

Vista Trail

Round Trip: 3.0 miles
Difficulty: Strenuous
Hiking Time: 2 - 3 hours

U.S.G.S Maps: Kenai B-1
Elevation Gain: 800 feet
High Point: 1,100 feet



Trailhead: The trailhead begins directly across the road from the pit toilets on the A-Loop at Upper Skilak Campground. Please park in the boat trailer parking area and walk to the trailhead.

DESCRIPTION: Upper Skilak trail was built during the summers of 2000 through 2004 by Student Conservation Association volunteers, and is one of our newest trails. This trail goes through the 1996 Hidden Creek Fire. It was a man-made fire which burned approximately 5,200 acres. There was also a ½ acre burn in 2002 that can be seen at the bench rest spot along the trail. Many of the downed trees and stumps in the area still have the pink colored fire retardant on them which was dropped to put out the fire.

SCENIC VIEWS: Views of the Kenai Mountains, Skilak Lake, and the mountains across Cook Inlet can be seen from most of the trail.

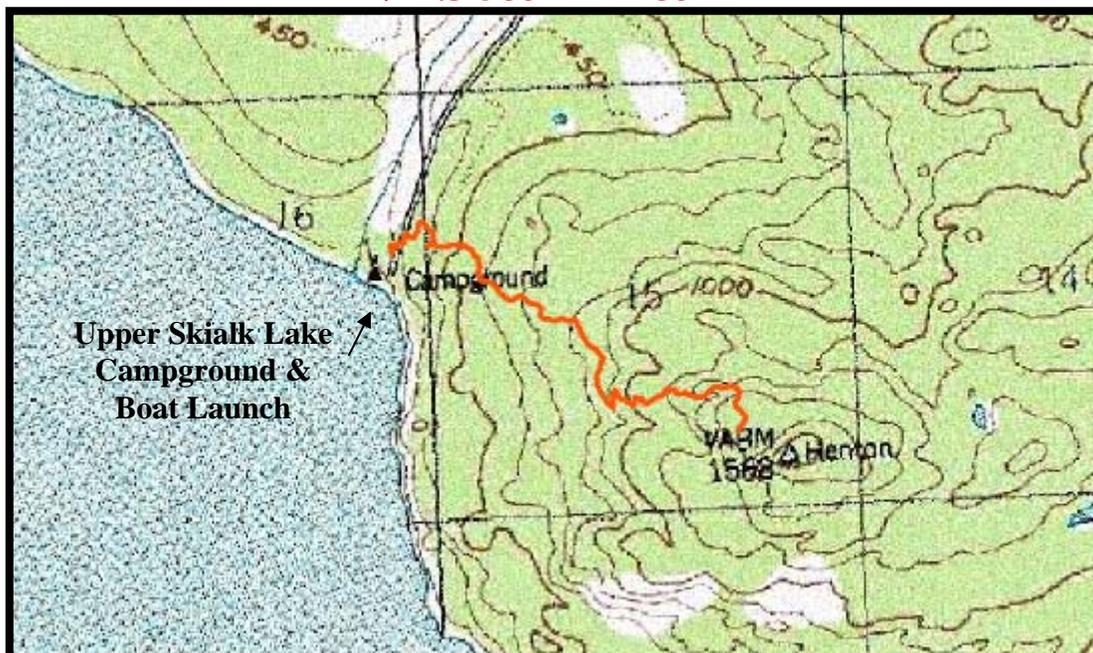
CAMPING: Due to its close proximity to Upper Skilak Lake Campground, steep terrain, and lack of water make camping along this trail not recommended

FISHING: There are no fishing opportunities along this trail.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Wildflowers are found in profusion along the trail during the summer, and berry picking is possible for high bush cranberries and raspberries in August. Look for animal sign along the trail, and carry binoculars for birding.

WINTER ACTIVITIES: This trail provides good snowshoeing opportunities, but the road to Upper Skilak Campground is not usually plowed during the winter so access to the trailhead may be limited.

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Each square = 1 mile