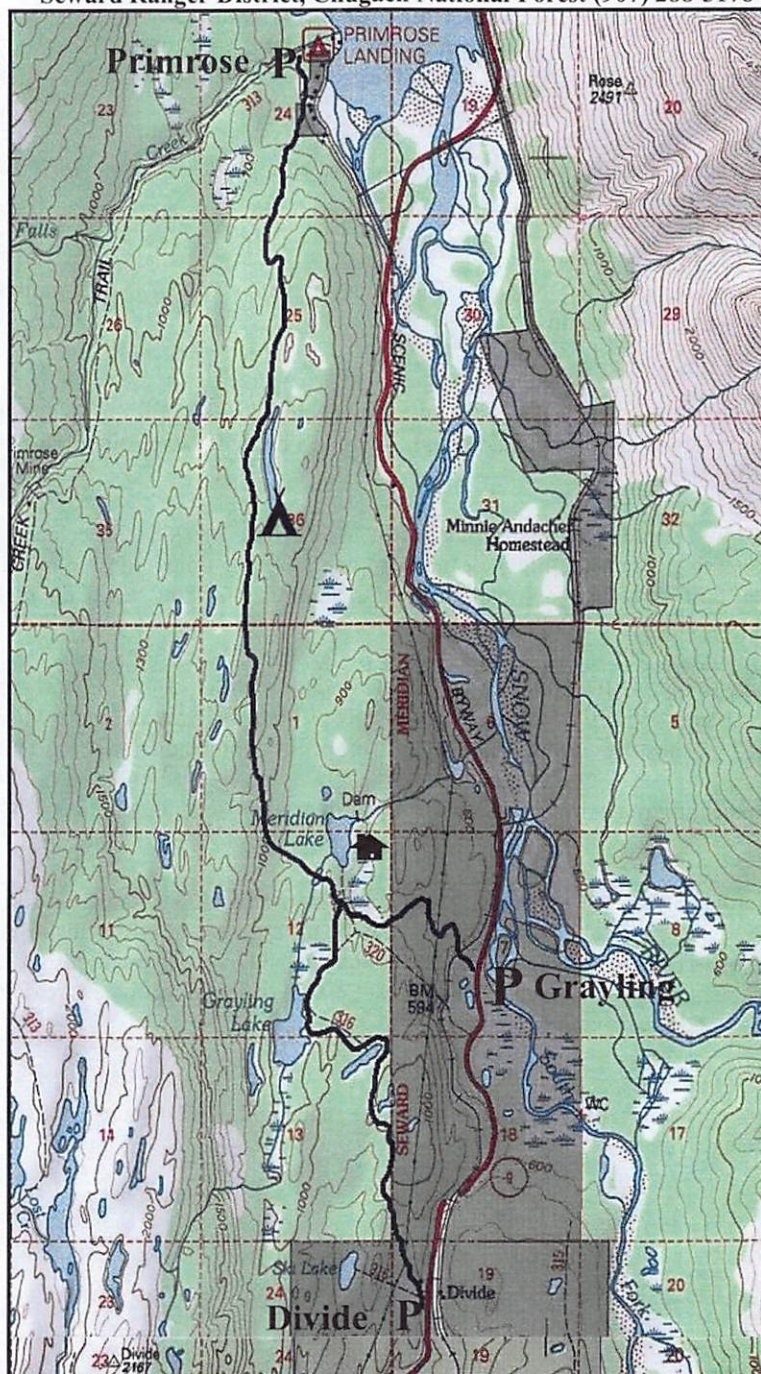




INHT Access- Meridian Lake Trail

Iditarod Access to Meridian, Leech, Grayling, and Long Lakes, and Primrose Trail

Seward Ranger District, Chugach National Forest (907) 288-3178



Map not to scale

Forest Service Cabin

Mile 1.4 Meridian Lake – N60° 17'05.7" W149° 21'54.4"

Designated Campsite

Mile 3.6 Long Lake – N60° 18'28.8" W149° 22'35.9"

Trail Distances

Meridian Lake - 1.25 miles	Mile 12 / Meridian Lake TH-
Grayling Lake - 1.47 miles	3.8 miles
Leech Lake - 2.21 miles	Primrose - T.H. 6.5 miles
Long Lake - 3.6 miles	

LEGEND

-  Iditarod Trail
-  Trailhead Parking: mile 12 at Divide, mile 13.2 (INHT Access- Meridian Lake) and Primrose
-  Campsite
-  Forest Service Cabin



INHT Access- Meridian Lake Trail

(INHT with access to Meridian, Leech, and Long Lakes)

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Recommended Uses

Difficulty

Public Use

Length (one way)

Easy

Low

1.47 M. to Grayling LK

USGS Map

Trip Time (one way)

Recommended Season

Elevation Gain

Seward B7

1 hour

Year round

450 Feet

Trail Access

Trailhead is on the west side of the Seward Highway, mile 13.2. *Trail is closed to saddle/pack stock April 1 – June 30, and motorized vehicles year round.*

Trail Grade/Condition

This trail passes through dense conifer forests and open muskegs. The elevation gain is gradual. Snow may be present through mid-June. It may be muddy during periods of snowmelt and after rains.

Recreational Opportunities

It is 1 ¼ miles to Meridian Lake, 1.47 miles to Grayling Lake, 2.2 miles to Leech Lake, 3.6 miles to Long Lake, 3.8 miles to Mile 12 parking, and 6.5 miles to the Primrose Trailhead (view map for trail segments). There is a hardened campsite on the south end of Long Lake, and a Forest Service Cabin on the east side of Meridian Lake.

This trail is part of the historic Iditarod trail. In addition to offering access to Grayling, Meridian, Leech and Long Lakes, this trail can be traveled to the Mile 12 Seward Hwy. parking area (3.8 miles), or the Primrose T.H. (6.5 miles) located in Primrose C.G. For an even longer excursion (11.3 miles), travel to the Mile 12 parking area, travel north on the highway for 800', cross the highway to access the next section of trail that is 7.5 miles long and ends at the Bear Lake Trailhead.

Blueberry and high bush cranberries are to be found along the trails in late August and September. Fishing for Grayling in Grayling Lake and Rainbow Trout in Meridian and Leech Lakes. Wildlife includes moose, wolves, black and brown bears, wolverine, and grouse. Hunting for these species is permitted in designated seasons. Review [Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(ADF&G\) hunting and fishing regulations](#).

Winter snow shoeing and skiing in connecting meadows is possible in this low avalanche danger area.

Special Considerations

Use caution with bear and moose. Giardia (a microscopic parasite that can infect warm-blooded animals and humans) could be present in all open water sources, filter surface water before drinking. Winter travel may be hazardous due to avalanches, thin lake ice, and white out conditions above tree line. Winter travelers need to be able to evaluate avalanche and over-ice travel hazards. Be prepared for rapid weather changes. Remember to pack out your trash. You can contact a U.S. Forest Service office to receive more detailed information on safety precautions and Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics.

Cabin Reservations

Occupancy of Forest Service cabins is by permit only. Reservations may be made up to 180 days in advance by calling 1-877-444-6777 or via the Internet at www.recreation.gov.

03/2026