

Welcome to

Mastodon Trailhead

in Chena River State Recreation Area



Trail Description

Mastodon Trail winds through spruce forest for one-half mile before entering a former forest fire burn area, then descends to the Nugget Creek Public-use Cabin at mile 12. The cabin is also accessed using the South Fork Winter Trail when the river is frozen solid. **Be cautious.** The Chena and South Fork rivers often have thin ice and open water, even in late winter.

Access: Mile 38.6 Chena Hot Springs Road

Distance: 12 miles one way

Travel Means: Hike, bike, ski, horseback, snowshoe

Elevation Gain: 700 feet

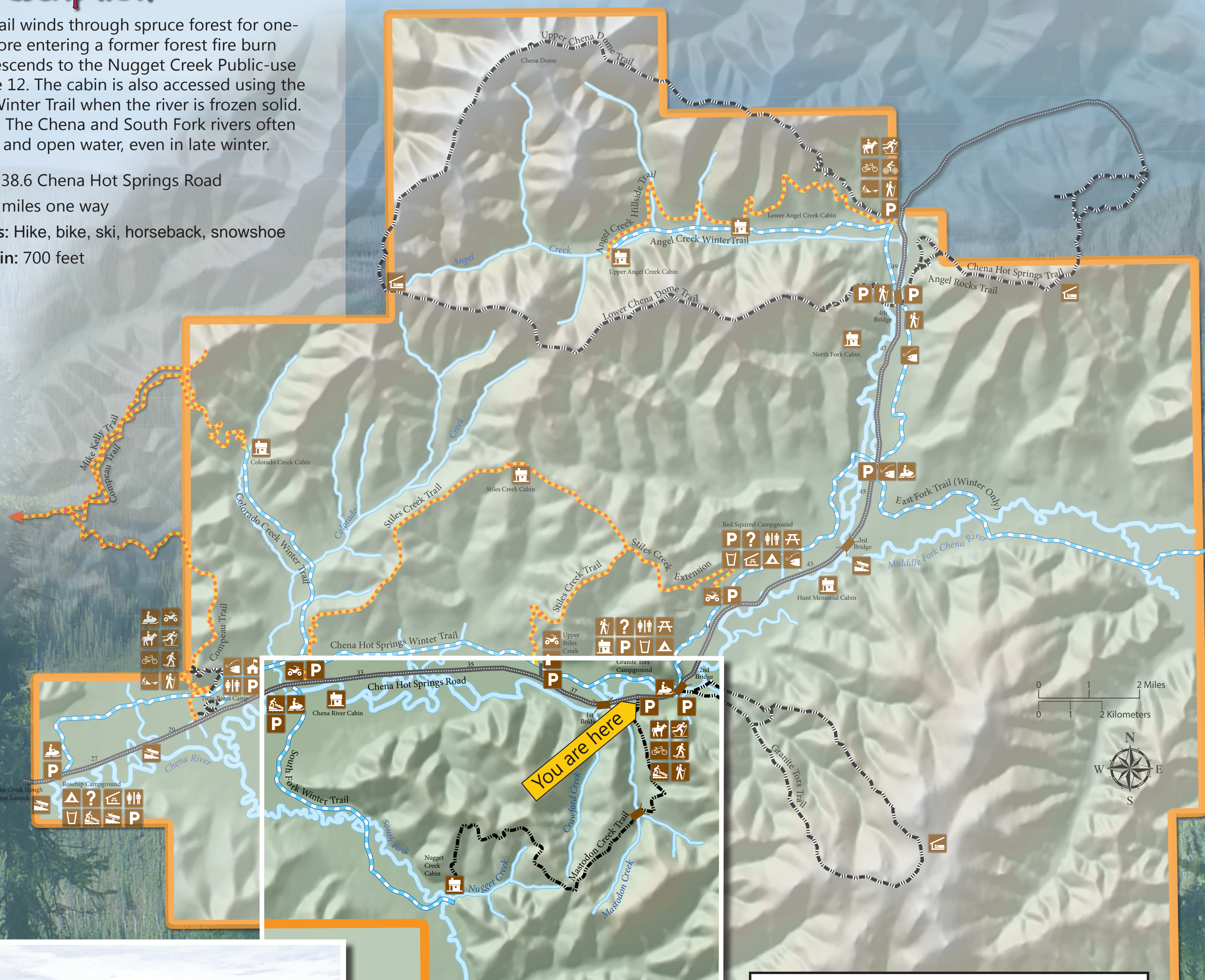
Access Granted

Previously only accessible to hikers by fording rivers or creeks, the 12-mile journey along Mastodon Trail allows overland access to one of eleven Chena River State Recreation Area public-use cabins. The Nugget Creek Cabin is now available year-round via non-motorized transportation.

Sustainable Trails

Sustainable trail design has enabled the Mastodon Trail to be set for a longer life span than the ill-fated mastodon itself. When done well, trail design is as much an art as it is a science. Careful consideration of landscape contours, natural slope drainage, and human nature ensures the creation of a durable, low-maintenance trail system.

Please respect seasonal trail closures. For more information contact (907) 451-2695 or visit alaskastateparks.org.



Map Legend		

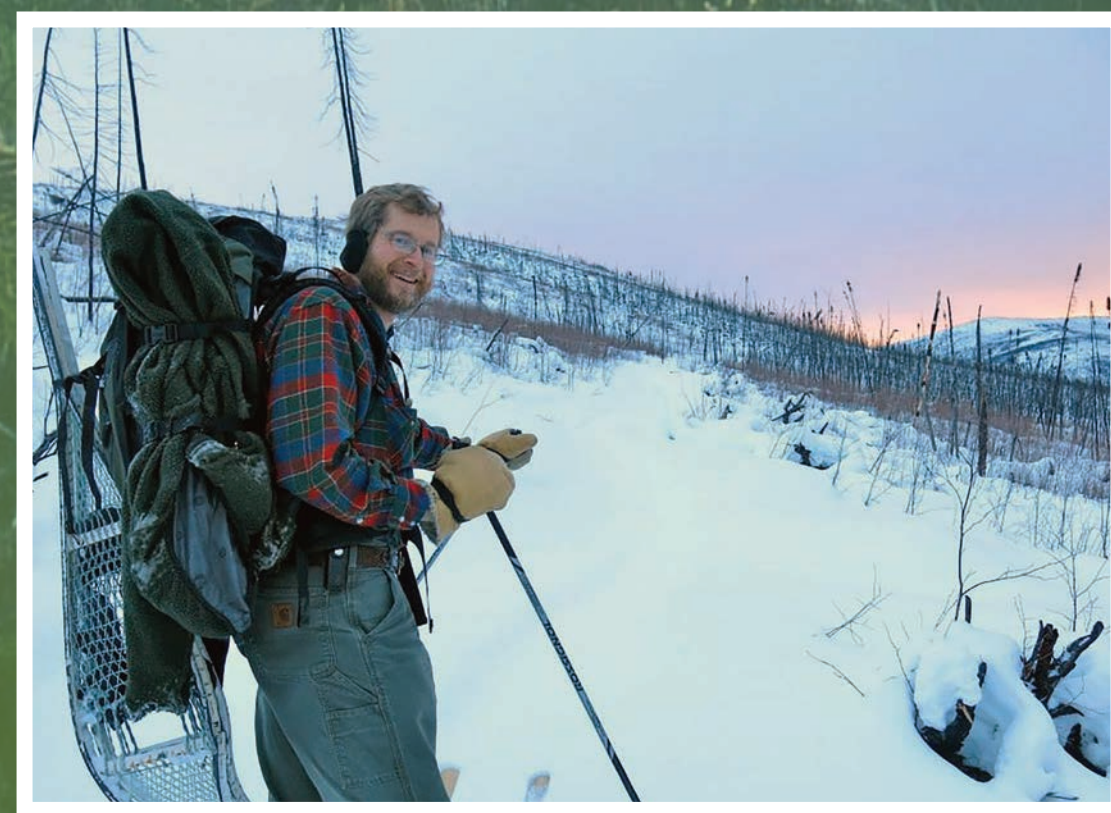
*Parking is available at all trailheads



Fall colors at mile 7 of the Mastodon Trail



Green grass growing after a fire along trail mile 8 of the Mastodon Trail



Skiing up the side of the Mastodon drainage on Mastodon Trail
Photo courtesy of Tom Paragi



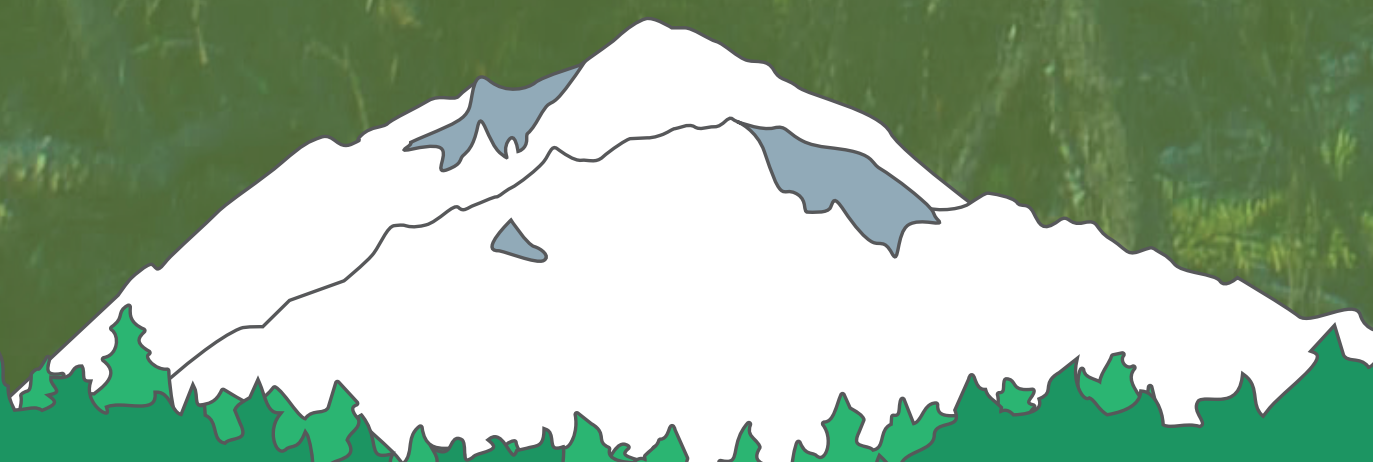
Nugget Creek Public-use Cabin at mile 12 of the Mastodon Trail



Cleared trail at mile 2 of the Mastodon Trail



Prickly Rose
Rosa Acicularis



Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation