

Alaska Lands paate

monthly updates on Federal management actions for the people of Alaska

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

State Intervenes in Navigable Waters Case

challenging federal authority over and preserves. state-owned navigable rivers and submerged lands. party to a lawsuit by plaintiff, John overreach, and efforts to control Alas-Sturgeon, an Anchorage resident chal- kans' ability to travel on rivers and lenging the authority of the National waterways," Governor Parnell said. "I Park Service to regulate activities on am pleased the court recognized state-owned waters within national Alaska's strong interest in this issue parks and preserves in Alaska.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Photo Credit: USFWS

joined Mr. John Sturgeon in his law- case." suit against the National Park Service hovercraft in the waters of the Yukon- to Charlie Rivers National Preserve. complaint. Mr. Sturgeon filed his lawsuit against the National Park Service in Septem- formation go to: ber, 2011 for a 2007 incident where h t t p : / National Park Service Rangers or- gov.alaska.gov/ dered him out of the preserve for us-parnell/pressing a hovercraft. The Yukon and Na- room/full-presstion Rivers are navigable, state-owned release.html? waterways, and hovercrafts are legal pr=6033.♦ under state law. Under the Alaska Na-

February 14, 2012, United States tional Interest Lands Conservation Federal District Court Judge Russell Act (ANILCA), Park Service regula-Holland has issued an order recogniz- tions cannot be applied to state land ing the State of Alaska's interest in or water that lies within national parks.

"My administration will continue to The state is now a aggressively push back on federal over the objections of the federal gov-Last December, the State of Alaska ernment to our participation in the

The federal government will now over federal regulations that bar be required to file a formal response

> the state's

> For more in-

IN THIS ISSUE:

Navigable Waters

Winter Vehicle Access on Denali Park Rd. -

Huna Tlingit Tribal House Proposed for Glacier Bay National Park -

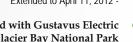
BLM Releases Eastern Interior

Draft RMP and EIS -

Draft ANCSA Consultation Policy -

Transportation Plan Comment Period Extended to April 11, 2012 -

Intertie Proposed with Gustavus Electric Company and Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve -





Winter Vehicle Access on Denali Park Road

The National Park Service intends to evalu- the road crew can manage the overflow ice that ate the impacts of plowing the Denali Park Road occurs between Mile 4-7. The other lane is not

between park headquarters at Mile 3 and the Mountain Vista Rest Area at Mile 12 during the winter season. The NPS is interested in providing additional opportunities for winter visitors to the park, while protecting park resources and values. Plowing the road beyond park headquarters would allow private and commercial vehicles to travel further into the park to provide mountain viewing and increased recreational opportunities.



Currently the park road is closed to vehicular parkplanning.nps.gov/dena, faxed to 907-683traffic beyond park headquarters after the first 9612, or mailed to: Superintendent, Denali Nasignificant snowfall, usually in October. During tional Park and Preserve, ATTN: Winter Road the winter one lane of the road is maintained so Plowing, P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755.

plowed. Both lanes are available for use by dog teams, cross country skiers, snowshoers, and other winter recreationalists. Spring road opening begins in mid-March, and the road is generally open to the public as far as the Savage River at Mile 15 by early April, and to the Teklanika River Rest Area at Mile 30 by mid to late April.

The public is invited to submit written comments by Friday, March 9, 2012. Comments may be submitted online at http://

Commission Members

Representative Wes Keller, Wasilla Chairman - (H)

Mark Fish, Anchorage Vice Chairman - (G)

Rod Arno, Palmer (S)

Executive Committee

Charlie Lean, Nome (G) **Executive Committee**

Mike Meekin, Palmer (H)

Senator Linda Menard, Wasilla (S)

Warren Olson, Anchorage (S)

Colleen Richards, Anchorage (G)

Ron Somerville, Juneau (H)

Susan Smith, Chokosna (G)

Alex Tarnai, Tanana (G)

Frank Woods, Dillingham (G)

(S) SENATE APPOINTMENT (H) HOUSE APPOINTMENT

(G) GOVENOR'S APPOINTMENT

Huna Tlingit Tribal House Proposed for Glacier Bay National

The National Park Service is proposing to construct a 3,500 square foot replica of an 18th century Tlingit tribal house near Bartlett Cove in Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska.

The Tribal House concept was included in the 1997 Comprehensive Design Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Bartlett Cove to provide park visitors with opportunities to learn about Huna Tlingit history and culture through educational and interpretive displays and to strengthen the Huna Tlingit's ongoing connection to their ancestral homeland by providing a venue for cultural events, workshops, and retreats. The structure would showcase traditional design, construction, decoration and furnishings. The building and access would cover approximately one acre located along the shore northeast of the Glacier Bay Lodge in Bartlett Cove.

Comments and questions about the proposed Tribal House project will be accepted until close of business on March 24, 2012.

Full design and details about each alternative will be presented in the upcoming EA which is planned for release in June 2012. Construction would begin in 2013.

For more information or to submit comments and questions, please contact Allison Banks, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 907-697-2611 or visit the NPS Planning, Environand Public Comment website parkplanning.nps.gov/

Follow the links below to view various components already under construction by carvers in Hoonah:

http://www.nps.gov/glba/historyculture/huna-tribal-house-

http://www.nps.gov/glba/historyculture/tribal-house-projectphotogallery.htm.

Commission Staff

Stan Leaphart

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

Karrie Improte

Commission Assistant 907-451-2035 karrie.improte@alaska.gov

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 citi-



Draft Policy on Consultation with ANCSA Corporations

Executive Order 13175, issued by President Obama in November 2009, directs that all Federal agencies ensure consultation and coordination with Indian tribal governments on Federal actions that will affect tribal governments. The Department of the Interior (DOI) recognizes and respects the distinct, unique, and individual cultural traditions and values of each Alaska Native person and the statutory relationship between Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations and the Federal government and of Indian Tribes' right to self-governance and Tribal sovereignty. Consultation is a deliberative process that aims to create effective collaboration and informed Federal decision-making, and the federal government is required to consult and coordinate with ANCSA corporations on the same basis as Indian tribes in developing policies that would affect these corporations and their tribal shareholders. To implement these requirements, the Department is proposing, and seeking comments on, a draft consultation policy to govern all activities that will affect ANCSA corporations. The DOI website for Tribal Consultation is located at http://www.doi.gov/ tribes/tribal-consultation-policy.cfm. Comments will be accepted until April 27, 2012. For additional information on the ANCSA consultation draft policy contact: Jennifer Sisk, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240. Email: Jennifer_Sisk@ios.doi.gov.

BLM Releases Eastern Interior Draft RMP and EIS

in Alaska has released the Eastern Interior Draft Resource Management ment.

"The Eastern Interior plan outlines the present and future use of some of the most diverse and unique public A 150-day public comment period belands in Alaska." said Bud Cribley, BLM-Alaska State Director. the Eastern Interior are areas and resources that are important to our economy, to subsistence, to recreation, and for conservation."

The Eastern Interior Draft RMP/EIS covers approximately 6.7 million acres of BLM administered lands in interior Alaska and is divided into four geographic areas: The Fortymile, Steese, Upper Black River, and White Mountains subunits. The planning area encompasses four areas managed under the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS): The Birch Creek, Beaver Creek, and Fortymile National Wild and Scenic Rivers: and Field Office, Attn: Eastern Interior Draft the Steese National Conservation RMP/EIS, 1150 University Avenue, Area. In addition to these NLCS areas, Mountains National Recreation Area. These five areas were designated and are covered by special provisions in ern Interior Plan and the planning procthe Alaska National Interest Lands (ANILCA).

Copies of the Eastern Interior Draft by email j05cole @blm.gov. ♦

The Bureau of Land Management RMP/EIS are available at the Fairbanks District Office; at the Alaska State Office, Public Information Center, Plan/Environmental Impact Statement Bureau of Land Management, 222 (RMP/EIS) for public review and com- West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513; and on the following Web site: http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/ planning.html.

> gan, Feb. 24, 2012. The public is invited to provide comments about the draft plan and its alternatives. Comments must be received by July 23, 2012 to be considered. There are three ways the public can submit written comments:

- 1) In person at public meetings to be held in communities within the planning area. Specific dates and locations for meetings on the Draft RMP/ EIS in potentially affected regions will be announced at least 15 days in advance, through public notices, media releases, mailings and on the BLM website at www.blm.gov/ak;
- 2) By mail to the BLM Eastern Interior Fairbanks, AK, 99709; and
- the planning area includes the White 3) Online by accessing the BLM's ePlanning System, at www.blm.gov/ak.

For more information on the Eastess visit www.blm.gov/ak or contact Conservation Act of 1980, as amended Jeanie Cole, telephone 907-474-2340 or (800) 437-7021 (within Alaska), or

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, Alaska

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/



The White Mountains as seen from the Steese Highway

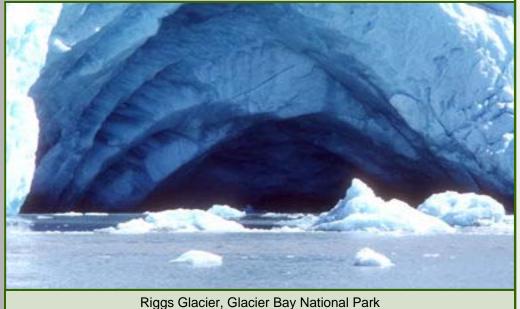
Intertie-Connection Proposed with Gustavus Electric Company/Falls Creek Hydroelectric Project and Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

is not connected to the Gustavus switchgear. electrical grid, park power is profrom non-renewable, fossil fuel pow- on outcome of the study. ered, diesel generation to clean and trical system infrastructure at Bartlett neth_hutchison@nps.gov.

In 2010, the long awaited Gustavus Cove was upgraded in Fiscal Year Electric Company/ Falls Creek hy- 1998 and would be utilized to disdroelectric project (GEC) was com- tribute power. The switchgear that pleted and is generating power to was installed during this upgrade the city of Gustavus. Glacier Bay will allow direct connection and a National Park and Preserve (GLBA) communication link to the GEC plant

GLBA submitted a proposal in vided by three diesel generators op- 2008 with an estimated cost of erating alternately. These generators \$3,887,250 (gross costs that include provide power for all facilities in the design). The proposed project Bartlett Cove (park front country) would design and construct a buried area. The park currently transfers, 8.5 mile, 15 kilowatt, three phase stores and delivers approximately electrical intertie between GEC and 70,000 gallons of diesel annually for GLBA power generation plant. The power generation. The distance be- proposed project was approved at tween the GEC switchgear and the the NPS Alaska Regional level in GLBA switch gear is approximately March of 2009 and at the NPS Wash-8.5 miles, depending on the route ington level in May of that same chosen. Any route chosen for the year. This project has been recently intertie will cross multiple landown- pushed out beyond 2016. The park ers including the State of Alaska, has programmed \$200,000 for a feasi-GLBA, and possibly other private bility study in 2012 and \$500,000 for property. Constructing the intertie the design and initial construction would allow the park to convert start-up in 2013 which will be based

For additional information consustainable hydropower and save tact: Ken Hutchison, Chief of Mainteapproximately 68,000 gallons of die- nance, Glacier Bay National Park and sel fuel annually. The existing elec- Preserve, (907) 697-2230, ken-



Transportation Plan Comment Period Extended to April 11, 2012

Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, National Park Service and State of Alaska Department of Transportation collectively released the Alaska Federal Lands Long Range Transportation Plan on December 12, 2011, starting a 90-day comment period. This draft plans outline a strategy for a multi-agency approach to improving and maintaining transportation assets that provide access to Federal Lands in the Alaska region over the next 20 years. With this notice, the comment period is being extended from 90 days to 120 days, establishing a new deadline for comments by April 11, 2012.

Submit comments for any or all plans electronically through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment system at http://parkplanning.nps.gov. Additional Information is available by the following agency contacts: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT: Roxanne Bash, (360) 619-7558:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), DOI: Randy Goodwin, (907) 474-2369; Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), DOI: Helen Clough, (907) 786-3353; Forest Service (FS), USDA: Marie Messing, (907) 586-8834; National Park Service (NPS), DOI: Paul Schrooten, (907) 644-3388; The original supplementary information was published in the Federal Register on December 12, 2011, at 76 FR 77300, and the draft Plans are available on our project website: http://

www.akfedlandslrtp.org.