



# Haines Region

## Watchable Wildlife

From the ocean to the mountaintops, diverse habitats provide an array of wildlife viewing opportunities in the Haines area. Mountain goats and brown bears roam the Takshanuk Mountains, while bald eagles feast on the hordes of salmon swimming the Chilkat River. Lush green temperate rainforest surrounds Haines, which is habitat for populations of bear, moose, and porcupine.



**Habitats** Alpine tundra | Temperate rainforest | Glacier | Riverine/riparian | Freshwater lakes/ponds

### Species to See



David Restivo, NPS

**Mountain goat** - Glaciation in the Haines area divided the mountain goat population into unique, isolated groups living on separate mountain ridges. These sure-footed “rock goats” live in rugged terrain where they use their uniquely adapted hooves to forage on extremely steep and slippery cliff faces. Use binoculars to spot goats from pullouts and way points.



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**Little brown bat** - Sit still, look up, and watch for these bats zipping through the dusk sky hunting for their favorite food: insects. Little brown bats hunt all through the night, using echolocation to track down their prey. They send sound waves out and locate insects based on when the sounds echo and return to their large ears. Though little brown bats are the most common, Keen’s myotis, long-legged bats, and silver-haired bats also hunt for insects in this area.



NPS

**Boreal toad** - Aside from the wood frog, the boreal toad is the most wide-spread amphibian species in Alaska. However, it does not venture much beyond southeastern Alaska, making the Haines area a great place to look for this hearty toad. They are most active during the day and can be identified by the white stripe on their back, their bird-like clucking, and their dark warts that secrete bitter toxins to repel predators.



Bob Wick, BLM

**Bald eagle** - Alaska is home to over 30,000 bald eagles, the most of any state. The largest-known congregation of bald eagles in the world forms in Haines during early winter to feed on the late season salmon run. This iconic bird preys on a wide variety of fish species, but also feed on birds, small mammals, and carrion. They can grow to a wingspan of up to seven and a half feet, slightly smaller on average than the golden eagle.



- Brown bear
- Black bear
- Moose
- Humpback whale
- Steller sea lion
- Harbor seal
- Porcupine
- Arctic tern
- Common merganser
- Osprey
- Ptarmigan  
*(willow, rock, and white-tailed)*
- Rufous hummingbird
- Sooty grouse
- Salmon *(five species)*



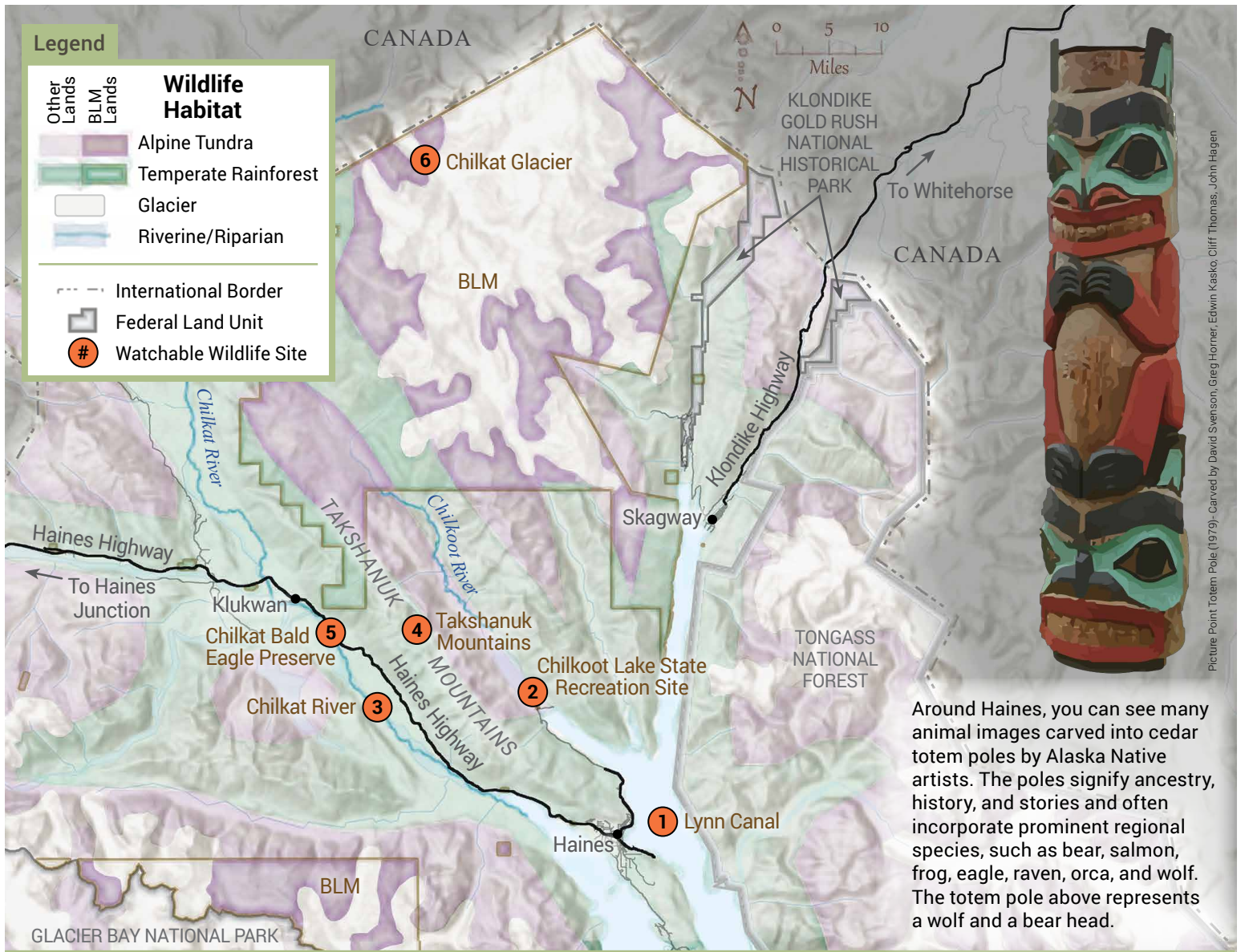
### Wildlife Viewing Tips

When arriving by sea or air, keep a look out for whales, seals, and sea birds in the narrow fjords.

Most BLM-managed public lands around the Haines area are difficult to access, with few designated trails.

### Other Resources

[ADF&G Wildlife Viewing Guide](#) | [Haines Bird List](#) | [Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park](#)



Around Haines, you can see many animal images carved into cedar totem poles by Alaska Native artists. The poles signify ancestry, history, and stories and often incorporate prominent regional species, such as bear, salmon, frog, eagle, raven, orca, and wolf. The totem pole above represents a wolf and a bear head.

## Wildlife Viewing Sites

- Lynn Canal** - The aquatic habitat of this 90-mile fjord supports rich marine life, including large marine mammals, numerous species of birds, and abundant fish. Keep an eye out from shore, travel by boat, or look down from a plane to see these creatures.
- Chilkoot Lake State Recreation Site** - The lake and river are excellent spots to see dense salmon runs as well as the brown bears and birds that come to feed on them. The adjacent temperate rainforest is filled with colorful mushrooms in the late summer.
- Chilkat River** - Moose, brown bears, and wolves use this river as a travel corridor between coastal and interior lands. Eagles, trumpeter swans, and Arctic terns search for food in the waters.
- Takshanuk Mountains** - This mountain range separates the Chilkat River and Chilkoot River watersheds. Hike or gaze upon the mountain slopes to see mountain goats, ptarmigan, grouse, and bears.
- Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve** - In this state park, over 100 bald eagles may congregate to feed on a late chum (pink) salmon run in October and November.
- Chilkat Glacier** - A behemoth of ice stands at the top of the Chilkat River. The meltwater from this glacier feeds the rivers below. Search the cliffs for mountain goats, or look for tracks of creatures that crossed the glacier.

## Other Notable Locations

- Klondike Goldrush National Historic Park, National Park Service.** Due to its position between the temperate rainforest and interior of northwestern British Columbia, this national park supports a wide array of wildlife.