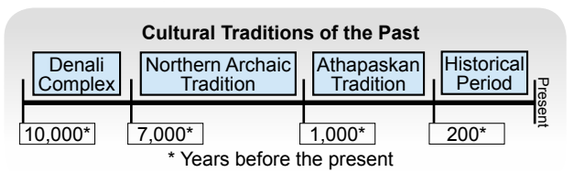
A Window to the Past

Secrets of lives lived long ago are hidden amidst the jagged up-thrusts of mountains and the sweeping grandeur of glaciers in south-central Alaska. Located along the Denali Highway between mileposts 17 and 37 is an area rich in historic and prehistoric remains called the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD).

This area has more than 600 archaeological sites with artifacts from pit-houses to hand-fashioned stone tools. Carbon dating tests have helped identify four different cultural traditions displayed in the timeline below.



Trails in the area have been used by people since the Ice Age. Athapaskan hunters have traveled these paths seeking caribou for their large winter villages located along the Gulkana River. Miners in the region also used these trails to explore and access placer gold mining claims in both Valdez Creek and around the Tangle Lakes.

The Tangle Lakes Archaeological District was accepted to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. This register recognizes historic properties that are significant in telling our nation's story. The Archaeological Resources Protection Act and other laws prohibit collecting or damaging artifacts or historic properties. Offenders can be *cited and fined*, their equipment *seized*, and be required by the Federal Court to *pay for damage assessment and all damage repairs.*

Wide Open Spaces

Not only is this a place to imagine and appreciate the past, it is also a wonderland for outdoor activites. The Tangle Lakes Archaeological District has many uses including:

- hiking
- camping
- berry picking
- snow machining
- hunting
- mining
- biking
- horseback riding
- photography
- fishing
- boating
- wildlife watching
- off-highway vehicle riding

To protect environmentally sensitive areas and our historic heritage, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have designated 9 trails open for off-highway vehicle (OHV) use within the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District. These trails are shown on the map on the back of this page. A maintained hiking trail is also accessible within Tangle Lakes campground.

Topographic maps are available at most BLM offices or at the State of Alaska DNR Public Information Office. **PLEASE** help us preserve this rich, varied and significant area for your future use and the enjoyment of others.

RIDING RESPONSIBLY

Stay on designated trails

No pioneering of new trails

Respect other trail users

Use improved trails when available

Only cross streams at designated crossings

Pack out your garbage

Plan ahead and be prepared

Know your limits

Do not collect or disturb artifacts

Additional information can be found at www.treadlightly.org

Now You Know…

- Why the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District is special.
- Where the TLAD is located.
- What types of recreational activities you can enjoy in this area.
- When and where you can use off-highway vehicles.

For more information contact:

Bureau of Land Management
Glennallen Field Office
PO Box 147
Glennallen, AK 99588
Tel: 907-822-3217
www.blm.gov/ak

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Southcentral Region Land Office
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 900C
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577
Tel: 907-269-8503

BLM/AK/GI-05/008+8100+050 Rev16

Tangle Lakes Archaeological District

Information Guide and Trails Map

BLM

DNR

Alaska

State of Alaska Managed TLAD

Trails 1-4 Managed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources:

Special Rules for Trails 1-4:

- **Between May 18 and October 18,** use of motorized vehicles are limited to the designated trails only within the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD)
- **Between October 19 and May 17,** use of motorized vehicles are limited to the designated trails except as provided in 11 AAC 96.020(a)(1)(D) and (E) is allowed where snow cover or ground frost is sufficient to prevent damage to archaeological values. Sufficient snow cover means an average of one foot of snow with a minimum of six inches. Sufficient ground frost means minimum of six inches.

Recommended uses for each trail are indicated by symbols. Match the numbers with the locations shown on the map.

1. Maclaren Summit Trail (MP 37)

This 8.4 mile trail provides access across the tundra at Maclaren Summit, opening up fantastic views. Portions of this trail are within the Department of Fish and Game's Clearwater Controlled Use Area where hunting with motorized vehicles is prohibited.

2. Glacier Lake to Sevenmile Lake Trail (MP 30.5)

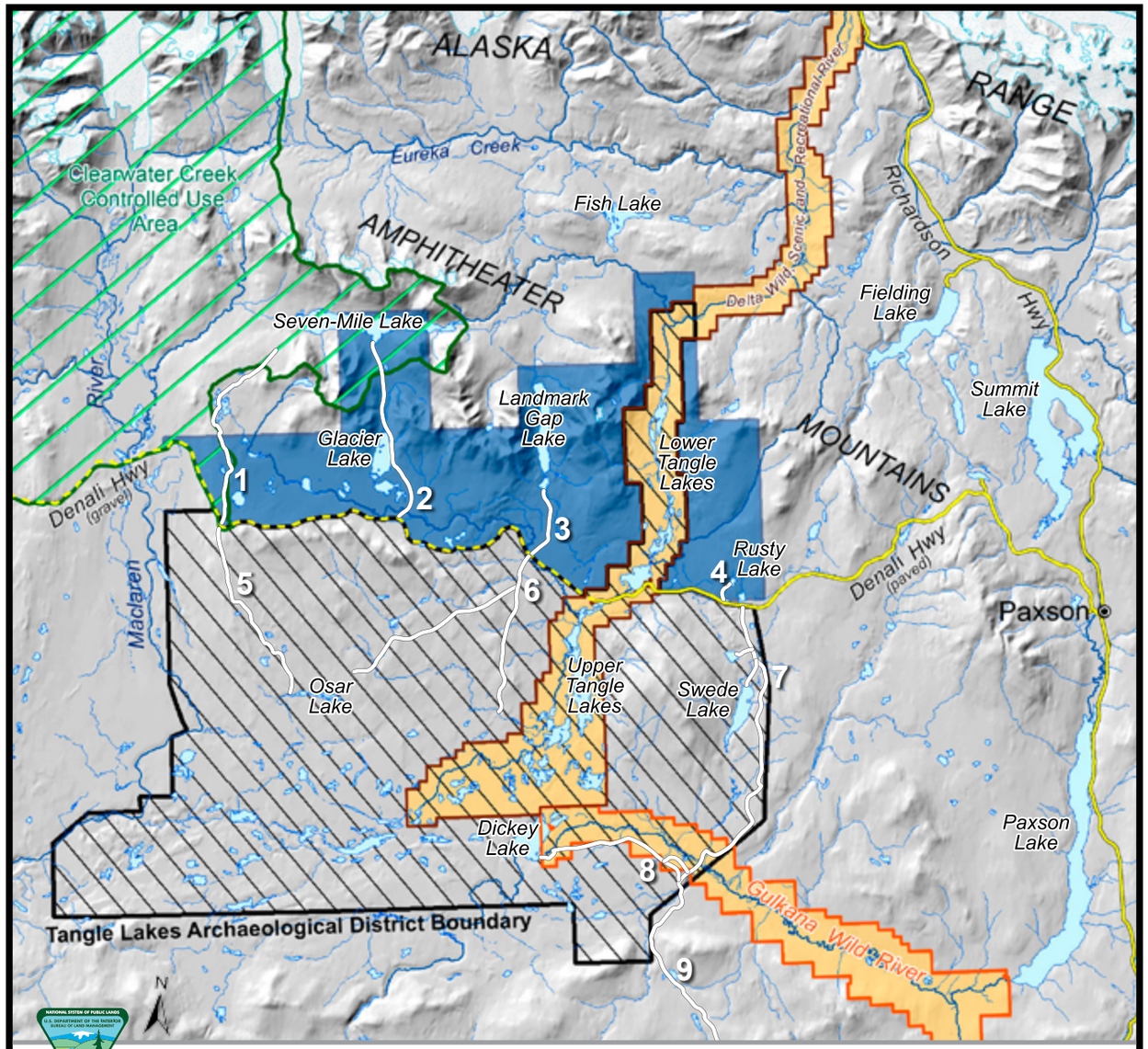
The trail extends 3.5 miles to the southern end of Glacier Gap Lake, continues approximately 5 miles to Sevenmile Lake and is fully encompassed by the TLAD Special Use Area. The trail crosses a large stream approximately .25 miles from the trailhead and traverses through the hillsides over rugged terrain affording visitors spectacular views of the landscape and wildlife.

3. Landmark Gap Trail North (MP 24.6)

This trail extends approximately 3 miles to the south end of Landmark Gap Lake. The trail is rocky and dry with one marshy spot with a solid, rocky bottom to facilitate crossing. This trail is located within the TLAD Special Use Area and all users should stay on the trail, as there are several known archaeological sites nearby.

4. Rusty Lake Trail (MP 17)

This .75 mile foot trail provides access to Rusty Lake. This trail is of low to moderate difficulty and has one creek crossing during wet seasons.



Designated Trails within the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District

- BLM Managed TLAD
- Gulkana Wild River Corridor (BLM)
- TLAD Designated Trails
- State of Alaska TLAD Special Use Area
- Delta Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Corridor (BLM)
- State of Alaska Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area

0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only and is not intended to depict all land status in the area. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey plats, Master Title Plats and land status case-files, which can be found at http://sdms.ak.blm.gov/

BLM Managed TLAD

Trails 5-9 Managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM):

Special Rules for Trails 5-9:

- **Between May 16 and October 18**, Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) are limited to these designated trails only, while traveling within the BLM managed areas of the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD). OHV Travel off designated trails is a violation under 43 CFR 8341.1(c).
- **Winter OHV use** is unrestricted when adequate snowfall is present. Sufficient snow cover means an average of one foot of snow with a minimum of six inches. Sufficient ground frost means a minimum of six inches.

Recommended uses for each trail are indicated by symbols. Match the numbers with the locations shown on the map.

5. Osar Lake Trail (MP 37)

The trail leaves Maclaren Summit and travels south approximately 8 miles to the northwest shore of Osar Lake. It crosses glacial eskers and is fairly dry.

6. Landmark Gap Trail South (MP 24.7)

This trail travels south and then branches to the southwest and southeast. The southwest branch extends approximately 8 miles to the vicinity of Osar Lake; the southeast branch extends approximately 5 miles to a viewpoint of the upper Tangle Lakes. There is a large muddy and rocky area at the beginning of the trail. Water crossings may be difficult after periods of heavy rains.

7. Swede Lake Trail (MP 16)

The trail extends approximately 3 miles to the northern end of Swede Lake, continues approximately 7 miles to the Middle Fork Gulkana Branch Trail, and an additional 0.5 miles to the Alphabet Hills Trail. This trail can be wet after heavy rains and portions are outside the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District.

8. Dickey Lake Trail

Accessed by the Swede Lake Trail, this trail parallels the Middle Fork of the Gulkana River. The trail can be extremely wet.

9. Alphabet Hills Trail

An extension of the Swede Lake Trail, this trail provides a route into the Alphabet Hills. The trail is not maintained and is muddy and wet throughout the summer months.