

## Marsh Lake Trail

**ATTENTION:** Marsh Lake Trailhead has not yet been completed. It is scheduled for construction in summer 2017. Until the trailhead is installed, hikers are advised to use care when parking along Skilak Lake Road. Access roads exist on both ends of the wildlife habitat rehabilitation area, at mile 16.6 and also near mile 16. The trailhead will be installed at mile 16.6 and the trail (a rehabilitated "cat trail") is noticeable from the road.

Round Trip: 6 miles  
Difficulty: easy/moderate  
Hiking Time: 2 hours

U.S.G.S. Maps: Kenai B2 and C2  
Elevation Gain: 100 ft  
High Point: 331 feet

**TRAILHEAD:** Marsh Lake Trail is located on Skilak Lake Road, at milepost 16.6, just over 2 miles from the west entrance junction with the Sterling Highway. The trailhead, on the west side of the Skilak Wildlife clearing, is scheduled to be completed in summer 2017.

**DESCRIPTION:** Marsh Lake Trail was built over a rehabilitated wildland fire fuel break from the 2015 Card Street Fire. It is a wide, rolling trail with few hills. The trail passes a wildlife habitat restoration area which, over time, will show the stages of forest succession, but now makes the first part of the trail windy and more exposed to the elements than the rest of the trail, which passes through old growth boreal forest before reaching Marsh Lake.

**SCENIC VIEWS:** Several nice viewpoints can be found on Marsh Lake Trail, on small knolls that give brief looks out across the wildlife restoration area near the beginning of the trail, and later, where the trail reaches a hill overlooking Marsh Lake and the mountains to the north.

**CAMPING:** No formal campsites have been established on Marsh Lake Trail though several nice spots on the hill near Marsh Lake would be suitable. Please use a backpacking stove to reduce impact. Carry water or filters. Giardia is known to exist on the Refuge and lake water should be treated properly before consumption.

**FISHING:** There are no known fishing opportunities along this trail. Marsh Lake has no sport fish in it.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** The wildlife habitat restoration area offers good viewing opportunities for birds of prey like owls hunting along the forest edge. Wildflowers can also be seen throughout the summer months. Fall colors and mushrooms are great in the autumn.

**WINTER ACTIVITIES:** Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are possible on this trail, though three hills in particular will make skiing difficult for the novice.

