

02ER Eagle River

Geography, subsheds, ownership CBJ's 02ER map page extends southward all the way to Tee Harbor, but JWMP Priority Areas are confined to the northern half, between Eagle Beach State Park and the Shrine of St Therese. These 10 Priority Areas total 1587 acres. About 1150 acres are on City land, 320 are on State Land, and 60 acres belong to the Methodist Camp.

We've divided this part of the Eagle River map page into about a dozen 'subsheds,' shown here with blue lines. Proceeding from NW to SE, and considering only those subsheds where we mapped AAs, the units are as follows:

Twenty-ninemile Creek watershed drains 2.4 square miles southward onto tidal flats at the State Park. **Saturday Creek** watershed¹ drains 2.2 mi² through the Methodist Camp into the State Park. **Herbert River** watershed drains 44.5 mi² to its confluence with Eagle River.² **Strawberry Creek** watershed drains 1.7 mi² northwestward into Herbert River near the Boy Scout trailhead. The small **Bear Bog**³ subshed drains 0.2 mi² northwestward into Herbert River near the Boy Scout trail. **Amalga North** subshed—0.4 mi²—is actually an amalgam of many small coastal basins draining seaward. It backs against the southeast-draining **Amalga Meadows** subshed—0.6 mi²—that feeds into the Salt Chuck. **Risen Pass** subshed, descending to the Amalga turnoff from Glacier Highway, is a topographically complex, 1.2-mi² basin on the cusp of Windfall and Peterson Lakes watersheds. **Amalga South** subshed—0.2 mi²—resembles Amalga North in spanning several small coastal basins. **Peterson Creek**^{25mile} subshed drains the 9.7 mi² Peterson Lake basin northwestward into the Salt Chuck.

1 CCC employees used to bathe in this creek on Saturday; thus the informal name, well established among users of the Methodist Camp.

2 Eagle River subshed Priority Areas contain no wetlands >1 acre. At 46.4 square miles, it's equivalent in size to the large Herbert subshed.

3 Bear Bog is named for the brown bear Alfreda, eventually shot for raiding dog food, whose frequent presence in unit ER30 made night-time trailwalks memorable for Scout-camp caretakers. Totalling 145 acres, it comfortably exceeds our minimum size of 50 acres for subshed delineation.

4 The suffix "25mile" serves to distinguish this stream from Peterson Creek on Douglas Island (map page 11WD)



Southeast across confluence of Herbert and Eagle Rivers, 20120912. Golden cottonwoods, never found in old-growth forest, betray the youthfulness of this raised former tideland. We mapped 10 Assessment Areas in this view.

Geomorphology, glacial history At the peak of the Little Ice Age in the mid 1700s, Herbert and Eagle Glaciers (like Mendenhall to the south) expanded halfway down their valleys. Thickening of their source areas on the Juneau Icefield depressed the land about 11 feet. Between the bulging ice fronts and the corresponding marine intrusion, virtually no old trees grew, only a raw alluvial plain.

During a one-year study of wildlife and habitats 'out-the-road' for SEAL Trust (Carstensen & Hocker, 2003), we began to refer to the lowland component of this region as "Risen Valleys." On the preceeding overview map, all lands colored pastel-green, below 32 feet above sea level, were tidally flooded at the peak of the Little Ice Age. Since that time, 'risen' bottomlands have become exceptionally valuable to fish, wildlife, and human recreation and education.

Ecology That young surface also supports the majority of wetlands we mapped on the 02ER map page, with older framing forested wetlands and a few ancient bogs on the hills above. The previous description for Echo Cove map page, 01EC, notes that Juneau's finest wildlife habitats⁵ are in the uplift parkland at Cowee Meadows and Risen Valleys. We were not asked to survey wetlands at Bridget State Park (01EC), but in Risen Valleys, our

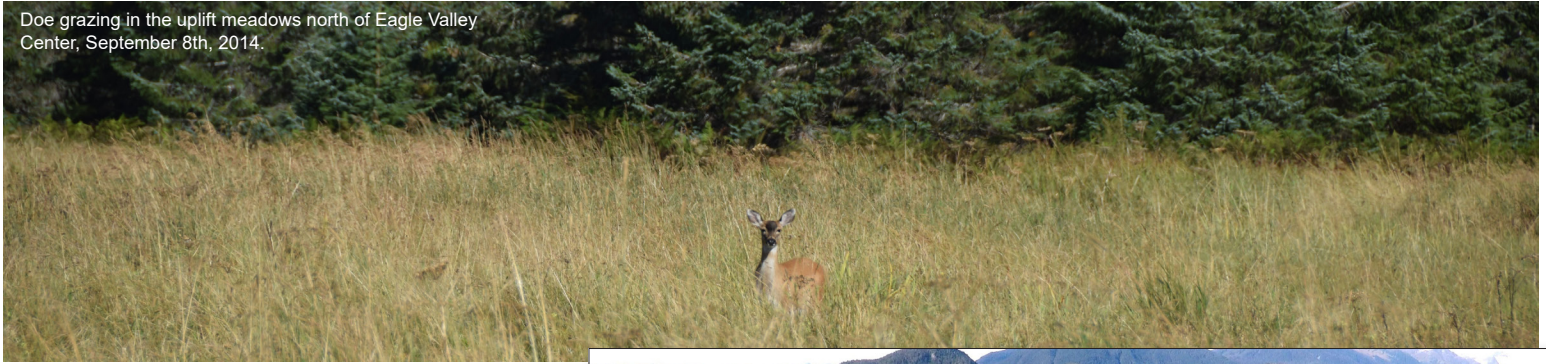
⁵ RC: This is a personal opinion, based on 38 years of tracking and wildlife observations throughout the CBJ. Obviously, wildlife habitat value varies by species; mountain goats, for example, benefit little from uplift parkland.



surveys spanned 5 months, affording opportunity to study these habitats under shifting conditions of plant growth and senescence, and hydrologic regime. This experience deepened our conviction about the importance of raised-tidal landforms and vegetation communities to Juneau's fish and wildlife populations.

Culture *Asx'ée, twisted tree*—a winter village of 50 people—once occupied a now-vanished sandy bench south of today's scout camp. In pre-contact times, Mendenhall Wetlands also contained extensive uplift features but these have been developed. That gives the relatively pristine Risen Valley—and the similar Cowee Meadows—a

Doe grazing in the uplift meadows north of Eagle Valley Center, September 8th, 2014.



uniqueness value in the CBJ.

Many lifelong residents of the CBJ had their first away-from-home experience in one of the Risen Valleys camp facilities. The Methodist Camp, Scout Camp, Eagle Valley Center and Arboretum provide exceptional opportunities in outdoor education.



WNW over
Glacier Highway
and Amalga
parkland to Lynn
Canal, Sept 3rd,
2015.