Lake edges are too deep to wade, so fishing is done from shore. Much of the shoreline has trees and brush to the water’s edge.

Beaver Lake was stocked with grayling in 1965 to determine the success of planting this species in Southeast Alaska. The plant was successful; but when the grayling matured and migrated down the outlet to spawn, several went over the falls just above Sawmill Creek. An outlet control structure was placed above the falls, so later plantings of fry maintained a healthy population. This is the only grayling fishery in the Sitka area. The tendency of grayling to eat almost anything endears them to anglers. They can be caught on lures or flies but at times are very particular about their diet. Grayling are especially popular because of their willingness to rise to a dry fly. The best times to catch grayling at Beaver Lake seem to be early and late in the day.

**SAWMILL CREEK** Its upper reach is accessible from the Sawmill Creek campground. This section of stream supports a limited rainbow population. Deeper holes just below the dam often have good rainbow fishing, but few large fish are found there. Lower reaches of Sawmill Creek can be accessed from Sawmill Creek Road. Rainbow trout are present, and a few steelhead return in early May. Dolly Varden and pink and coho salmon are also present seasonally.

**THIMBLEBERRY LAKE** Access is via a 1/2-mile trail that joins Sawmill Creek Road at mile 3.7. This trail continues 1 mile past Thimbleberry Lake to Heart Lake. Both lakes are small muskeg systems fed from the south slope of Mt. Verstovia and draining through steep blocked outlets to Silver Bay. There are no facilities at either lake. The shoreline vegetation is primarily deadfall trees and snags. Soft, muddy lake bottoms make wading difficult.

Eastern brook trout were planted in these lakes in 1928, and stable populations have developed. Eastern brook trout reach a maximum of about 14 inches, but large fish are rare. In summer, small spinners cast over the shallows work well. Fly fishing with a size 6 white bucktail is also an effective method.

**INDIAN RIVER** A Forest Service trail begins at mile 0.6 on Sawmill Creek Road and parallels the river for most of its length above the highway bridge, offering the opportunity for a hike through old-growth rainforest.