



# Foundation Document Overview

## Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Alaska



### Contact Information

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## Purpose



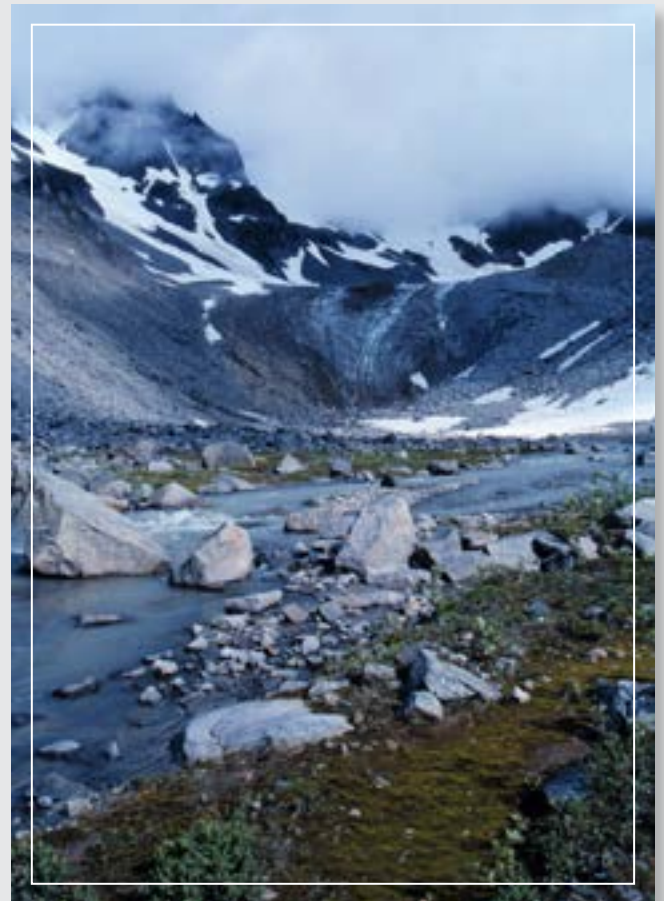
*The purpose of LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE is to protect a region of dynamic geologic and ecological processes that create scenic mountain landscapes, unaltered watersheds supporting Bristol Bay red salmon, and habitats for wilderness-dependent populations of fish and wildlife, vital to 10,000 years of human history.*



## Significance and Fundamental Resources

**Significance statements** express why Lake Clark National Park and Preserve resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

**Fundamental resources and values** are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.



# and Values

**Mountain Landscapes:** Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects extraordinary mountain landscapes dominated by two active volcanoes and cradles a system of turquoise-hued lakes and free-flowing rivers that epitomize Alaska's scenic beauty.

- Mountain Vistas
- Watersheds
- Coastal Features
- Wilderness Character

**Mosaic of Landforms and Ecosystems:** Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects a complex mosaic of landforms and ecosystems that continue to evolve from dynamic tectonic, volcanic, glacial, and climatic processes.

- Glaciers and Glacial Landforms
- Mountains
- Ecosystem Diversity
- Weather and Climate
- Science and Education Opportunities

**Salmon Fishery:** Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects necessary spawning and rearing habitat at the headwaters of the world's most productive red (sockeye) salmon fishery.

- Healthy Salmon Population
- High Degree of Water Quality
- Unaltered Watersheds
- Nutrient Cycling

**Subsistence:** Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects resources and provides opportunities for local rural residents to engage in activities necessary to support a subsistence way of life.

- Subsistence Resources
- Cultural Knowledge
- Preference for Subsistence Uses



## Subarctic Fish and Wildlife Populations and Habitats:

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects vast, undisturbed landscapes of coastal areas, mountain ranges, tundra, foothills, and lake regions that support a full complement of subarctic fish and wildlife species.

- Wildlife
- Intact Ecological Relationships
- Migratory Habitats
- Coastal Environment

**Cultural Tapestry:** Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects a tapestry of cultural places woven from 10,000 years of human occupancy that is vital to the cultural and spiritual continuance of the Dena'ina culture.

- Historic Resources
- Richard Proenneke Historic Site
- Museum Collections
- Archeological Resources
- Kijik National Historic Landmark Archeological District
- Prehistoric Rock Paintings
- Telaquana Trail
- Ethnographic Resources

**Wilderness:** Lake Clark National Park and Preserve manages one of the largest wilderness areas in the United States providing visitors with superlative opportunities for solitude, challenge, and self-reliance.

- Wilderness Character
- Wilderness-dependent Species
- Wilderness Purposes
- Wilderness Recreation



# Description

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve was established on December 2, 1980, under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), to protect the watershed supporting red salmon, the scenic beauty and quality of portions of the Alaska and Aleutian ranges, and the habitat for and populations of fish and wildlife, and to permit subsistence uses where such uses are traditional.

Located in southwest Alaska, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve covers approximately 4 million acres of land and is a microcosm of many regions of Alaska. Elevations range from sea level to Mount Redoubt's 10,197 feet. The park's spectacular scenery stretches from the shores of Cook Inlet, across the Chigmit Mountains, to the tundra-covered hills of the western interior. The Chigmits, where the Alaska and Aleutian ranges meet, are an awesome, jagged array of mountains and glaciers, which include two active volcanoes, Mount Redoubt and Mount Iliamna. Lake Clark, 42 miles long and the sixth-largest lake in Alaska, and many other lakes and rivers within the park are key salmon habitat for the Bristol Bay salmon fishery, one of the largest sockeye salmon fishing grounds in the world. The park also contains three designated wild rivers: the Chilikadrotna, Mulchatna, and Tlikakila rivers.

Lake Clark National Park contains some 2.6 million acres of public land and includes almost all of the rugged and glaciated Chigmit Mountains as well as 123 miles of coastline along Cook Inlet. The national preserve encompasses more than 1.4 million acres and adjoins the national park on the south and west in an area of rolling foothills, boreal forests, alpine lakes, wild rivers, and sweeping expanses of tundra. Approximately 2.4 million acres of the park and preserve are designated wilderness to preserve the area's natural conditions and wilderness character in perpetuity.

Located approximately 100 air miles from Anchorage, access to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is almost exclusively by small aircraft. The park is not accessible by road. A small visitor contact station is located in Port Alsworth. Due to the remote nature of the park and preserve, limited visitor services are also offered in the gateway communities of Homer, Kenai, and Anchorage.

