

Redlands Lake RNA

Chitanana Dunes System

Size: 3,829 acres

Elevation: 560–1,671 feet

Lake Elevation: 560 feet

Area Description

Among large lakes in Interior Alaska's sand dune system, Redlands Lake is one of only a few not available for remote land sales or subdivisions.

Redlands Lake is surrounded by permafrost-dominated black spruce woodland and open muskeg (former lake-bottom surface). The lake has relatively warm waters for Interior Alaska and is suitable for floatplane landing.

The Chitanana River frontage has steep eroding bluffs with exposed sand that has a deep active layer or no permafrost.

Features of Significant Research Value (Animal, Plant and Geologic)

Animal: Northern pike/least cisco/burbot; western sandpiper

Plant: Black spruce (post fire seedlings)-*Cladonia* woodland forest; open aspen forest (dry south exposures); aquatic plants associated with large lakes, including *Elymus* grass

Geologic: Large dune lake; relict shoreline features



Additional Features

Redlands Lake provides habitat for fish typically associated with large lakes (pike and cisco). Shoreline small mammals are present in the RNA; the meadow jumping mouse was identified in this area for the first time at Redlands Lake. The RNA also includes suitable habitat for the western sandpiper.

Excellent natural erosional exposures occur on the bluffs above the river.

Source: Glenn P. Juday, 1983, Chitanana Dunes Proposed Research Natural Areas: Redlands Lake and Arms Lake. Report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management – Alaska.

Central Yukon RMP - Research Natural Areas

