Guide to

Rabbit & McHugh Lake Trails
in Chugach State Park

Access: McHugh Creek Trailhead (McHugh Lake Trail); Rabbit Creek Trailhead (Rabbit Lake Trail)
Allowable Uses: Hiking. Biking allowed on Rabbit Lake Trail. No biking allowed on McHugh Creek Trail.
Distance: (to Rabbit Lake) 6.4 miles via McHugh Lake Trail; 4.4 miles via Rabbit Lake Trail, or a 10.8 mile traverse.
Elevation Gain: 2900 feet via McHugh Lake Trail; 1200 feet via Rabbit Lake Trail
Difficulty: Both are moderate.

Trail Descriptions:

Rabbit Lake: Past the gate, the trail follows an old roadbed through brush and quickly opens up to views of Rabbit Creek Valley. The road then peters out and a narrower trail leads to Rabbit Lake.

McHugh Lake: Trail follows switchbacks through Cottonwoods and Aspen until tree line, where alders and grasses are encountered. Alpine dominates in the upper valley, where views open up. Trail follows the north side of McHugh Creek until it reaches Rabbit Lake.

Special Features:
Day hikes to Rabbit Lake from either trailhead or a traverse of both trails. Popular backpacking location. Beautiful Rabbit and McHugh Lakes are framed by alpine meadows and the rugged Suicide Peaks.

Safety and Considerations:
Parking is limited at the Rabbit Lake Trailhead on Lower Canyon Road. Area around lakes can be extremely windy.

Park Rules:
Biking allowed to Rabbit Lake on trail, only. No biking allowed on McHugh Lake Trail. Open fires are not permitted. Portable camp stoves are permitted. Camping is only allowed over ½ mile from the trailhead or developed road. Camping in an undeveloped area of a state park is limited to 10 consecutive days. Visit http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach for a complete set of park rules.

Contact:
Chugach State Park Headquarters - Potter Section House
Mile 115, Seward Highway - (907) 345-5014

csp@alaska.gov