

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

Expansion of Arctic Climate Monitoring Program

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing an expansion of the remote automated weather stations in the Arctic Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Network. The additional stations would record basic climatology data such as air and soil temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, solar radiation and snow depth. Permanent climate data collecting sites are proposed at 17 spots in five parks. The parks included in this network are as follows: Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Noatak National Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park, Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

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Decision Notice Issued for Petersburg Outfitter and Guide Management Plan

The final decision notice and finding of no significant impact for the Petersburg Outfitter and Guide Management Plan was released in late May. Alternative two, *Increased Solitude*, was chosen as the preferred alternative. Overall the chosen alternative will increase the number of recreation visitor days in the Petersburg Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest.

The rationale for this decision were as follows:

- To respond to special use permit applications.
- Allocate appropriate outfitter and guide use on the District while recognizing special values.
- Manage outfitter and guide use on the District to minimize potential impacts to all resources.

The Decision Notice is available on the [Tongass National Forest website](#).

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Improvements Considered for Brooks River Visitor Area

The National Park Service is evaluating proposed improvements to the Brooks River Area in Katmai National Park and Preserve. These projects would decrease the number of bear-human interactions and improve visitor experiences by moving main transportation routes away from the traditionally high bear density areas. The NPS is evaluating replacement of the floating bridge and relocation of the existing barge landing and access road. Drilling studies are being conducted this summer to determine depth of suitable bedrock. For more information, go to the [Katmai National Park and Preserve planning website](#).



NOAA Next Generation Strategic Plan

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seeks comments on their Next Generation Strategic plan, which provides the agency with a mission, vision of the future, societal outcomes, actions needed to achieve those objectives and outlines strategic partnerships. To read the plan in its entirety, go to www.noaa.gov/ngsp. Comments should be submitted by August 10, 2010 to the NGSP website (www.noaa.gov/ngsp), strategic.planning@noaa.gov, or via mail to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Program Planning and Integration, 1315 East West Highway, Room 15749, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. For more informa-

tion, contact Marla Trollan, NGSP Communications Director, at 302-270-6288 or marla.trollan@noaa.gov.

Yukon River Subsistence Fishing and Wildlife Regulations Released

The 2010-11 and 2011-12 regulations for the taking of fish and wildlife on the Yukon River were established through the Federal Rulemaking process on June 30, 2010. This rule outlines seasons, harvest limits, methods and means. To view the rule, go to the [Federal Register website](#). For more information, contact the Federal Subsistence Board Chair Peter J. Probasco at 907-786-3888 or subsistence@fws.gov.

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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.

(Climate continued from page 1)

NPS is accepting comments on this [environmental assessment](#) from June 11 – July 12, 2010. Written comments can be mailed or emailed to:

Attn: Glen Yankus
National Park Service
240 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
glen_yankus@nps.gov

Comments can also be posted on the NPS public comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

Questions can be directed to Glen Yankus at 907-644-3535.

ARRA Funds Projects in Southeast Alaska

More than \$23 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds went to the Tongass National Forest to pay for nearly 40 projects in Southeast Alaska. The purpose of these funds is to stimulate the local economy



Stream Habitat Improvement
Photo Credit: Wendy R. Magwire

in the locations in which they are directed. On the Tongass, several projects have been awarded to local contractors, while both local and non-local contractors will be spending money locally on food, lodging and equipment. In addition, local people are being seasonally employed.

Projects include stream restoration, forest thinning, decommissioning of unnecessary roads, trail and road construction and repair, recreation cabin replacements and visitor center upgrades.

For more information, contact Larine MacDonald at 907-772-5856.

National Marine Fisheries Service Announces Review of Steller Sea Lion Population

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will conduct a 5-year review of the eastern Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*). The Steller Sea Lion was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1990. A 5-year review of the listing is required under the ESA and is conducted to ensure that the listing classification of a species is accurate and it is based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review. NMFS is requesting submission of any such information on the eastern DPS of the Steller Sea Lion that has become available since their last status review in 1995. The deadline for submitting information for this status review is August 13, 2010.

Based on the results of a 5-year review, the agency will determine whether or not a species should be removed from the list (delisted), or reclassified from endangered to threatened or from threatened to endangered. Delisting a species must be supported by the best scientific and commercial data available and only considered if such data substantiates that the species is neither endangered nor threatened for one or more of the following reasons: (1) the species is considered extinct; (2) the species is considered to be recovered; and/or (3) the original data available when the species was listed, or the interpretation of such data, were in error. Any change in federal classification would require a separate rulemaking process.

Additional information on the Steller Sea Lion, the 5-year review and how to submit information or comments can be found on the [NOAA website](#) or by contacting Dr. Lisa Rotterman at (907-271-1692), lisa.rotterman@noaa.gov.



Steller Sea Lions
Photo Credit: NOAA



Katmai National Park & Preserve
Photo Credit: The National Park Service

Brooks Camp Picnic Area Improvement- Katmai National Park & Preserve

Facilities at the Brooks Camp picnic area in Katmai National Park & Preserve will see a number of improvements if a National Park Service proposal is approved. The improvements would consist of installing (1) an accessible restroom and storage cache facility, (2) a sheltered picnic area, (3) a historic gear cache and interpretive wayside, and (4) a map exhibit directing visitors to various points of interest within Brooks Camp.

An environmental assessment (EA) analyzing impacts of the proposed action

and a no action alternative is currently available for public review and comment. The 30 day comment period ends on July 23, 2010. To obtain a copy of the EA or to provide comments, visit the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkId=13&projectId=27792>.

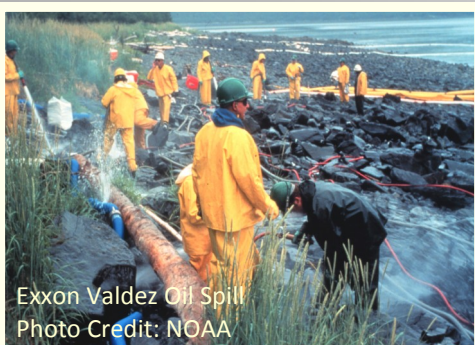
Comments may also be mailed to:
Daniel Noon
Katmai National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 7
King Salmon, AK 99613-0007

If you would like to have a printed copy of the EA you can contact Whitney Rapp at 907-246-2145 or Whitney_Rapp@nps.gov.

Public Meetings/Announcements

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is scheduled to meet on July 22, 2010 at 9:30 am at their office in Anchorage. The Council will discuss a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Restoration Program, the Fiscal Year 2011 Administrative Budget, Fiscal Year 2012 project proposals and revisions to program policies and procedures. For more information on the meeting, contact Douglas Mutter at 907-271-5011.



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill
Photo Credit: NOAA

Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council

The Alaska Resource Advisory Council for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will meet in the Glennallen area from August 3-5, 2010. A public meeting will be held at 2 pm on August 3 at the BLM Glennallen Field Office, with a public comment period beginning at 4pm. The BLM is looking for six additional individuals to serve on the council. Nominations can be submitted until July 12, 2010. To obtain a nomination packet, call 907-251-5555 or go to www.blm.gov/ak. The council is in need of representatives from the following areas of interest: energy/minerals, conservation/environmental, dispersed recreation, and Alaska Native organizations. This council will give recommendations and advise the BLM on resource and land management issues.

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/>