

Alaska Lands Update

monthly updates on Federal management
actions for the people of Alaska

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Photo

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

Alternative Concepts Developed for Gates of the Arctic Plan Amendment

The National Park Service interdisciplinary planning team for Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve has developed 4 preliminary draft alternative concepts for amending the existing 1986 general management plan (GMP). The team also has proposed 5 management zones for the park which generally identify how different areas could be managed to achieve resource preservation, provide for recreational access and use, and serve operational purposes. The NPS is soliciting public comments on the alternative concepts, management zones and other issues by November 15, 2010. Meetings are scheduled in Fairbanks and in Anchorage. Park staff will also visit Allakaket, Anaktuvuk, Bettles and Coldfoot to discuss ideas and concerns of local resi-

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Wilderness Reviews to be Conducted in ANWR

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has announced that it will conduct wilderness reviews of almost all non-wilderness lands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Lands in the so called "1002 Area" on the coastal plain will be included in the review. The USFWS will look at three Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) for potential inclusion within the National Wilderness Preservation System. In conducting a wilderness review for each WSA, the refuge will evaluate

whether a recommendation to designate wilderness would assist in achieving refuge purposes and maintain biological integrity. The refuge will analyze values (e.g., ecological, recreational, cultural, economic, symbolic), resources (e.g., wildlife, water, vegetation, minerals, soils), public uses, and refuge management activities within each area. The analysis will also assess whether the refuge can effectively

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Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District Outfitter/Guide Management Plan EIS

The Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District (KMRD) in the Tongass National Forest is seeking public involvement and information on recreational use within the district for an Outfitter/Guide Management Plan. The Management Plan will include all 3.2 million acres of the KMRD including all of the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness. The Proposed Action, developed with input from 10 collaborative meetings that ran from early 2009 through April 2010, is to allocate about 54,000 visitor days (of the estimated capacity of approximately 148,000 days) annually for outfitter and guide use on KMRD. Adaptive management may increase or decrease allocations for specific areas based on standards and the level of effects.

KMRD will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Outfitter/Guide Management Plan project that will display the alternatives considered and disclose the environmental impacts of each alternative. The decision on the EIS will set outfitter and guide use levels but will not limit or regulate use by unguided visitors. There will be no limitations on unguided use from this project.

More information on the proposal and site-specific maps are on the website, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/districts/ketchikan/recreationplanning.shtml>

Comments or input may be mailed or faxed to: Sue Jennings, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, 3031 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan, AK 99901, Fax: (907) 225-8738 or via e-mail to <mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-ketchikan-mistyfiord@fs.fed.us> (with "O/G" in the subject line). In order to be most useful to the IDT, please send your ideas by **November 1**.



Misty Fiords National Monument—USFS Photo

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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.

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dents. Additional information on the development of the alternative concepts, maps of the proposed management zones, the wilderness study, wild and scenic river evaluation and other aspects of the GMP amendment process, along with instructions on how to submit comments can be found here: <http://>

www.nps.gov/gaar/parkmgmt/general-management-plan-amendment.htm .

Meeting Schedule:

Fairbanks—October 20, 2010

4:00—7:00 PM

Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center—101 Dunkel Street

Anchorage—October 26, 2010

4:00—8:00 PM

Campbell Creek Science Center
5600 Science Center Drive



Record of Decision Signed for Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement—Glacier Bay National Park

The National Park Service Alaska Region has issued a Record of Decision for the Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (FLEIS) for the harvest of glaucous-winged gull eggs by Huna Tlingit in Glacier Bay National Park. Harvest of gull eggs was prohibited in the 1960s with the implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The agency conducted studies and prepared the LEIS as directed in the *Glacier Bay National Park Resource Management Act of 2000* (Public Law 106-455).

The NPS selected an alternative that, if implemented through enactment of

legislation, could authorize the annual harvest of glaucous-winged gull eggs at up to five designated locations in Glacier Bay National Park. Any legislative proposal from the NPS is subject to review by the Department of the Interior and the President before it can be transmitted to Congress.

If legislation is enacted authorizing the egg harvest, each year the NPS and Huna Indian Association would prepare a harvest plan to identify sites open to harvest based on annual monitoring and harvest history.

Commission Meeting In Anchorage

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas will meet October 21 from 1:00—5:00 PM and October 22 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM at the Anchorage Legislative Information Office at 716 W. 4th Avenue.

For additional information and proposed agenda items contact the Commission office at (907) 374-3737

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/>

More information and a copy of the Final LEIS and Record of Decision can be found at the park planning website. <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=16968>

(Wilderness Reviews Continued from page 1)

manage each WSA to preserve its wilderness character. The evaluation will consider a “Wilderness Alternative” and a “No Wilderness Alternative” in order to compare the benefits and impacts of managing each area as wilderness as opposed to managing the area under an alternate set of goals, objectives, and strategies that would not involve wilderness designation.

If the wilderness reviews lead to a recommendation to give wilderness status to any of the WSAs, the recommendation would require approval by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Interior, and the President of the United States. If a recommendation receives the support of all of these parties, the President would submit it to Congress, which alone has

the authority to make final decisions on any proposed wilderness designation.

As part of the planning process for Alaska refuges, the Service has authority to inventory, study, and possibly propose areas suitable for wilderness within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The wilderness reviews are expected to be completed by February, 2011. The Service plans to release a draft revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which will include the wilderness reviews, for public review and comment in March, 2011. After thoroughly evaluating all comments on that draft, the Service plans to issue the final plan and record of decision, incorporating any recommendations arising from the wilderness reviews, in May, 2012.

Contact Information

Information about the CCP and the planning process is available at:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Arctic NWR - Sharon Seim

101 12th Ave, Room 236

Fairbanks AK 99701-6237

And at:

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

email: <mailto:ArcticRefugeCCP@fws.gov>

phone: **907-456-0501**

800-362-4546

Information about Arctic Refuge is

available at <http://arctic.fws.gov/>.



Arrigetch Peaks Glacier
Gates of the Arctic NP&P
National Park Service Photo