

Wolverine Creek Management Committee

In November 2002, ADF&G convened the Wolverine Creek Committee (WCMC) to develop and agree on voluntary guidelines for the area. The WCMC is a peer-selected group representing the following interests: on-site guide with fishing emphasis (one member); on-site guide with bear viewing emphasis (one member); air charter business owners (two members, one from the Kenai area and one from another area); recreational users (two members, one from the Kenai area and one from another area); area lodges (one member).

The WCMC has approved the guidelines you see in this brochure. The WCMC and ADF&G are interested in your thoughts regarding the management of Wolverine Creek and Big River Lake Area. You can submit your comments by contacting the committee.



Wolverine Creek Management Committee
c/o Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Attention: Doug Hill
1800 Glenn Highway, #4
Palmer, Alaska 99645-6376
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10. Island Closure: Do not land boats, planes or people on the islands located within a ½ mile radius of the Wolverine Creek outlet. These islands provide waterfowl nesting habitats and became severely impacted as a result of past human use.

11. Latrine: Human waste shall be disposed of in an environmentally accepted method, at least ½ mile from the outlet of Wolverine Creek and at least 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark of any lake or stream and buried at least 6-8 inches deep; or in the facilities provided.

12. Aircraft on the water: Aircraft users are encouraged not to step taxi, take off, or land in the channel between the cove and Big River Lake.

13. Viewing bears around the lake: When viewing bears outside of the inner cove, boats should follow these guidelines:

- Do not approach closer than 40 feet (about 2 boat lengths);
- Avoid the path of the moving bear;
- Do not harass or cause a bear to move; and
- Move very slowly or shut off the boat engine completely.

14. Bear fishing zones: When bears are present and fishing within 10 meters (32 ft) of Wolverine Creek, all boats within this 10-meter zone must make a reasonable effort to move back sufficient distance to allow bears to fish unimpeded. When bears are actively fishing on the north shore rocks, stay at least 10 feet away from the rocks.



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Management Guidelines for the Wolverine Creek and Big River Lake Area



*Welcome to the
Wolverine Creek
and the
Big River Lake area.*

*Redoubt Bay
Critical Habitat Area*

*Read for everyone's
benefit and safety.*

Guidelines for Visitor Use in the Wolverine Creek and Big River Lake Area

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Wolverine Creek Management Committee **request that all visitors to the Wolverine Creek and Big River Lake area abide by the following regulations and 14 guidelines.** These regulations and guidelines are established to assure the continued use of the site for sport fishing and wildlife viewing; to provide for visitor safety; and to allow bears to naturally use the site for feeding and other activities.

During your visit you will notice that most, if not all, of the other visitors are abiding by these guidelines. Please help us maintain this unique association between the bears and visitors by following these guidelines.

1. Feeding Bears: The following actions are *prohibited*: intentionally feeding bears and other wildlife; allowing bears to obtain improperly stored food, fish and garbage; and *negligently leaving food, fish or garbage in a manner that attracts bears.*

2. Harassment: Alaska Statute 16.05.920 states that it is **illegal** to “take” wildlife. The definition of “take” includes pursuing, “*or in any manner disturbing*” fish or game.

No actions shall be taken to drive a bear from the area or to attract a bear for any purpose (including photography, fishing, and viewing), nor shall any action be taken to alter a bear’s natural behavior. This does not apply to actions that are taken to defend a person or gear from imminent contact with a bear, as in the case where a bear reaches

into a boat with its nose or paw. However, whenever possible conduct your activities at Wolverine Creek in a manner that does not place you in a situation where you need to defend yourself or your gear.

Firearms should only be used for legitimate self-defense and legal hunting; they should not be discharged just to frighten bears from the area.

3. Storing Your Food, Fish, & Garbage:

Store your food, fish, and garbage in sealed, rigid containers (or sealed boat/airplane compartments) at all times, unless being consumed. **Immediately** place harvested fish in your container. Use bear-resistant containers when leaving your fish, food or garbage unattended. Do not store fish on stringers, in plastic bags, in the bottom of your boat or on the lakeshore. (Ice chests and/or coolers are not considered bear-resistant containers, however they may be used for daily storage.). If you visit Wolverine Creek without a container for your fish, plan to catch and-release only.

4. “Bear Buffer”: Don’t let a bear get a hooked fish. Failure to adhere to this guideline may be construed as “*negligently leaving human food, pet food, or garbage in a manner that attracts these animals.*” Methods for following this guideline include the following:

- Do not cast towards a bear.
- Do not cast within 30 feet of a bear.
- Cease all fishing when a bear approaches within 30 feet, or at the point when your struggling fish attracts it, whichever is **greater**. If there are no bears within 30 feet on the opposite side of your boat, you may continue fishing on the side opposite the boat.
- When a bear approaches within 30 feet, or at the point where your struggling fish attracts a

bear (whichever is greater), diffuse the situation by releasing; tension on your line, or cutting your line, whichever is appropriate.

- If anglers are in a boat and fishing, you may move to deeper water so that the 30-foot separation is maintained between the angler and the bear.

5. No Bank Fishing: Fish from your boat if you have one. If you do not have a boat, fish from your plane. While not recommended, if you fish while wading in the shallow lake waters, fish in an area that will allow you to monitor bear activity.

6. Shoreline Closure: To separate bears and people, do not access the shoreline above the waterline in the cove. Additionally, do not enter the area along the entire length of Wolverine Creek or leave any gear unattended on the lakeshore.

7. Fish Cleaning: Cleaning fish on shore is not recommended. All fish remains should be deposited in deep water. Do not clean fish or place fish remains in the waters or on the shoreline within one mile of the outlet of Wolverine Creek.

8. Litter: Remove all garbage, food scraps, and food remains from the Critical Habitat Area and do not place them in the waters of Wolverine Creek, Big River Lake or the surrounding area.

9. Camping/Picnicking: Do not camp or build a fire within ½ mile of the outlet of Wolverine Creek. Do not prepare, cook or barbeque food within ½ mile of the outlet of Wolverine Creek. Consumption of food without cooking is allowed.