

Fuller Lakes Trail

Round Trip: 5.8 miles roundtrip
Difficulty: Strenuous
Hiking Time: 4 to 6 hours

U.S.G.S Maps: Kenai B1, C1
Elevation Gain: 1,400 feet
High Point: 1,700 feet



Trailhead: Fuller Lakes Trail is located on the north side of the Sterling Highway at mile 57.0. The trail is approximately 1.5 miles east of the east end of Skilak Lake Road and approximately 2.5 miles west of the Russian River Ferry parking area.

DESCRIPTION: Fuller Lakes Trail provides access to the Mystery Creek Unit of the Kenai Wilderness. The trail climbs rapidly in elevation to Lower Fuller Lake. There is little elevation gain between Lower and Upper Fuller Lakes. Beyond the lower lake are scattered stands of trees; much of the area is covered with dwarf willow and birch. Cross-country travel is relatively easy in the Upper Fuller Lake area, and a trip to one of the ridges on nearby mountains can give spectacular views. The entire trail is in good condition, but it does pass through several areas that may be wet or muddy, especially between Lower and Upper Fuller Lakes. Wear sturdy hiking shoes.

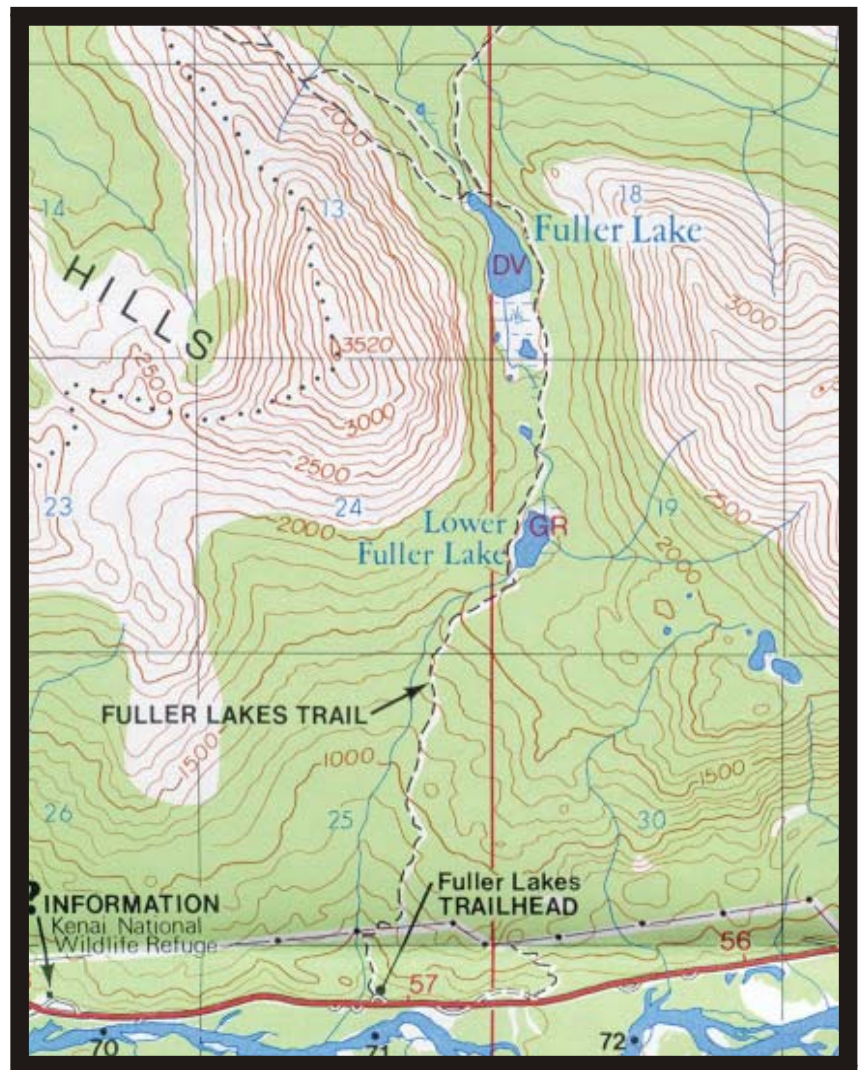
SCENIC VIEWS: There are excellent views of the Kenai Range along the trail to the lower lake. Superb views can be obtained by climbing the mountains surrounding the upper lake.

CAMPING: There are several established campsites along the trail from Lower Fuller Lake to Upper Fuller Lake. You may use these sites or camp off trail. The wood supply near Upper Fuller Lake is limited. Please do not build campfires in this area; use a backpacking stove to reduce impacts. Please remove ALL evidence from your camp before you leave. Water is available at streams and lakes. Filter or boil water.

FISHING: There are grayling in Lower Fuller Lake and Dolly Varden in Upper Fuller Lake.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Berry-picking along the trail can be very good in late summer, especially near Upper Fuller Lake. Beavers and their lodges can be seen at Lower Fuller Lake. Look for Dall sheep on alpine slopes and ptarmigan, grouse, hawks, eagles, and other birds along the trail.

WINTER ACTIVITIES: During winters with good snow cover the Fuller Lakes basin provides good skiing and snowshoeing opportunities. However, skiers should be prepared to handle the relatively steep grade from the Sterling Highway to Lower Fuller Lake. Note to people on foot: Snowmachines often travel along this trail from the highway to Lower Fuller Lake.



Each square = 1 mile