

Alaska Lands Update

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

Notice to Terminate EIS on Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve General Management Plan Amendment

The National Park Service (NPS) is terminating the Wilderness Study and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The NPS published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS on a GMPA/Wilderness Study EIS for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve in the *Federal Register* 75 FR 4413, on January 27, 2010. Public scoping occurred in the spring of 2010, a preliminary alternatives newsletter was distributed to the public in the fall of 2010, and a Wilderness Study newsletter was sent to the public in the winter of 2011. One of the key areas of focus for the EIS was a Wilderness Study for lands in the preserve that are presently identified as eligible but that have not been proposed for wilderness designation.

Under the enabling legislation, Section 201(4)(b)-(e) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Congress provided for a right-of-way across the Kobuk Unit of the preserve for access to an adjacent mining district. In 2011, the State of Alaska, at the request of a project propo-

nent, began preliminary field studies in preparation for the application for a right-of-way. If a complete application is received, the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Transportation will jointly agree on the route for issuance of a right-of-way, after completion of an environmental and economic analysis prepared in lieu of an EIS which would otherwise be required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Funding by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to study the feasibility of a road has accelerated the schedule for potentially filing a right-of-way application. Due to the possibility that a right-of-way application may be filed, the NPS decided to defer the Wilderness Study and complete the GMPA with an environmental assessment. The GMPA will include a wilderness stewardship plan and update the GMP to reflect current planning standards, including zoning, capacity, and desired conditions for management. The alternatives under consideration in the GMPA do not include any new facilities or substantial staffing changes, and are not expected to have significant impacts on the human environment.

For more information please contact Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, 4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-3420; telephone (907) 457-5752. ♦

Mountainous Gates of the Arctic in Summer (USFWS 8/1/1980)



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The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, (CACFA) will have it's next regular
business meeting Juneau on Friday, January 24 and Saturday, January 25.

....just like previous meeting, the proceedings will be streamed LIVE, in real time, on Alaska
Legislative Television: www.akl.tv. Thank you very much to the State of Alaska Staff that
make this available and to '360North' and 'GavelALASKA' who manage the archive for CACFA
at:

http://www.360north.org/gavel-archives/?category_search=Citizens+Advisory+Commission+on+Federal+Areas.

Thank you!

Deadlines and Reminders

- **BLM—Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan** has opened public scoping through **January 17, 2014**. More information and to submit comments visit the project website at: http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/bering_sea_western.html;
- **Central Yukon Planning Area Scoping Comment Period through January 17, 2014**. For information at: www.blm.gov/ak or email the project Manager at j05cole@blm.gov;
- The **Chugach National Forest Plan Revision Phase I - Assessment** is well underway. For more information visit the planning website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/chugach/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelpdrb5408185>;
- **ANILCA TRAININGS** conducted by the Institute of the North—a twice annual training “...at the request of Congress, the Institute of the North created a detailed and in-depth training curriculum on the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. The curriculum illuminates the Alaska context for this sweeping and historic lands act and explains, in detail, its unique aspects.” This is a **two-day course, in Anchorage, on March 5-6, 2014**. For more information, visit the Institute of the North online at: <https://www.institutenorth.org/programs/alaska-commons/anilca-training/>;
- **2014 ALASKA STATEWIDE TRAILS CONFERENCE** will be held at the Alaska Pacific University **in Anchorage from April 24th to 26th, 2014**. For more information contact Steve Cleary at steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org; or visit online at: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/>;
- **Tongass NF Sustainable Cabin Management EA**; For all Project documents and comment deadlines, visit online at: <http://go.usa.gov/WQEk> (case sensitive);
- The next **Citizens’ Advisory Commission on Federal Areas meeting will be held in Juneau on Friday, January 24 and Saturday, January 25, 2014**. Location, agenda and more meeting information will be available as the meeting date approaches.

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 - Region 10, AK

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/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/>

Tongass Sustainable Cabin Management Project Environment Assessment

The Tongass National Forest Sustainable Cabin Management Project Environmental Assessment is available online at <http://go.usa.gov/WQEk> (case sensitive), to find the associated maps and appendices, navigate the website to “Project Documents – Analysis”. This EA explains the current conditions of the cabins, summarizes public involvement and public input, and fully explains the Proposed Action, the no-action and a third alternative. The health and safety analysis conducted for this project is attached as Appendix C.

Many people, groups and agencies commented on this project during the first 30-day comment period which began October 13, 2012. To give the public additional opportunity to learn more about the cabins and comment on the alternatives, there will be a second 30-day comment period after this EA is released. Once a legal ad is published in the Ketchikan Daily News in early December, 2013, an additional 30-day comment period will begin.

The Forest is seeking your input on how to manage the 12 cabins addressed in the EA. It would be most helpful if your comments are site-specific, detailed, and specific to the Proposed Action and alternatives in the EA. Please provide the reason(s) you are concerned or have suggestions. Individuals who have submitted specific, written comments

during **either** 30-day comment period will have standing to participate in the pre-decisional review and objection process.

For more information, please contact Victoria Houser, Recreation Planner, at (907) 826-1614 or by email at: vhouser@fs.fed.us. If you would like to receive further information about this project via email, please sign up at: <http://go.usa.gov/WQEk> (case sensitive) by clicking the “Subscribe to Email Updates” link. ♦

BLM Names New Glennallen Field Manager

On November 18, the BLM announces the selection of Dennis Teitzel as Glennallen Field Manager. Teitzel comes to BLM-Alaska from the BLM’s Montana State Office; he joined the BLM at the Butte, Montana Field Office following a thirty year military career.

Mr. Teitzel received a great deal of his natural resource management experience working as the Range Management Officer for 6 years on the Twentynine Palms Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center in the Mojave Desert; and he is looking forward to living the rural Alaska lifestyle.

For more information about Mr. Teitzel and the other BLM Field Managers visit: http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/meet_our_managers.html. ♦



Musher and team resting in Nome
Photo Credit - USFWS

Iditarod National Historic Trail featured in New Movie

A documentary titled, “ICEBOUND” has recently been released. The 100 minute movie is about the true story of the 1925 “Serum Run,” in which 34 men and their dog sled teams rushed anti-toxin across the frozen landscape to save the children of Nome, Alaska from a diphtheria outbreak. The documentary premiered at the Anchorage International Film Festival held at the Bear’s Tooth Theater August 6, 2013. The documentary will be shown again at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center 2p, Sunday December 15.

Narrated by Sir Patrick Stewart, the documentary brings to light compelling new information and insights into the life-saving “mush across Alaska,” which followed the old Iditarod Trail on a section now designated as part of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. BLM’s Iditarod National Historic Trail Program provided technical support for the production, and the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance provided both technical and financial support. For more information on the movie, visit <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Icebound/139729382798919>; or call KJ Mushovic at: 907-271-3322 or email at: kjmushovic@blm.com. ♦

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Mark Fish, Anchorage
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Charlie Lean, Nome (G)
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Ron Somerville, Juneau (H)

Susan Smith, Chokosna (G)

Frank Woods, Dillingham (G)

(S) SENATE APPOINTMENT

(H) HOUSE APPOINTMENT

(G) GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT

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For more information, visit our website:

www.dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa

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.

Bull on Wosnesenski Island: Photo Credit - USFWS / Steve Ebert



Proposed Information Collection National Wildlife Refuge Special Use Permit Applications and Reports

The Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 allows the use of refuges for public recreation when it is not inconsistent or does not interfere with the primary purpose(s) of the refuge. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides specific authorization and guidance for the administration and management of national wildlife refuges within the State of Alaska. Its provisions provide for the issuance of permits under certain circumstances. We issue special use permits for a specific period as determined by the type a. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. This IC is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2014. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Comments on this IC, must be received by January 13, 2014.

Send your comments on the IC to by mail to: The Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 2042-PDM, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203; or by email to: hope.grey@fws.gov; please include "1018-0102" in the subject line of your comments. For more information on this project contact: Hope Grey at hope.grey@fws.gov or 703-358-2482.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, consolidated all refuge units into a single National Wildlife Refuge System (System). It also authorized the System to offer visitor and public programs, including those facilitated by commercial visitor and management support services, on lands of the System when we find that the activities are appropriate and compatible with the purpose for which the refuge was established and the System's mission and location of the management activity or visitor service provided.

These permits authorize activities such as:

- Agricultural activities;
- Beneficial management tools that can be used to provide the best habitat possible on some refuges;
- Special events, group visits and other one-time events;
- Recreational visitor service operations;
- Guiding for fishing, hunting, wildlife education, and interpretation;

- Commercial filming and other commercial activities;
- Building and using cabins to support subsistence or commercial activities (in Alaska) (50 CFR 26.35 and 36.41);
- Research, inventory and monitoring, and other noncommercial activities.

The forms serve as both the application and permit and the currently approved forms may be viewed at <http://www.fws.gov/forms/>.

For activities such as, commercial visitor services, research, etc. that might have a large impact on refuge resources, the System may require applicants to provide more detail on operations, techniques, and locations. Because of the span of activities covered by special use permits and the different management needs and resources at each refuge, respondents may not be required to answer all questions. Depending on the requested activity, refuge managers have the discretion to ask for less information than appears on the forms. However, refuge managers cannot ask for more or different information.

The System issues permits for a specific period as determined by the type and location of the use or service provided; and use these permits to ensure that the applicant is aware of: (1) The requirements of the permit, and (2) his/her legal rights. Refuge-specific special conditions may be required for the permit. We identify conditions as an addendum to the permit. Most of the special conditions pertain to how a permitted activity may be conducted and do not require the collection of information. However, some special conditions, such as activity reports, before and after site photographs, or data sharing, would qualify as an information collection.

Comments concerning this information collection specific to:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of the estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will become a matter of public record; and a summary of each comment will be included in the request made to OMB for approval of this IC. You should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. ♦

Wildlife Refuge Plans to Address Cattle Damage to Islands

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge manager, Steve Delehanty, has announced the start of a public scoping process to identify issues and alternatives to address damage from unauthorized cattle on Wosnesenski and Chirikof Islands. Scoping will include meetings with interested federal, state, and local agencies, Federally recognized Tribes, stakeholders and the general public. After the close of scoping, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for each island. These documents will lay out the issues, alternatives, analysis of impacts, and the preferred alternative.

Wosnesenski and Chirikof are remote, uninhabited islands located in southwest

Alaska, and both islands have deteriorated wildlife habitat caused by cattle left behind when ranchers left the islands years ago. Chirikof Island was first stocked with cattle in the late 1880s when the island was leased by a large fox ranching enterprise. Cattle were introduced on Wosnesenski Island in 1938 for personal use by a resident family. Without management or predators, the cattle have multiplied. Today, there are roughly 800 cattle on Chirikof Island and 200 on Wosnesenski Island. "I have been to both islands" said Delehanty. "It's a sad sight. The vegetation is short, some areas have been turned into bare sand dunes, there are cattle carcasses scattered around, and cattle are trampling wildlife habitat, archaeological sites, and sensitive wetlands." Island salmon streams, (continues. p.5)

Kachemak Bay Water Trail "Adventure Beyond the End of the Road"

The Kachemak Bay Water Trail is a 125-mile route that extends from the Homer Spit to the City of Seldovia; it provides a wealth of conservation and outdoor recreational opportunities.

The Kachemak Bay Water Trail Steering Committee is working to design, develop, and maintain a water trail with the focus on the exploration, understanding, and stewardship of the natural treasure that is Kachemak Bay. The water trail encompasses communities throughout Kachemak Bay. Many organizations are helping create this trail, including: the National Park Service - Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, Alaska State Parks, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Cities and Chambers of Commerce of Homer and Seldovia, Cook Inlet Keeper, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, NOAA Kasitsna Bay Lab, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, Kachemak Bay Wooden Boat Society, HoWL, Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, and Alaska Trails.

Through this vast partnership effort, the Kachemak Bay Water Trail will provide an opportunity for visitors to experience the diverse habitat, spectacular wildlife, and scenic beauty that Alaska has to offer. The Kachemak Bay Water Trail was also recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects as one of several 'Year of Public Service' projects! See the Map at the left for an overview.

For more information visit: <http://www.kachemakbaywatertrail.org>
Trail of the Month, as printed in Conservation + Recreation Newsletter by the NPS, is a free monthly publication to share activities and successes of National Park Service Conservation and Outdoor Recreation programs and partners. Use this link to [Subscribe](#) or contact the National Park Service - Conservation and Recreation Programs; 1201 Eye Street, N.W.; Washington DC, 20005. ♦



Location Map © Tundra Technologies

Proposed Information Collection; Visibility Valuation Survey

The National Park Service will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as part of the continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the NPS invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. The National Park Service may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The Clean Air Act charges the NPS with an "affirmative responsibility to protect air quality related values (including visibility)." The NPS believes that the value of visibility changes should be represented in cost-benefit analyses performed regarding state and federal efforts that may affect visibility (including the Regional Haze Rule, 40 CFR Part 51). Updated estimates of visibility benefits are required because the studies conducted in the 1970s and 1980s do not reflect current baseline visibility conditions in national parks and wilderness areas.

The NPS plans to conduct a nationwide stated preference survey to estimate the value of visibility changes in national parks and wilderness areas. Survey development and pre-testing have already been conducted under a previous IC (OMB Control Number 1024-0255). The purpose of this IC is to conduct the full, national survey.

The NPS invites comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

• The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;

- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

- Comments submitted in response to this notice become a matter of public record and will be included or summarize in the request to OMB to approve this IC. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, the NPS cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

Please direct all written comments on this IC to Phadrea Ponds, Information Collection Coordinator, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525; or pponds@nps.gov. Please reference Information Collection 1024-COLORIV in the subject line or Bret Meldrum, Chief, Social Science Program, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525-5596; Bret.Meldrum@nps.gov; or 970-267-7295.

Comments we must received on or before January 13, 2014. ♦

...Cattle Damage

Continued from p.3

lakes, and wetlands are particularly hard hit.

"We want to hear from people who have constructive ideas and a willingness to help us solve this problem," said Delehanty. "It's time to restore these islands and finally help them fulfill their congressionally mandated destiny as a wildlife refuge."

The deadline to submit ideas on issues and alternatives that should be considered in the NEPA documents is **January 31, 2014**. Submissions will be accepted by:

E-mail: fw7_akmaritime@fws.gov

Letter: Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge; 95 Sterling Hwy, Suite 1, Homer, AK 99603

Phone: 907-235-7835, or **Fax:** 907-235-7783

Or at open houses:

Homer - December 16, 2013, 4 to 6 p.m., at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, 95 Sterling Hwy.

Kodiak - January 7, 2014, 4 to 6 p.m., at the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 402 Center St.

Opportunities to comment on the draft Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement documents will also be provided. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska Region) is committed to ensuring access to this open house for all participants. If you need an accommodation (i.e. sign language interpreting, large print materials, etc.), please contact Steve Delehanty (907-226-4627 or Steve.Delehanty@fws.gov) with your request by close of business December 9 (for the Homer open house) or December 31 (for the Kodiak open house), or as soon as practicable.

All comments received, including those from individuals, become part of the public record, and are available to the public upon request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, NEPA, and Departmental policies and procedures. Name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information, if attached to a comment, may be made available to the public upon request. Withholding personal identifying information from public review can be requested but cannot be guaranteed.

To get on the mailing list for the unauthorized cattle issue, please contact the refuge by any of the methods listed above.

More information and project updates will be posted online at: <http://www.fws.gov/alaska/nwr/akmar/grazing.htm> ♦

According to an NPS News Release: Wolf Viewing Declining in Denali National Park

For a third consecutive year, National Park Service researchers have found that visitors traveling in buses on the Denali Park Road have had significantly declining opportunities to see wolves. In a random sample of 80 bus trips this summer, wolves were seen on three occasions, or about 4 percent of the trips. By contrast, in the three previous years the percentages were 12 percent (2012), 21 percent (2011) and 44 percent (2010).

NPS biologists gather data on the wolf packs that range on the north side of the Alaska Range by radio tracking, and have documented the decrease in the number of wolves that den and roam in closer proximity to the road in the eastern half of the park, as well as a decline in the overall number of wolves in Denali north of the Alaska Range.

The relationship between the decline in wolf populations and the decline in viewing opportunities is complex. "We are just beginning to learn about the factors, such as pack disruption, that play a role in magnifying the impacts of individual wolf losses on viewability," said Dr. Philip Hooe, Assistant Superintendent for Resources, Science, and Learning.

Sport hunting and trapping are legal in Denali National Preserve, located on the far western edges of the park. Subsistence harvests are legal in the preserve and the 1980 additions to the national park. Most of the combined hunting and trapping efforts take place in the western areas of the new park lands, but documented wolf harvest is quite small. "We generally don't see the wolves in the western portions of Denali moving to den near the park road," Hooe said. "The wolves commonly

seen by visitors often leave the park to follow migrating prey species such as caribou," Hooe said. "Prior to 2010, one of the areas at the boundary of the park most frequented by wolves was closed to hunting by the State of Alaska". In 2010, the National Park Service asked the Alaska Board of Game to expand the buffer zone, which would have prohibited hunting and trapping in additional areas where many of the most-viewed wolves winter. The board declined this request, and voted to also eliminate the existing buffer zone along the park's north-east boundary.

The wolf viewing data is available on-line at www.nps.gov/dena/naturescience/wolfviewing.htm. Researchers will be explaining the data more thoroughly in a peer-reviewed paper expected to be available in the spring of 2014. The NPS will continue to gather wolf viewing data.

The park has a total annual visitation of over 400,000. Approximately 200,000 visitors travel on buses to Toklat (Mile 53) or beyond each year.

For additional information on the Park, visit their website at: www.nps.gov/dena or by phone at 907-683-9532 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm daily. ♦

