



Primrose Trail

Seward Ranger District, Chugach National Forest
(907) 224-3374

Recommended Uses



Difficulty

More Difficult

Public Use

Moderate

Length (one way)

7.5 miles

USGS Map

Seward B7

Trip Time (one way)

4-5 hours

Recommended Season

Year round

Elevation Gain

1600 feet

Trail Access

At Mile 17 Seward Highway, turn west and travel 1 mile to Primrose Campground. Parking is located in the large parking area before entering the campground. *Trail is closed to saddle/pack stock from April 1-June 30 and motorized vehicles from May 1-November 30.* Miner with permit may use motorized vehicles on the trail all year. There is usually snow above mile 5 into mid July.

Trail Grade/Condition

Good condition. Steep sections in the first 5 miles. The first 3.4 miles of this trail is a mining road constructed in 1911 for access to the Primrose mine.

Recreational Opportunities

Excellent multi-day trip for fishing at Lost Lake and for enjoying spectacular scenery. Designated campsites at mile 5.4, 6.4, 7, and 7.5 (practice good Leave No Trace ethics and camp out of sight of the lake and trail). Please do not build campfires in the Lost Lake/Primrose areas beyond mile 5.2. Dead and down firewood is very difficult to find, and campfires encourage others to cut and maim living hemlock trees. Camping is closed on the Lost Lake peninsulas to allow revegetation.

The first 5 miles of the trail travel through dense hemlock forest with limited views. At .5 mile, the 7.8 mile long Iditarod – Meridian Trail (see trail sheet for Iditarod – Meridian Trail) branches off to reach Long Lake (stocked with rainbow trout). At Mile 2 an unmarked spur trail (steep grade, not maintained) leads to a viewpoint of Primrose Falls. An active mine can be seen at mile 3.7 (mining equipment belongs to the miners and is private property). At 5 miles you emerge above tree line with dramatic views of mountains and lakes. Combine with Lost Lake Trail for a 14.8-mile through hike.

Mt. Ascension (5710 feet) forms west border of Lost Lake. For a longer cross-country trip follow the drainages to Cooper Lake. Hiking is easy on tundra but good orienteering skills are required.

Wildlife includes moose, black bear, wolf, mountain goat, Dall sheep, ptarmigan, grouse, and marmot. Hunting for these species in the designated seasons. Fishing for rainbow trout in Lost Lake. [Review Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(ADF&G\) hunting and fishing regulations.](#)

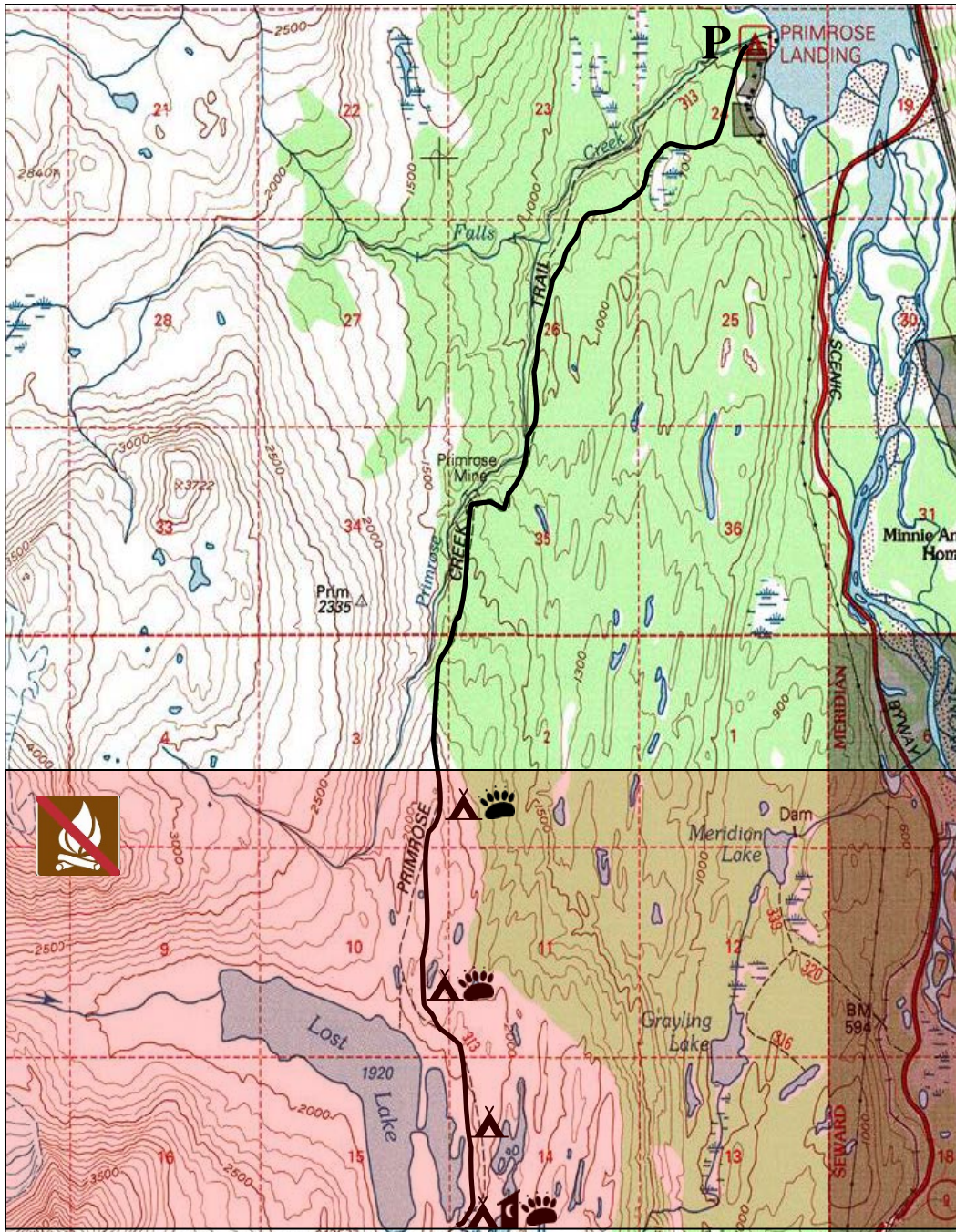
Special Considerations

Use caution with bear and moose. Giardia (a microscopic parasite that can infect warm-blooded animals and humans) could be present in all open water sources, filter surface water before drinking. Winter travel may be hazardous due to avalanches, thin lake ice, and disorienting fog and white out conditions above tree line. Winter travelers need to be able to evaluate avalanche and over-ice travel hazards. Be prepared for rapid weather changes. Remember to pack out your trash. You can contact a U.S. Forest Service office to receive more detailed information on safety precautions and Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics.



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Map not to scale Map created with TOPO!® ©2002 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

Designated Campsites







Mile 5.4 N 60° 17' 11" W 149° 25' 8"

Mile 6.4 N 60° 16' 29" W 149° 25' 0"

Mile 7.0 N 60° 15' 54" W 149° 24' 47"

Mile 7.5 N 60° 15' 25" W 149° 24' 45"

LEGEND

-  Primrose Trail
-  Trailhead Parking
-  Designated Campsite
-  Bear Box (food storage)
-  Backcountry Toilet
-  No Fire Area

Practice Leave No Trace ethics and camp **out of sight** of the lake and trail.