THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

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June 11, 2026

Joni Seay
Deputy Superintendent
National Park Service
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
GLBA_superintendent@nps.gov

File No. 3130-1R NPS / 2026-00508

Subject: Determination of Eligibility and Effect for East River Camp Complex (YAK-00222)

Dear Ms. Seay,

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your correspondence and the accompanying report *Determination of Eligibility, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, East River Camp Complex* on May 12, 2026.

Following our review of the documentation provided, we concur that the East River Camp Complex is an eligible historic district for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C at a local level. The period of significance for the district is 1960 to 1980 and the cabin, meathouse, airstrip, and trails are contributing resources. The outhouse and windsock are non-contributing features. We recommend that future site investigations include further documenting and photographing the trails and determining the extent to which they contribute to the historic district.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, AK SHPO concurs that the proposed roof and outhouse replacements will not adversely affect the East River Camp Complex Historic District.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Amy Hellmich at 907-269-8724 or amy.hellmich@alaska.gov if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Schmuck

Nick Schmuck
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

NS:ash

Eligible __X__ Not Eligible _____

1. **Name of Property**

Historic name: East River Camp Complex
Other names: East River Camp Public Use Cabin, East River Camp Meathouse, East Alsek River Airstrip, East Cabin Trail, East Cabin North Trail, East Alsek River Access Trail, East Alsek Public Use Cabin, East Cabin, Hunter Cabin, Hunter Style Cabin, East Alsek Shed, East River Meatshed, East River Airstrip, AK76, Dry Bay Public Use Cabin
AHRS Number for District: YAK-00222
FMSS Location (or Asset): Dry Bay Area (Parent): 42534; DB- East Alsek River Air Strip: 91957; DB – East Alsek Public Use Cabin: 42584; DB – East Alsek Public Use Shed: 91906; East Alsek Outhouse (Asset) 73682
CRIS-HS Numbers: 1173495, 1173496, 1173497, 1173498, 1173499, 1173500
Field Number: GLBA 25-01

2. **Location**

Map sheet: USGS Yakutat A-2, Alaska
Aliquot: Copper River Meridian, Alaska, SW ¼ of the NE ¼ in Section 20, Township 32S, Range 42E
Latitude: 59.128231"N **Longitude: -**138.404587W
City or town: ~50 airmiles southwest of Yakutat, AK
Borough (or Census Area): Borough of Yakutat
Land Status: Federal
NPS Land Tract Number: GLBA 02-102
Acreage: 8 Acres

Verbal Boundary Description:
The East River Camp Complex occupies 8 acres on the west bank of the East Alsek River. The description of the polygon boundary is generally a long and thin rectangle running southwest to northeast, with a triangular polygon extension in northeast section to contain the cabin, meathouse, outhouse and trail to the river. From **Point A** (**59.128231"N, - 138.404587"W)** on the north corner of the airstrip toward the southeast for 165 feet to **Point B** (**59.127903"N, -1 38.404083W**) on the east corner of the airstrip, turn southwest for 300 feet to **Point C** (**59.127353N, - 138.405466W)** to the where the airstrip apron begins, turn southeast for 445 feet to **Point D (59.126365N, - 138.404213W)** on the East Alsek River, turn southwest along the river bank for 65 feet to **Point E (59.126180N, -138.404508W),** turn northwest for 525 feet to **Point F (59.126801N, -138.407280W),** turning southwest along the airstrip for 1380 feet to **Point G (59.124639N, -138.412876W)** to the southern corner of the airstrip**,** turn northwest for 140 feet to **Point H (59.124874N, -138.404587W),** finally turning back northeast for 2040 feet along the northwest side of the airstrip to complete the polygon back at **Point A.**

Boundary Justification: The boundary contains the extent of the East River Camp Complex, including the airstrip, directly associated road access with the airstrip apron, and few buildings/structures associated with the recreation history of the North Tongass National Forest and Glacier Bay National Preserve.

3. Description

Ownership of property: National Park Service
Category of property: District
Property's function:
Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation, AGRICULTURE SUBSISTENCE/Processing
Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation, AGRICULTURE SUBSISTENCE/Processing
Materials:
Foundation: WOOD
Walls: WOOD – T&G Decking; timber frame
Roof: METAL – exposed fastener metal roofing; galvanized metal

Resource Count:

Eligible	Not Eligible	Type
1	1	Building
0	0	Site
5	0	Structure
0	1	Object
6	2	Total

Summary Paragraph:
The East River Camp Complex is a small historic district on the west bank of the East Alsek River within the Dry Bay area of Glacier Bay National Preserve, which consists of six contributing resources of the **East River Camp Cabin**, the **East River Camp Meathouse**, the **East Alsek River Airstrip**, the **East Cabin Trail, East Cabin North Trail,** and the **East Alsek River Access Trail**. Along with two non-contributing resources of a modern outhouse and replacement windsock pole.

Setting:
Dry Bay encompasses a dynamic coastal-fluvial landscape at the mouth of the Alsek River in southeast Alaska. The area reflects a long geologic and cultural history shaped by Pleistocene glaciation, post-glacial sedimentation, coastal geomorphology, and Indigenous use that long predates Euro-American contact. The glacial-isostatic rebound in the area is the most measured in the world, averaging 26mm/year. (Larsen, et al. 2005) The parcel of land that would become Glacier Bay National Preserve is bound by the Alsek River on the west, the Gulf of Alaska on the south, Deception Hills on the east, and

the Alsek Glacier to the north. Toward the east are two river traces of the East Alsek (also known as the East River) and the Doame (Dohm) River.

A broad coastal plain (foreland) stretches roughly ten miles from the foot of the mountains to the ocean. This foreland contains a series of ecological zones. West of Dry Bay, extensive muskeg alternates with linear stands of spruce and hardwoods situated on slightly elevated glacial moraines and raised beaches. In contrast, the terrain east of Dry Bay is higher, well-drained, and largely free of muskeg. The land there is geologically young with thin vegetation, consisting mostly of alder, willow, and pioneering plant species. A short distance farther east, this shrubland transitions into spruce stands, becoming denser forest at the base of the Deception Hills.

Narrative Description:
The East River Camp Complex is a small historic district on the west bank of the East Alsek River within the Dry Bay area of Glacier Bay National Preserve. The hub of the complex is a 50′ by 2000′ grass airstrip (**East Alsek River Airstrip**) running southwest to northeast along a curve in the East Alsek River approximately 2.5 air miles from the coast. Between the airstrip and the river, a clearing on the northern end of the airstrip contains a small public use cabin (**East River Camp Cabin**) and meathouse (**East River Camp Meathouse**), with a modern outhouse set back within the vegetation along a small footpath to the river (**East Alsek River Access Trail**). A modern windsock and pole is set on the east side of the airstrip south of the cabin clearing. Primary access to the location is via small aircraft, however the airstrip is also connected to the primitive road network of Dry Bay – access from near the mouth of the East Alsek River to the cabin location is along the **East Cabin Trail**, north of the cabin and deeper into the forelands is the **East Cabin North Trail**.

Contributing:

East River Camp Cabin (CRIS-HS 1173496, FMSS 42584)
Built 1965
Building

Exterior
The building is a one-story, front-gabled "Hunter Style" [1] rectangular building, measuring 12′x14′, set on a wood skid foundation. The simple, one-room form features rectangular massing and a low-pitched gable roof, 4:12 in slope, with the gable running northwest to southeast. The roof is clad in dark brown exposed fastener metal roofing.

[1] Hunter cabins look similar to the simplest of Pan Abodes cabins. However, Hunter cabins are constructed with three interior structural frames or bents, made with 4x6 posts and 4x8 roof beams and stabilized with plywood gussets. Horizontal tongue-and-groove wood decking is fastened to the frame to create the walls and roof of the cabin, with butt-jointed corners finished with vertical corner trim. More information is included in the Historic Context section of this documentation under Recreation along with a comparative chart of current Hunter style cabins in the Tongass National Forest in Appendix A.

Exterior walls are constructed of exposed 2"x6" tongue-and-groove planking (or decking), with butt-jointed corners finished with vertical corner trim. A single screw anchor is at each corner to affix the building to the ground, due to the high winds in the forelands. A single access door is positioned slightly off center on the gable-end. The exterior is finished in dark brown paint, reinforcing the building's utilitarian character and its visual consistency with other structures of similar Hunter style cabin construction documented in the region.

The primary (northwest) elevation of the cabin contains one off-center door and one window. The elevation is twenty-four courses of tongue-and-groove planking tall, measuring 10′1" tall at the gable and 6′10" at the corners by 12′5" long. The flush wood door is offset to the south, and measures approximately 2′4" x 6′8". It has a rope handle and opens outward. The opening is framed by flat board molding. The window is on the north side of the northwest elevation, it is a fixed, vinyl frame window with six lights and measures 1′11.5" x 3′4.5" and has white flat board molding. The bottom sill of the window is at the eighth course. Between the door and window is the thimble and penetration for the oil stove flue. A plank wood porch constructed of 2x4s measures, 12′5" x 4′, runs the length of the elevation, and a metal roofed shed style awning supported by two square 2x2 posts is situated above the door. The awning measures 3′9.5" x 3′11" and the support posts are 6′7" tall, and covered in a light brown exposed fastener metal roofing.

The southwest elevation of the structure is nineteen courses tall of tongue-and-groove planking, measuring 14′2" long by 8′ tall. There is a single window on the west side. The window is a vinyl six-over-six, single hung, with white flat board molding and measures 3′10.5" x 3′4.5". The bottom sill of the window is at the ninth course.

The southeast elevation of the structure is twenty-four courses tall of tongue-and-groove planking, measuring 10′1" tall at the gable and 6′10" at the corners by 12′5" long. There is a single window on the south side of the elevation. The window is a six-over-six, single hung, vinyl with white flat board molding and measures 2′7" x 2′8.5". The bottom sill of the window is in the eleventh course.

The northeast elevation of the structure is nineteen courses tall of tongue-and-groove planking, measuring 14′2" long by 8′ tall. There is a single window on the west side. The window is a vinyl six-over-six, single hung, with white flat board molding and measures 3′4.5" x 3′1". The bottom sill of the window is at the ninth course. Immediately west of the window, between the window and the northwest corner is a fuel storage container.

Interior

The interior of the cabin is a single room which is divided into three distinct use areas: the bunk area, the kitchen, and the dining area. The back (southeast) half of the cabin is occupied by two parallel plywood bunks, totaling four beds. There is a wooden table/bench between the two bunks, against the southeastern wall. The bed frames are painted white, and each bunk is outfitted with a sleeping pad. The north corner is a kitchen area with storage shelves, a wood cabinet, pots and pans, a wood counter, and an

oil stove. The wood cabinet is painted white. The west corner is a dining area with a table, wood benches, a folding chair, and three shelves. On the table is a logbook from 2012. The flooring is car decking. The ceiling is lined with exposed 2x6 tongue and groove decking painted white that abut the rafters. A variety of items are available for visitor use, including cooking fuel, coffee, oil, and spices. These items fluctuate over time based on use.

East River Camp Cabin Character Defining Features (CDF)

CDF Exterior

- Simple, one-room rectangular massing
- Low-pitched (4:12) gable roof with metal covering; original photos show corrugated metal unpainted.
- Exposed 2x6 tongue and groove plank wall construction
- Butt-jointed corners with vertical corner trim
- Access door off center on gable end
- Exterior painted dark brown

CDF Interior

- Interior structural frames consisting of three bents of posts and roof beams with plywood gussets
- Exposed 2x6 tongue and groove plank wall construction
- Exposed 2x6 tongue and groove decking as roof underlayment

East Camp Cabin Changes over Time:

The public use cabins constructed by the United States Forest Service (USFS) did not typically have a porch or deck (See Figure 1 for Hunter Cabin design). In 2004, the East Alsek Public Use Cabin had a small wood plank porch immediately outside the entry door (see Figure 20). It was expanded sometime before 2014 to span the length of the west elevation (see Photograph 3). During the same time period, the metal doorknob on the entry was replaced with a rope handle. Additionally, a shed style awning was added over the entry door held up by two posts. Between 2004 and 2014, the windows on the cabin were replaced, and the flat board molding were painted white, as opposed to the original Forest Service brown. In 2004 the window on the southern elevation was a nine-pane, fixed window with brown flat board surround. By 2014 the window had been replaced with the current six-over-six, single hung window with white flat board surround (see Photographs 3, 4, 5, 6). Between 2004 and 2014, the kitchen counter was expanded, and a shelf was added underneath (see Figure 21 and Photograph 7 respectively). The interior of the cabin contains variable items like cooking fuel, oil, and spices, which are used and replaced as visitors come and go. However, items like fire extinguishers, maps, and bed mats remain in the cabin.

East River Camp Meathouse (CRIS-HS 1173496, FMSS 91906)
Built 1965
Structure

Exterior
The East River Camp Meathouse is a straightforward, single story, rectangular building measuring 13′x15′ with a front-gable, oriented southwest to northeast. The high-pitched (10:12) gable has galvanized corrugated metal roofing. Its structure features an exposed heavy timber frame, two king-post truss bents, and open walls on three sides for ventilation. The only enclosed side is the rear elevation, constructed of stud framing clad in plywood. All wood elements are stained dark brown.

Interior
The interior continues this functional expression, with three open elevations providing natural ventilation, exposed 2x6 rafters and 2x4 horizontal nailers, and visible framing along the rear wall. A moveable wooden ladder remains part of the working interior. Designed for processing and storing game, the structure's open, durable form reflects its intended use as a place to hang moose carcasses and other harvested animals.

East River Camp Meathouse Character Defining Features (CDF)
CDF Exterior

- Simple rectangular plan
- Simple gable form and massing
- High-pitched (10:12) gable roof with galvanized corrugated metal roofing
- Exposed heavy timber frame with two king post truss bents and knee braces on ends of the building
- Open walls on three elevations
- Stud framed rear elevation clad in plywood
- Wood elements, stained dark brown

CDF Interior

- Open on three elevations for ventilation
- Moveable wooden ladder
- Exposed 2x6 rafter and 2x4 horizontal nailers
- Exposed framing on rear elevation
- Intended use as a structure to hang up moose carcasses

Contributing *Circulation*

East Alsek River Airstrip (AK76, CRIS-HS 1173495, FMSS#)
Constructed 1964, improved 1966
Structure

This airstrip is an open grassy area, 50′ by 2000′, running southwest to northeast along a curve in the East Alsek River approximately 2.5 miles from the coast. During wetter times of the year the airstrip can become soft and rutted. It is described in the FAA files as being sod covered gravel. But it appears that the gravels are naturally occurring from the glacial influence in the area. It is well maintained. There is a small apron plane parking area in front of the cabin and meathouse. The Alaska Aviation System Database provides an identifying number of AK76 and the FAA has assigned the internal number of 50920.32 and it is associated with the Yakutat vicinity.

Changes over time:
After the improvement in 1966, the airstrip was lined with alternating red and white boards approximately 200′ apart. It is unknown when these were no longer maintained or removed. See Figures 3, 9, 15, 16.

East Alsek River Airstrip Character Defining Features (CDF)

- 50′ by 2000′ landing strip
- Grass covered gravel
- Free of obstacles
- Single small apron in front of the cabin and shed

East Cabin Trail (CRIS-HS 1173498, FMSS 111930)
Constructed 1960
Structure

The **East Cabin Trail** is an approximately 12 feet wide dirt and turf ORV trail that connects from Varni West Trail to the southwestern access of the East Alsek Airstrip. It runs along the entire eastern portion of the airstrip to provide access to the **East River Camp Cabin**. This documentation is only evaluating the portion of the trail in direct vicinity of the **East Alsek Airstrip**, outside of the boundaries of this district has not been evaluated.

East Cabin North Trail (CRIS-HS 1173499, FMSS 111931)
Constructed 1960
Structure

The East Cabin North Trail is an approximately 12 feet wide dirt and turf ORV trail that connects from the **East River Camp Cabin**, along the northern portion of the **East Alsek Airstrip**, and continues on to the more remote northern trails. This documentation is

only evaluating the portion of the trail in direct vicinity of the **East Alsek Airstrip**, outside of the boundaries of this district has not been evaluated.

East Alsek River Access Trail (CRIS-HS 1173500)
Constructed 1965
Structure

Short foot path that connects the main complex to the East Alsek River, likely as a water source and not directly for fishing access as fishing was poor in this area.

Non-Contributing:

East Alsek Outhouse
Constructed 2004
Building

This small, simple outbuilding is rectangular with vertical T1-11 wood siding painted a muted olive-green color and topped with front gabled roof covered in corrugated plastic roofing which allows light into the structure. A narrow wooden door, also made of T1-11 siding is fitted with a basic metal handle and sliding lock, occupies the center of the front elevation, and a small screen ventilating window sits in the apex of the gable. There is no visible foundation.

Changes over time:

The original wood outhouse was a thin square footprint wooden building with vertical board siding capped with a gable roof clad in green corrugated plastic roofing. (See Figure 13) tucked into the forest line. This has been replaced at least once by the National Park Service (NPS) in 2004 and is planned to be replaced again in 2026.

East Alsek Airstrip Windsock
Constructed 2020
Object

Simple pole located near a topped tree with a single orange windsock.

Changes over time:

There was an original pole and windsock evident on the site plans within the FAA historical files from 1968, see Figure 3. A 1974 inspection of the area captured a photograph of the original pole and windsock and can be seen in Figure 17.

4. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

Criterion A: Yes
Criterion B: No
Criterion C: Yes
Criterion D: No

Areas of significance: Conservation, Entertainment/Recreation
Significant date(s): 1960, 1965, 1966, 1980, 2004
Period of significance: 1960 - 1980
Level of significance: Local
Significant person(s): N/A
Cultural affiliation: N/A
Architect/Engineer: United States Forest Service (USFS), D.R.S. (Possibly David R. Shepard, USFS Civil Engineer North Tongass National Forest)

Statement of significance:
The East River Camp Complex is significant at a local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of *Conservation* and *Entertainment/Recreation* for the association with federal land preservation efforts of southeast Alaska and the growth of the US Forest Service (USFS) Recreational Cabin Expansion Program from 1960-1971, and the only example of such a property within Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Being associated with the USFS ownership of the property, the complex has a period of significance from 1960-1980, when the land was transferred from USFS to NPS.

The **East River Camp Complex** consists of the **East River Camp Cabin**, **East River Camp Meathouse**, **East Alsek River Airstrip, East Cabin Trail**, **East Cabin North Trail,** and the **East Alsek River Access Trail** which retain most aspects of integrity. Despite modest alterations (primarily to the cabin), the East River Camp Cabin, Meathouse, Airstrip, and trail system retain strong integrity across all seven NRHP aspects. They continue to embody their mid-1960s Forest Service origins, remote wilderness character, and functional relationships.

Historical information:

Conservation

Since time immemorial people have inhabited the land of Southeast Alaska including the area now known as Dry Bay. The area reflects a long geologic and cultural history shaped by Pleistocene glaciation, post-glacial sedimentation, coastal geomorphology, and Indigenous use that long predates Euro-American contact. Although Dry Bay lies within the homeland of the Ghunaaxhoo Kwaan of the Tlingit, the portion containing the East River Camp was historically unsuitable for habitation. Over the past 200 years it transformed from a glacial outwash plain into a shifting river delta, dominated by wetlands, estuaries, and unstable channels. The few areas above the water table were

barren, windswept, and at times devastated by outburst floods from ice-dam events at Alsek Lake. (Catton 1995)

Tongass National Forest

The history of the East River Camp begins with early twentieth century federal forest designations in Southeast Alaska. In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt established the Alexander Archipelago Forest Reserve, though this initial reserve did not include Dry Bay. A formal proclamation in 1907 created the Tongass National Forest, followed in 1908 by the consolidation of the Alexander Archipelago Reserve and the Tongass. Dry Bay remained outside these early boundaries until 1909, when a second proclamation expanded the forest to include the coastline from Yakutat Bay to the southeastern edge of Dry Bay. (Rakestraw 1981) This addition became known informally as the North Tongass National Forest and appeared on mid-century USGS maps documenting its extent.

In 1959, the Colorado Gas and Oil Company conducted seismic mineral exploration in the Yakutat Forelands including the Dry Bay area. Their work left a network of lines across the muskeg, which later evolved into the **East Cabin Trail** and **East Cabin North Trail**. Transportation in the area mostly relied upon air travel and a few rustic airstrips were established including the **East Alsek Airfield** in 1964. Due to vegetation succession from glacier cover, commercial timber was not available in Dry Bay, however other resources provided for an array of management conflicts and opportunities. By 1973 the USFS was balancing the needs of recreational hunters, outfitter guides for large game, and commercial fishing interests all within the Dry Bay area. (Mitchell 1973)

In the 1960s, the USFS established a few public use cabin complexes throughout the Yakutat Forelands including Harlequin Lake, Alsek River, Middle Dangerous River, Italio River, Tanis Mesa, and **East River Camp** with the primary goal to support large game hunting recreation use. The associated cabins were all a mixture of the Pan-Abode, A-Frame, and Hunter style cabins (Lantz 2010). The **East River Camp Cabin**, Alsek River, and Middle Dangerous River cabins are three of the sixteen examples of Hunter style cabins in the Tongass, see Appendix A for complete comparative chart. All of the Yakutat Foreland camps included a meathouse/meatshed for storage of large game meat. Harlequin Lake Camp is no longer extant and not captured in the comparative analysis. (See Appendix B)

Although documentation is incomplete, the **East River Camp Cabin** and its **Meathouse** were likely constructed between 1964 and 1966. The **East River Camp Cabin** is a "Hunter Cabin" plan which was designed by the USFS in 1963, there is evidence of 17 Hunter style cabins being built in the Tongass (see Appendix B). A 1966 Project Work Plan to upgrade the **East (Alsek) River Airstrip** references stove oil among its supplies, suggesting that a cabin already stood on the site (see Figure 2). By 1968, the **cabin** and **meathouse** appeared on updated FAA airfield maps, and the airstrip was included on a 1970 update of the 1959 USGS Yakutat Quad Map. The **East River Camp Cabin** later appeared on the 1973 Tongass Recreation Cabin Map.(see Figures 4 and 5)

Transfer from the Tongass National Forest to the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

The general conversation about the proper designation of federal lands continued throughout all of Alaska even following statehood with a direct look at ecosystem management. Through this lens it made sense to include the entire coastal strip up to Yakutat Bay to an expanded Glacier Bay National Monument which was managed by the NPS. This would have established an unbroken connection between Glacier Bay National Monument, the proposed Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park, and Canada's Kluane National Park. Due to economic factors including commercial fishing operations in Yakutat Bay and Dry Bay, as well as oil exploration activities near Yakutat, the region was originally retained under the management of the Forest Service.

As an alternative, the NPS recommended using the Alsek River valley as the northern boundary of the park. While the river generally represents a natural barrier, approximately 50,000 acres near its mouth and the adjacent coastal plain became the focal points of debate. The primary issue was whether to incorporate the coastal plain from Grand Plateau Glacier north to Dry Bay into the park via the Alsek addition.

In 1976, Superintendent Robert Howe and biologist Gregory Streveler advised the National Park Service planning team that adding the land near Dry Bay would introduce more challenges than advantages. They observed that extending jurisdiction closer to Dry Bay posed significant difficulties and establishing boundaries across either the coastal plain or Grand Plateau Glacier would be biologically arbitrary. Nevertheless, the coastal plain provided important wildlife habitat and migration corridors, while the Deception Hills contained some of southeastern Alaska's oldest forests. Howe and Streveler ultimately recommended that the park boundary follow the Grand Pacific Glacier from Alsek Lake to the coast, thereby maintaining a buffer zone between the monument and the intensively utilized lands of the Dry Bay area. (Catton 1995)

Glacier Bay National Monument itself was created by presidential proclamation in 1925 but did not include the Dry Bay area. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980 expanded the monument, redesignated it as Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, and created the fifty-seven thousand acre Glacier Bay National Preserve which includes the Dry Bay area and the East River Camp. Hunting under state regulations, fishing, trapping, and subsistence uses are allowed in the preserve. In reference to the Dry Bay area, Catton states that "contrary to the historical pattern of tug-of-war between the Park Service and the Forest Service, this was a parcel of land that Forest Service officials were only too willing to let go."

The general purposes of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve are stated in Section 101 of ANILCA. The preserve shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To protect a segment of the Alsek River, fish and wildlife habitats and migration routes and a portion of the Fairweather Range including the northwest slope of Mount Fairweather.

Section 205 of ANILCA states that in the Dry Bay area of Glacier Bay National Preserve,

> "the Secretary may take no action to restrict unreasonably the exercise of valid commercial fishing rights or privileges obtained pursuant to existing law, including the use of public lands for campsites, cabins, motorized vehicles, and aircraft landings on existing airstrips, directly incident to the exercise of such rights or privileges, except that this prohibition shall not apply to activities which the Secretary, after conducting a public hearing in the affected locality, finds constitute a significant expansion of the use of park lands beyond the level of such use during 1979."

Section 811(a) of ANILCA states that rural residents engaged in subsistence uses shall have reasonable access to subsistence resources on public lands. Section 811(b) states that

> "…permits on public lands appropriate use for subsistence use of snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes by local residents, subject to reasonable regulation."

In 1983, the NPS requested that the USFS continue to manage the **East River Camp Cabin** due to the lack of other NPS public use cabins in the area (Chapman 1983). A 1991 memo confirms that the USFS was continuing to handle the reservations for the **East River Camp Cabin**, however the NPS was responsible for maintenance (Evans 1991). It remains unclear how long this arrangement persisted.

The cabin continued to be featured in public materials. A 1989 USFS Tongass recreation brochure described the "East River – Dry Bay (NPS)" cabin [**East River Camp Cabin**] as a small 12-by-14-foot building with an oil stove, four bunks, creek water, and access by wheeled aircraft, noting its popularity for moose hunting and seasonal recreation.

In 2004, the National Park Service constructed a modern outhouse at the site. Although Facility Management Software System (FMSS) records inaccurately suggest that the Meathouse was built the same year, the research for this documentation shows that it was erected by the USFS in 1965. Between 2004 and 2024, the site saw additional improvements, including the addition of a shed roof porch to the cabin's front elevation and the replacement of its windows, shaping the East River Camp as it stands today.

Entertainment/Recreation

Public Use Cabins

Beginning in 1933, the USDA Forest Service initiated a program to construct public use cabins and shelters in Alaska to support recreation, subsistence, and travel across the region's remote landscapes. By the early 1960s, this program had expanded and formalized, producing standardized cabin designs, including the Pan Abode, A-frame, and Hunter style cabins, that responded to evolving recreational demand. (Lantz 2010) An overview of the growth of the USFS Recreational Cabin Expansion Program from 1960-1971, is captured within the 2010 study by Nicole Lantz of *Everyone's Cabin in the Woods.*

US Forest Service (USFS) Recreational Cabin Expansion Program from 1960-1971 – Hunter Style Cabins

The East River Camp features a Hunter style cabin. Lantz's research concentrated on the more popular standardized cabin plans from Pan Abode (and similar models) as well as A-Frame designs. Lantz identifies 16 Hunter style cabins, primarily within the Tongass National Forest. Six of these are too recent to be considered historic, indicating that the design continued to be used into the 1980s. (see Appendix A for a comparative chart of Hunter cabins of the Tongass) Although the Hunter style cabin is referenced in this study, it is not explored in depth.

Since 2010, additional documentation has been collected through Determination of Eligibility records in both the Chugach and Tongass National Forests, broadening our understanding. Notably, Cultural Resource Consultants LLC (CRC) completed a "Determination of Eligibility for Ten Public Use Cabins on the Tongass" report, which included the most complete history of the Hunter style cabin (Yarbourough 2018). The Hunter style cabin was developed specifically for the Tongass National Forest to allow efficient building, durability, and functional shelter in remote areas. The **East River Camp Cabin** exemplifies this innovation in federal outdoor recreation planning and is a surviving example of mid-century backcountry infrastructure from the US Forest Service Recreational Cabin Expansion Program (1960–1971).

Hunter style cabins resemble the general form of Pan Abodes cabins used throughout the Forest Service in Alaska and in other NPS locations such as Katmai. The Hunter style appears to be unique to the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, and it is not known whether it was influenced by other cabin designs or precedents.

The CRC report notes that construction drawings are stored at the Forest Service Region 10 archive in Juneau (see Figure 1). The drawings are labeled as "Hunter Cabin, U.S. Department of Agricultural Forest Service, North Tongass Nat'l Forest, The Alaska Region." The Hunter cabin was designed by someone with the initials "D.R.S.", potentially David R. Shepard, a civil engineer for the North Tongass National Forest, in January 1963. These plans were approved by Forest Engineer Loren Adkins, as well as by the Forest Supervisor and Acting Regional Director. These plans detail a single-room, 12-by-14-foot building with a 4:12 gable roof and entry at the gable end. Unlike Pan

Abode models, Hunter cabins feature three internal structural bents made from 4x6 posts and 4x8 beams with plywood gussets, finished with horizontal tongue-and-groove 2x6 decking for both walls and roof. Though visually similar to Pan Abode timbers, Hunter cabin wall boards are square-cut, butt-jointed, and trimmed at the edges. Their practical design enabled fast and easy construction but lacked the decorative features typical of A-Frame or Pan Abode cabins. (Yarbourough 2018)

Since the ownership of this property transferred from the Tongass National Forest to the National Park Service with the passage of ANILCA in 1980, the **East River Camp Cabin** would not have been included in the recent studies of Forest Service recreation cabins in Alaska. When ANILCA established the 57,000-acre Glacier Bay National Preserve, it explicitly protected continued recreational access, commercial fishing activities, and subsistence uses in Dry Bay, affirming the longstanding recreational role of the area and the federal infrastructure that supported it. The **East River Camp Complex** illustrates the unique management considerations surrounding Dry Bay, especially its role as a hub for recreational hunting.

US Forest Service (USFS) Recreational Cabin Expansion Program from 1960-1971 – Public-Use Cabin Complexes in the Yakutat Forelands

As noted under Conservation - During the 1960s, the U.S. Forest Service constructed several public-use cabin complexes throughout the Yakutat Forelands at locations such as Harlequin Lake, Alsek River, Middle Dangerous River, Italio River, Tanis Mesa, and **East River Camp**. These cabins were primarily designed to accommodate recreational big game hunting activities. The structures featured a variety of architectural styles, including Pan-Abode, A-Frame, and Hunter-style designs (Lantz 2010).

Notably, the **East River Camp Cabin**, along with the Alsek River and Middle Dangerous River cabins, represent three of the sixteen Hunter style cabins within this development of the Yakutat Forelands of the Northern Tongass National Forest. For a detailed comparison of these cabins, see Appendix A. (From this visual assessment, it appears that the following cabins have the highest degree of physical integrity to convey the design history of the Hunter style cabin: East River Camp Cabin, Middle Dangerous River, and Tower Arm.) Each camp located on the Yakutat Forelands was equipped with a meathouse or meatshed for the purpose of storing substantial quantities of game meat. It is important to note that Harlequin Lake Camp has been removed and does not appear in the comparative analysis (refer to Appendix B).
The primary mode of transportation in the region was air travel, facilitated by the creation of several rustic airstrips. Among these, the **East Alsek Airfield**, established in 1964, provided key access to the area.

Sport fishing and hunting remain popular activities in Dry Bay. This complex is still utilized by local residents and visitor alike during the hunting season. While not available through Recreation.gov, the East River Camp Cabin can still be reserved for $25/night through Glacier Bay permitting office.

Chronology of the complex:

1902 President Theodore Roosevelt establishes Alexander Archipelago Forest Reserve; a precursor to the Tongass National Forest. The Dry Bay area was not yet included in this reservation. (Rakestraw, 1981: vi)

1907 A formal proclamation creating the Tongass National Forest was made on September 10, 1907. (Rakestraw, 1981:23) The Dry Bay area was not included in this reservation.

1908 On July 1, 1908, the Alexander Archipelago and the Tongass were consolidated into a single national forest, the Tongass, with a total area of 6,756,362 acres. (Rakestraw, 1981:23) The Dry Bay area was not included in this reservation.

1909 On February 16, 1909, the second proclamation relating to the Tongass added 8,724,000 acres to its area including from the south shore of Yakutat bay to the southeastern boundary of Dry Bay. This is sometimes referred to as the North Tongass National Forest. (Rakestraw, 1981:24)

1930 Moose were first observed in the Yakutat forelands during the 1930s. According to de Laguna (1972), they likely migrated into the area via the Alsek corridor from the Canadian interior.

1951 North Tongass National Forest is evident on the 1951 USGS Quad Map Yakutat, extending from Yakutat to the east side of Dry Bay at the bottom of Deception Hills.

1959 Colorado Gas and Oil Company explored the area of Dry Bay for mineral extraction via seismic study, leaving behind a crisscross of roads traces across the muskeg. These traces would eventually become the **East Cabin Trail** and **East Cabin North Trail**. (Gmelch, 1982:41)

1963 "Hunter Cabin" designed by "D.R.S." of North Tongass National Forest, Region 10 Juneau Archives Drawing. (USFS, 1963) (Figure 1)

1964 The USFS requests the establishment of the **East Alsek Airfield** with the FAA. (FAA Form 2800-1, FAA Historic Files East Alsek River Airstrip, AK76)

1965 While there is no work order or photographic evidence, it seems plausible that the **East Camp Cabin** and **Meathouse** were constructed between 1964-1966.

1966 Project Work Plan (Form 1300-4) from the USFS to "repair and bring the East River Airstrip (606) up to standard for Class G Airstrip. Includes colored markers spaced 200' apart and on ends, grub large stumps and fill holes on adjacent sides of 50' runway. Erect windsock Pole. Reduce hill and northeast end to gradual slope." Work Plan includes a reference to "Stove Oil" as part the supplies which may indicate that the cabin was already established on the ground. (Figure 2)

1968 **East Camp Cabin** and **Meathouse** appear on the updated sitemap for the **East Alsek Airfield** in the FAA historical files. (Figure 3)

1970 **East Alsek Airstrip** appears on the 1959 USGS Quad Yakutat, which was updated in 1970.

1973 **East River Cabin** is listed on the 1973 Tongass Recreation Cabin Map (Figure 5 and 6).

1974 The moose population experienced a significant decrease due to overhunting and harsh winters during the 1970s, which led to a suspension of hunting from 1974 until 1977 in the Yakutat Forelands.

1980 Transfer of the area known as Dry Bay from the North Tongass National Forest to be part of Glacier Bay National Preserve as part of ANILCA.

1983 NPS requests that the USFS retain management of the **East River Cabin** as the NPS has no other Public Use Cabins to manage in the area. It is unclear as to when this agreement was disbanded. (Chapman to Blackwell Memo, 1983) (Catton 1995)

1989 The "East River – Dry Bay (NPS)" [**East River Camp Cabin**] is listed in the 1989 Recreation Cabins of Chatham Area of Tongass National Forest brochure as "A 12x14 foot cabin located on the east back of the [East] Alsek River. Oil Stove, bunks 4. Accessible by wheeled plane (1 hour from Yakutat). Fresh water source is the creek. Salmon in two small streams north of the cabin. Special drawing held for mid-October to mid-November for moose hunting. Wildflowers, waterfowl, berries." (United States Forest Service 1989)

1991 NPS Memo between historical architects notes that during a phone interview with Superintendent Jensen, the "East Alsek River Cabin" [**East River Camp Cabin**] sees continual use throughout the moose, bear, and duck hunting season, approximately 2 months, by fly in hunters from Juneau. USFS in Juneau accept reservations from the public, at $15/night, under a cooperative agreement with the NPS. It is noted in this correspondence that the NPS is responsible for maintenance of the cabin. The roofing steel is in need of replacement as the wind is enlarging the nail holes and working the steel sheets loose. (1991 Dale Evans and Superintendent Jensen). It is unclear when this agreement concluded.

2004 NPS Constructed the modern outhouse (FMSS); inaccurately the FMSS system also states the Meathouse (or Shed) was constructed at the same.

2004 Between 2004 and 2024, the park added the shed roof porch on the front elevation of the cabin and replaced the windows.

Application of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria:

Criterion A - The East River Camp Complex is significant at a local level under Criterion A in the areas of *Conservation* and *Entertainment/Recreation* for association with federal land preservation efforts of southeast Alaska and the growth of the US Forest Service (USFS) Recreational Cabin Expansion Program from 1960-1971, and the only example of such a property within Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

Criterion B - The complex is not known to be associated with the lives of significant persons, and is ineligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C – The East River Camp Complex is significant at a local level under Criterion C in the areas of *Conservation* and *Entertainment/Recreation*, for the Hunter style cabin designed by the USFS in 1963 for use as Public Use Cabins within the Tongass National Forests. While the larger study was completed on the Pan-Abode and A-Frame cabins the Hunter style cabins were not addressed. This is the only example of a USFS Hunter Cabin within Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. While the windows and roofing have been replaced, and only a small shed porch addition does not distract from the overall design of the building. See comparative chart of other known Hunter style cabins within the USFS in Alaska at the end of this document (Appendix A).

Criterion D - The complex is unlikely to yield further information important in understanding local, regional, or national history, and is ineligible under Criterion D.

Integrity:

The **East River Camp Complex** consists of the **East River Camp Cabin**, **East River Camp Meathouse**, **East Alsek River Airstrip, East Cabin Trail**, **East Cabin North Trail,** and the **East Alsek River Access Trail** which retain most aspects of integrity. Despite modest alterations (primarily to the cabin), the East River Camp Cabin, Meathouse, Airstrip, and trail system retain strong integrity across all seven NRHP aspects. They continue to embody their mid-1960s Forest Service origins, remote wilderness character, and functional relationships.

East Alsek River Airstrip, **East River Camp Meathouse, East Cabin Trail**, **East Cabin North Trail,** and the **East Alsek River Access Trail** retain all aspects of integrity of Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, Association; The **East River Camp Cabin** with the window replacement and addition of a small shed porch the East River Camp Cabin has lower integrity of Design and Materials, but retains enough to convey US Forest Service (USFS) Recreational Cabin Expansion Program from 1960-1971, though the Hunter style cabin.

Integrity of Location: High. All components of the East River Camp Complex remain in their original constructed locations.

- The **East River Camp Cabin** and **East River Camp Meathouse** occupy their historic location next to the airstrip
- The **East Alsek River Airstrip** remains in the same 50′ x 2000′ alignment along the curve of the East Alsek River.
- The **East Cabin Trail**, **East Cabin North Trail**, and **East Alsek River Access Trail** continue to follow their original alignments that connect the airstrip, cabin, and river.

Integrity of Design: Moderate to high (cabin altered but retains defining characteristics). The design integrity varies slightly by resource but remains strong overall.

East River Camp Cabin

- Retains its simple, one room Hunter style design, exposed tongue and groove plank walls, and low-pitched gable roof.
- Modifications include porch expansion, added awning, window replacements, remodeled kitchen. These are minor relative to overall design.

East River Camp Meathouse

- Retains its high pitched gable, open three sided structure, king post truss bents, and utilitarian design.

East Alsek River Airstrip, **East Cabin Trail**, **East Cabin North Trail,** and the **East Alsek River Access Trail**

- **East Alsek River Airstrip** still reflects its historic linear form, grassy gravel surface, clear approaches.
- Trails retain their 12 ft dirt/turf ORV trail design or single width footpath.

Integrity of Setting: High. All features remain in the same remote, riverine, subarctic landscape near the East Alsek River. Although the Dry Bay forelands are characterized by active ecological succession, including the gradual transition from pioneering shrub communities to spruce stands, these changes do not diminish the integrity of setting for the **East River Camp Complex**. The vegetation patterns of alder, willow, early successional shrubs, and emerging spruce reflect the same natural processes that were active during the historic period and continue to shape the landscape today.

Integrity of Materials: Moderate to high (some cabin replacements but character materials remain dominant). The **East River Camp Complex** retains a strong expression of its historic material palette, consisting primarily of simple, durable, and readily available wood products and metal components typical of mid-1960s USFS construction.

East River Camp Cabin

- Retains primary materials: exposed 2x6 tongue-and-groove planking, car-decking floor, roof decking, heavy timber.
- Some materials were replaced: windows, door hardware, porch/awning additions.
- Still largely exhibits its USFS construction materials.

East River Camp Meathouse

- Retains its heavy timber frame, king-post bents, plywood-clad rear wall, and corrugated metal roofing.

East Alsek River Airstrip, **East Cabin Trail**, **East Cabin North Trail,** and the **East Alsek River Access Trail**

- Airstrip retains natural grass-covered gravel, though red/white board markers are no longer present.
- Trails retain dirt/turf surface.

Integrity of Workmanship: High (especially strong at the meathouse). Visible workmanship continues to reflect mid-century Forest Service construction:

East River Camp Cabin

- Exposed structural system, tongue-and-groove decking, simple utilitarian joinery, and original framing techniques remain visible.

East River Camp Meathouse

- Exposed heavy timber framing, king-post trusses, open-air functional construction strongly convey historic workmanship.

East Alsek River Airstrip, **East Cabin Trail**, **East Cabin North Trail,** and the **East Alsek River Access Trail**

- Trails still show original rustic ORV trail construction.
- Airstrip retains its manually cleared and maintained early aviation field qualities.

Integrity of Feeling: High. The complex continues to clearly convey its historic use as a remote hunting-support and aviation access camp.

- The simplicity of the cabin and meathouse, open airstrip, and rugged trail network reinforces the historic wilderness and recreation/subsistence atmosphere.
- Minor modern replacements do not substantially alter the historic character.

Integrity of Association: High. All features still reflect their historic functional relationships:

- Cabin and meathouse support backcountry use.
- Trails connect the cabin to the airstrip and river, maintaining their original circulation purpose.

- Airstrip remains functionally connected to cabin and meathouse as a point of access, as it was historically.
- The entire complex still performs the same roles documented in its period of significance.

Resource Table

AHRS ID#	**FMSS Location#**	**CRIS -HS**	**Resource Name**	**Construction Date**	**Resource Type** (Building, Structure, Site, Object)	**Status** (Not Eligible, Contributing, Noncontributing**)**
	91957	1173495	East Alsek River Airstrip	1964 improved 1966	Structure	Contributing
	42584	1173496	East River Camp Public Use Cabin	1965	Building	Contributing
	91906	1173497	East River Camp Meathouse	1965	Structure	Contributing
	111930	1173498	East Cabin Trail	1960	Structure	Contributing
	111931	1173499	East Cabin North Trail	1960	Structure	Contributing
	n/a	1173500	East Alsek River Access Trail	1965	Structure	Contributing
	73682	n/a	East Alsek Outhouse	2004	Building	Non-Contributing
	n/a	n/a	East Alsek Airstrip Windsock	1966, replaced in new location in 2020	Object	Non-Contributing

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6. **Form Prepared By:** Heather Feil, Architectural Historian, National Park Service Alaska Regional Office and Phyllis Kumbera, Archaeologist, MA, National Park Service Alaska Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

7. **Additional Material**

Maps:

Map 1. Topographic Map, USGS Yakutat A-2, Alaska, East River Camp Complex Identified
Map 2. East River Camp Complex Location Map, 2026
Map 3. East River Camp Complex Site Map, 2026
Map 4. East River Camp Complex inset Site Map, Photo Key, 2026

Photographs:

Photograph 1. Site overview, East River Camp Public Use Cabin, Meathouse, modern outhouse, facing east from the East Alsek Airstrip, 2024
Photograph 2. Overview of East Alsek River Airstrip, from cabin door, 2025
Photograph 3. West elevation of East River Camp Public Use Cabin. Facing east. 2025
Photograph 4. South elevation of East River Camp Public Use Cabin. Facing north. 2025
Photograph 5. East elevation of the East Alsek Public Use Cabin. Facing west. 2025
Photograph 6. North elevation of East Alsek Public Use Cabin. Facing south. (Note bat flying to roof), 2025
Photograph 7. Interior of East Alsek Public Use Cabin, note expanded countertop, 2025 (Interior photographs not shown on photo key map)
Photograph 8. Interior of East Alsek Public Use Cabin, 2025 (Interior photographs not shown on photo key map)
Photograph 9. Interior of East Alsek Public Use Cabin, 2025 (Interior photographs not shown on photo key map)
Photograph 10. Interior of cabin. Oil stove, 2025 (Interior photographs not shown on photo key map)
Photograph 11. Meathouse, view to the east, highlighting the open nature of the building. FAA AASP Photo 2025.
Photograph 12. 2004 Outhouse, NPS plans for this to be replaced in summer 2026, NPS Photo.
Photograph 13. Windsock and pole, FAA AASP Photo 2025.
Photograph 14. Aerial view of entire complex, including the East Alsek Airstrip, East River Camp Cabin and Meathouse. View toward the south, East Alsek River is behind the complex with the Gulf of Alaska in the distance. FAA AASP photo 2018.

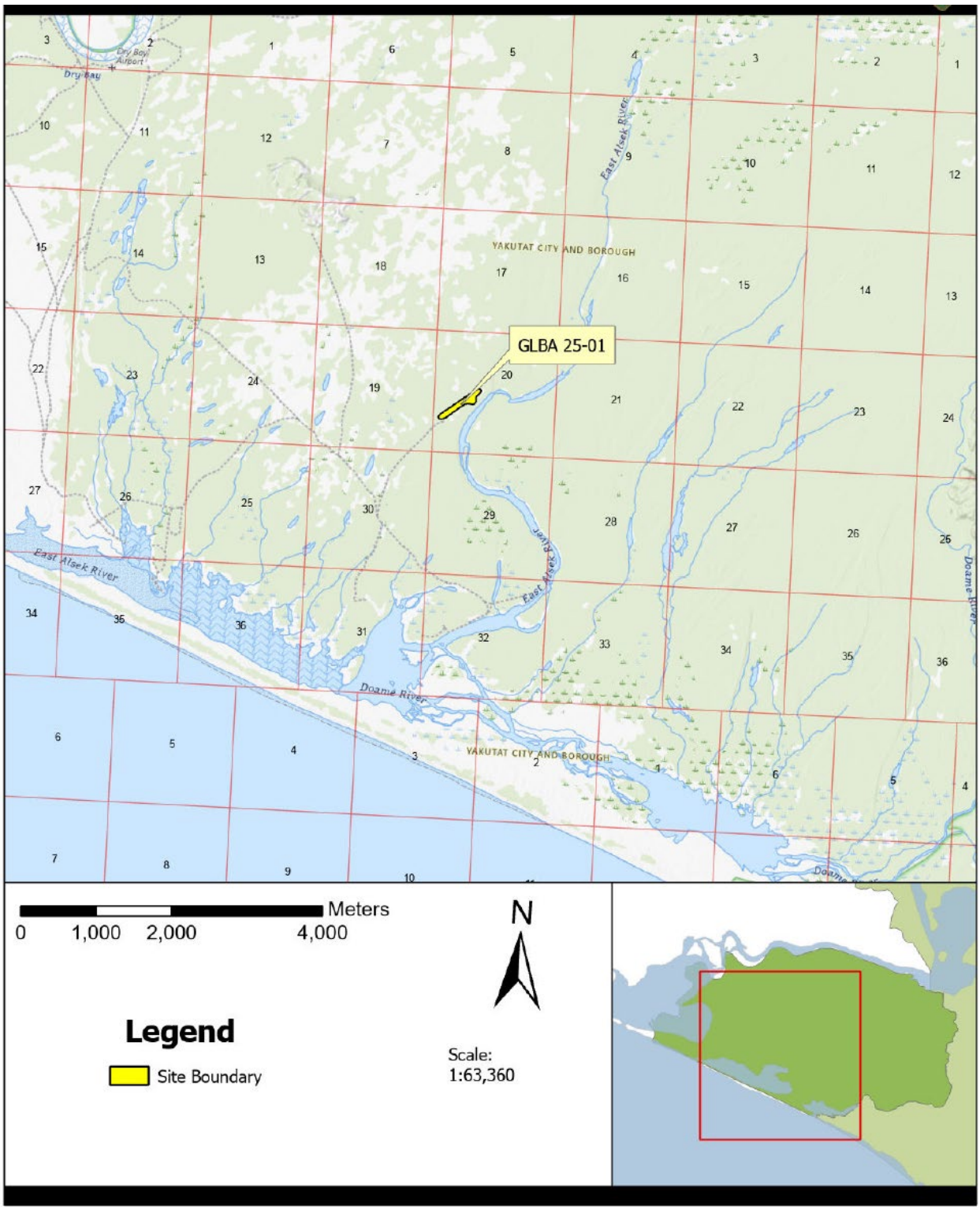
Figures:

Figure 1. 1963 Hunter Cabin plans designed for the North Tongass National Forest. (USFS Region 10 Juneau Archives)

Figure 2. 1966 Project Work Plan for repair and improvements for the East River Airstrip. NPS Archives Special Use Permits, East River Airstrip.
Figure 3. East Alsek Airstrip (AK76) Airport Inspection 1968, FAA Airport Files.
Figure 4. USFS Tongass National Forest Map of Public Use Cabins, 1973, National Archives, RG 79, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Records.
Figure 5. Close up of USFS Tongass National Forest Map of Public Use Cabins, 1973. National Archives, RG 79, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Records. Not the East River location (Y8), with hunting for Moose, Bear, and Waterfowl, and access via Plane (P).
Figure 6. 1973 Management Report for the Dry Bay Planning Unit page 12, East River Camp Sign, East River Public Cabin, East River Meathouse, viewed from the airstrip. NPS Archives GLBA 15959, published by the United States Forest Service.
Figure 7. 1973 Management Report for the Dry Bay Planning Unit page 36, East River Cabin Airstrip with board strip markers. NPS Archives GLBA 15959, published by the United States Forest Service.
Figure 8. 1973 Management Report for the Dry Bay Planning Unit. Vehicles tracks in the vicinity of East River, showing the vehicle tracks crossing the muskeg, some of which have been formalized and create the trail system utilized today. NPS Archives GLBA 15959, published by the United States Forest Service.
Figure 9. Entire East River Camp, including the East River Camp Public Use Cabin, East River Camp Meathouse, East River Camp Sign (no longer extant), airstrip board marker (no longer extant), from the view of the Airstrip, from USFS Special Use Permits Files, now in NPS Archives, GLBA 15959.
Figure 10. July 1974 East River Camp Public Use Cabin from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.
Figure 11. July 1974 East River Camp Meathouse from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.
Figure 12. July 1974 East River Camp Sign with Public Use Cabin and Meathouse behind from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.
Figure 13. July 1974 East River Camp "Toilet", Pit Toilet, since been replaced, from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959
Figure 14. July 1974 East River Camp Airstrip, looking out toward the Gulf of Alaska, from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.
Figure 15. July 1974 East River Camp Airstrip Marker from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.
Figure 16. July 1974 East River Camp Airstrip Marker, from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.
Figure 17. July 1974 East River Camp Airstrip Windsock, from Special Use Permit file from the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.
Figure 18. July 1974 East River Camp Garbage Pit, from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.
Figure 19. 1989 USFS Recreation Cabins of Alaska, page 5 shows the "Typical Hunter Cabin" available in the Tongass.
Figure 20. East Alsek Public Use Cabin and meathouse, 2004. Facing northeast. Note lack of awning, different windows, and different porch. NPS Photo.

Figure 21. Interior of East Alsek Public Use Cabin, 2014 before alterations to the kitchen area. Facing west. NPS Photo

Appendices:
Appendix A: 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov
Appendix B: 2026 “Meathouse”, meat shed, meat caches of the recreational areas of the Yakutat forelands, USFS



Map 1: Topographic Map, USGS Yakutat A-2, Alaska, East River Camp Complex Identified



GLBA Unit Outline

East River Camp Complex Boundary

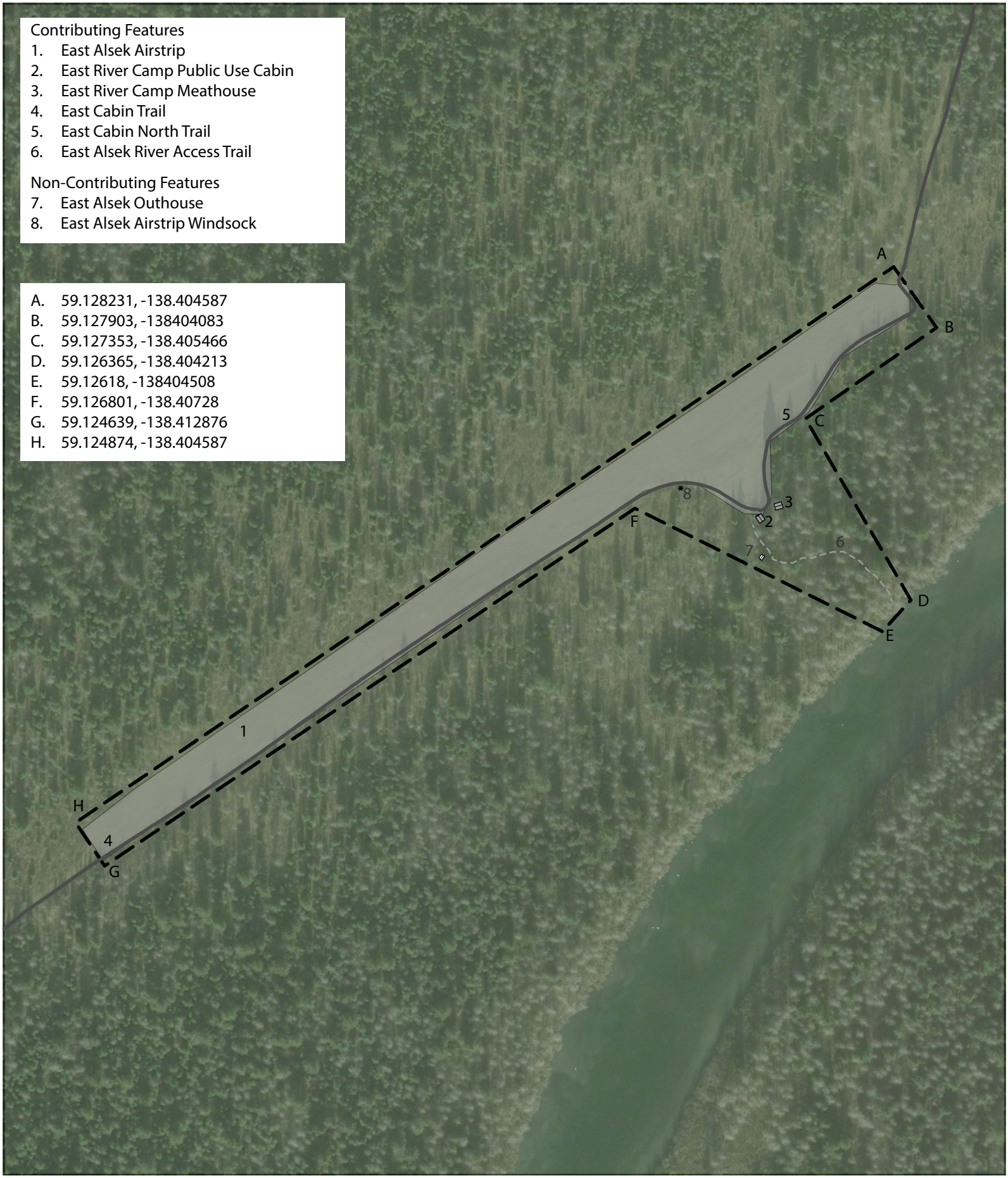
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Map 2: East River Camp Complex

Location Map

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

April 14, 2026



Map 3: East River Camp Complex

Contributing Resources Map

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

April 14, 2026



Map 4: East River Camp Complex inset Site Map, Photo Key, 2026

Photographs:



Photograph 1: Site overview, East River Camp Public Use Cabin, Meathouse, modern outhouse, facing east from the East Alsek Airstrip, 2024



Photograph 2: Overview of East Alsek River Airstrip, from apron near cabin, facing southwest, 2025



Photograph 3: West elevation of East River Camp Public Use Cabin. Facing east. 2025



Photograph 4: South elevation of East River Camp Public Use Cabin. Facing north. 2025



Photograph 5: East elevation of the East Alsek Public Use Cabin. Facing west. 2025



Photograph 6: North elevation of East Alsek Public Use Cabin. Facing south. (Note bat flying to roof), 2025



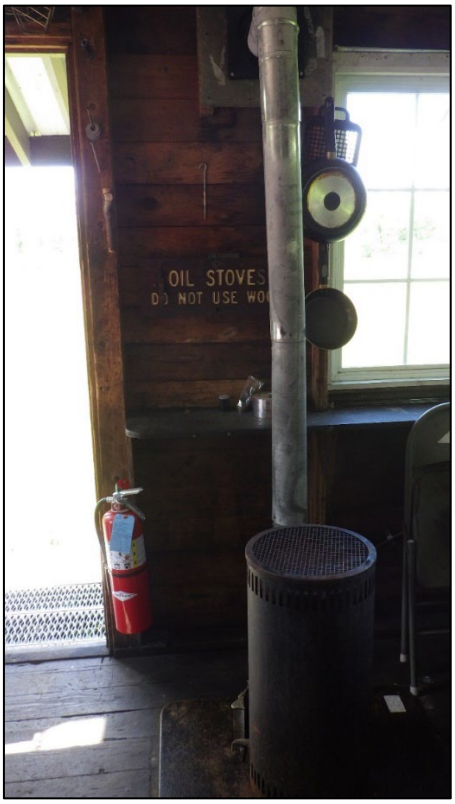
Photograph 7: Interior of East Alsek Public Use Cabin, note expanded countertop, 2025 (Interior photographs not shown on photo key map)



Photograph 8: Interior of East Alsek Public Use Cabin, 2025 (Interior photographs not shown on photo key map)



Photograph 9: Interior of East Alsek Public Use Cabin, 2025 (Interior photographs not shown on photo key map)



Photograph 10: Interior of cabin. Oil stove, 2025 (Interior photographs not shown on photo key map)



Photograph 11: Meathouse, view to the east, highlighting the open nature of the building. FAA AASP Photo 2025.



Photograph 12: 2004 Outhouse, NPS plans for this to be replaced in summer 2026, NPS Photo.



Photograph 13: Windsock and pole, FAA AASP Photo 2025.



Photograph 14: Aerial view of entire complex, including the East Alsek Airstrip, East River Camp Cabin and Meathouse. View toward the south, East Alsek River is behind the complex with the Gulf of Alaska in the distance. FAA AASP photo 2018.

Figures

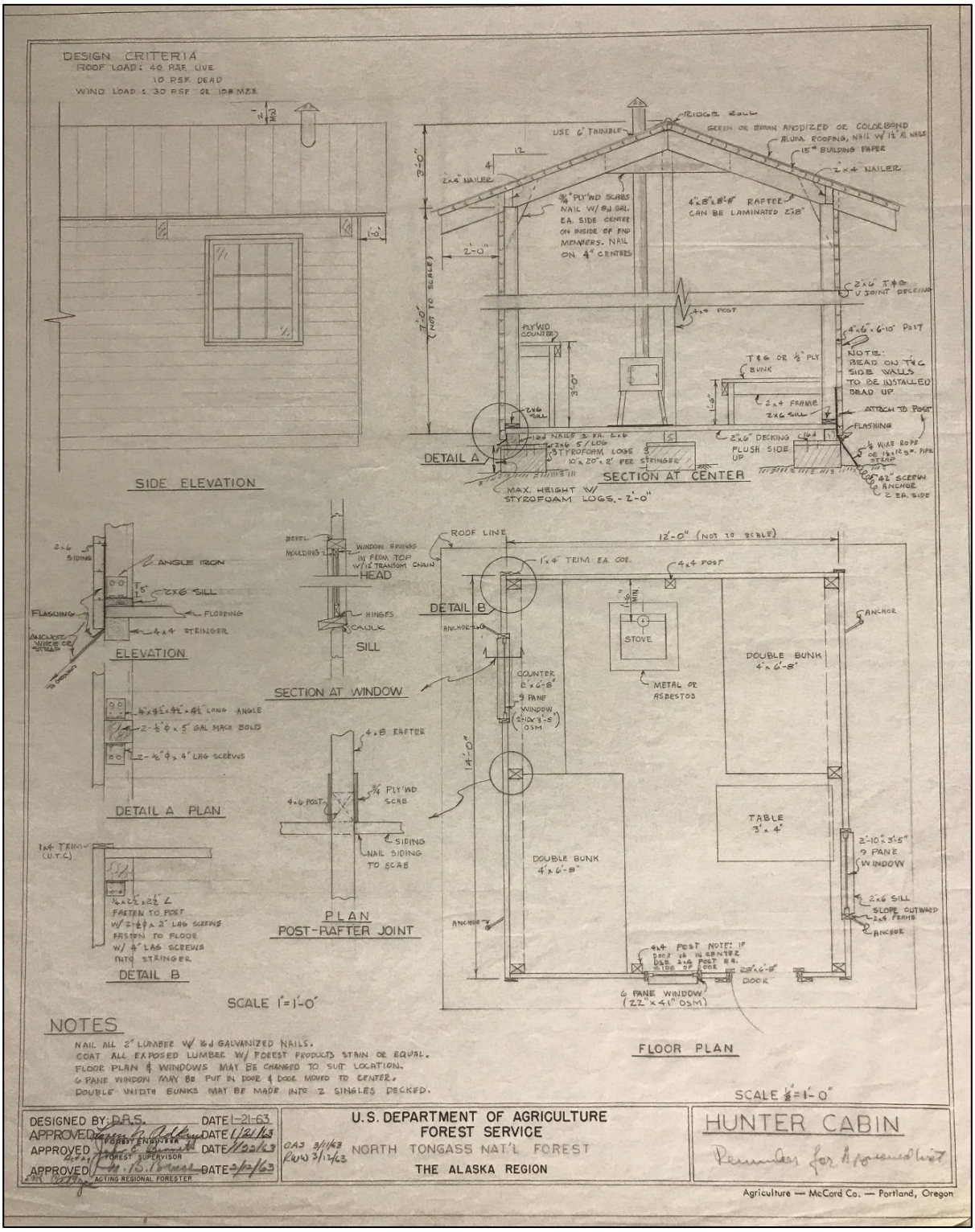
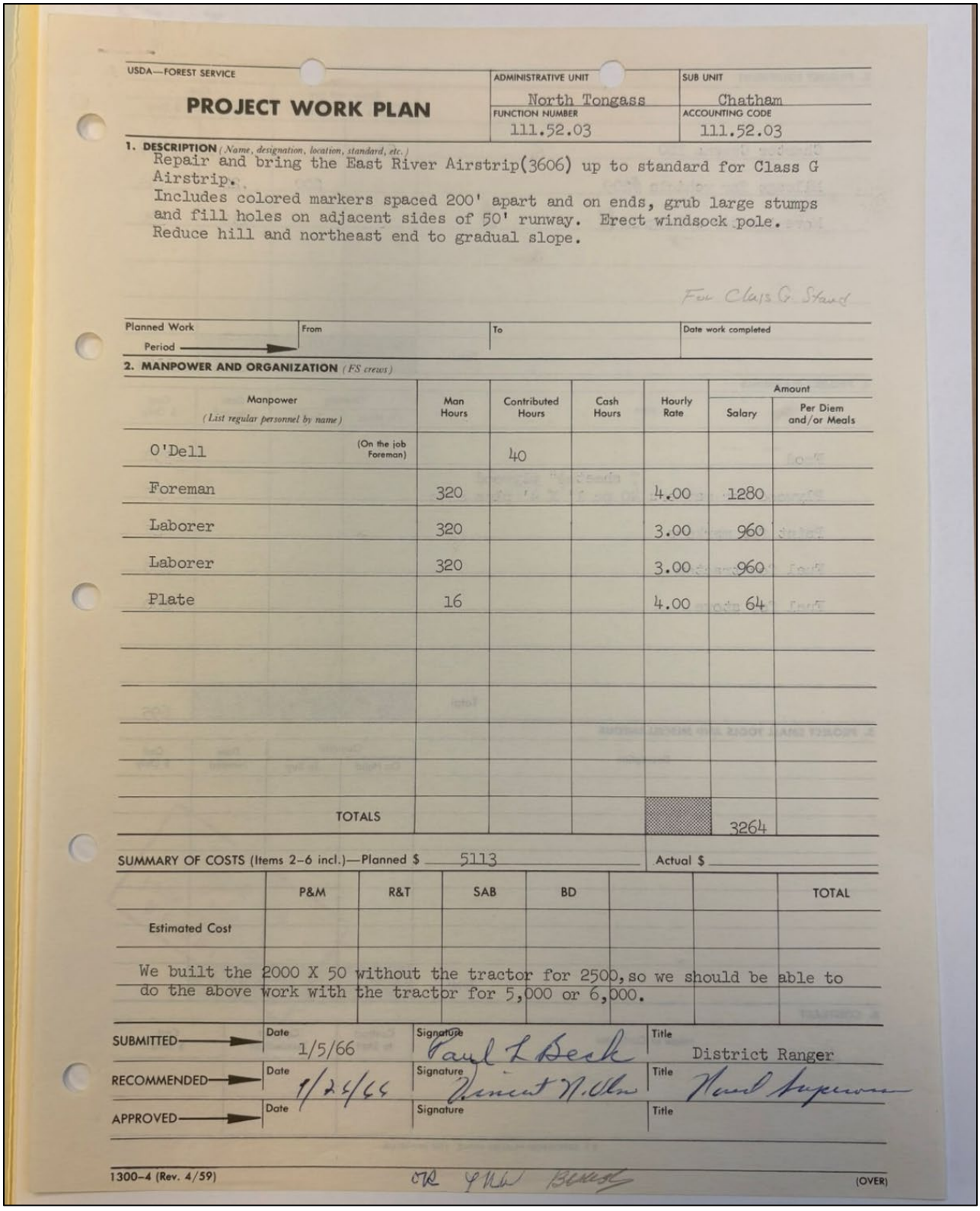


Figure 1: 1963 Hunter Cabin plans designed for the North Tongass National Forest. (USFS Region 10 Juneau Archives).



USDA—FOREST SERVICE

PROJECT WORK PLAN

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT	SUB UNIT
North Tongass	Chatham
FUNCTION NUMBER	ACCOUNTING CODE
111.52.03	111.52.03

1. DESCRIPTION *(Name, designation, location, standard, etc.)*

Repair and bring the East River Airstrip(3606) up to standard for Class G Airstrip.

Includes colored markers spaced 200' apart and on ends, grub large stumps and fill holes on adjacent sides of 50' runway. Erect windsock pole. Reduce hill and northeast end to gradual slope.

For Class G Stand

Planned Work Period →	From	To	Date work completed

2. MANPOWER AND ORGANIZATION *(FS crews)*

Manpower *(List regular personnel by name)*	Man Hours	Contributed Hours	Cash Hours	Hourly Rate	Amount: Salary	Amount: Per Diem and/or Meals
O'Dell (On the job Foreman)		40				
Foreman	320			4.00	1280	
Laborer	320			3.00	960	
Laborer	320			3.00	960	
Plate	16			4.00	64	
TOTALS					3264	

SUMMARY OF COSTS (Items 2–6 incl.)—Planned $ 5113 Actual $

	P&M	R&T	SAB	BD			TOTAL
Estimated Cost							

We built the 2000 X 50 without the tractor for 2500, so we should be able to do the above work with the tractor for 5,000 or 6,000.

	Date	Signature	Title
SUBMITTED →	1/5/66	Paul L Beck	District Ranger
RECOMMENDED →	1/24/66	Vincent N. Olson	Naval Supervisor
APPROVED →	Date	Signature	Title

1300-4 (Rev. 4/59) OR Y Nat Bdrs (OVER)

Figure 2: 1966 Project Work Plan for repair and improvements for the East River Airstrip. NPS Archives Special Use Permits, East River Airstrip.

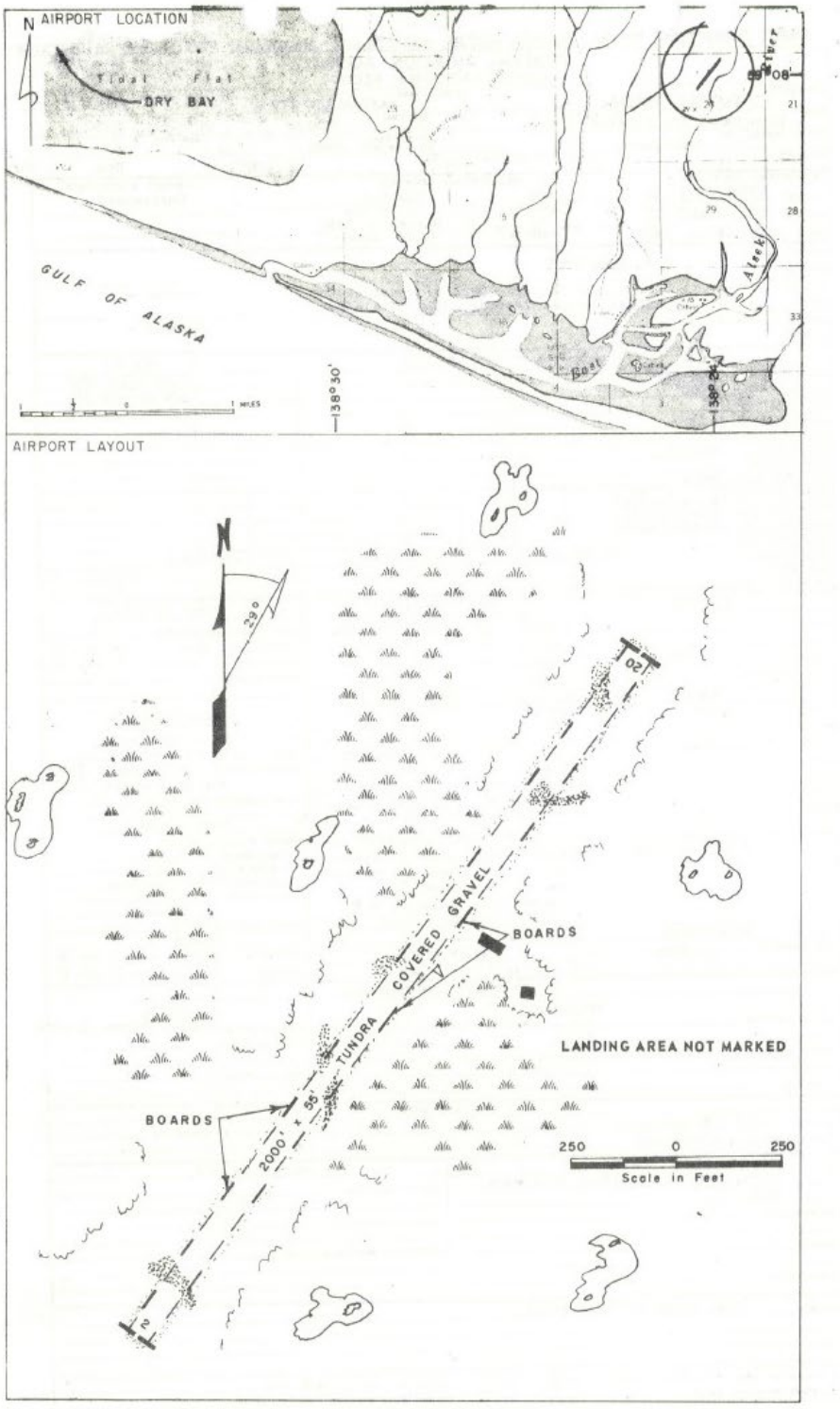


Figure 3: East Alsek Airstrip (AK76) Airport Inspection 1968, FAA Airport Files.

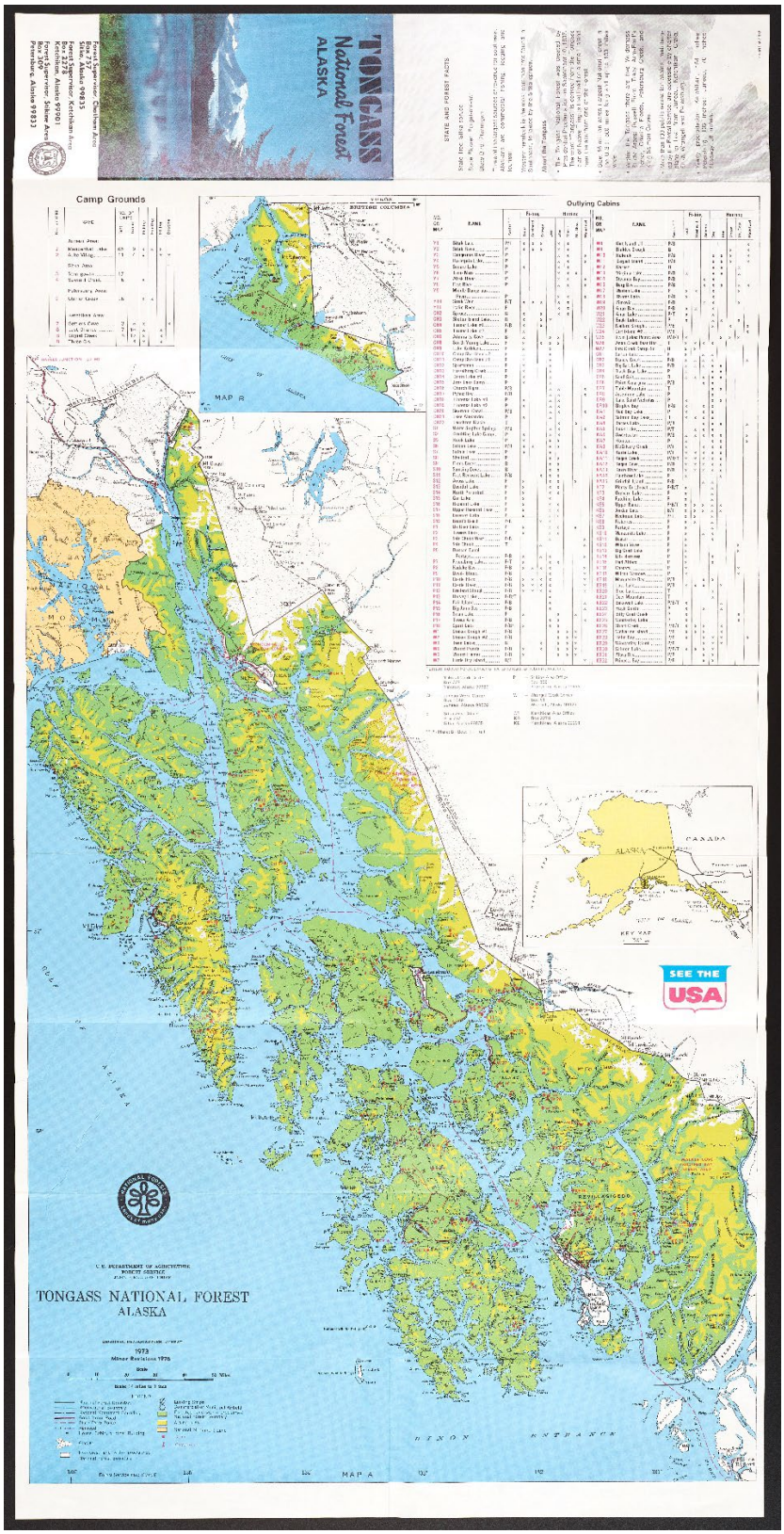


Figure 4: USFS Tongass National Forest Map of Public Use Cabins, 1973, National Archives, RG 79, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Records.

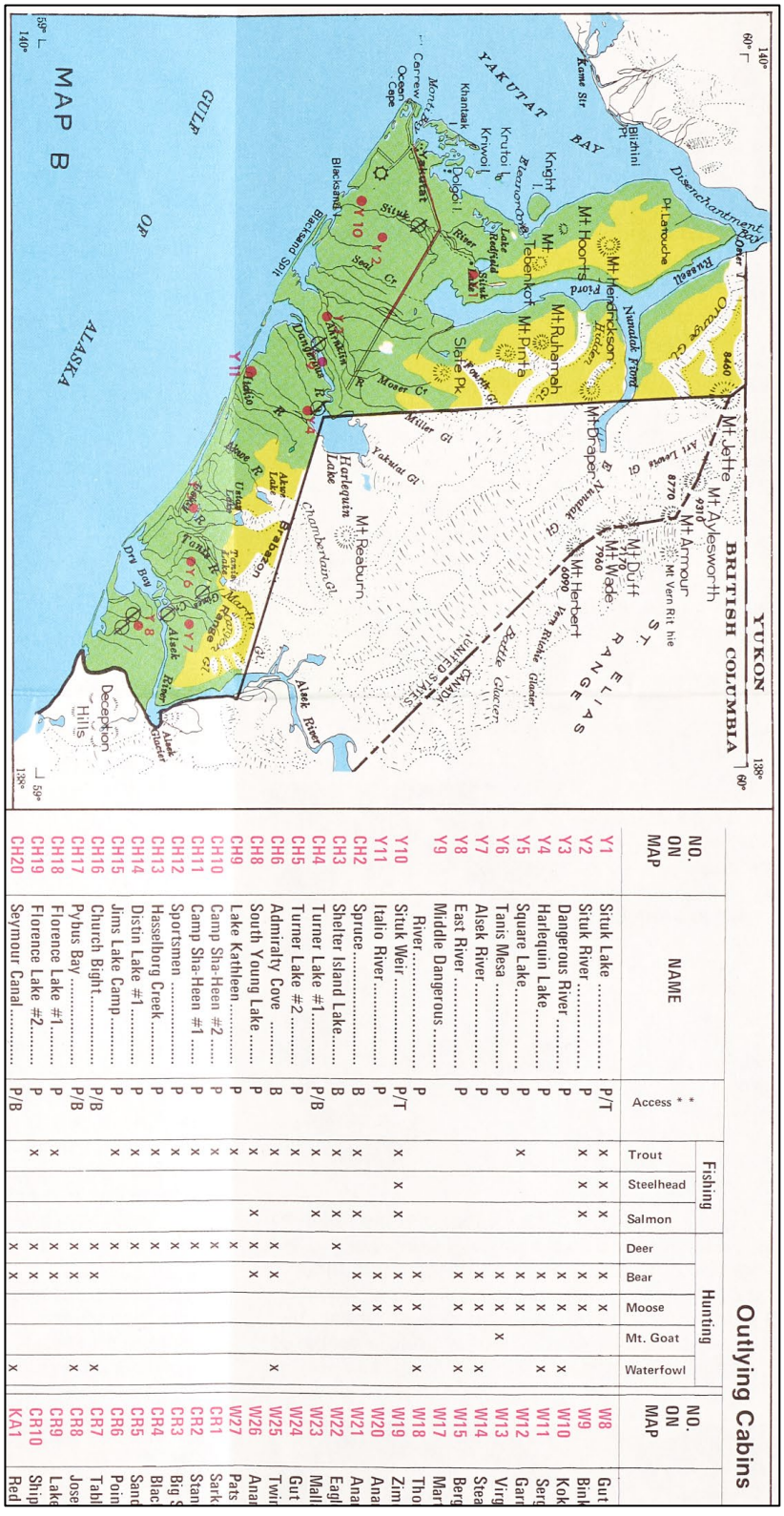


Figure 5: Close up of USFS Tongass National Forest Map of Public Use Cabins, 1973. National Archives, RG 79, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Records. Not the East River location (Y8), with hunting for Moose, Bear, and Waterfowl, and access via Plane (P).

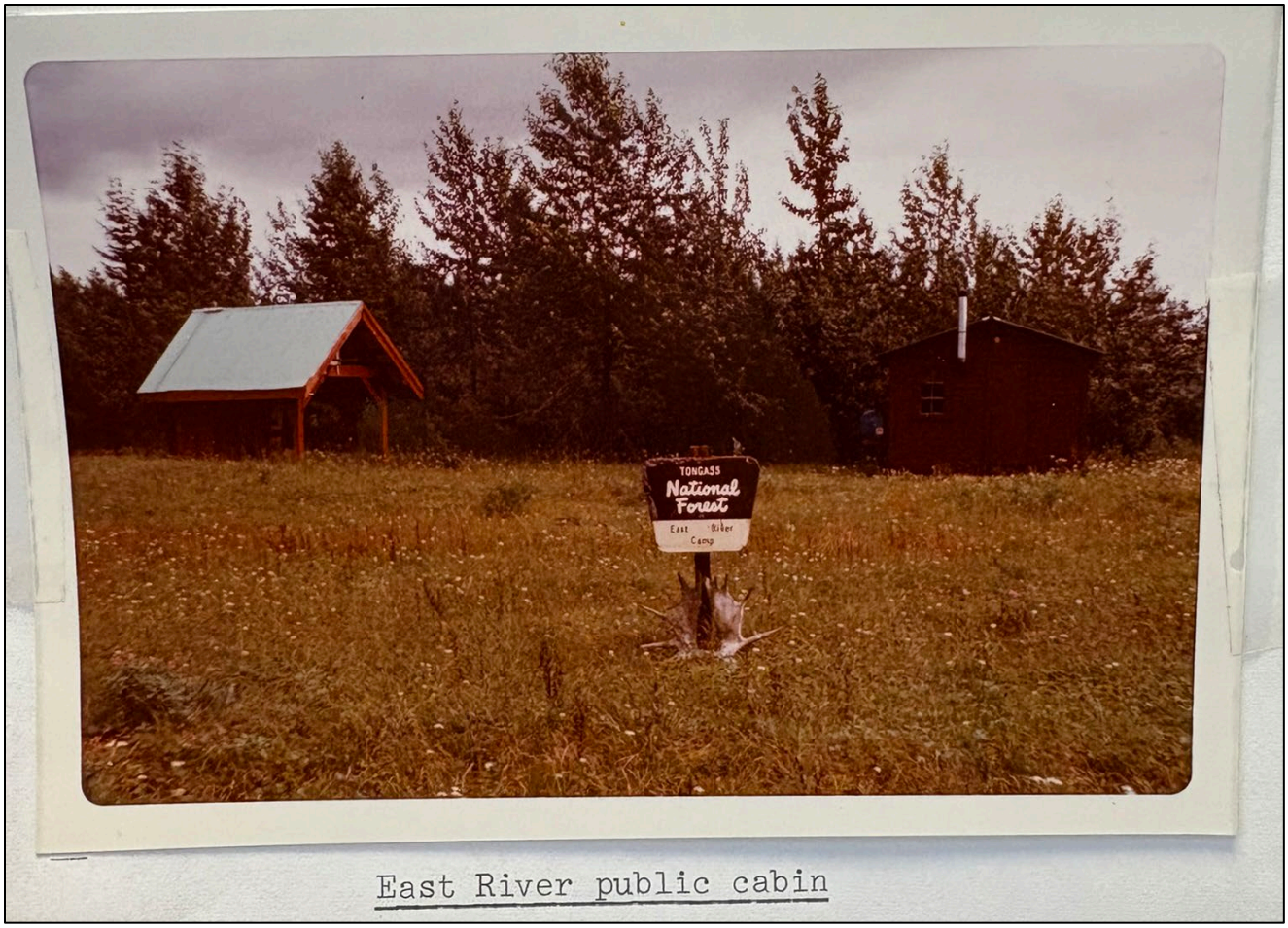


Figure 6: 1973 Management Report for the Dry Bay Planning Unit page 12, East River Camp Sign, East River Public Cabin, East River Meathouse, viewed from the airstrip. NPS Archives GLBA 15959, published by the United States Forest Service.



Figure 7: 1973 Management Report for the Dry Bay Planning Unit page 36, East River Cabin Airstrip with board strip markers. NPS Archives GLBA 15959, published by the United States Forest Service.

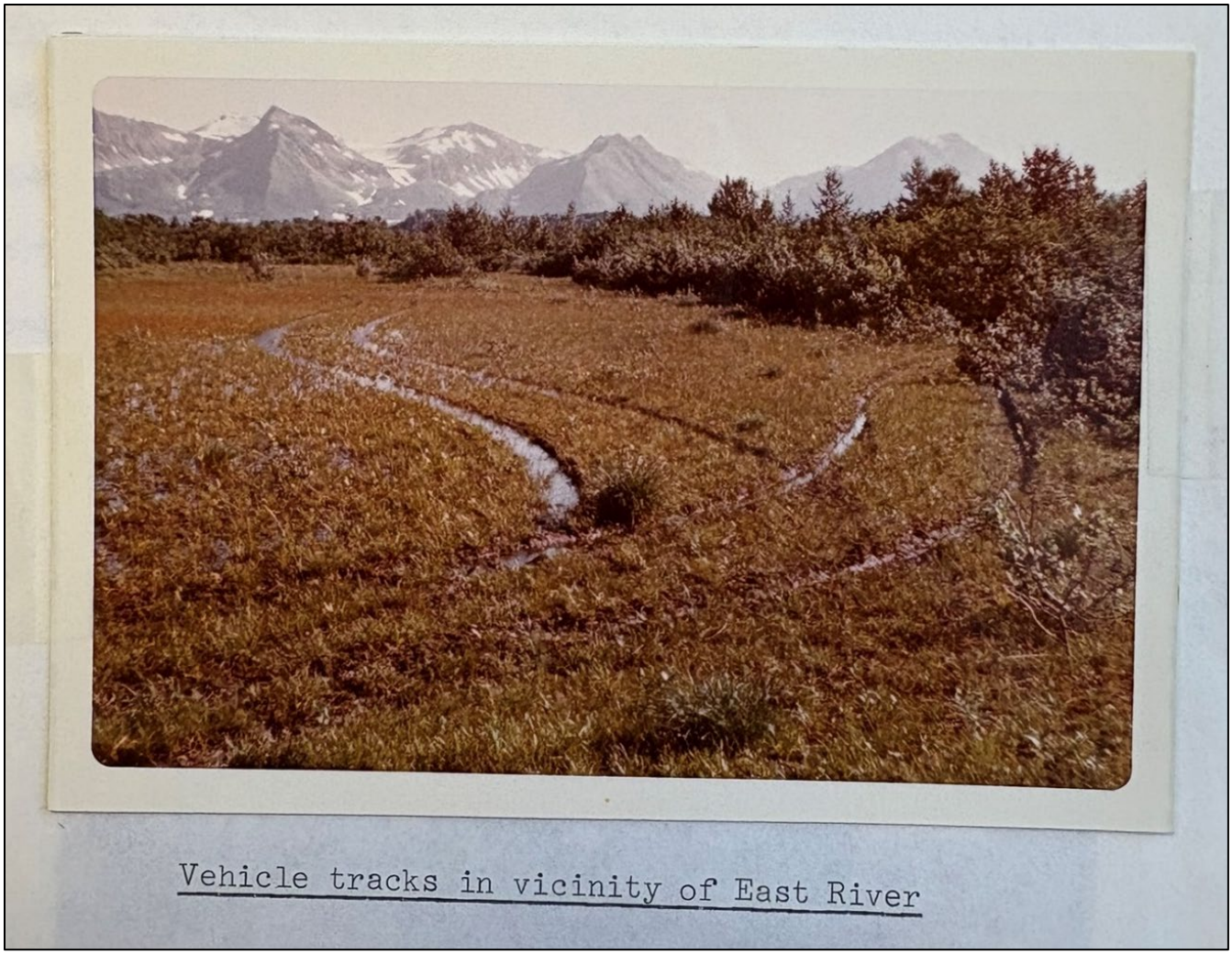


Figure 8: 1973 Management Report for the Dry Bay Planning Unit. Vehicles tracks in the vicinity of East River, showing the vehicle tracks crossing the muskeg, some of which have been formalized and create the trail system utilized today. NPS Archives GLBA 15959, published by the United States Forest Service.



Figure 9: Entire East River Camp, including the East River Camp Public Use Cabin, East River Camp Meathouse, East River Camp Sign (no longer extant), airstrip board marker (no longer extant), from the view of the Airstrip, from USFS Special Use Permits Files, now in NPS Archives, GLBA 15959.



Figure 10: July 1974 East River Camp Public Use Cabin from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.



Figure 11: July 1974 East River Camp Meathouse from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.



Figure 12: July 1974 East River Camp Sign with Public Use Cabin and Meathouse behind from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.



Figure 13: July 1974 East River Camp "Toilet", Pit Toilet, since been replaced, from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959

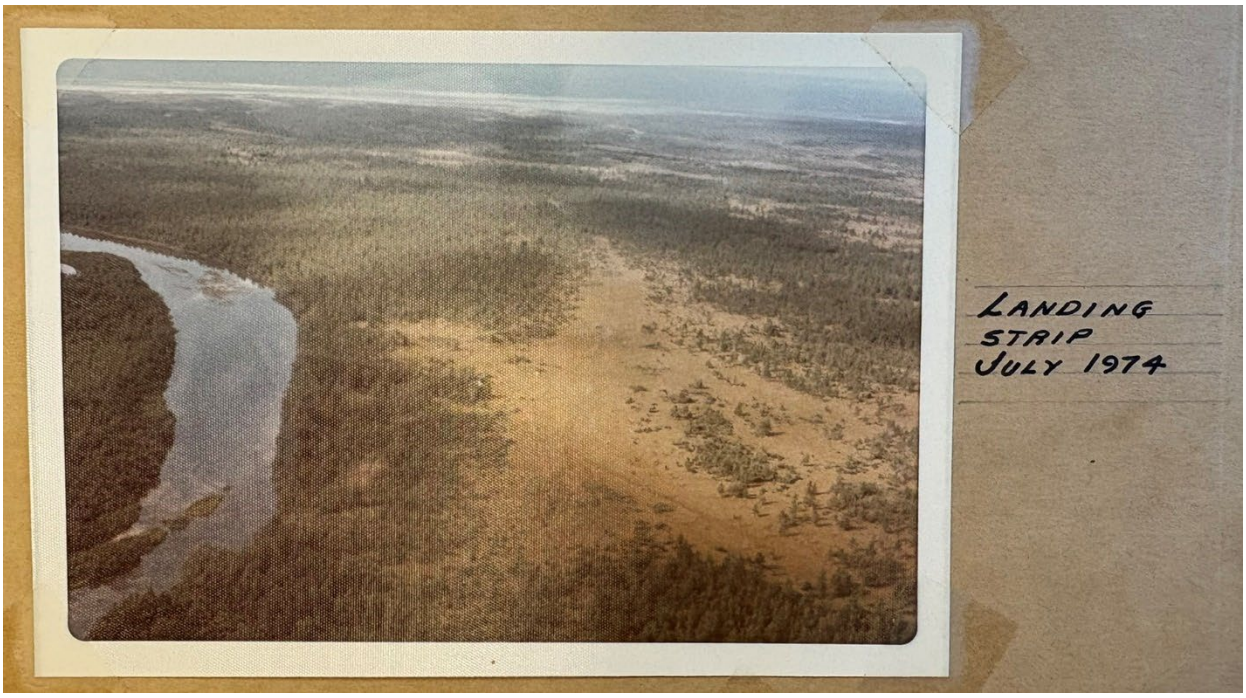


Figure 14: July 1974 East River Camp Airstrip, looking out toward the Gulf of Alaska, from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.



Figure 15: July 1974 East River Camp Airstrip Marker from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.



Figure 16: July 1974 East River Camp Airstrip Marker, from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.



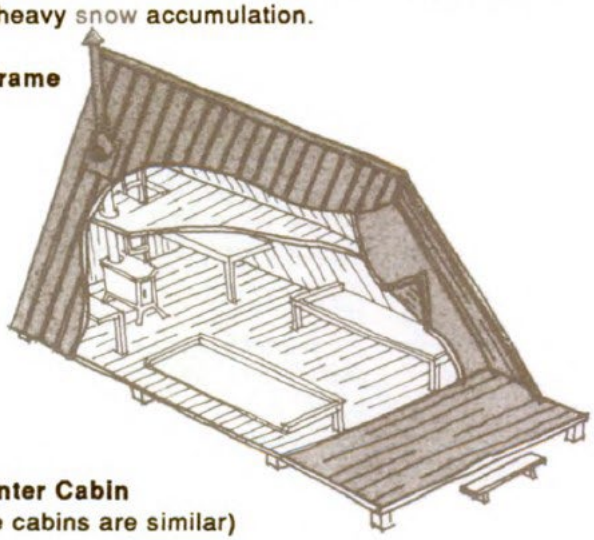
Figure 17: July 1974 East River Camp Airstrip Windsock, from Special Use Permit file from the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.



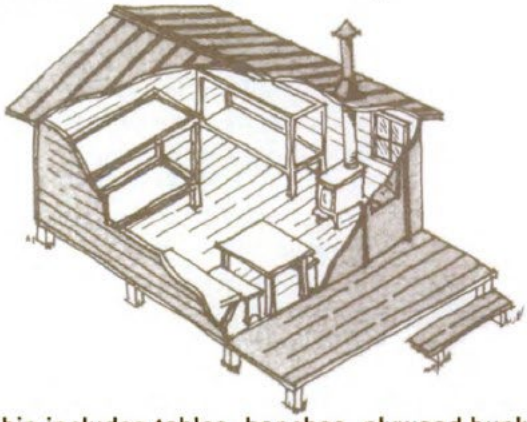
Figure 18: July 1974 East River Camp Garbage Pit, from Special Use Permit file of the United States Forest Service, now in the NPS Archives GLBA 15959.

Forest cabin designs include: A-frame, Pan-Abode, Hunter, and Alpine, each with sleeping at least four people. A-frame cabins have an additional second floor sleeping loft. The Alpine cabin is a Hunter cabin modified to provide a sleeping loft and placed on a raised foundation to allow use during heavy snow accumulation.

Typical A-frame



Typical Hunter Cabin
(Pan-Abode cabins are similar)



Each cabin includes tables, benches, plywood bunks without mattresses, wood and/or oil cooking stove, axe/ maul where appropriate, and outdoor sanitary facilities. The cabins **do not** have electricity, bedding, or cooking utensils. It is wise to take a gas or propane stove for cooking, an air mattress or pad, and insect repellent.

Figure 19: 1989 USFS Recreation Cabins of Alaska, page 5 shows the "Typical Hunter Cabin" available in the Tongass.



Figure 20:East Alsek Public Use Cabin and Meathouse, 2004. Facing northeast. Note lack of awning, different windows, and different porch. NPS Photo.

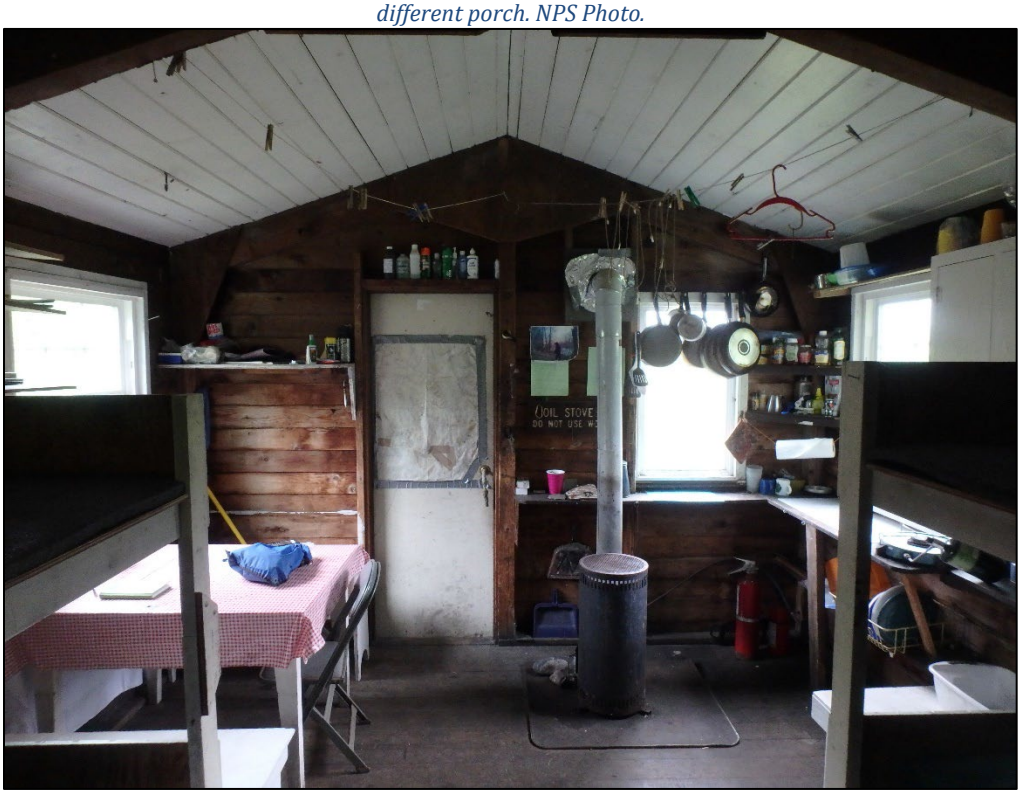


Figure 21: Interior of East Alsek Public Use Cabin, 2014 before alterations to the kitchen area. Facing west. NPS Photo

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
	East River Camp Cabin	1965	Hunter	Formerly Chatham, Yakutat in modern nomenclature	Before transfer to the NPS, this was part of the North Tongass, this is not currently included in Recreation.gov	 FAA Photo, not Recreation.gov
None Found	Alsek River Cabin	1963	Lantz identified as Pan Abode Actually: Hunter	Yakutat	Lantz cites that this cabin is Pan Abobe; Recrecation.gov photographs show Hunter Style cabin, with an extended gable roof porch.	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Middle Dangerous River	1974	Lantz identified as Pan Abode Actually: Hunter	Yakutat	Lantz cites that this cabin is Pan Abobe; Recrecation.gov photographs show Hunter Style cabin, replacement windows and no porch .	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Big John Bay	1965	Hunter	Petersburg	1965 IS APPROX. DATE, 14'x16' ext. meas. The site of this cabin originally housed a duck hunting cabin belonging to a local Petersburg family, the Goldsteins; Recreation.gov photos show Hunter Style cabin, with an extended gable roof porch.	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
PET-00860	Kah Sheets Bay Cabin	1965	Hunter	Petersburg	In 1940's CCC built a shelter in the area. In 1965 the shelter was removed and this cabin was built.; Recreation.gov photos show the floor plan and interior finishing of a Hunter Style cabin; the exterior has an extended gable roof porch.	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Spurt Cove	1965	Hunter	Petersburg	WAS MOVED FROM SPURT LK IN 1982, refurbished in 2001. Ext. meas. 14'x16' Estimated construction date.; Recreation.gov photos show the floor plan and interior finishing of a Hunter Style cabin; the exterior has an extended gable roof porch and board and batten siding	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
PET-00799	Towers Lake (Lantz); Tower Arm	1967	Hunter	Petersburg	Cabin has not been open to public since 1985. Cabin demolished and site rehabilitated June 2006. Determined Eligible for listing on the National Register in 2019 Recreation.gov shows a Hunter Style cabin, painted red with a large deck on the front elevation	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
PET-00801	Beechers Pass	1966	Hunter	Petersburg	MOVED FROM FAIR IS. IN 1979, due to selection of Fair Island by the State 14'x16' ext. meas; Determined ineligible for listing on the NHPA in 2019 Recreation.gov photos depict a Hunter Style Cabin with an extended gable roof, replaced windows and skylights	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
PET-00866	Portage Bay	1967	Hunter	Petersburg	Was originally a Forest Service administrative cabin used for timber sales in North Kupreonof Island. It was converted to recreation cabin in 1985.; Recreation.gov photos depict a side gable larger scale cabin that does not look like a Hunter Style cabin.	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Cascade Creek	1978	Hunter	Petersburg	No Info; Recreation.gov photos show the standard Hunter Style floor plan, with an extended gable porch and two stoves (possibly one oil and one wood), and two sky lights.	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Kadake Bay	1983	Hunter	Petersburg	14'x16' ext. meas. The original cabin at this site was built circa 1954 by local Pbg fishermen who later donated it to the Forest Service; the cabin identified as the Kadake Bay Cabin on Recreation.gov is a one and half story modern construction Pan-Abode like cabin	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Gut Island #2	1967	Hunter	Wrangell	Within wilderness, not in GIS corporate data or in infra database; Recreation.gov the floor plan and interior looks similar to the Hunter Style cabin, the exterior has a vertical board siding applied.	
VBC-00084	Eagle Lake	1968	Hunter	Wrangell	No info; Recreation.gov photos appear to be a Hunter Style cabin with an extended gable roof and king post.	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Harding River	1978	Hunter	Wrangell	No info; Recreation.gov photos do look like a Hunter Style cabin, with wider eaves.	
None Found	Frosty Bay	1992	Hunter	Wrangell	No Info; Recreation.gov photos appear to be a larger cabin with overhanging eaves and a sleeping loft.	

Appendix A. 2026 Hunter style cabins of USFS in Alaska, information gathered from Lantz study, subsequent cDOE work, and Recreation.gov

AHRS#	Cabin Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Plotnikof Lake Cabin	1966	Hunter	Sitka	No info; Recreation.gov photos appear to be the Pan Abode-like, similar to "Outlying Cabin Plate 29B"	
None Found	Gut Island #1	1982	Hunter	Wrangell	No info Recreation.gov photos appear to be a larger cabin with overhanging eaves, two sided deck and a sleeping loft.	

Appendix B. 2026 “Meathouse”, meat shed, meat caches of the recreational areas of the Yakutat forelands, USFS

AHRS#	Recreation Camp Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
	East River Camp Meathouse	1965	Timber Frame Gable	Formerly Chatham	Before transfer to the NPS, this was part of the North Tongass, this is not currently included in Recreation.gov	 FAA Photo, not Recreation.gov

Appendix B. 2026 “Meathouse”, meat shed, meat caches of the recreational areas of the Yakutat forelands, USFS

AHRS#	Recreation Camp Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Alsek River Meathouse	1963	Timber Frame Gable	Yakutat	12x12-ft. meat shed, which looks to have been recently rebuilt	

Appendix B. 2026 “Meathouse”, meat shed, meat caches of the recreational areas of the Yakutat forelands, USFS

AHRS#	Recreation Camp Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Middle Dangerous River Meat Shed	1974	Unknown	Yakutat	Recreation.gov references a meat shed but does not provide a photo	

Appendix B. 2026 “Meathouse”, meat shed, meat caches of the recreational areas of the Yakutat forelands, USFS

AHRS#	Recreation Camp Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Italio River Meatshed	1973	Timber Frame Gable	Yakutat	Associated with an A-Frame public use cabin	

Appendix B. 2026 “Meathouse”, meat shed, meat caches of the recreational areas of the Yakutat forelands, USFS

AHRS#	Recreation Camp Name	Date	Style	Ranger District	Information	Thumbnail Photo from Recreation.gov, unless otherwise cited
None Found	Tanis Mesa Meathouse	1962	A-Frame	Yakutat	Originally associated with a unique double ender A-Frame that has been replaced.	