

## An Introduction

In the heart of Anchorage, spread out over 730 acres of land, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages the Campbell Tract Special Recreation Management Area (Campbell Tract SRMA). This site provides year-round recreation opportunities for visitors and residents of Alaska. Comprised of a mosaic of forest types, the Campbell Tract SRMA is a wildlife oasis in the center of the city—the perfect place to reduce stress while enhancing awareness and understanding of nature.

## History of the Campbell Tract SRMA

The Campbell Tract SRMA lies within the ancestral lands of the Dena'ina, an Alaska Native Athabaskan people. Dena'ina people were the original inhabitants of Southcentral Alaska and lived as far north as Talkeetna and as far south as Seldovia. They're estimated to have arrived in the region between 1,000 and 1,500 years ago, and thousands of historic and prehistoric Dena'ina sites have been found in southcentral Alaska.

In the 1940s, Campbell Tract and surrounding Municipality of Anchorage lands were established as a

military installation during World War II. The military built a 5,000-foot-long airfield with taxiways, bomber parking pads, and support buildings and structures. There are still remnants of Campbell Tract's



A WW2 soldier lounging on Campbell Airstrip circa 1944.

military use, including building foundations, defensive earthworks, and foxholes.

In the 1970s, Campbell Tract also served as a base for smoke jumpers. Using the airstrip left after WWII, forest fire suppression activities launched from the site and were sent all across the state.

Today, the primary purpose of the Campbell Tract SRMA is administrative. BLM Alaska assumed management of Campbell Tract in 1971 through a variety of land transfers from local, state, and federal agencies. Since then, the BLM has managed and maintained the use of Campbell Tract for federal interagency offices, a maintenance shop, warehouse, aviation resources, communication sites, and the Campbell Creek Science Center.

Secondary to administrative uses, Campbell Tract is designated as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) for its year-round recreation opportunities. The SRMA provides visitors with the opportunity to connect with nature in the midst of an urban city.

## Wildlife You Can Expect to See

Even though it's on the edge of a major city, the Campbell Tract SRMA is still quite wild, and it has the biodiversity to prove it. A wide array of animals makes their home in Campbell Tract, ranging from salmon and songbirds to porcupines, moose, and bears.



A bull moose browsing at Campbell Tract SRMA.

Bird enthusiasts can keep busy at the Campbell Tract SRMA with populations of boreal chickadees, owls, thrushes, ruby-crowned kinglet, slate-colored junco, yellow-rumped warbler, spruce grouse, and even American dipper—North America's only aquatic songbird.

There's also plenty of creatures to be found in Campbell Creek. Perhaps the most well-known is salmon: Coho (silver), sockeye (red), and Chinook (king) salmon all spawn in Campbell Creek, though silvers are typically the most abundant. Dolly Varden inhabit the creek, and macroinvertebrates such as caddisflies and mayflies are commonly found in the creek's gravel bars.

The Campbell Tract SRMA provides visitors with opportunities for excellent wildlife viewing. On and around the trails, be alert for red squirrels, snowshoe hares, porcupine, lynx, fox, coyote, moose, and bears (both brown and black).

One of Campbell Tract's many benefits is providing visitors with an increased awareness of wildlife. Always be respectful of Campbell Tract's animals and know how to stay safe around them. If you see moose, give them a wide berth and run if they charge you. Likewise, make noise to avoid coming up unexpectedly on bears, and NEVER run from a bear. To report bear sightings to the Anchorage Field Office, please call (907) 621-4601 and include location, time, direction of travel, type of bear, and number of cubs. In the event of an emergency, call 911.

## Campbell Creek Science Center

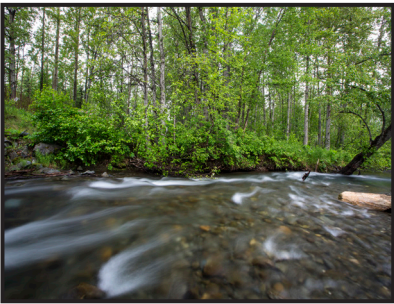
In addition to groomed trails and thriving forest, Campbell Tract also hosts BLM's Campbell Creek Science Center.

The Campbell Creek Science Center (CCSC) provides outdoor experiences that increase appreciation, connection, and stewardship of Alaska's public lands and natural resources through environmental education, interpretation, and community outreach. CCSC hosts a variety of programs for people of all ages, whether it's nature walks, science field trips, or volunteer opportunities. Contact CCSC at (907) 621-4602 to schedule your visit and learn about scheduled events.

## Campbell Tract SRMA Rules and Etiquette

Campbell Tract SRMA has nearly 500,000 visits each year! As such, please be courteous and considerate of other users when visiting Campbell Tract.

You can keep the Campbell Tract SRMA healthy and clean by keeping all pets on a leash or electric collar and following Leave No Trace principles, which includes picking up after your pets. We ask that you don't camp, build fires, cut trees or otherwise alter vegetation on



Campbell Creek in the summer.

Campbell Tract. Use of motorized vehicles, use of firearms or paintball guns, alcohol consumption, fishing, and disturbance or removal of historical artifacts is prohibited. Finally, we require that visitors stay off of Campbell Airstrip and use the trails close by instead; this ensures visitor safety since the airstrip is still active.

## Contact Us

Anchorage Field Office  
4700 BLM Road  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
Phone: (907) 621 - 4601  
Email: [blm\\_ak\\_afo\\_general\\_delivery@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ak_afo_general_delivery@blm.gov)  
[www.blm.gov/visit/campbell-tract](http://www.blm.gov/visit/campbell-tract)



Visit us on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/BLMAAlaska](https://www.facebook.com/BLMAAlaska)



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Campbell Tract

Special Recreation Management Area



Map & Guide



Recreating at the Campbell Tract SRMA

The Campbell Tract SRMA is BLM Alaska’s most visited recreation site and has become well known for its quality recreational trail system. About 24 miles of trail are found on Campbell Tract’s 730 acres, providing a venue for year-round recreation as well as a place to enjoy public land and relax in nature. Much of Campbell Tract’s land is connected to Far North Bicentennial Park, which is managed by the Municipality of Anchorage. BLM works closely with the Municipality in order to provide a seamless recreation experience for our visitors. The trail system is intended for non-motorized use, including hiking, biking, jogging, dog walking, snowshoeing, skiing, skijoring, and horseback riding. BLM has extended trail use to E-bikers. As long as E-bikes fall under the “Class 1” classification, they are permitted on Campbell Tract and its trails.

Campbell Tract’s trails come in every shape and size, offering visitors a variety of different experiences. Salmon Run Trail is perfect for people who want a good view of Campbell Creek while they walk, run, or bike. Fox Run Trail and Speedway Trail are ideal for experienced bikers, and Viewpoint Trail is the perfect choice for people who want an easy walking experience. However, not all trails are open to hikers and bikers.



A dogsled team racing through Campbell Tract SRMA. The Campbell Tract SRMA is also home to its own system of winter sled dog trails. These trails are part of a larger network managed by the Municipality of Anchorage. Mushing season is heavily dependent on weather and snow conditions, but the trails are typically open from early December through early March. Campbell Tract’s winter sled dog trails have hosted a number of local, national, and international sled dog races, including the Iditarod Ceremonial Start. Since dog teams are fast, quiet, and unable to slow down quickly, we ask that non-mushing visitors stay off the trails during mushing season.

