



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Alaska National Parks News Release

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Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve Planning Documents Available for Review and Comment

The National Park Service (NPS) has released a plan that updates the 1986 *General Management Plan* and guides the future of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. This plan will direct management of park resources, visitor uses, and facilities for the next 15 to 20 years. It also provides guidance for stewardship of park wilderness and backcountry recreation.

The General Management Plan Amendment / Wilderness Stewardship Plan / Environmental Assessment identify and evaluate three management alternatives and their environmental impacts to natural and cultural resources, wilderness character, and visitor experiences. The NPS preferred alternative would continue the current management approach. There would continue to be a strong focus on protecting wilderness character, including maintaining opportunities for solitude and self-reliance, and the park's wild and undeveloped qualities. No new infrastructure or visitor facilities would be provided. The preferred alternative also includes management zoning as well as indicators and standards for wilderness character. Under all of the alternatives, subsistence use in the park and preserve would continue to be a priority and supported in accordance with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

The plan is available for public review from January 12, 2015 to March 13, 2015, from the website below. Please share your ideas about the plan at one of the following open houses and/or by submitting written comments at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gaar_gmp or by regular mail to: Gates of the Arctic GMPA, National Park Service, 4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709.

Anchorage Open House - February 17, 2015; 4:00–7:00 pm, Campbell Creek Science Center, 5600 Science Center Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507-2599

Fairbanks Public Hearing and Open House - February 19, 2015; 4:00-7:00 pm, Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitor Center, 101 Dunkel Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Anaktuvuk Pass Open House - please check the website for date and time