Hidden Creek Trail

Round Trip: 2.6 miles

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Hiking Time: 1.5 – 2 hours

U.S.G.S Maps: Kenai B1

Elevation Gain: 300 feet

High Point: 500 feet

Trailhead: Hidden Creek Trail is located on Skilak Lake Road 4.6 miles from the East Entrance junction with the Sterling Highway. It is approximately 1 mile west of Hidden Lake Campground. The parking lot is on the north side of the road and the trail begins on the south side.

DESCRIPTION: Hidden Creek Trail provides easy access to Skilak Lake and the mouth of Hidden Creek. This trail goes through a burn area that occurred in May of 1996. It was a man-made fire which burned approximately 5,200 acres. The trail divides about halfway in. The section to the west goes directly to Skilak Lake, while the section to the east passes near the mouth of Hidden Creek. The eastern section is about ½ mile longer than the western section. The two sections meet at Skilak Lake and you can hike along the shore to the west. Both sections may be wet and muddy and boardwalks may be slippery.
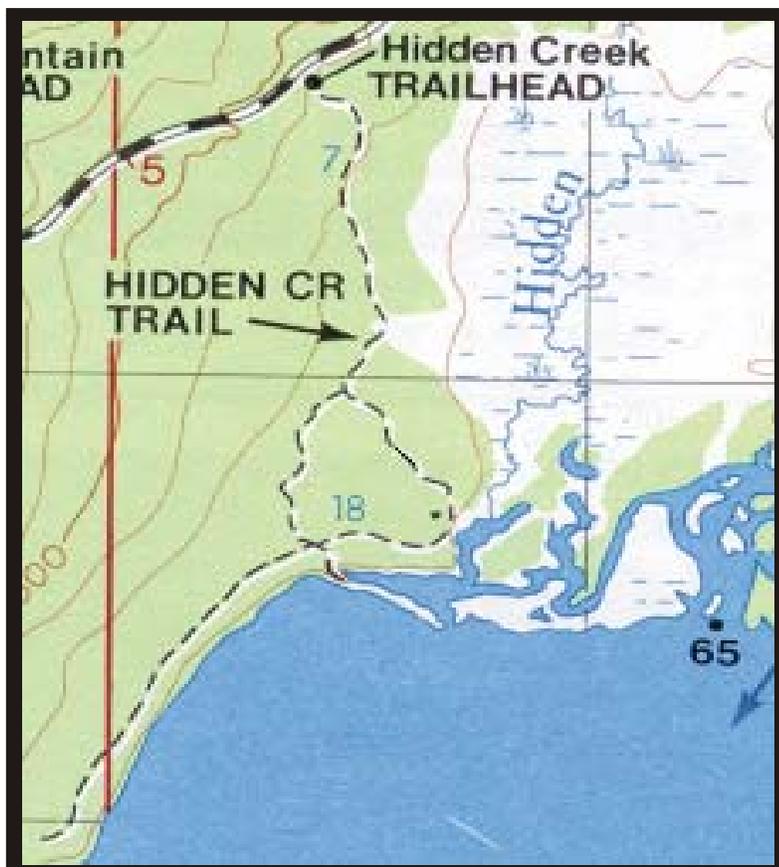
SCENIC VIEWS: There are several views of the Kenai Mountains through the burned areas and excellent views of the Kenai Mountains from the shore of Skilak Lake.

CAMPING: There are several areas suitable for camping along Skilak Lake and at the mouth of Hidden Creek. This area is often windy; a sturdy tent is advisable. Firewood is abundant, but backpacking stoves are recommended to reduce human impact. Please remove ALL evidence from your camp before you leave. Water is available at Hidden Creek and Skilak Lake. Filter or boil water.

FISHING: Fishing along Skilak Lake and the Kenai River area can be fair to good. Check fishing regulations **before** you go.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Berry-picking can be good in late summer. This is also an excellent area to see wildlife. Look for eagles, moose, river otter, beaver, and other animals.

WINTER ACTIVITIES: The trail provides good snowshoeing during winters with good snow cover, but the return trip is all up-hill.

Each square = 1 mile