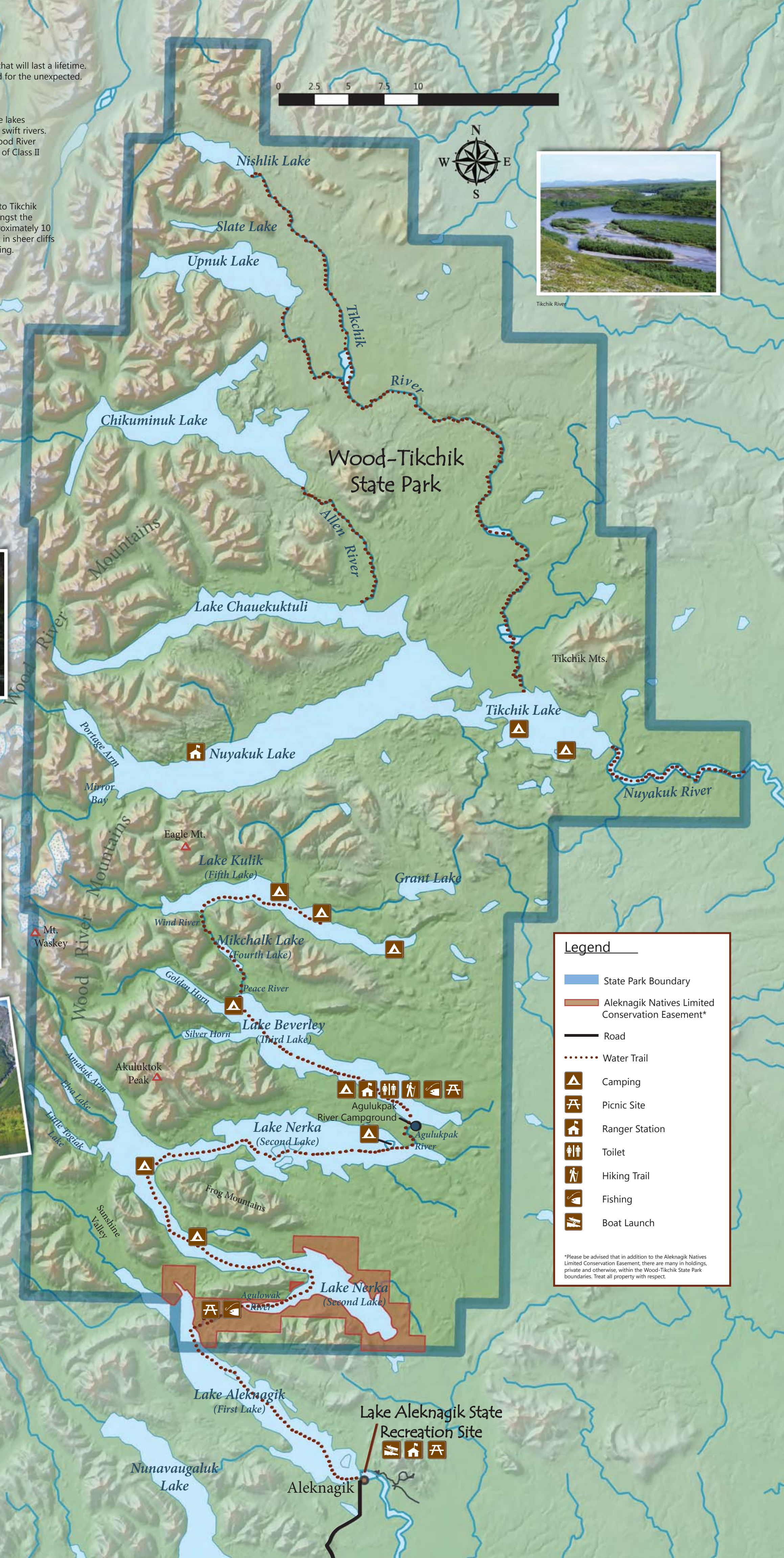
Ice cave at Lake Kulik



Summer at Silver Horn



Fishing Agulupak River
Photo courtesy of Fishing Bear Lodge



Legend

- State Park Boundary
- Aleknagik Natives Limited Conservation Easement*
- Road
- Water Trail
- Camping
- Picnic Site
- Ranger Station
- Toilet
- Hiking Trail
- Fishing
- Boat Launch

*Please be advised that in addition to the Aleknagik Natives Limited Conservation Easement, there are many in holdings, private and otherwise, within the Wood-Tikchik State Park boundaries. Treat all property with respect.