

Alaska Lands Update

monthly updates on Federal management actions for the people of Alaska

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Photo Credit: USFWS

Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, AK 99709

Foundation Statements Available for Public Comment

Kobuk Valley National Park and Cape Krusenstern National Monument have released draft Foundation Statements and are accepting public comment until May 15, 2010. A Foundation statement is used to articulate "the purposes for which the park unit was established and identifies what is most important about that unit." They also identify "primary interpretive themes and key legal mandates, providing the framework needed to understand the historic and contemporary roles, conditions and issues surrounding the park unit." Each foundation statement includes the purpose statement, significance statement, fundamental resources and values, primary interpretive themes and special mandates. These are then used as guides for making management decisions.

(Foundation Statements continued on page 3)

Bureau of Land Management/Ahtna Inc. Agree to Move 17b Easement

The Bureau of Land Management and Ahtna Native Corporation have agreed to a new documented location of the Broad Pass easement, which will now match the on-the-ground location. This 17(b) easement is currently located at mile 195.5 of the west bound Parks Highway and will be moved to mile 194.5. Due to the unsustainability of the current location, the new easement property will be donated by BLM and the old easement will be released. This trail is 50 feet wide and used for travel

by foot, dogsled, snowmobiles, two and three wheeled vehicles, small and large all-terrain vehicles, track vehicles and four-wheel drive vehicles.

Comments are being accepted until May 13, 2010 and can be sent via email (AK_GFO_GeneralDelivery@blm.gov) or mail to :

Bureau of Land Management,
Broad Pass Easement, P.O. Box 147,
Glennallen, AK 99588.

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Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas to Meet in June

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas will meet in Fairbanks on June 2 & 3, 2010. Items on the agenda include: discussions with the Bureau of Land Management on the Eastern Interior Regional Management Plan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge CCP, the National Park Service on the Nabesna Road Off Road Vehicle Management Plan and more. A complete agenda will be published on the DNR website and in the Fairbanks and Anchorage newspapers when it is available.

The meeting will be held at the Fairbanks Legislative Information Office from 8:30 am—5 pm on June 2 and 8:30 am—1 pm on June 3.

The meeting is open to the public and periods of public comment will be available. Any person may present oral or written comments to the Commission on any agenda item or other issue related to federal public lands in Alaska. No advance notice is required. Please note that any written comments received are public record and subject to inspection.

Governor Parnell Appoints Two Commission Members

On April 2, Governor Parnell of Alaska reappointed Susan Smith and appointed Colleen Soberay to the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas. Both were appointed to four year terms that expire March 2014. The commission consists of 12 appointed members, six of which are appointed by the governor, 3 are appointed by the President of the Senate and 3 by the Speaker of the House.

Susan Smith has served on the Commission since 2007. She lives nears Chitina and is an inholder in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. She is chair of *Residents of Wrangells*, a McCarthy-based organization composed of Alaskans with private land inholdings in Wrangell St-Elias Park. Susan earned a bachelor's and master's degree in education from State University of New York at Brockport and now crafts artisan jewelry,

quilts, and furs. Previously, she was an employee of the Chitina Native Corporation. She and her husband are federally qualified subsistence users.

Colleen Soberay resides in Anchorage and is CH2M Hill's Business Development Director. Prior to this, Colleen worked in Business Development for 3M, served as a City Clerk and Deputy City Manager for the City of Bethel and served in the U.S. Navy. She earned a bachelor's degree in Communications and Political Science from the University of North Florida and a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Colleen is also a member of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, Resource Development Council, Commonwealth North and the Alaska Support Industry Alliance.

CACFA Members

- Rick Schikora, Fairbanks
Chairman
- Mark Fish, Anchorage
Vice Chairman
- Rod Arno, Willow
Executive Committee
- Charlie Lean, Nome
Executive Committee
- Senator Linda Menard, Wasilla
- Representative Wes Keller, Wasilla
- Mike Meekin, Palmer
- Colleen Soberay, Anchorage
- Susan Smith, Chitina
- Alex Tarnai, Tanana
- Frank Woods, Dillingham

CACFA Staff

Stan Leaphart
Executive Director
907-374-3737
stanley.leaphart@alaska.gov

Clarissa Hammond
Commission Assistant
907-451-2035
clarissa.hammond@alaska.gov

For more information, visit our website:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/index.htm>

AS 41.37.160 The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska is established in the department [Natural Resources]. In the exercise of its responsibilities, the commission shall consider the views of citizens of the state and officials of the state.

(Foundation Statements continued from page 1)

Cape Krusenstern National Monument, located in northwest Alaska, was established through ANILCA to protect and allow for research on several archeological sites that represent each known cultural period in arctic Alaska. The purpose listed in the Foundation Statement reads as follows:

“The purpose of Cape Krusenstern National Monument is to preserve, study and interpret a sequential archeological record of human migration and adaptation, and to protect arctic ecosystems and subsistence resources.”

Kobuk Valley National Park, also established through ANILCA and located in northwest Alaska, includes more than

1.7 million acres of public land. The purpose listed in the Foundation Statement reads as follows:

“The purpose of Kobuk Valley National Park is to maintain the environmental integrity of boreal forest, montane and riverine ecosystems. The park protects and interprets diverse resources including arctic sand dunes, archeological sites and subsistence resources.”

In the National Park Service Management Policies (2006), Foundation Statements are listed as one of the major elements of park planning and decision-making. It usually precedes the other parts of the planning processes and lays the groundwork for making management decisions. According to the Management Policies, the Founda-

tion Statement should remain relatively stable once developed unless new scientific information becomes available, and indicates revisions are required.

To comment on the Kobuk Valley National Park or Cape Krusenstern National Monument Foundation Statements, go to the park planning website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/publicHome.cfm>) or mail comments to:

National Park Service - Alaska Region
Joan Darnell, Team Manager
Environmental Planning and Compliance
240 W. 5th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska, 99501

Comments are due by May 15, 2010.

Adoption of Regulations on Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge



On May 3, 2010, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge will adopt updated regulations amending the current seasonal closure of the O'Malley River area, prohibiting camping within one-quarter mile of public use cabins and Federal and State administrative facilities, prohibiting snowmachine use on approximately 4,972 acres of brown-bear denning habitat and making technical correction to the authorities section of the regulations. These actions were all outlined in the 2007 Comprehensive Conservation plan for the refuge and have gone through compatibility determinations and a public review period for implementation. This is the final phase of the implementation process.

The amendment to the seasonal closure of the O'Malley River area will allow for operation of a bear viewing program. The public has shown interest and support for such a program and studies have shown that there will be little impact to the bears if the program is run responsibly. A bear viewing program existed in the past, replacing unregulated public access, but problems occurred with the selection of a contractor and subsequently, the area was closed in 1995. Since then, the area has been closed to the public.

Anyone looking for more information should contact Brian Glaspell at 907-487-0248 or visit the April 1, 2010 [Federal Register](#) notice. This notice contains all comments and corresponding responses from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received as part of the earlier public comment processes.

Public Meetings

Denali National Park and Preserve Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council

Thursday, May 6, 2010
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. @ the Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge
Mile 13.5 Talkeetna Spur Road
907-733-9500

Purpose: To discuss the impacts from aircraft overflights at Denali National Park and Preserve.

For more information contact Miriam Valentine at 907-733-9102 or Miriam_Valentine@nps.gov.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Thursday, May 6, 2010
12:30 p.m. via teleconference @ 907-271-2896

Purpose: To review proposals for models to be considered for inclusion in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Pacific cod assessments. For more information, go to the Council website at www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/ or contact Jane DiCosimo at 907-271-2809.

Arctic Wildlife Refuge Scoping Meetings

Tuesday, May 4, 2010
1 p.m. to 4 p.m. @ the Department of the Interior Auditorium, Washington, DC

Tuesday, May 11, 2010, Anchorage
Time TBD, Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Gordon Watson Conference Room

Thursday, May 13, 2010, Fairbanks
3:00 - 8:30 pm, Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center (122 1st Avenue)

Thursday, May 20, Kaktovik,
Time TBD, Community Meeting room

Check back to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge website for more information. <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>.

Purpose: To discuss revisions to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge CCP. The CCP will establish goals and objectives, review Refuge Rivers for potential recommendations to Congress for inclusion within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and review Refuge lands for potential recommendations for inclusion within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Kodiak Commercial Fisheries Support Facilities Management Plan

As part of the 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, a step-down plan was written to replace the 1987 Commercial Fisheries Support Facility Management Plan. Just as the name indicates, this plan is used to guide management of commercial support facilities found within the refuge. The facilities support set net and beach seine fishing operations within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

Comments are being accepted until May 15, 2010. Send comments to: Refuge Manager Gary Wheeler
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
1390 Buskin River Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
or via e-mail to gary_wheeler@fws.gov.



Womens Bay, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
Photo Credit: John Martin

Arctic Refuge: Planning for its Future

Article by Sharon Seim, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is embarking on a two-year process to revise its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The CCP is the document that guides long-term management of the Refuge.

The Refuge's current CCP is more than 20 years old, and much has changed since then. New laws and policies have been enacted, climate change has emerged as a concern, the Dalton Highway has opened to the public, and visitor use patterns have changed.

All aspects of the CCP must comply with the Refuge's purposes. Arctic Refuge was first established in 1960 "for the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values." In 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) added

several purposes, including the opportunity for continued subsistence uses.

The Refuge is now accepting public comments on what the CCP should include. What future do you envision for the Refuge? What issues or concerns should the

plan address? Public comments must be received by June 7, 2010.

For more information, visit the Refuge website at :

<http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>.



Hulahula River Headwaters
Photo Credit: USFWS

Radio Communication Site Upgrade

The Tongass National Forest is proposing addition and replacement of 15 small fiberglass survival/communication structures, called

comshels, at mountain top communication sites. Additional maintenance will occur while installing the comshels.

The Tongass National Forest will need to use a helicopter, a rock drill, a generator, wheelbarrow and power tools to install the structures. Sites that are within wilderness will be required to go through a Minimum Use Decision Guide. Comments on the scoping phase of this proposal can be sent to Michelle Putz, Team Leader, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835 or to comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us with "Radio" in the subject line. Comments are due May 7, 2010.



Tongass National Forest
Photo Credit: Tongass National Forest

Agency Websites:

National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/state/ak/index.htm>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

<http://alaska.fws.gov/>

U.S. Forest Service

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/>

Bureau of Land Management

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html>

Department of the Interior

<http://www.doi.gov/>

National Marine Fisheries Service

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

Dalton Area Invasive Species Management Plan



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing a 5-year plan to manage non-native invasive plant species found within the Dalton Management area. The Dalton Management area includes two million acres of land along the Dalton highway between the Yukon River and Slope Mountain. The management plan proposes use of multiple methods for control of the unfavorable species, such as manual removal, mechanical means and chemical treatments. It also proposes a cooperative approach to monitoring populations, utilizing an early detection rapid response program and public outreach.

Species slated for eradication include: yellow toadflax, common tansy, ox-eye daisy, birdsfoot trefoil, Iceland poppy, purple sand spurry, spreading blue-

grass, common pepperweed, delphinium, meadow foxtail and bird vetch. Those marked for control include: reed canary grass, smooth brome, narrowleaf hawkweed, white/yellow sweetclover, alfalfa, alsike clover, narrowleaf hawksbeard and foxtail barley.

This management plan is in the scoping phase and the BLM is requesting help identifying issues and concerns. To read the proposed plan, go to the Yukon Field Office website. Send comments to Ruth Gronquist at the BLM Central Yukon Field Office, 1150 University Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99709 or email comments to AK_CYFO_GeneralDelivery@blm.gov.

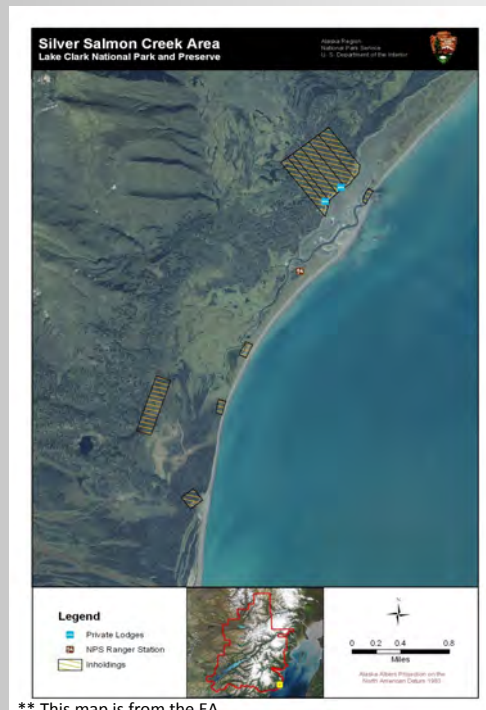
Comments should be submitted by mid-late May. The draft Environmental Assessment should be released for public review in August 2010.

Right of Way Certificate of Access in Lake Clark National Park & Preserve

The National Park Service is proposing to issue a Right of Way Certificate of Access to inholders on the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The proposed action allows for a 0.9 mile trail from the beach to the inholder's property. Approximately 2/3 of this proposed trail already exists and the new sections would be constructed to avoid resource damage to more sensitive areas.

To submit comments on this EA, visit the park planning website or mail a letter to Joel Hard, Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501.

*Enlarge e-document to see map.



Delta River EA Extension

The comment period for the Delta River Special Recreation Management Area Plan and East Alaska Resource Management Plan Amendment has been extended for two weeks. Anyone interested in commenting on the Environmental Assessment should submit those by May 6, 2010.

Send comments to:
AK_GFO_GeneralDelivery@blm.gov or
 Bureau of Land Management
 Delta River Planning Process
 P.O. Box 147
 Glennallen, AK 99588