

Take a **HIKE** in your National Forest



Williwaw Nature Trail

Chugach National Forest
Glacier Ranger District (907) 783-3242
Begich, Boggs Visitor Center (907) 783-2326

USGS Map: Seward D5, D6
Trip Time (One Way): 50 minutes
Difficulty: Easy
Condition: Excellent to Fair
Public Use: Heavy
Recommended Season: year round
Length (one way): 1.25 miles
Elevation Gain: None

Recreational Opportunities

This is an *easy* walking trail, following a salmon spawning channel. Watch for spawning salmon mid-July through fall.

Wildflowers grow along the trail and there are opportunities for berry picking.

Wildlife in the area includes black and brown bear, moose, beaver, eagles, ducks, and grouse. Migratory birds stop to rest and feed in Portage Valley during spring and fall migrations.

Hunting for big game is closed in Portage Valley. **Fishing**, waterfowl and small game hunting and trapping are permitted, following AK Department of Fish & Game regulations and license requirements.

Visit the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center for more information about salmon, glaciers, and forest recreation.

Trail Access

At Mile 79, Seward Highway (49 miles south of Anchorage), turn onto Portage Glacier Road. The trail has two access points.

The first is at Williwaw Salmon-Viewing Area, approx. 4 miles east of the Seward Hwy. At the Salmon Viewing Area, the trail follows Williwaw Creek upstream (passing underneath the highway at the bridge)

The second is at Williwaw Ponds, another ½ mile east (MP 4.5 Portage Glacier Rd). The trail skirts the south edge of the ponds heading west, and follows Williwaw Creek downstream.

Trail Description

Starting at the Salmon Viewing Area, the trail passes under the Highway Bridge and follows Williwaw Creek to the ponds. For a longer hike, cross the trail bridge continue around the ponds, cross Portage Glacier Road, and continue south another ½ mile to connect with the Trail of Blue Ice (TBI). For a shorter walk, avoid bridge and continue straight ahead to the ponds parking area.

Take TBI east to Portage Lake and Begich, Boggs Visitor Center (about 1 mi) or west to Williwaw Campground (about 1 mi). When you reach the campground, you can walk on the campground road to return to the Salmon-Viewing Area.

This trail has minimal elevation changes, and has a 6' wide hardened surface suitable for walking, strollers, wheelchairs, wagons and bikes.

Special Considerations

Be prepared for bears, especially when salmon are in the stream. Use caution with all wildlife. Be prepared for rapid weather changes. Often, Portage Valley has wind and rain! Boil surface water for 5 minutes before drinking. Remember, pack it in pack it out! You can contact a U.S. Forest Service office to receive more detailed information on safety precautions.



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service
Alaska Region
Chugach National Forest

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