



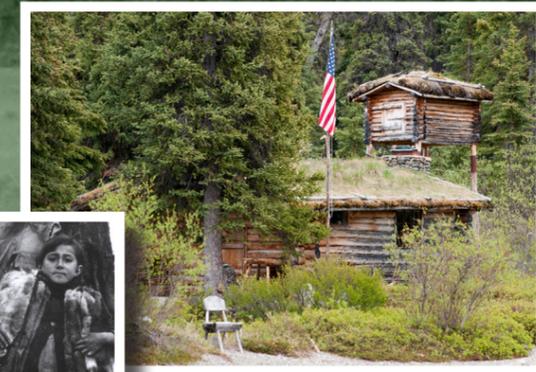
Lake Clark National Park And Preserve

General Management Plan Amendment

AUGUST 2016

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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Lake Clark National Park and Preserve  
Alaska**

**August 2016**

**LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**



## SUMMARY

### LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve was established on December 2, 1980, under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is a unit of the national park system. 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. Approximately 2,572,000 acres of the park are designated wilderness. The park's spectacular scenery stretches from the shores of Cook Inlet, across the Chigmit Mountains, to the tundra-covered hills of the 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 the Tlikakila rivers.

Lake Clark National Park's nearly 2.6 million acres include the rugged Chigmit Mountains as well as 123 miles of coastline along Cook Inlet. Lake Clark National Preserve adjoins the national park to the south and west. It contains more than 1.4 million acres and adjoins the park, with rolling foothills, boreal forests, alpine lakes, wild rivers, and sweeping expanses of tundra. Sport hunting is allowed in the preserve under federal and nonconflicting state laws and regulations, pursuant to ANILCA sections 203 and 1313 and 36 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) part 13.40(d). Federally qualified subsistence use, including hunting and trapping, are allowed in both the park and preserve.

### PLANNING PURPOSE AND NEED

General management plans are required for all units of the national park system and are intended to establish the future management direction of a park unit. General management plans look 15 to 20 years into the future and consider the park system holistically in its full ecological and cultural context and as part of a surrounding region. This Lake Clark National Park and Preserve General Management Plan Amendment provides comprehensive guidance for conserving natural and cultural resources, protecting wilderness values, and providing opportunities for a quality visitor experience at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

A comprehensive general management plan for the park and preserve was developed in 1984. This plan amendment updates the 1984 general management plan. This plan is part of a larger planning framework for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, which includes this plan, a park foundation, and other elements of the park's planning portfolio.

The purpose of this plan amendment is to address how the National Park Service (NPS) can best fulfill Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's purpose, maintain its significance, and protect its resources unimpaired for the enjoyment of present and future generations. It updates the 1984 plan to current NPS standards for zoning and articulates desired future conditions for resources and visitor experience. The plan amendment does not provide specific and detailed answers to every issue, but serves as a framework to assist NPS managers in making decisions today and in the future.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PLAN AMENDMENT**

The Lake Clark National Park and Preserve General Management Plan Amendment expands opportunities for a diversity of visitor activities and would protect and maintain wilderness and park resources. It provides more prescriptive management in areas that receive higher visitor use such as in the preserve near Lake Clark and in some coastal areas. Other changes include expanded interpretive services and commercial activities, backcountry hiking trails, and water routes.

Three to eight cabins will be designated for public use. The Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site will be managed as an open-air exhibit. Any cabins designated beyond the first three will require a cost benefit analysis to determine whether visitor need exists and park resources are available to support management of the additional cabins. A range of management actions are available to protect the resources in high-use destination areas. A modest approach to improved infrastructure will be provided, such as support for some expanded primitive camping areas and trails.

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## INTRODUCTION

Park planning is a decision-making process, and general management planning is the broadest level of decision making for parks. General management plans (GMPs) are required for all units of the national park system and are intended to establish the overall future management direction of a national park system unit. General management planning focuses on what resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained (desired future conditions) throughout a park unit. General management plans look years into the future and consider the park holistically in its full ecological and cultural context and as part of a surrounding region.

A general management plan was last completed for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in 1984. This GMP amendment updates elements of the 1984 plan, brings the 1984 plan up to current planning standards, and provides guidance for a 15- to 20-year time frame. Decisions about how specific programs and projects are implemented will be addressed during more detailed planning efforts that follow this GMP amendment.

This plan was developed by an interdisciplinary team in consultation with National Park Service (NPS) offices; federal, state, and local agencies; Alaska Natives and other interested parties; and input and participation from the general public.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY OF THE PARK

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve was established on December 2, 1980, under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA; Public Law 96-487; 16 *United States Code* [USC] section 410hh[4][a]), and is part of the national park system. In establishing this national park

system unit, ANILCA designated both a national park and preserve. Sport hunting is allowed in the preserve under federal and nonconflicting state laws and regulations, pursuant to ANILCA sections 203 and 1313 and 36 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 13.40(d). Federally qualified subsistence use, including hunting and trapping, are allowed in both the park and preserve. Although mostly federal lands, there are state-owned and private lands within the park and preserve. These private parcels include Native allotments and other small tracts, and Alaska Native corporation lands.

Located in southwest Alaska, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (figure 1, page 4) 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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Lake Clark National Park's nearly 2.6 million acres include the rugged Chigmit Mountains as well as 123 miles of coastline along Cook Inlet. Lake Clark National Preserve

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, the terms "park" or "Lake Clark" in this document refers to both the park and preserve.

encompasses more than 1.4 million acres and adjoins the park to the south and west, with rolling foothills, boreal forests, alpine lakes, wild rivers, and sweeping expanses of tundra.

The park has two distinct climate areas: the damp coast and the drier interior. The coast is often foggy and wet, with an average annual precipitation of 40 to 80 inches. The interior averages only 17 to 26 inches. Weather conditions can change rapidly due to extremely variable weather patterns. Frost and snow can occur any time, but are most common from September to early June. Lake Clark typically begins freezing in November and melts in April.

The varied topography of the park creates habitats for a diverse mix of plants and animals. The area supports a variety of large land mammals including Dall sheep, caribou, moose, wolves, and black and brown bears. Large, healthy populations of rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, lake trout, northern pike, and arctic grayling are found in the lakes and rivers. Over 125 species of birds have been observed in the park. From the eastern flank of the Chigmit Mountains, rivers create marshes and outwash plains—prime habitat for bald eagles, diverse migratory birds, and resident waterfowl. Cook Inlet features shallow bays, rocky headlands, and many offshore reefs populated by marine mammals. The coastal cliffs provide habitat for peregrine falcons and rookeries for puffins, cormorants, kittiwakes, and other seabirds.

This richly diverse region has been a homeland for Alaska Native peoples for centuries, since the end of the last ice age, with Dena'ina Athabascan sites throughout today's park and preserve. Many Dena'ina people living near Lake Clark today have roots at the historic Kijik Village, other sites within the Kijik National Historic Landmark, and at several sites within the park. The Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site is also noteworthy.

Residents of Nondalton, Iliamna, Lime Village, Newhalen, Pedro Bay, and Port Alsworth continue to engage in subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities inside the park and preserve under federal and state regulations. These communities and the area inside the park are designated resident zones because the residents have a history of customary and traditional use of resources in the park for their sustenance and livelihood.

The park provides visitors with superlative opportunities for solitude and self-reliance. Popular recreational uses include visiting the Proenneke site, river floating, hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, sportfishing, and bear and other wildlife viewing. Access is almost exclusively by small aircraft. The park is not accessible by road. A small visitor contact station is in Port Alsworth. Due to the remote nature of the park, limited visitor services are also offered in the gateway communities of Homer, Kenai, and Anchorage.

Approximately 2,572,000 acres of the park is wilderness, designated by Congress under ANILCA to preserve the area's natural conditions and wilderness character in perpetuity as part of the national wilderness preservation system. In addition, section 601 of ANILCA designated three wild rivers in the park and preserve as part of the national wild and scenic river system:

- Mulchatna River — originates in the Chigmit Mountains at Turquoise Lake and flows west through the foothills approximately 22 miles to the border of the preserve.
- Chilikadrotna River — originates from the Chigmit Mountains at Twin Lakes and flows west through the foothills approximately 9 miles to the border of the preserve and then re-enters the preserve for another 2.6 miles.

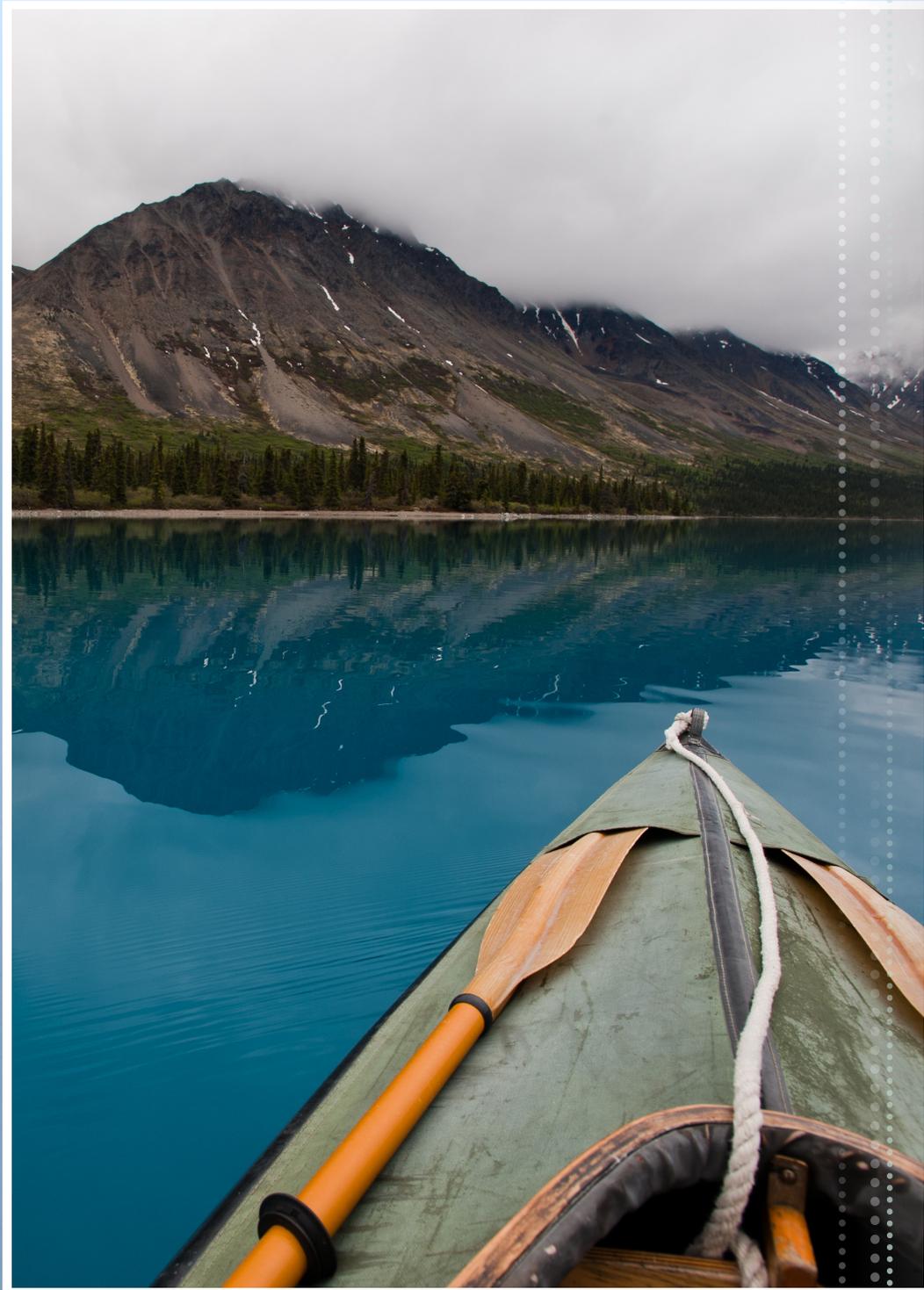
- Tlikakila River — originates in the Chigmit Mountains near Summit Lake and flows southwest approximately 50 miles into Lake Clark.

Both of the park's active volcanoes (Mount Iliamna and Mount Redoubt) are designated national natural landmarks. Both were designated prior to the establishment of the park in 1976. The Iliamna Volcano National Natural Landmark covers 33,694 acres, while the Redoubt Volcano National Natural Landmark covers 37,720 acres.



## Purpose of and Need for the GMP Amendment

# 2





## PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE GMP AMENDMENT

The purpose of this GMP amendment is to update the 1984 general management plan for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. This GMP amendment, together with other elements of the park's Portfolio of Management Plans, guides planning and decision making for the next 15 to 20 years for park resources, visitor use, and facilities. The GMP amendment also provides new direction for stewardship of park wilderness and backcountry recreation uses with management zoning and visitor use guidance. (See the end of this chapter for more detail on the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's Portfolio of Management Plans.)

More specifically, the purposes of the GMP amendment are as follows:

- Clearly identify desired resource conditions and values to be maintained and visitor uses and opportunities to be provided in the park.
- Provide guidance on how to provide quality visitor opportunities, how to manage visitor use, and what kinds of visitor and administrative facilities to develop in the park.
- Complete a wilderness eligibility reassessment to determine whether units 2 and 3 should be added to the park's eligible wilderness.
- Provide direction on public use cabin management.
- Provide direction on commercial services to support visitor opportunities.

This GMP amendment was needed because the last comprehensive planning effort for the

park was completed in 1984. Since then, conditions have changed, both inside and outside the park. With changes in technology and the increased use of web-based information, more people are likely aware of Lake Clark. Because the park is a short flight from Anchorage, the state's largest population center, it is probable that use levels will increase in the future. Private inholdings have been acquired and management direction is needed for these additions. Park managers have had 28 years to better understand the natural and cultural resources of the park and the changing needs of park visitors. For example, more information is available on the park's vascular plants and nonnative vegetation. Likewise, there is better information on commercial service activities occurring in the park.

The 1984 general management plan did not adequately establish visitor experience goals, nor did it specifically identify indicators, measures, and standards for measuring success. This GMP amendment provides a framework under which park managers can assess whether visitor use is resulting in unacceptable changes and take appropriate action if needed.

Information on some cultural resource topics, such as cultural landscapes and ethnographic resources, was limited at the time the 1984 general management plan was prepared. Subsequent research and investigations have contributed information enhancing understanding and management of the broad range of park cultural resources. Among these efforts, an inventory of cabins was completed, which in part helped inform the cultural resource sections of this plan.

This GMP amendment was needed to meet the requirements of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 and NPS policy, which mandate updated general management plans for each unit in the national park system.

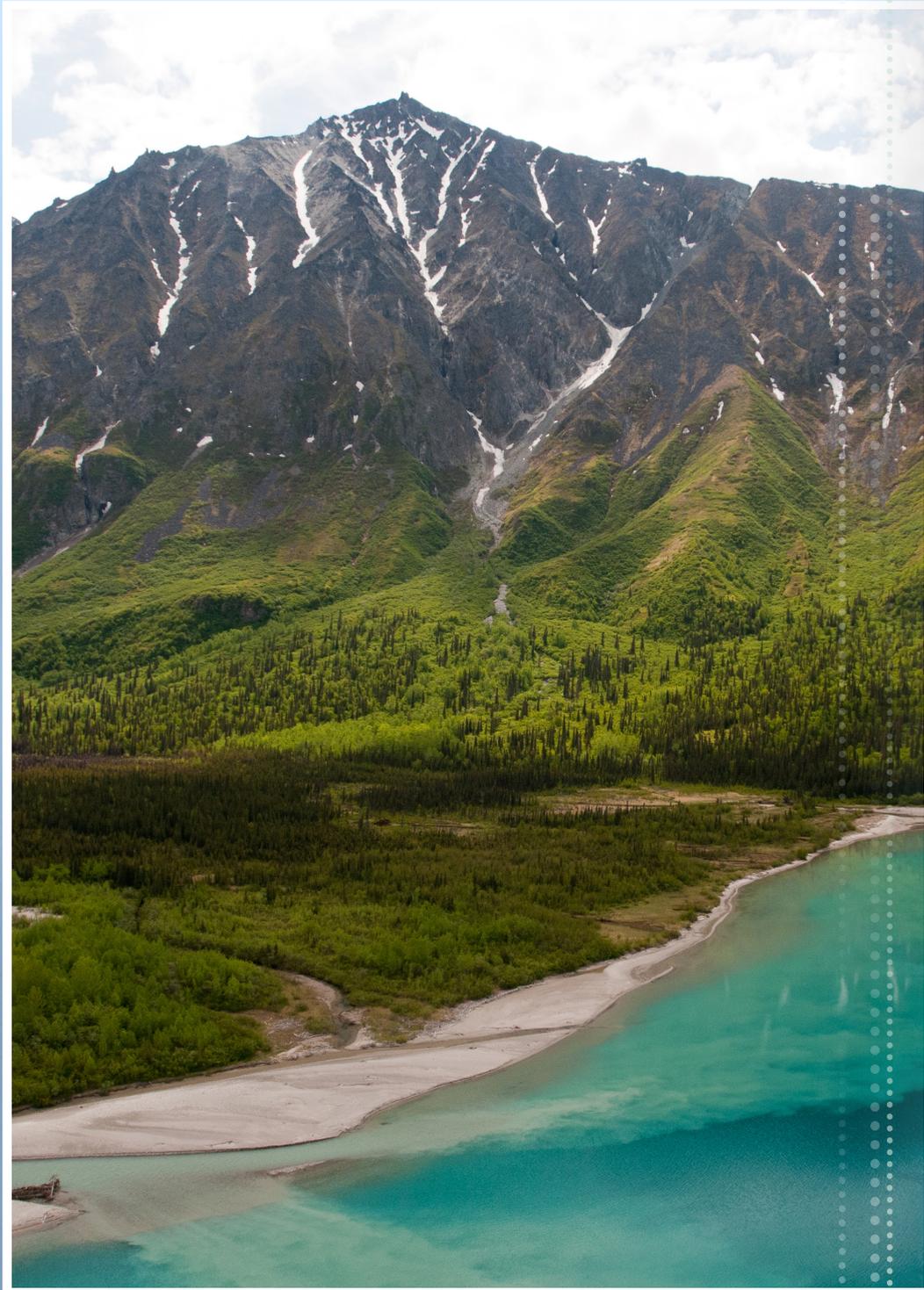
Finally, this GMP amendment was needed because there have been changes since 1984 in NPS *Management Policies 2006* and director's orders on park planning (e.g., management zoning).

### **PORTFOLIO OF MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE**

Planning is a basic element of management throughout the national park system. Park managers are guided by a variety of plans and studies covering many topics. The revised NPS planning framework brings all these plans into a single, unified system. The totality of a park's plans is referred to as the Portfolio of Management Plans (portfolio). The portfolio is a dynamic compilation of planning guidance in which certain planning elements are removed and updated, or new elements added, as needed. The portfolio consists of basic descriptions of a park's purpose, such as the foundation statement, comprehensive plans such as this GMP amendment, implementation plans such as a site management plan, and strategic program plans such as a long-range interpretive plan. Resource studies, descriptions, and

inventories, such as atlas maps, support planning and may help identify issues that merit future planning efforts to resolve. The Portfolio of Management Plans for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve will include this GMP amendment (which updates the 1984 GMP), the foundation statement, the park atlas maps (NPS 2012d), the wild river outstandingly remarkable value statements, and other future components that, as an assemblage, meet the full range of park planning needs.

The 1984 general management plan provided direction on a variety of topics, including natural and cultural resource management; subsistence; sport hunting; fire management; wilderness management; and visitor access, recreation, and use. This GMP amendment revises and expands guidance about visitor facilities and administrative needs. The amendment also considers topics that were either not addressed or briefly discussed in the original general management plan (such as commercial services) and provides desired conditions and strategies for overall management of the park (appendix A). For topics not addressed in this plan, managers will follow other management guidance or plans in the portfolio.





## GUIDANCE FOR PLANNING

Much of the basis of park planning is derived from a park's foundation statement, which is a formal description of a core mission of the park. It is a foundation to support planning and management of the park. The foundation statement is grounded in the park's legislation and from knowledge acquired since the park was originally established. It provides a shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The foundation statement describes the park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, primary interpretive themes, and special mandates. The complete foundation statement can be found on the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/lacl/parkmgmt/index.htm>.

The following key elements of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Foundation Statement have been included here to provide the framework within which the GMP amendment has been developed. More detail is provided in the foundation statement itself (NPS 2009a).

### Purpose of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Purpose statements convey the reasons why an area was set aside as a national park. They are established in the park foundation statement. Grounded in an analysis of park legislation and legislative history, purpose statements also provide primary criteria against which the appropriateness of plan recommendations, operational decisions, and actions are tested.

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.*

Section 201 of ANILCA states that the park shall be managed for the following purposes, among others:

- to protect the watershed necessary for perpetuation of the red salmon fishery in Bristol Bay
- to maintain unimpaired the scenic beauty and quality of portions of the Alaska Range and the Aleutian Range, including active volcanoes, glaciers, wild rivers, lakes, waterfalls, and alpine meadows in their natural state
- to protect habitat for and populations of fish and wildlife including but not limited to caribou, Dall sheep, brown/grizzly bears, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons

Subsistence uses shall be permitted in the park where such uses are traditional in accordance with the provisions of ANILCA Title VIII.

### Significance of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Significance statements capture the essence of a national park system unit's importance to the nation's natural and cultural heritage. They are described in the park foundation statement. These statements describe the park unit's distinctiveness and describe why an area is important within regional, national, and global contexts. This helps managers focus their efforts and limited funding on the protection and enjoyment of attributes that are directly related to the purpose of the national park system unit.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is nationally and internationally significant for the following reasons:

**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.

***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.

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

***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.

***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.

***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.

***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.

## **Fundamental Resources and Values**

Fundamental resources and values are systems, processes, features, visitor experience, stories, and scenes that deserve primary consideration in planning and management because they are essential to maintaining the park's purpose and significance. The National Park Service works to preserve those resources and values fundamental to maintaining the significance of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. That which is most important about the park could be jeopardized if these resources and values are degraded.

Fundamental resources and values were identified for each of the above significance statements for Lake Clark. For more details on the park's fundamental resources and values, see the "Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Foundation Document." The management alternatives and other elements of this GMP amendment are consistent with the fundamental resources and values identified for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

## **Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments Related to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve**

Special mandates and administrative commitments are essential to consider in managing and planning for park units. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that expand on or contradict a park's legislated purpose. They are park-specific legislative or judicial requirements that must be fulfilled, along with the park's purpose, even if they do not relate to that purpose. Administrative commitments in general are agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes such as memorandums of agreement.

The ongoing mandates and commitments for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve are described in this section.

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542) established a national system of wild, scenic, and recreational rivers. The act preserves selected rivers that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, geological, cultural, or historic values, and maintains their free-flowing condition for future generations. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve contains three designated wild rivers (Mulchatna, Chilikadrotna, and Tlikakila Rivers). While these wild rivers are within the boundaries of the park and are subject to ANILCA, management requirements are also provided by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act also requires a comprehensive river management plan be prepared for the park's wild and scenic rivers. This GMP amendment is not intended to fulfill this requirement, but a comprehensive river management plan will be prepared in a subsequent planning effort.

## Wilderness

The Lake Clark Wilderness was designated by Congress in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. The area, encompassing approximately 2,572,000 acres and comprising about 64% of the entire park unit, is subject to the provisions of ANILCA and the Wilderness Act. These acts mandate how this area is to be managed and uses that are to be allowed and prohibited, ensuring that the area's wilderness character continues to be maintained and protected.

## Key Laws, Regulations, and Policies

This section focuses on key statutes, regulations, and policies used to manage Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. ANILCA is the establishing legislation. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve was established on December 2, 1980, under section 201(7)(a) of ANILCA. Other applicable laws and policy referenced in this section include federal and state laws, federal regulations, and NPS

policies. Because this document is an amendment to the 1984 general management plan, some previously approved park guidance from that plan are carried forward and referenced.

Many national park system unit management directives are specified in laws and policies and are therefore not subject to alternative approaches. For example, there are laws and policies about managing wilderness (the Wilderness Act and ANILCA); managing environmental quality (such as the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, and Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands"); laws governing the preservation of cultural resources (such as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [NHPA] and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 [NAGPRA]); and laws about providing public services (such as the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards)—to name only a few. In other words, a general management plan is not needed to decide that it is appropriate to protect endangered species, control nonnative species, protect historic and archeological sites, conserve artifacts, or provide access for disabled persons. Laws and policies have already decided these and many other issues.

There are other laws and executive orders that are applicable solely or primarily to units of the national park system. These include the 1916 Organic Act that created the National Park Service, the General Authorities Act of 1970, the National Parks and Recreation Act, and the National Parks Omnibus Management Act (1998).

The NPS Organic Act (54 USC 100101(a) et seq.) provides the fundamental management direction for all units of the national park system:

*[P]romote and regulate the use of the federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations. . . . by such means and measure as conform to the fundamental purpose of said parks, monuments and reservations, which*

*purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.*

The National Park System General Authorities Act (54 USC, 100101(b) et seq.) affirms that while all national park system units remain “distinct in character,” they are “united through their interrelated purposes and resources into one national park system as cumulative expressions of a single national heritage.” The act makes it clear that the NPS Organic Act and other protective mandates apply equally to all units of the system. Further, amendments state that NPS management of park units should not “derogate . . . the purposes and values for which these various areas have been established.”

The National Park Service also has established policies for all units under its stewardship. These are identified and explained in a guidance manual titled *NPS Management Policies 2006*. All alternatives considered in this document incorporate and comply with the provisions of these mandates and policies.

## PLANNING ISSUES AND CONCERNS ADDRESSED BY THE GMP AMENDMENT

### Human Impacts on Natural and Cultural Resources

Popular destinations in the park, such as the large lakes (e.g., Lake Clark, Turquoise Lake, Kontrashibuna Lake, Twin Lakes, and Fishtrap Lake), the Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site, Chinitna Bay, and Silver Salmon Creek, have higher potential for impacts to resources due to human use. As human use increases, certain resources may sustain unacceptable impacts. Visitor-created trails and camping areas are found in places that are not resilient to such disturbances and management actions may be necessary. Some of these areas have unique rustic character that reflects their historic and contemporary uses. Potential conflicts between visitors and wildlife, such as brown bear, could threaten human life and property as well as wildlife. Other human factors include shifts in visitor use patterns and changes in resident zone populations and communities.

Cultural resources are impacted by human activities as well. Disturbance and loss of artifacts and inadvertent disturbance of cultural resources occur and may escalate with increased visitation.

*This plan includes direction on management of human activities in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in order to protect natural and cultural resources as well as visitors' experiences. This plan also includes guidance on the appropriate level and type of NPS administrative and management activities in the park and preserve, as these activities may also have impacts on resources and visitor experiences.*

### Visitor Use and Experience

There are several factors that impact visitor experience. Visitor use (motorized and

nonmotorized) has been increasing in certain areas. These factors present the potential for conflicts between visitors seeking different experiences and between visitors and wildlife in certain high use areas. Most visitors travel to the same popular areas, concentrating use on lake shores, rivers, and coastal areas in the short summer season. Questions have been raised regarding appropriate visitor use management of the park and the range of appropriate experiences for the public. For example, in addition to providing opportunities for wilderness-based experiences (challenge, solitude, etc.), what other opportunities should be provided? The National Park Service clarifies visitor experiences via management zones, which are part of this GMP amendment. One of the questions for the GMP amendment is what types of management zones should be designated in the park and where?

Access is another related visitor use issue. There are no roads to the park. Visitors reach the park by airplane or boat; there are many options for entry, which makes visitor use management challenging.

Other topics considered in this plan include the amount and type of visitor facilities that should be provided, if any, and where they should be situated. Currently, there are few NPS facilities in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Campgrounds and/or campsites have been requested by the public for Port Alsworth and several lakes. Trails, public use cabins, and improved opportunities for education and interpretation were also requested by the public. Through the general management plan, existing uses of visitor facilities and whether improved visitor facilities (e.g., public use cabins, campsites, trails, boat racks) should be provided needs to be examined. These actions may concentrate visitation to the park and preserve, resulting in both more visitor opportunities and potential impacts on specific park resources and values.

Access to information about the park is changing with social media and the Internet. Therefore, another question addressed in this

plan is how the National Park Service should communicate information about the park to visitors and the public.

*This plan provides guidance on how to address the location, types, and management of visitor experiences and visitor amenities in and near Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Management zoning, including identification of visitor experience, resources, and administrative desired conditions, is also addressed and included to bring the general management plan up to current NPS standards.*

### Cabin Management

More than 70 cabins exist in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve that are of varied age and condition. Some of the habitable cabins are used for ranger quarters or other functions, although many cabins are in ruins. Twelve of the historic cabins are in good condition, are eligible for or are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are suitable for habitation; eight of these cabins are presently used for NPS administrative purposes. Some of the cabins are in need of repair and work has been completed or is ongoing to stabilize or restore several cabins (e.g., Snipe Lake and Joe Thompson cabins). Many of the cabins that predate establishment of the park exist along the coast or are adjacent to lakes and rivers. These cabins could be used for administrative or public use purposes. There is great potential for the cabins to enhance visitor experience in the park. Support for this use was expressed during the scoping period. However, opening remote cabins to public use also may result in increased resource impacts in the vicinity of the cabins and presents management challenges.

*This plan includes direction on cabin management, focusing on which cabins, if any, should be designated public use and/or which ones should be available for administrative use. The plan also assesses whether new administrative*

*cabins are needed to improve management of the park.*

### Management of the Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site

This historic site (including a cabin, cache, and woodshed/privy) on Upper Twin Lake is one of the park's most visited sites. It also lies within the Lake Clark Wilderness. Naturalist Richard "Dick" L. Proenneke documented his life at the cabin in a series of journals—he is considered an icon of wilderness living in the park. As one of the park's fundamental resources, the National Park Service protects and interprets the historic site and its wilderness values. Volunteer docents who stay at the site interpret the area for visitors. It has been pointed out there is a need to address issues with camping, dogs, and visitor activities near the cabin. Questions have been raised regarding how the area should be managed in the future, what is appropriate to provide in a wilderness area, what visitor facilities should be provided, what NPS presence is needed, and what should be done with on-site and in-cabin artifacts.

*This plan includes guidance on the management of the Proenneke site, such as use of the site, permitted and prohibited uses, visitor facilities, presence of staff, and protection of park resources including cultural artifacts.*

### Commercial Services

Most visitors who come to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve arrive by air taxi, and many visitors to the park rely on commercial operators, such as guide and outfitter services. The National Park Service provides these operators with much of the information that they, in turn, use to inform and educate visitors about the park. The NPS staff also relies greatly on commercial operators to obtain information about the activities of visitors in the park. It is likely that commercial activities in Lake Clark will increase in the future as interest in the park increases. The park does not have a

commercial services plan that provides direction on the management of commercial services in the park. There is a need to determine the level and type of appropriate commercial services that are provided in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and to ensure that they continue to support a high standard of resource stewardship, while providing safe, quality visitor services. In addition, the National Park Service supports commercial visitor services that contribute to the operation of viable businesses throughout the region.

*This plan includes direction on the appropriate types, levels, and locations of commercial services provided at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.*

### **Determination of Eligibility for Wilderness Designation**

The 1984 general management plan found two areas in the southeastern portion of the park, identified as unit 2 (~19,000 acres) and unit 3 (~256,000 acres), as not eligible for wilderness designation. These areas were determined to be ineligible at the time primarily due to Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) selections. However, much of the land in these areas was not conveyed to the native corporation and now is managed by the National Park Service. Section 6.2.1 of *NPS Management Policies 2006* states that lands assessed as ineligible for wilderness because of nonconforming or incompatible uses must be reevaluated if the nonconforming uses have been terminated or removed.

*The planning team found that the two areas are eligible for wilderness designation. Please see the General Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the wilderness eligibility assessment (NPS 2014).*

### **PLANNING ISSUES AND CONCERNS NOT ADDRESSED IN THE GMP AMENDMENT**

The following issues are not addressed in this management plan amendment because they:

- are already prescribed by law, regulation, or policy (see the “Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments” and “Guiding Principles for Park Management” sections)
- have already been addressed in recent planning documents
- cannot be addressed at this time due to uncertainty and lack of detail

### **Subsistence Use**

Part of the purpose of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is to provide opportunities for traditional subsistence uses. Subsistence is a fundamental value and a primary use of the park and preserve. Concerns have been raised regarding the protection of subsistence uses within the park and preserve. In particular, local residents are concerned about management decisions or activities that have the potential to impact their subsistence uses of the park and preserve. More boat, plane, and snowmobile use is occurring around the resident villages, raising concerns about potential conflicts between recreational and subsistence users. Subsistence users are concerned that recreational visitors could disturb wildlife.

This plan does not change subsistence uses and opportunities in the park. The subsistence use management directions in the 1984 general management plan still apply within the park and preserve. As noted in the strategies for subsistence use in the park’s desired conditions and management strategies (see appendix A), issues regarding subsistence use are addressed through the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Subsistence Resource Commission and in the subsistence management plan, which is regularly reviewed

and updated. Conflicts between subsistence users and nonconsumptive users will continue to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

### **Proposals for Wilderness Designation**

Under the Wilderness Act and NPS policy, a wilderness study would be required in order for the National Park Service to propose wilderness designation for eligible wilderness areas. As noted previously, there are two areas eligible for wilderness in Lake Clark National Park. Based on public comments during scoping for the plan, preparing a wilderness study was not seen as an important issue for the park. Consequently, this plan is focused on issues related to opportunities for visitor use, recreation, and access. As per section 6.3.1 of *NPS Management Policies 2006*, no action will be taken in these eligible areas that would diminish their eligibility until the legislative process of wilderness designation has been completed. All management decisions affecting the areas will apply the concept of “minimum requirement” for administration of the areas.

### **Port Alsworth Area**

This GMP amendment does not include alternatives for any substantial changes in National Park Service presence in the Port Alsworth area. The 1984 general management plan mentions some needed facilities, such as two single-family housing units, a seasonal bunkhouse, a community building, and a maintenance building. There have been several plans and associated compliance for the Port Alsworth area since the early 1990s, including a site development plan, and housing, visitor facilities, and maintenance area plans. Decisions about NPS facilities in the Port Alsworth area will be determined on a case-by-case basis and are outside the scope of this GMP amendment.

### **External Pressures and Boundary Issues**

Several potential external threats exist near Lake Clark National Park and Preserve that

could impact the park and preserve. Although some of these external pressures are yet to be fully understood, there is general consensus that certain types of pressures might increase in the future. The proposed Pebble Mine, which would be the world’s largest open-pit copper, gold, and molybdenum mine, would be near the park and would directly impact the Chulitna River (the second-largest tributary to Lake Clark). Both the mine and its associated infrastructure, including a haul road, could affect park resources (e.g., water and air quality, salmon fisheries, wildlife), subsistence use, and visitor experience. Other mineral development could also occur in the vicinity of the park and preserve, such as coal mining at the Beluga coal fields and hydropower at Chakachamna Lake. Several developments could occur to the north of the park, including geothermal development on Mount Spurr. These developments may affect water and air quality, disrupt wildlife corridors, and affect visitor use in the park.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve has over 187,000 acres of private inholdings and allotments, the majority of which are concentrated along a few large rivers, Lake Clark, and other large lakes. Other large inholdings are near the coast. These lands could be developed for mineral extraction, tourism, and private use (e.g., residential cabins). There is concern about instances of trespassing on private land by visitors because it is often difficult to know where private lands begin and end in the backcountry. Additionally, some visitors may not be aware of the locations of these private lands.

This amendment plan does not address these external forces. The National Park Service is participating in interagency and public discussions about the Pebble Mine and in discussions with private inholders outside of this GMP amendment.

### **Climate Change**

Climate change refers to any substantial changes in average climatic conditions or

climatic variability lasting for an extended period of time (decades or longer). Recent reports by the US Climate Change Science Program, the National Academy of Sciences, and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) provide clear evidence that climate change is occurring and is likely to accelerate in the coming decades. The impacts of climate change are expected to be more severe in Alaska, where air temperature is warming at a faster rate than in other places on the globe, resulting in accelerated changes to vegetation, water resources, wildlife, and other processes such as permafrost extent, accelerated erosion, loss of coastal and interior sites, loss of high-elevation snow and ice patch sites, and damage to interior sites from increased incidence of wildfires. Human use of and access to these natural resources is also changing as a result of the changing climate.

Down-scaled global climate models for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve predict average annual temperature of 2.6° C by 2040 and 4.5° C by 2080. This could translate into an average annual temperature that is below freezing (-2.3° C) to near or above freezing (0.3° C) by 2040. A likely effect of these changes is a decrease in time between the first freeze dates and the first thaw dates. Winter temperatures are expected to change the most. Precipitation is predicted to increase across the park, with 20% more snowfall in the winter and 11% more rainfall during the growing seasons (The Wilderness Society 2008; Winfree et al. 2014).

There are two different issues to consider with respect to climate change: (1) what is the contribution of the proposed action to climate change such as greenhouse gas emissions and the “carbon footprint,” and (2) what are the anticipated effects of climate change on park resources and visitors that are affected by the plan? There will be negligible impacts from this plan on the carbon footprint of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and on climate change generally. Consequently, this issue can be dismissed.

Regarding the second question, this plan amendment primarily focuses on visitor use and access. Climate change will affect park resources, such as water flow timing and volume, the extent and duration of snow cover and ice on lakes, and the frequency and intensity of storms. These changes will have impacts on wildlife populations, public facilities, and access and use of the park. But it is difficult to determine when, how, or where these changes will occur and if they will impact visitor use and access options considered in this plan. The impacts of climate change on cultural resources are evident in the exposure of prehistoric artifacts and associated biological materials from ice patch sites as these features retreat under warmer climatic conditions. Archeological sites, particularly those in coastal, lake, or river environments, may face increased threats of erosional disturbance from more frequent and intense storms and rising water levels.

The National Park Service is addressing climate change in Alaska parks through other planning efforts. The “Alaska Region Climate Change Response Strategy” (NPS 2010e) presents a framework and goals and objectives for planning for climate change in and near Alaskan national parks. Scenario planning for climate change is also being prepared, providing ideas about the effects of climate change on park resources and actions that can be taken (see NPS 2010f and Winfree et al. 2014). The National Park Service acknowledges the importance of using current climate science to inform management decisions.

Due to the scope of this planning effort, climate change is not discussed as a major issue in this GMP amendment. However, desired conditions related to climate change and sustainability are included in appendix A, and some discussion about climate change impacts on visitor use is included throughout this plan.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

This plan amendment will guide management of the park over the next 15 to 20 years. It is important to note that not all of the actions in the plan will necessarily be implemented immediately. Although the Lake Clark GMP amendment provides analysis and justification for future park funding proposals, this plan does not guarantee future NPS funding. Many actions will be necessary to achieve the desired conditions for natural resources, cultural resources, and educational and recreational opportunities as envisioned in this GMP amendment. The National Park Service will seek funding to achieve these goals; although the National Park Service hopes to secure this funding and will prepare itself accordingly, sufficient funding may not be available. Park managers will continue to pursue other options, including expanding volunteer services, drawing on existing or new partnerships, and seeking alternative funding sources. Even with assistance from supplemental sources, NPS managers may be faced with difficult choices when setting priorities—full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future. The GMP amendment provides the framework within which to make these choices.

This GMP amendment does not describe how particular programs or actions should be prioritized or implemented. Those decisions will be addressed in more detailed future planning efforts. Other future program and implementation plans, describing specific actions that managers intend to undertake and accomplish in the park, will tier from the desired conditions and long-term goals set forth in this plan.

The implementation of the plan also could be affected by other factors, such as changes in NPS staffing, visitor use patterns, and unanticipated environmental changes. Alaska Natives, tribes, native corporations, and the state historical preservation officer will need to be consulted, as appropriate, on actions that could affect cultural resources.

In all cases appropriate environmental compliance will occur before new actions are taken.





## THE PLAN AMENDMENT

### FORMULATION OF THE PLAN

Many aspects of the desired conditions of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve are defined in the establishing legislation set forth in ANILCA, the park's purpose and significance statements, and NPS servicewide mandates and policies. Within these parameters, the National Park Service solicited input from local residents and subsistence users, corporations, organizations, and agencies with economic or recreational interest in the park, and other private citizens who have visited in the past. Planning team members gathered information about existing visitor use and the conditions of park resources and facilities. Then a set of management zones and management alternatives was developed to reflect the range of ideas proposed by NPS staff and the public. After further considering public comments and agency input, at the end of the planning process a preferred alternative was selected as the plan amendment.

Desired conditions and strategies for overall management of the park are identified in appendix A. Strategies are included for such topics as mountain landscapes, the salmon fishery, wilderness, wild rivers, cultural resources, subsistence, and climate change. These desired conditions and strategies underlie the management directions and actions in this plan.

### OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN AMENDMENT

Under the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve General Management Plan Amendment, the vast majority of the park and preserve will continue to be wild, undeveloped, and untrammeled, with opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation. In several areas the

plan expands opportunities for a diversity of visitor activities while still protecting and enhancing wilderness and park resources. The plan provides more prescriptive management in areas that receive higher visitor use, such as in the preserve near Lake Clark and in some coastal areas. Other changes include expanded interpretive services and commercial activities, backcountry hiking trails, and water routes. A range of management actions will be available to protect resources in high-use destination areas. The plan calls for a modest approach to improved infrastructure.

The plan amendment focuses on *what* resource conditions and *what* visitor uses and opportunities should exist at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, rather than on details of *how* these conditions, uses, and experiences should be achieved. Thus, the plan amendment does not include many details on resource or visitor use management.

### LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE AREA DESCRIPTIONS

The National Park Service recognizes four rustic areas in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve based on site-specific qualities that show evidence of historical occupation or provide certain contemporary recreational and visitor experiences. These four rustic areas are distinct overlays (see following maps) that are managed based on the character and quality of the underlying management zone, described later in this chapter. These rustic areas have been identified by staff and the public, and the descriptions below are intended to depict what exists at these geographic locations at the time of the writing of the GMP amendment and to assist with both visitor expectations and park management

decisions in the future. Other laws, policies, and guidance apply to the rustic areas, including the NPS Organic Act, NPS *Management Policies 2006*, the Wilderness Act, and the visitor use indicators and standards set forth in the plan.

These rustic areas are important because of unique features, such as historic cabins, historic trails, scenic lakes, sensitive sedge grass meadows, bear viewing, and remote sportfishing. These features persuaded people to settle in these remote areas prior to designation of the park, which led to a pattern of land use that still exists in part today. The name “rustic area” was chosen to reflect the simple, undeveloped nature of these four geographic locations and to recall the pioneer “rusticator movement” that draws many visitors to the park and preserve.

The combination of unique features and continuum of land use creates a setting that also attracts visitors to these destinations. The availability of commercial services, such as air taxis, boating, guided bear viewing, or sportfishing, may attract visitors seeking certain recreational experiences including bear viewing, fishing, hiking, photography, and visiting historic sites.

Recreational opportunities, accessed by plane or motorboat, and facilities such as ranger stations, cabins, trails, and nearby private lodges on inholdings, make each of these areas a unique setting in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

### **Richard L. Proenneke Area**

The Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site on the shore of Upper Twin Lake (figure 2, page 19) is among the park’s most popular visitor destinations. It is in designated wilderness, and it would continue to be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act and NPS laws and policies. Lake Clark staff manages the Proenneke site as an informal outdoor exhibit to help ensure that activities are conducted in a manner that protects and

sustains the area’s wilderness qualities and rustic character.

Using only hand tools, Dick Proenneke constructed his wilderness cabin and other outbuildings in the late 1960s. He lived year-round at the site for nearly 30 years. The exceptional craftsmanship of his wood-working and building skills is evident in the restored log buildings, furniture, and implements he created. The site’s cultural landscape includes historic and natural features that evoke Proenneke’s enduring legacy and wilderness ethic. Among these features are Teetering Rock Trail, Cowgill Benches Trail, and other trails used by Proenneke. Three other cabins built in the early 1960s are near the Proenneke cabin—they are seasonally used and occupied by NPS staff and volunteers to support site management. Tent camping opportunities are available for visitors at Hope Creek primitive camping area. The map for this rustic area includes the boundary for the Richard L. Proenneke Historic Cabin Site; the map displays the 2007 national historic site boundary as well as the amended boundary as applied for in 2013.

### **Silver Salmon Creek Area**

Silver Salmon Creek, on the Cook Inlet coast in the park (figure 3, page 21), offers outstanding bear viewing and sportfishing opportunities for visitors. Brown bears can be seen grazing in the sedge meadows, fishing in the creek, or digging for razor clams on the beach. Coho (silver) and humpback (pink) salmon as well as Dolly Varden run up the creek in the late summer.

The rustic Alaskan atmosphere on the ground at Silver Salmon Creek includes a staffed ranger cabin and private inholdings with two lodges offering a range of services. Small wheel planes land along the beach and off-road vehicle (ORV) use occurs along the beach and on designated trails. ORV use by local landowners is permitted on designated trails and by qualified subsistence users on an additional trail. The park prohibits ORV

use off the designated trails to protect sensitive sedge grass meadows. The Silver Salmon Creek area will be managed for its wild character.

### **Chinitna Bay Area**

Chinitna Bay on Cook Inlet (figure 4, page 23) offers world-class bear viewing along the beach, in the meadows in the uplands, and in the rivers at the head of the bay as the salmon run begins. Unique concentrations of food promote high numbers of bears intent on foraging the protein-rich sedges, clams, and salmon. In addition to bear viewing, visitors to Chinitna Bay can walk and explore the wide beaches, fish, and dig clams. A trip to Chinitna Bay offers a unique experience in the heart of coastal bear country. Chinitna Bay consists of private lodges that bring visitors into the park for bear viewing opportunities. Small wheel planes land along the beach and ORV use occurs below mean high tide (on state land).

The sensitive Chinitna Bay sedge grass meadows are closed to visitor use. Paths and viewing areas exist to help protect the habitat in the sedge meadows and provide for the wild rustic experience that exists on the southern coast of Lake Clark National Park.

### **Crescent Lake Area**

Crescent Lake (figure 5, page 25) is a glacially fed lake in the heart of the Chigmit Mountains. Views of Mount Redoubt can be seen from the lake, which is the headwaters for Crescent River. Crescent River flows southeast into Cook Inlet. The river and lake provide habitat for spawning red and silver salmon as well as Dolly Varden, arctic char, and lake trout, which attract both brown and black bear.

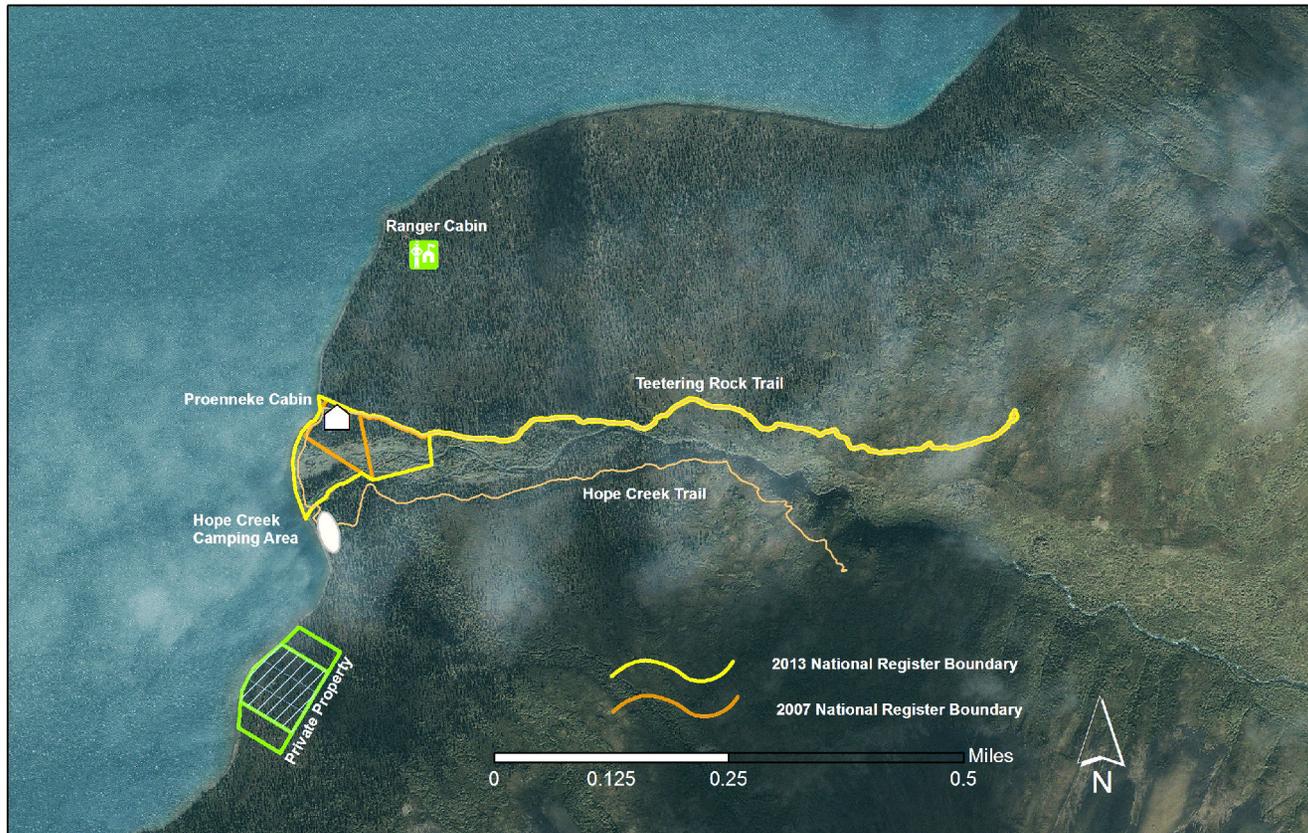
Visitors access Crescent Lake by float plane. Some come for a day trip while others overnight at the private lodge near the outlet of the river. A ranger station also exists near the outlet of the river. From July through

September, several small river boats carry visitors up and down the river to fish for salmon. A few larger-capacity boats travel along the lake in search of bear viewing opportunities and other recreation experiences. Crescent Lake is another special rustic Alaskan area that exists inside Lake Clark National Park and will continue to be managed for its wild character.





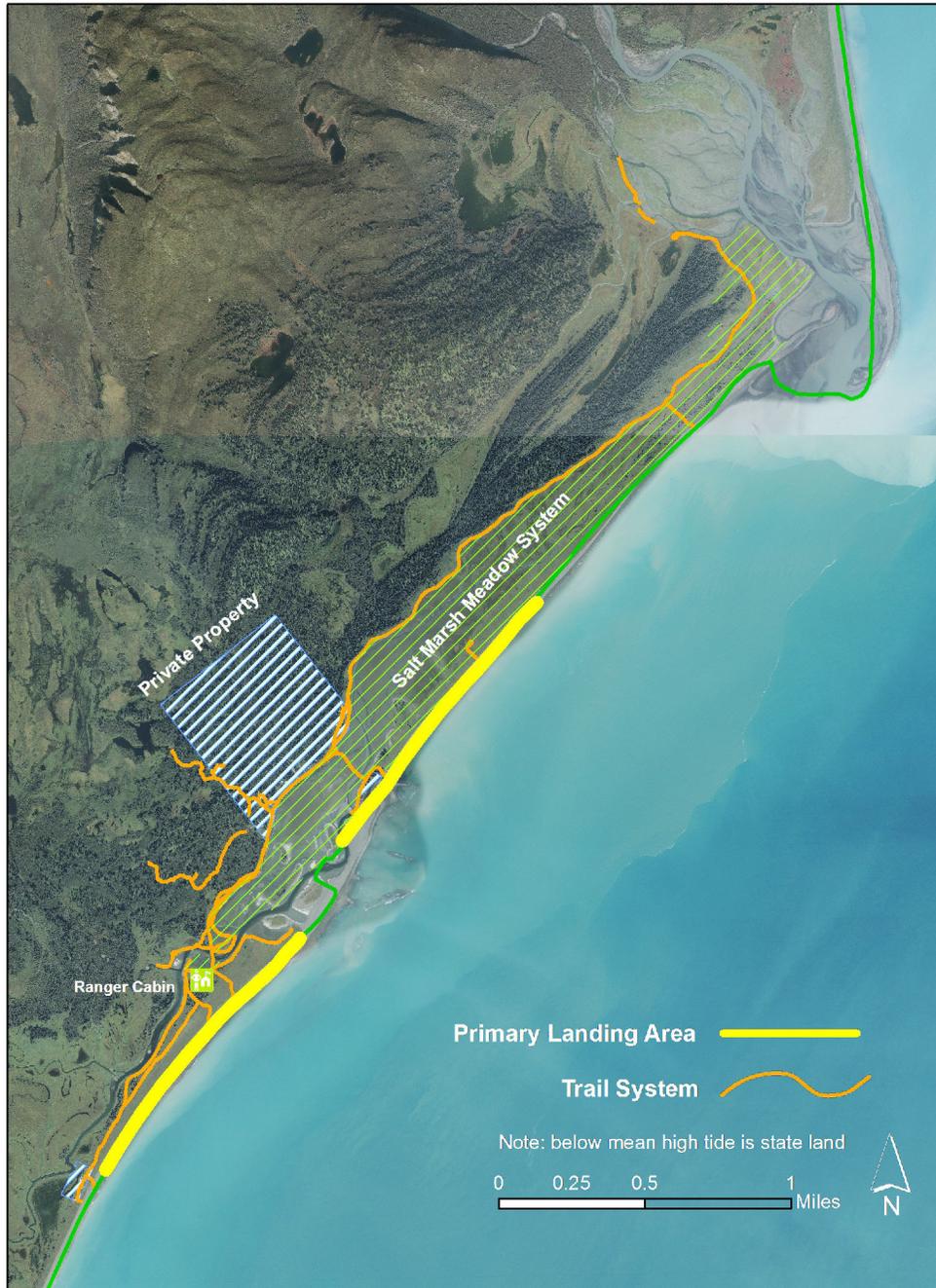
# Richard L. Proenneke Area







# Silver Salmon Creek Area







# Chinitna Bay Area







# Crescent Lake Area





## MANAGEMENT ZONES

Management zones apply to different areas of a national park system unit and describe the desired conditions for resources and visitor experience in those areas. Together, they identify the widest range of potential resource conditions, visitor experiences, and facilities for the national park system unit that falls within the scope of the unit's purpose, significance, and special mandates. Three management zones are included in the plan.

### Primitive Backcountry Zone

The primitive backcountry zone is characterized by pristine natural conditions. The zone includes all designated wilderness and is managed to protect wilderness character. Natural processes dominate this zone with minimal impacts on natural and cultural resources. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation occur in this zone. Natural quiet predominates. The expectation of visitors is for few encounters with other visitors most of the time and to have a variety of hiking, climbing, river floating, and other wilderness recreation experiences. Limited primitive facilities may be used to protect resources or visitor safety per ANILCA 1306, 1310, 1315, 1315a, and 1316; the Wilderness Act 4(d); 36 CFR Part 13; and NPS *Management Policies 2006*, 6.3.10.

### Backcountry Zone

The backcountry zone is characterized by remote wild conditions. The zone includes much of the land in the preserve as well as land along the southeast coast and is managed to protect the wild resources and values that exist. Natural processes dominate this zone with minimal impacts on natural and cultural resources confined to trails, routes, cabin sites, and campsites. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist; however, some public use cabins may be available to support backcountry recreation activities. Natural quiet predominates. The expectation of visitors is for few encounters with other

visitors most of the time and to have a variety of hiking, climbing, fishing, wildlife viewing, river floating, and other backcountry recreation experiences. Limited primitive facilities may be used to protect resources, support backcountry recreation or visitor safety per ANILCA 1306, 1310, 1315, 1315(a), and 1316; 36 CFR Part 13; and NPS *Management Policies 2006*.

### Administrative Zone

The purpose of this zone is to support park operations and visitor services. This zone consists of administrative infrastructure, such as field headquarters, employee housing, maintenance facilities, airplane hangar, visitor facilities, and use of a gravel airstrip. Facilities such as these are not found anywhere else in the park. Most of the land in the administrative zone was purchased with existing infrastructure.

### Management Zoning

Figure 6 on page 29 shows how the management zones are applied. The management zones configuration supports the plan's concept by protecting the wildest desired conditions in the designated wilderness portion of the park within the primitive backcountry zone. The western areas are zoned backcountry, generally aligned with the wilderness boundary, to provide a slightly wider range of visitor and resource conditions and management strategies. The Port Alsworth area is zoned administrative to support park operations and visitor services.

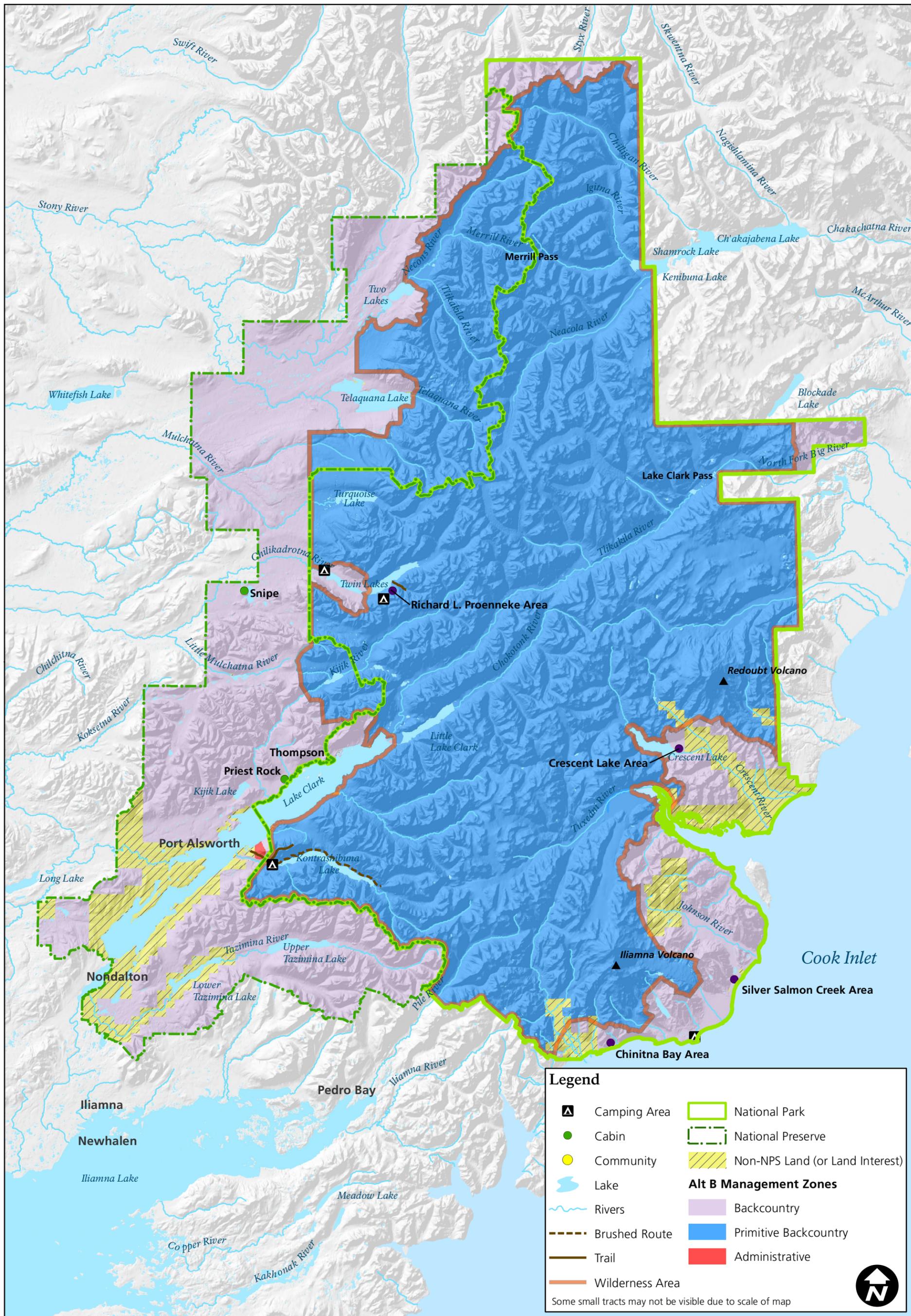
Overall, less than 0.01% (approximately 2,000 acres) of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is in the administrative zone. Approximately 30% (approximately 1,111,000 acres) is in the backcountry zone, and approximately 70% (approximately 2,574,700 acres) is in the primitive backcountry zone.

The four rustic areas described earlier in this chapter are managed consistently with the underlying zones.





# Alternative B



**Legend**

	Camping Area		National Park
	Cabin		National Preserve
	Community		Non-NPS Land (or Land Interest)
	Lake	<b>Alt B Management Zones</b>	
	Rivers		Backcountry
	Brushed Route		Primitive Backcountry
	Trail		Administrative
	Wilderness Area		

Some small tracts may not be visible due to scale of map



## GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION AND ACTIONS

The following management directions and actions generally apply to the entire park and preserve:

- Subsistence use in the park and preserve continues to be recognized and supported in accordance with ANILCA.
- The wild and undeveloped character of the park will be maintained throughout most of the park and preserve. The visitor will have opportunities to experience solitude and other wilderness values. All designated and eligible wilderness areas will continue to be managed consistent with the Wilderness Act and NPS policies.
- Limited primitive facilities may be used to protect resources or visitor safety per ANILCA §1306, 1310, and 1315; the Wilderness Act 4(d); 36 CFR Part 13; and NPS *Management Policies 2006*, §6.3.1.0.
- Leave No Trace ethics will be promoted to all visitors and partners.
- Sustainability of park operations and facilities is a high priority in management decisions and facility development.
- Collaboration with partners (i.e., State of Alaska, commercial operators, Alaska Natives, private landowners and inholders, education/research groups, and other governmental organizations) is a high priority.
- Interagency and tribal planning efforts will be pursued due to the unique landscape of the park and the

collaborative opportunities it presents.

- All proposed undertakings with the potential to affect historic properties will be assessed in consultation with the state historic preservation office, associated tribes, and other appropriate agencies and stakeholders in compliance with federal law.

## VISITOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Additional visitor facilities (e.g., trails, public use cabins, primitive camping areas) will be provided primarily in nonwilderness portions of the park. The following management directions apply to several popular visitor use areas and to visitor facilities in the park and preserve.

### Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site

The Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site boundary will be expanded with the concurrence of the state historic preservation office (SHPO). The site will be managed as an open-air exhibit focused on the connection between the historic site and the surrounding wilderness and specific natural features. Visitors will have the opportunity for both NPS-led and self-guided visits. NPS staff will be on-site during the summer to provide interpretation of the site and to ensure protection of park resources. Selected on-site and in-cabin artifacts will be left in place, though others will be replicated and removed.

The existing primitive camping area at Hope Creek will be maintained. The existing privy also will be managed and maintained for visitor use.

## Kontrashibuna Lake

A mechanism, service, or facility to appropriately store nonmotorized boats seasonally may be considered.

Public use (day/multiday use) nonmotorized boat rentals will be authorized.

Boats, paddles, oars and personal flotation devices will be available to visitors.

## Public Use Cabins

Three to eight existing cabins will be designated for public use under this plan. The Joe Thompson, Priest Rock (Allen Woodward), and Snipe Lake cabins are three of the eight possible public use cabins. No public use cabins will be in designated wilderness.

After designating the first three cabins, an additional five cabins (for a total of eight) may be designated for public use in the future in order to accommodate emerging uses and to mitigate possible future resource impacts. A cost-benefit analysis will be conducted on additional cabins beyond the first three to evaluate factors such as visitor need, the level of use of the first three cabins, and available park resources for managing and maintaining the cabins

## Trails and Routes

Trails and routes in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve are managed as follows:

**Brushed Route:** These routes are brushed (cleared of large debris) as needed and as staff is available. The brushed routes shown on the map are intended to indicate places where the public can expect to find a trail, although they may not be regularly maintained.

**Maintained Trails:** These trails are found in Port Alsworth and other high-visitation areas and are regularly maintained. The public can expect to find maintained trails at these sites.

**Routes:** These are historic routes, such as the Telaquana Trail, that have important cultural values. These routes may not be maintained.

The following existing trails will continue to be maintained: Port Alsworth area trails (including the Tanalian Mountain and Beaver Loop Trails, the trail to the falls and to Kontrashibuna Lake); the Joe Thompson Trail; Teetering Rock Trail and Hope Creek Trail to First Canyon.

The National Park Service will improve accessibility of some existing trails in the Port Alsworth area.

Dispersed hiking is encouraged throughout the park; however, additional routes will be brushed to provide expanded visitor opportunities.

The plan also calls for the establishment of a water route on Lake Clark.

## Primitive Camping Areas

Primitive camping is encouraged throughout the park.

The plan calls for improved management of camping areas such as at Shelter Creek, Port Alsworth, Kontrashibuna Lake, Hope Creek, and Lower Twin Lake.

Camping areas may be designated to address resources impacts at access points on lakes, streams, and the coast. Designated camping areas generally occur outside of designated wilderness. Designated sites may include a leveled tent site, pit toilet, and fire ring, while the general character remains primitive.

Development of camping infrastructure is encouraged on private lands where appropriate.

## Other Facilities and Structures

The plan also calls for:

- an improved restroom facility at Port Alsworth
- a public bear-resistant privy and day-use storage facility at Silver Salmon Creek
- exploring possible future sites for bear-proof storage and human waste management

## INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

The park's long-range interpretive plan will be implemented.

More opportunities will be provided for people to obtain educational and interpretive programming.

Interpretive exhibits will be provided in the historic public use cabins.

Visitor contact opportunities will be expanded through partnerships with state and federal agencies, tribes, local communities, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations, and electronic media.

## VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

General management plans for national park system units are required by the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, (54 USC 100502), and NPS *Management Policies 2006* - sec. 2.3.1.1 and 8.2.1 (NPS 2006a) to identify and address implementation commitments for visitor use management and visitor capacity, also known as carrying capacity. The National Park Service defines visitor use management as the proactive and

adaptive process of planning for and managing characteristics of visitor use and the physical, social, and managerial setting through a variety of strategies and tools to sustain desired resource conditions and visitor experiences. In short, visitor use management strives to maximize recreational benefits to visitors while meeting resource and experiential protection goals.

This planning and management process provides the framework within which visitor use characteristics—and visitor capacity, where it is necessary—should be addressed. Visitor use characteristics include the amount, type, timing, and distribution of visitor use, including visitor activities and behaviors. Visitor capacity is a smaller component of visitor use management, consisting of the maximum amount and type of visitor use that an area can accommodate while sustaining the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences consistent with the purpose for which the park was established.

Managing visitor use in national parks is inherently complex and depends not only on the number of visitors, but also on where the visitors go, what they do, and the impacts they have on resources. In managing for visitor use, the park staff relies on a variety of management tools and strategies rather than relying solely on regulating the number of people in a park or area. In addition, the ever-changing nature of visitor use in parks requires a deliberate and adaptive approach to managing visitors.

This GMP amendment includes indicators and standards for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Indicators and standards help the National Park Service ensure that desired conditions are being attained in support of the park's legislative and policy mandates. This GMP amendment also identifies the types of management strategies that may be taken in response to standards being exceeded.

Table 1 (page 37) identifies the indicators, standards, and management strategies, allocated by management zones, which would be implemented as a result of this planning effort. These indicators and standards apply to both action alternatives presented in this plan. The components are defined and described as follows:

- Indicators specify conditions to be assessed for progress at attaining desired conditions, and satisfying visitor use management requirements.
- Standards (either qualitative or quantitative) guide management decisions on the minimum acceptable condition for indicators and serve as triggers for management strategies.
- Management strategies comprise a toolbox of options considered for implementation in order to maintain or restore desired conditions.

The planning team considered many potential issues and related indicators that would identify impacts of concern, but those described below were considered the highest priority, given the importance and vulnerability of the resource or visitor experience affected by visitor use. The planning team also drew from lessons learned by other parks with similar issues to help identify meaningful indicators. Standards for each indicator were then assigned, taking into consideration the qualitative descriptions of the desired conditions, data on existing conditions, relevant research studies, staff management experience, and the results of scoping on public preferences. Monitoring efforts will be implemented to the extent that staff and funding allow. These indicators and standards apply to the areas of the park and preserve specified in Table 1, including the three designated wild and scenic rivers.

The indicators and standards that pertain to the amount, type, timing, and distribution of visitors are most closely tied to helping NPS staff address visitor capacity. These indicators and standards also provide resiliency in the face of climate change-induced visitor use characteristics such as a longer visitation season. These indicators include deterioration of cultural resources, number of bear-human incidents, expanding footprint of designated primitive camping areas, visitor-created trails near camping areas, and visitor use levels at specific locations. These indicators and standards directly inform management of the kinds and amounts of use that can be accommodated in different areas of the park while maintaining desired conditions. This GMP amendment does not include visitor capacities. However, visitor capacities would be addressed in future implementation plans that include significant visitor use components.

The toolbox of management strategies allows park managers to be responsive to current conditions in the most appropriate manner. The management strategies included in this plan are potential solutions, which will be further evaluated before implementation. Management strategies in the plan focus primarily on modifying visitor behavior to protect resources and promote visitor safety, rather than on modifying the physical environment or restricting visitor access. The intention is to create a sustainable, mutually beneficial environment for visitor enjoyment of park and preserve resources.

Visitor use management is a form of adaptive management in that it is an iterative process in which management decisions are continuously informed and improved. As monitoring of conditions continues, managers may decide to modify or add indicators if better ways are found to measure important changes in resource and social conditions.

Information on NPS monitoring efforts, related visitor use management strategies, and any changes to the indicators and standards will be available to the public through the most appropriate and effective outreach method chosen by the park staff. It should be noted that revisions to indicators and standards will potentially be subject to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and other laws, regulations and policies.

### Indicators and Standards

The priority indicators for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve are associated with the following issues:

- deterioration of cultural resources
- number of bear-human incidents
- expanding area/footprint of designated primitive camping areas
- an increase in visitor-created trails near camping areas
- a change in visitor use levels at specific sites

### Deterioration of Cultural Resources

Visitor use impacts on cultural resources include wear on historic structures, unintentional disturbances, and vandalism to archeological resources and historic structures. Cultural resources are nonrenewable; therefore, impacts resulting from both unintentional behaviors, such as inadvertent disturbance or wear and tear, and intentional behaviors, such as vandalism, must be minimized to the extent possible.

To monitor trends for documented cultural resources, the park staff will refer to protocols outlined in the condition assessments that are included in NPS cultural resource databases. These databases have measurable parameters that are monitored and the database is updated

periodically. The List of Classified Structures (LCS), Cultural Landscape Inventory database (CLI), and Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS) provide measures of physical condition and cultural/historical integrity (maintaining the character, material, and stability of the cultural resource as acquired, excavated, or existing) of a resource.

Because only a small percentage of the park has been systematically surveyed for cultural resources, the park staff will implement an ongoing program of survey and inventory to fulfill requirements of section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The CLI database is a comprehensive inventory of all culturally and historically significant landscapes within the national park system. The Cultural Landscape Inventory records each landscape's location, historical development, existing conditions, and management information. A condition assessment of CLI units must be reevaluated every six years to keep the inventory unit certified as complete, accurate, and reliable. This assessment describes the current condition of the unit and any impacts having a negative effect on the characteristics of the resource's integrity for which some form of mitigation or preventive action is possible (NPS 2009c). As of 2012, there are two landscapes listed in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's CLI database: Kijik Archeological District National Historic Landscape and the Telaquana Corridor Historic District. Several other ethnographic landscapes have not yet been inventoried.

The ASMIS is the NPS database for basic registration and management of park precontact and historic archeological resources. ASMIS records contain data on site location, description, significance, condition, threats to, and management requirements for known park archeological sites. It serves as a tool to support improved archeological resource preservation, protection, planning, and decision making by parks, support offices, and the National

Center. As of 2012, there are 145 sites listed in ASMIS for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve; 69 of those sites (or 48%) are listed in good condition.

To assess resource condition and the level of visitor use impacts on cultural resources, the park and preserve staff developed an indicator that tracks the deterioration of cultural resource conditions as measured by damage, items lost or damaged, recent visitor-created fire rings, and ground disturbance such as excavations for human waste disposal. The standard for this indicator specifies that there should be no deterioration of conditions, and applies to several high use and/or sensitive areas, as well as the designated public use cabins (if applicable).

If deterioration of resources is observed, management strategies will be triggered, including education for commercial operators in the park and preserve. Educational messages would include information about resource protection and concerns. Interpretive signs could be installed at restored historic cabins. Instructions for cabin etiquette and use would also be provided on-site to encourage appropriate use of the public use cabins. Temporary closures of cabins may also be necessary during repair and restoration activities. Additionally, a comprehensive management program for collections may be developed, as may be a site plan for the Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site.

### **An Increase in Bear-Human Incidents**

Bear-human incidents in the park and preserve have been identified as a priority indicator to ensure that bears will continue to thrive in their natural environment, and to ensure the safety of visitors within the park. The individual response of a bear to humans can vary, and the past experience of bears with people can have a substantial effect on their future responses.

One of the most common situations for bear-human incidents requiring management response results from poor management of human food and garbage, which can lead to food-conditioned bears. Bears become food-conditioned when they have fed on human food or garbage and have learned to associate humans and/or human development with potential sources of food (Gilbert 1989; MacHutchon 2000). Food-conditioning is bad for the health of the bears and also increases the chances for unsafe bear-human interactions.

The main situations leading to human injury by bears are (1) when food-conditioned bears that are also human-habituated aggressively approach people for food, and (2) when humans surprise a bear at close range, particularly a female grizzly bear with cubs. Habituated bears that are not food-conditioned are not usually a risk to humans if they behave in a predictable manner and bears do not learn to associate humans with food or garbage (Gunther 1994; MacHutchon 2000).

Because of the reasons stated above, park staff will actively monitor the number of bear-human incidents that require management response. This indicator applies to all zones, and the standard specifies that there should be no increase in bear-human incidents of this type, from a baseline that will be established upon completion of the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve bear management plan.

If an increase in bear-human incidents is observed, management strategies will be initiated, such as expanded visitor education and guide programs and adding a web-based educational component. Part of the educational messaging may include behavioral guidelines for visitors who are viewing bears or may come in contact with bears in the backcountry or on the coast.

The presence of NPS rangers at certain locations (including Silver Salmon Creek and some interior sites) during the summer season may also improve understanding of appropriate visitor behavior in bear country. Additionally, there may be a need to provide a stronger NPS ranger presence in other locations with high bear density and high visitation.

It may be useful to install facilities for managing bear-human interactions, such as bear-resistant containers or bear viewing platforms. Bear viewing areas may also be designated without structures by promoting the safest areas for bear viewing while discouraging other areas.

### **Expanding Footprint of Designated Primitive Camping Areas**

Human activities associated with camping have the potential to influence ecological processes and cause visual impacts. In particular, overuse or inappropriate use of campsites can lead to soil compaction and loss of vegetation around the perimeter of campsites. Addressing the expanding footprint of backcountry camping areas is considered a high priority.

The indicator for the area/footprint of campsites measures the level of ground disturbance such as vegetation trampling, invasive species, and erosion. The standard for this indicator specifies that there should be no net gain in total square footage of ground disturbance in the camping areas.

An increase in ground disturbance will trigger management strategies with an increase in education and outreach for campsite users. Leave No Trace principles would be promoted at the visitor contact station, through Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holders, and through online trip planning. In some instances, consideration would also be given to the development of hardened campsites or tent platforms, as well as to the establishment of fire rings and the provision of bear-resistant

lockers. In other situations, the damaged areas may be restored.

### **An Increase in Visitor-Created Trails Near Camping Areas**

The visibility of visitor-created trails at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve has become an issue of concern, especially pertaining to trails leaving camping areas and entering the surrounding areas. Addressing the expansion of visitor-created trails is considered a high priority due to associated impacts such as vegetation loss and soil impacts.

The indicator for visitor-created trails measures the number or linear feet of visitor-created trails extending from designated primitive camping areas. The standard for this indicator specifies that there should be no increase in the number or linear feet of visitor-created trails from the designated primitive camping areas. The indicator and standard apply to backcountry and primitive backcountry zones.

An increase will trigger management strategies such as selecting some trails to be re-vegetated and allowing some appropriate trails to continue to exist in an informal way. Leave No Trace principles would be promoted at the visitor contact station, through CUA holders, and through online trip planning information. Additionally, signs may be posted to instruct visitors not to follow or initiate visitor-created trails. If those management strategies fail, designated routes may be established.

### **A Change in Visitor Use Levels at Specific Locations**

Crowding is one of the most frequently studied topics related to visitor use (Manning 2007) and has been evaluated extensively to better understand the number of visitors that are appropriate in specific settings. Crowding is defined as “the negative and subjective evaluation of a use level” (Manning 2007). Crowding may occur

when use levels increase to the point at which they interfere with a visitor's chosen activities and intentions (Manning 2007).

The presence of crowding at specific sites can influence visitor experience in a variety of ways. High numbers of people in the same area can lead to elevated noise levels, competition for sites, and even safety issues. By monitoring and implementing standards associated with crowding, the opportunity to experience serenity, solitude, and general enjoyment are safeguarded.

Visitor use data at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve show an increasing trend in use, although the level of use is not yet considered to be an issue. Because there is a need to better understand use levels and crowding at specific places in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, an indicator has been established to measure the number of user days at site-specific locations. The standard for this indicator specifies that there should be no sustained increase or decrease in CUA-reported user days by location.

If sustained increases or decreases over a five-year period for CUA-reported user days occur, park management would study whether visitors perceive issues with use levels in specific areas because there is not a one-to-one relationship between use levels and perceptions of crowding. Then, management would use other strategies to mitigate crowding if it is occurring. Strategies would include increased educational and outreach efforts to CUA holders and the public through a variety of media and personal meetings. The staff would also work with an operators' working group to address and mitigate impacts and would develop a site-specific best practices

working guide. If other strategies do not seem to improve conditions over time, permit stipulations would also be considered as a possible management strategy to manage visitor use at specific locations.

### **Long-Term Monitoring**

The staff will continue monitoring use levels and patterns throughout the park and preserve as part of the adaptive management strategy. In addition, park staff will monitor these indicators to the extent that staff and funding levels allow. The rigor of monitoring the indicators (e.g., frequency of monitoring cycles, amount of geographic area monitored) may vary considerably depending on how far existing conditions deviate from the standard. For example, the rigor of monitoring might be increased for existing conditions that are close to or trending toward the standard than for conditions that are substantially below or trending away.

Initial monitoring will determine if the indicators are accurately measuring the conditions of concern and if the standards truly represent the minimally acceptable condition of the indicator. Park staff might decide to modify the indicators or standards and revise the monitoring practices if better ways are found to measure changes caused by visitor use. Most of these types of changes should be made within the first several years of initiating monitoring. After this initial testing period, adjustments would be less likely to occur. Finally, if use levels and patterns change appreciably, park staff might need to identify new indicators to ensure that desired conditions are achieved and maintained.

**TABLE 1. VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT INDICATORS, STANDARDS, AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

Indicator	Indicator Rationale	Zone	Standard	Standard Rationale	Management Strategies
<p>Deterioration of cultural resource condition, as measured by damage, items lost or damaged, fire rings, ground disturbance such as excavations for human waste disposal.</p>	<p>Condition is monitored and tracked by cultural resource managers in ASMIS and LCS, which provide established standardized procedures.</p> <p>Several specific sites are named here because they have higher visitation and/or they have unique cultural resources.</p>	<p>All zones.</p> <p>Specific sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Richard L. Proenneke site</li> <li>▪ Chinitna Bay Archeological District</li> <li>▪ Chilikadrotna Headwaters (Lower Twin Lake) Archeological District</li> <li>▪ Snipe Lake Archeological District</li> <li>▪ Two Lakes Archeological District</li> <li>▪ Public use cabins (if applicable)</li> </ul>	<p>No deterioration of documented condition.</p>	<p>In order to protect park resources, no deterioration would be tolerated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create methods to exchange information with park CUA holders and ways for them to pass information on to park visitors.</li> <li>▪ Implement a long-term program of survey, inventory and monitoring to assess cultural resources conditions.</li> <li>▪ Provide educational materials about resource protection and ongoing resource concerns, through annual meetings or other appropriate methods.</li> <li>▪ Educate visitors through the park website, other publications, and the promotion of Leave No Trace.</li> <li>▪ Interpretive signage at restored historic cabins, with the exception of the Richard L. Proenneke site.</li> <li>▪ Guidelines for cabin use provided during cabin registration.</li> <li>▪ Temporary closures of public use cabins during repair and/or restoration activities.</li> <li>▪ Conduct field studies to document new cultural resource sites.</li> <li>▪ Develop a comprehensive management program for collections.</li> <li>▪ Develop a site plan for the Richard L. Proenneke site.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 1. VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT INDICATORS, STANDARDS, AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

Indicator	Indicator Rationale	Zone	Standard	Standard Rationale	Management Strategies
<p>Number of bear-human incidents requiring ranger response.</p>	<p>Park staff occasionally have to respond to bear-human incidents to protect both bears and humans. As visitation patterns may change in the future, it would continue to be important to monitor bear-human incidents in backcountry locations and coastal areas.</p>	<p>All zones.</p>	<p>No increase in the number of bear-human incidents that require ranger response; a baseline will be established in the future.</p>	<p>Management efforts should first be directed to documenting and containing the number of bear-human incidents at current levels, then focusing on decreasing the level each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand educational efforts including a web-based component for visitors and CUA holders.</li> <li>▪ Complete a bear management plan for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve considering a range of management options.</li> <li>▪ Establish behavioral guidelines for visitors who are viewing bears or who may come into contact with bears.</li> <li>▪ Provide NPS ranger presence in locations with high bear density and high visitation.</li> <li>▪ Consider facilities for managing bear-human incidents, such as bear-resistant containers, bear-viewing areas or platforms.</li> </ul>
<p>Area/foot-print of designated primitive camping areas (level of ground disturbance).</p>	<p>Overuse or inappropriate use at camping areas can lead to resource damage including vegetation damage, trampling, invasive species spread, and erosion. Measuring the area of the camping area allows managers to understand if there is an increasing trend in ground disturbance (bare ground expanding outside of designated area).</p>	<p>All zones.</p>	<p>No net gain in total square footage of the ground disturbance in the camping area.</p>	<p>Evidence of ground disturbance such as vegetation trampling, invasive species, erosion, etc., already existing and should not increase.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote Leave No Trace principles at the visitor contact station, through CUA holders, and through online trip planning information.</li> <li>▪ Consider development of hardened campsites or tent platforms.</li> <li>▪ Establish fire rings and/or provide bear-resistant lockers.</li> <li>▪ Restore damaged areas.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 1. VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT INDICATORS, STANDARDS, AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

Indicator	Indicator Rationale	Zone	Standard	Standard Rationale	Management Strategies
Number or linear feet of visitor-created trails extending from designated primitive camping areas.	Addressing the expansion of visitor-created trails is considered a high priority due to associated impacts such as vegetation loss and soil impacts.	Backcountry and primitive back-country.	No increase in the number or linear feet of visitor-created trails extending from designated primitive camping areas.	Evidence of ground disturbance such as vegetation trampling, erosion, etc., already existing and should not increase.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Select specific trails that would be allowed to exist and restore the rest.</li> <li>▪ Promote Leave No Trace principles at the visitor contact station, through CUA holders, and through online trip planning information.</li> <li>▪ Post signs instructing visitors not to follow or create visitor-created trails.</li> <li>▪ Designate some routes and restore others.</li> <li>▪ Develop a trails management plan.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 1. VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT INDICATORS, STANDARDS, AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

Indicator	Indicator Rationale	Zone	Standard	Standard Rationale	Management Strategies
<p>Number of user days per location, tracked through the CUA activity reports.</p>	<p>There is a need to better understand visitor use levels at specific locations.</p> <p>This would allow park staff to proactively manage visitor experiences at popular locations.</p>	<p>All zones. Sites to be determined based on CUA-reported areas of use.</p>	<p>Sustained increase or decrease in CUA-reported user days by location over a five-year period.</p>	<p>If there are substantial changes in CUA-reported user days, it may be indicative of issues in getting visitors to sites within the park, or impacts to visitor experiences at heavily used sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use social science to investigate visitor perceptions of use levels and potential crowding.</li> <li>▪ Use results of social science studies to reevaluate standard.</li> <li>▪ Create methods to exchange information with park CUA holders and ways for them to pass information on to park visitors.</li> <li>▪ Provide educational materials about resource protection and ongoing resource concerns, through annual meetings or other appropriate methods.</li> <li>▪ Develop a commercial operators working group to address/mitigate impacts to specific sites.</li> <li>▪ Develop site-specific “Best Practices” materials such as rack cards and brochures to enhance visitor experience at some locations.</li> <li>▪ Develop CUA permit stipulations to address management and visitor concerns at specific locations.</li> </ul>

## COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Commercial service operations within national park system units are consistent to the highest practicable degree with preservation and conservation of the fundamental resources and values of the park and preserve. By welcoming the private sector as a partner in park operations, the National Park Service broadens the economic base of the region and encourages resource stewardship in communities surrounding parks (NPS 2012e). Commercial service providers and the National Park Service work as partners to practice sound environmental management and stewardship. All commercial services are administered in accordance with ANILCA, the National Park Service Concessions Management and Improvement Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-391), 36 CFR 51, NPS *Management Policies 2006*, and other applicable laws and regulations.

The commercial services program at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve includes concession contracting, commercial film permit issuance, and issuance of commercial use authorizations. Activities that are authorized within the park and preserve through commercial use authorizations include:

- air taxi
- backpacking (guided)
- bear viewing (guided)
- big game transport
- boating (guided)
- charter boat
- hiking (guided)
- incidental hunt transport
- kayaking (guided)
- mountaineering (guided)
- photography (guided)
- sportfishing (guided)

- winter backcountry (guided skiing, sledding, snowshoeing)

All of these activities are administered in accordance with park management plans and policies, which are: (1) determined to be an appropriate use for the park, (2) have minimal impact on park resources and values, and (3) are consistent with the purposes of the park and preserve (NPS *Management Policies 2006*, 10.3.1 and Public Law 105-391 section 418).

The National Park Service administers hunting guide services through concession contracts. Hunting is an authorized activity (ANILCA section 1313) in national preserves in Alaska and is conducted in accordance with applicable federal and nonconflicting state law and regulations (36 CFR 13.40[d]).

Hunting guide services (AS 08.54) are an appropriate and necessary means to provide hunting opportunities for both Alaska resident and nonresident hunters within Alaska national preserves. Lake Clark National Preserve has three designated areas for the operation of guided hunter services by Alaska registered guide-outfitters. The southernmost is the Lake Clark guide area; the Mulchatna guide area occupies the central portion of the preserve; and the Stony River guide area is the northernmost. The Lake Clark guide area is currently vacant and does not have an authorized concessioner. The two current concession contract holders operate within a designated guide area under a contract with a term of 10 years.

All commercial visitor services at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve are managed pursuant to the following objectives:

- The service enhances visitor experience and provides the opportunity for visitors to understand and appreciate the purpose and significance of the park. This may include interpretive materials or opportunities.

- Commercial operations provide a valuable means of transportation for visitors to personally experience and explore the backcountry.
- Commercial operations may provide the only means by which some visitors may engage in specialized activities (e.g., hunting, dog mushing, or mountain climbing).
- Commercial operators are welcomed as partners by the National Park Service in promoting good stewardship of public lands with unique resources and values. They assist the public in engaging in personal park experiences and in making lasting connections to national parklands (NPS 2012e).

### Commercial Services in Wilderness

Section 4(d)(6) of the Wilderness Act states, “Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing *the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas*” (emphasis added). Section 4(b) of the act further provides that “. . . wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.” The wilderness areas within Lake Clark National Park and Preserve were established in 1980 for recreational and other purposes, which include traditional subsistence uses and protection of habitat for fish and wildlife populations.

Commercial service providers fill a vital role in helping the National Park Service carry out its mission. Through the use of concession contracts or commercial use agreements, the National Park Service provides visitor services that are necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment through all areas of the park and preserve, including wilderness areas.

Commercial visitor services are diverse and responsive to public needs and are administered within wilderness areas to promote park goals and objectives and protect park resources. The level of commercial visitor services that occur in wilderness areas within Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is currently low. The National Park Service is not proposing a limit to, or an allocation of, commercial visitor services at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve at this time. In the future, if and when monitoring shows physical or social conditions are approaching unacceptable levels due to visitor use, the National Park Service may reconsider this determination (see the “Visitor Use Management” section).

### Commercial Services under the GMP amendment

Consistent with the fundamental purposes of the park and preserve, under this plan amendment the National Park Service will authorize some expanded opportunities for commercial services on a case-by-case basis through the competitive process of CUA or concession contracting at Kontrashibuna Lake, Crescent Lake and Port Alsworth.

#### Kontrashibuna Lake

All commercial activities at Kontrashibuna Lake will place particular emphasis on providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation that contribute to public education and visitor enjoyment of wilderness resources and values.

- Commercial operators will be authorized to provide a variety of nonmotorized boat rentals for recreational use for the public.
- Commercial operators will be authorized to provide guided services for a greater variety of nonmotorized recreational opportunities than currently exist.

- Commercial operators will be authorized to provide limited nonmotorized boat storage for the public.

### **Crescent Lake**

- Commercial operators will be authorized to provide a greater variety of water-based recreation visitor services (guided/ unguided) than currently exist. The National Park Service will provide a land use assignment to support a seasonal boat storage concession.
- Boat mooring at Crescent Lake will continue to be evaluated to meet the needs of commercial operators as well as prevent resource damage.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES AND NPS PRESENCE**

Under the plan amendment, existing facilities may be expanded and/or additional facilities built to manage increased visitation in the park. Specifically, the administrative cabin at Crescent Lake will be improved/expanded.

On occasion, public use cabins may be used for administrative use (i.e., field camps for staff).

### **POTENTIAL BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS**

The National Park and Recreation Act of 1978 requires general management plans to address whether boundary modifications should be made to national park system units. In the case of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, no specific boundary adjustments have been identified as being necessary. Thus, the plan amendment does not propose changes to the park or preserve boundaries.

However, this plan amendment does not prohibit small additions or boundary adjustments such as those needed for administrative uses that are allowed under ANILCA 1301(b) or may be identified in the future by other land planning processes. (Section 103(b) of ANILCA authorizes the National Park Service to increase or decrease a conservation system unit by up to 23,000 acres [a minor boundary adjustment] if the agency notifies Congress.) The purchase of any lands for visitor or operational facilities outside the existing National Park Service boundaries will likely require congressional approval. This plan amendment does not preclude consideration of boundary adjustments should needs or conditions change.

Under section 1306 of ANILCA, the National Park Service can acquire administrative sites and visitor facilities outside the park boundary without doing a boundary adjustment. In addition, congressional approval is not needed to do so.

### **MITIGATION PROCEDURES**

Congress charged the National Park Service with managing the lands under federal government stewardship “in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” (NPS Organic Act, 54 USC 100101(a) et seq.). As a result, NPS staff routinely evaluate and implement mitigation measures whenever conditions occur that could adversely affect the sustainability of NPS resources.

Mitigation measures are the practicable and appropriate methods that will be used under the plan to avoid and/or minimize harm to park natural and cultural resources, wilderness, visitors, and the visitor experience.

Because there is limited facility development or construction planned in the plan amendment and due to the wild nature and

light footprint of NPS management of the park, most of the mitigation procedures apply to ongoing operations and management rather than effects from new proposals. Therefore, the following procedures are not traditional mitigation measures. Rather, they are efforts to support relationships between the National Park Service and its partners, thereby increasing understanding and protection of the unique resources of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The “Desired Conditions” section in appendix A provides details on strategies that will be continued or developed as part of this plan, especially for natural and cultural resource protection and visitor safety and experience.

The following mitigation measures will be used to avoid or minimize potential impacts from the implementation of the plan amendment, largely through education of visitors, staff, and other park users. These measures will be applied, subject to funding and staffing constraints. Additional mitigation will be identified as part of implementation planning and for individual projects to further minimize resource impacts.

- A minimum requirements analysis will be carried out for projects in designated wilderness to determine if and how actions or research would be implemented in accordance with the Wilderness Act, section 4(c).
- Visitors will be educated in Leave No Trace ethics in order to minimize or avoid impacts on natural and cultural resources in and around historic cabins.
- All projects with the potential to affect cultural or natural resources will be implemented in compliance with state and federal laws, such as sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and ANILCA section 810, to ensure that any possible effects will be adequately addressed. All reasonable measures will be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse

effects in consultation with the Alaska state historic preservation office, Alaska Native tribal groups, traditional councils, the Lake Clark National Park Subsistence Resource Commission, and Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, as well as Alaska Native Regional and Village corporations, as appropriate and necessary.

- To appropriately preserve and protect national register-listed or eligible historic structures and associated cultural landscape features, all stabilization, preservation, or restoration efforts will be undertaken in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (1995)* and the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (1996)*.
- An emphasis will be placed on improving and maintaining relations with State of Alaska and Alaska Native tribal offices, local community groups, and community development efforts, including but not limited to
  - continued emphasis on working with the Lake Clark National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
  - continued participation in meetings of the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
  - continued participation and emphasis on developing strong partnerships with local communities, including but not limited to all Lake Clark resident zone communities
  - continued emphasis on building relationships with tribes and initiating and engaging in formal government-to-government consultation

- An emphasis will be placed on educating Lake Clark and other NPS staff, visiting researchers, and other partners on
  - the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and other important laws in Alaska that relate to land management and land use
  - unique aspects of Alaska history and culture, especially those that relate to the residents and communities of the park’s resident zone that use areas within Lake Clark for traditional and customary activities
  - areas or topics of special concern such as archeology in the park, subsistence use, and wilderness management
  - the distinctive and special aspects of the remote and wild character of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
- A **cabin management plan** will be developed with detailed strategies for the appropriate treatment and use of selected historic cabins, associated structures, and cultural landscape features. The plan will also assist park managers in determining the disposition of cabins and structures throughout the park and preserve; prioritizing preservation treatments and other management alternatives; and establishing protocols for public use (e.g., possible reservation requirements, education/orientation for cabin users).
- A **boundary study** of the Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site is currently underway to recommend expansion of the site’s boundaries to update the property’s listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The study is being undertaken to incorporate site features and resources identified from recent park staff investigations that contribute to a broader understanding of Richard Proenneke’s residency and use of the site. A site plan for the entire site will also be undertaken in the future to explore options for management and visitor opportunities.
- As noted in the park’s *Museum Management Plan* (2012), preservation maintenance plans for the Proenneke cabin, Joe Thompson Cabin, the Allen Woodward Cabin (Priest Rock), and the Earl Woodward Cabin (Hardenburg Bay) have not been completed. These comprehensive plans will include condition assessments of on-site objects, cataloging and accessioning guides for cabin items, furnishing guides, and preservation maintenance and exhibit plans. They will provide site managers and cultural resource specialists with systematic guidance for addressing the use, protection, and replication of

## FUTURE STUDIES AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

After completion and approval of this GMP amendment, other more detailed studies and plans will be needed before certain actions can be implemented. Some of these actions will require additional environmental compliance, public involvement, and consultation with partner agencies and other stakeholders. Appropriate permits may also be needed for certain actions.

Implementation of these studies and plans will also depend on future funding and staffing levels. The approval of this GMP amendment does not guarantee that the funding needed for implementation would be forthcoming.

The following list includes future studies and plans that will likely be needed to implement the plan amendment.

historic furnishings and other on-site objects used in site interpretation.

- A **wilderness stewardship plan** will be developed for the park's designated and eligible wilderness, as required under section 6.3.4 of NPS *Management Policies 2006* and section 6.3 of Director's Order 41: *Wilderness Stewardship*.
- **Comprehensive river management plans** will be developed for the park's three designated wild rivers, as required under section 3(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- **Historic structure reports** may be required to guide future preservation treatments of the Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site (cabin and contributing site structures) as well as other public use cabins slated for restoration.
- A **resource stewardship strategy** will be developed to provide comprehensive, long-range direction for natural and cultural resource management activities.

## Appendix & Reference





# APPENDIX A: DESIRED CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

## DESIRED CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

This appendix contains desired conditions for resources and management goals for program areas for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. These conditions and strategies guide actions taken by NPS staff on such topics as natural and cultural resource management, visitor use management, and other management strategies. Each topic discussed below in table format has three key parts: (a) desired conditions for that topic, (b) a list of law or policy sources, and (c) broad management strategies that may be used to achieve those desired conditions.

Desired conditions articulate the ideal conditions the National Park Service is striving to attain. The term “desired conditions” is used interchangeably with goals. Desired conditions provide guidance for fulfilling the purpose of the park and for protecting its fundamental resources and values. Those desired conditions related to the park foundation statement are listed according to the fundamental resources and other important values.

The strategies describe actions that could be used by the National Park Service (and/or its partners) to achieve the desired conditions. Many of these strategies are already being implemented. Those not already being implemented are consistent with NPS policy, are not believed to be controversial, and require no analysis and documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (or analysis and documentation would be completed separately from this GMP amendment). This is not an exhaustive list of management strategies. As new ideas, technologies, and opportunities arise, they would be considered if they further support the desired conditions.

MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>This topic covers surface water and groundwater flowing in streams and rivers, floodplains and wetlands including shorelands, and submerged lands, management of the water column, water rights, and water quality. ANILCA (101 and 201) directs the National Park Service to manage all waters within the boundaries of Lake Clark. The State of Alaska has authority to manage water based on the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Alaska Statehood Act of 1958, and the Alaska State Constitution. Thus, water in the park is managed by both the State of Alaska and the National Park Service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean Water Act</li> <li>• Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (101 and 201)</li> <li>• Submerged Lands Act of 1953</li> <li>• Alaska Statehood Act of 1958</li> <li>• Rivers and Harbors Act</li> <li>• Executive Order 11514 “Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality”</li> <li>• Executive Order 12088, “Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards”</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>• NPS-77, “Natural Resource Reference Manual #77”</li> <li>• Title 16 and other state statutes that apply</li> <li>• Executive Order 11990; “Protection of Wetlands”</li> <li>• Director’s Order 77-1, <i>Wetland Protection</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Procedural Manual #77-1: Wetland Protection</i></li> <li>• Executive Order 11988 “Floodplain</li> </ul>

MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES	
	Management” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director’s Order 77-2: <i>Floodplain Management</i></li> <li>• National Flood Insurance Program (44 CFR 60)</li> </ul>
Desired Condition/Goals	
Fundamental Resources and Values	
<p><b><u>Mountain Vistas</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park protects spectacular mountain views including the heart of the Alaskan and Aleutian ranges, two active volcanoes, and hundreds of glaciers.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Watersheds</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park protects intact and unaltered alpine lakes, thousands of waterfalls, and hundreds of miles of free-flowing rivers, including three designated wild rivers, which contribute to the national wild and scenic river system.</li> <li>• Surface water and groundwater are protected. The highest state water quality classifications are maintained for all the waters within the park and for all waters flowing into the park. Park water resources meet or exceed all state water quality standards for temperature, bacteria, total dissolved solids, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, toxic substances, pH, and nutrients.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Coastal Features</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park preserves a productive coastline of critical habitats for a variety of nearshore and terrestrial wildlife.</li> </ul>	
Other Important Resources and Values	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperate with neighboring landowners to protect views of volcanoes, glaciers, and scenic mountain vistas.</li> <li>• Manage visitor activities to protect resource conditions and wilderness character.</li> <li>• Inform visitors on Leave No Trace practices and the importance of preserving the wilderness character. Encourage visitors to help maintain the natural processes while enjoying these same processes.</li> <li>• Monitor the condition of the ecosystems within the park and identify the distinct functions they perform.</li> <li>• The National Park Service will work with the State of Alaska for the management of lands under navigable water bodies. The National Park Service will oppose any action outside the boundary of the park that would impact resources inside the park boundary.</li> <li>• If management conflicts arise concerning the use of waterways the National Park Service will work with the state on a case-by-case basis to resolve individual issues. If case-by-case resolution is unacceptable then the National Park Service will pursue cooperative agreement for management uses.</li> <li>• The National Park Service will work with the State of Alaska regarding matters of water use and water rights. For waters available under the reservation doctrine, unless the United States is a proper party to stream adjudication, the National Park Service will quantify and inform the State of Alaska of its existing water uses and those future water needs necessary to carry out the purposes of the reservation. When the reservation doctrine or other federal law is not applicable, water rights will be applied for in accordance with Alaska laws and regulations.</li> <li>• Management intervention of natural river processes will not occur except in isolated instances where it’s necessary to mitigate a localized and reversible human impact such as a spill of pollutants or hazardous material.</li> <li>• Use pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals consistent with regional policy and guidance.</li> <li>• Promote water conservation and encourage concessioners, visitors, and park neighbors to do the same.</li> </ul>	
MOSAIC OF LANDFORMS AND ECOSYSTEMS	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA

<b>MOSAIC OF LANDFORMS AND ECOSYSTEMS</b>	
<p>Lake Clark National Park and Preserve contains a diverse mix of rolling foothills, rugged peaks, two active volcanoes, hundreds of glaciers, waterfalls, boreal forests, alpine lakes, wild rivers, coastline, and sweeping expanses of tundra. It is a microcosm of Alaska. The park's landforms and ecosystems continue to evolve from dynamic tectonic, volcanic, glacial, and climatic processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>• NPS-77, "Natural Resource Reference Manual #77"</li> </ul>
<b>Desired Condition/Goals</b>	
<b>Fundamental Resources and Values</b>	
<p><b><u>Glaciers and Glacial Landforms</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park preserves large areas covered with glaciers and associated glacial landforms that record the history of glacial advances and retreats.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Mountains</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park contains a vast, tectonically active landscape with glacially sculpted peaks, spires, knife-edge ridges, U-shaped valleys, and active volcanoes.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Ecosystem Diversity</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park is the only Alaska park unit containing four bio-geographic provinces: subarctic, boreal, maritime, and alpine.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Weather and Climate</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The arctic and maritime weather systems collide at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, resulting in ice fields, glaciers and complex hydrology. (See Climate Change desired condition.)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Science and Education Opportunities</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park provides a unique geologic and ecological landscape for scientific study and long-term monitoring.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Important Resources and Values</b>	
<b>Strategies</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote research on glaciers, landforms, ecosystem diversity, volcanoes, and weather to increase understanding of natural processes and their effects on NPS resources in a place with little human impact.</li> <li>• Increase understanding of the park's geologic history using the most current scientific information, technology and research techniques.</li> <li>• Monitor and survey current and historical glacial advances and retreats.</li> <li>• Study the effects of glacial advances and retreats on changes in terrestrial and aquatic systems.</li> <li>• Coordinate with the Alaska Volcano Observatory and other agencies on monitoring of active volcanoes in the park.</li> <li>• Help disseminate information in the event of a high level threat.</li> <li>• Initiate or continue long-term monitoring of unique resources and visitor use, including visitor experience and resource protection. Inform visitors on the sensitivity of unique resources inside the park.</li> <li>• The National Park Service will update interpretive and educational media on notable geologic features and the importance of geological resources to park visitors.</li> <li>• The National Park Service will allow natural geologic processes to proceed unimpeded.</li> <li>• Monitoring and research programs will assess conditions and trends in the park's landform and ecosystem processes, particularly those that are both important to park management, and subject to human influence (e.g., glaciers, groundwater chemistry, surficial deposits, stream flow, river and stream channel morphology, sediment load, slope failures, and erosion).</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to inventory geologic resources through the geological resources division, and develop surficial geology maps and a geologic report for the park.</li> <li>• Partner with the US Geological Survey and others to identify, address, and monitor ecosystem processes.</li> <li>• Monitor the effects of natural processes for the potential exposure of cultural and paleontological resources.</li> </ul>	
<b>SALMON FISHERY</b>	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>One of the purposes of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve under ANILCA is to "... protect the watershed necessary for the perpetuation of the red salmon fishery in Bristol Bay." The park contains the upper reaches of the Kvichak River system—the world’s most productive spawning and rearing habitat for red (sockeye) salmon, contributing approximately 50% of the sockeye salmon caught in Bristol Bay, 33% of the entire U.S. catch, and 16% of the total world catch. Sockeye are a keystone species in the park’s ecosystems, providing nutrients to life at all levels of the food chain. The fish are a critical subsistence species for the Dena’ina Athabascan people who have lived in the area for more than 1,000 years. In addition, this salmon fishery anchors the economy, culture, and history of Southwest Alaska.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANILCA</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>• NPS-77, "Natural Resource Reference Manual #77"</li> <li>• 1982 Master Memorandum of Understanding Between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service</li> <li>• "Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Policy: State-Federal Relationships" (43 CFR 24)</li> <li>• Lake Clark Long-Range Interpretive Plan</li> <li>• 2010 Superintendent’s Report</li> </ul>
<b>Desired Condition/Goals</b>	
<b>Fundamental Resources and Values</b>	
<p><b><u>Healthy Salmon Population</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park protects necessary habitat that contributes to a healthy and sustainable population of red salmon.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>High Degree of Water Quality</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park preserves unimpaired the water quality of its lakes, rivers, streams, and marine resources.</li> <li>• The park makes preventing pollution and protecting water quality priorities for management to protect and preserve aquatic habitats and ecosystems.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Unaltered Watersheds</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park preserves free-flowing river systems that support the red salmon fisheries of global significance.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Nutrient Cycling</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wild salmon provide a link between the ocean, freshwater, and land in supporting a complex food web that crosses the land-water interface.</li> </ul>	

Other Important Resources and Values	
<b>Strategies</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to promote greater public understanding of the importance of water quality to the park. Public support will be encouraged in protecting park watersheds, wetlands, and floodplains.</li> <li>• Minimize human impacts on the red salmon population, the ecosystems, and the process that sustain them by monitoring the distribution, run strength and timing, and condition of the salmon. Maintain the established fish migration routes and spawning areas.</li> <li>• The National Park Service will not allow introduction of nonnative species or hatchery fish, lake fertilization, or erection of artificial passageways on NPS lands and waters.</li> <li>• Create opportunities for and encourage collaboration with state and local governments, as well as tribes and Native corporations, to preserve and promote sustainable harvestable levels of salmon.</li> <li>• Work with the state, tribes, the park subsistence resource commission, and others to monitor escapement and limnological trends.</li> <li>• Update strategies for water resources management as needed to reflect changing resources and management issues.</li> <li>• Take an active role in reviewing permits for point source discharges and water use that may affect the quality and quantity of water resources within the park.</li> <li>• Work with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to ensure compliance with state standards on water quality.</li> <li>• Participate in development planning that would affect water quality in the park.</li> <li>• Priority will be given to monitoring lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains and other bodies of water of special concern or with higher levels of use.</li> <li>• Encourage visitors to use proper equipment and to minimize discharges that would affect water quality.</li> <li>• To the extent possible, discharges associated with park operations will be minimized through the use of best management practices and appropriate technology. The park staff will promote sustainable operations, use of clean fuels, and pollution prevention methods by the park, visitors, and communities. Sustainable practices and pollution prevention measures will be used in park operations.</li> </ul>	
<b>SUBARCTIC FISH AND WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND HABITATS</b>	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>The wildlife of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is representative of four major ecosystems. Notable species are included in the enabling legislation and species of management concern. Specifically, caribou, Dall sheep, brown bear, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons are included. Additionally, nonnative species are considered in this discussion. Nonnative species, also referred to as nonnative or alien species, were introduced to North America from other continents by humans in the last few centuries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANILCA</li> <li>• The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>• NPS-77, "Natural Resource Reference Manual #77"</li> <li>• 1982 Master Memorandum of Understanding Between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service</li> <li>• "Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Policy: State-Federal Relationships" (43 CFR 24)</li> <li>• Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species"</li> <li>• Alaska Region Invasive Plant Management Plan Environmental Assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Desired Condition/Goals</b>	
<b>Fundamental Resources and Values</b>	
<p><b>Wildlife</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park protects intact habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife that includes bears, ungulates, furbearers, a variety of bird assemblages, and naturally functioning predator/prey relationships.</li> </ul>	

- The park protects the southernmost range of Dall sheep.
- The natural abundance and diversity of wildlife populations is maintained, including populations that support subsistence lifestyles of federally qualified rural residents eligible to engage in subsistence activities in the park and/or preserve.
- Wilderness ecosystems and their species assemblages are allowed to adapt and evolve.

**Intact Ecological Relationships**

- Lake Clark protects salt marshes, intertidal flats, and freshwater lakes and streams critical to the movement of marine nutrients to freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.

**Migratory Habitats**

- Lake Clark provides important habitat for seasonal populations of migratory birds, waterfowl, caribou, and anadromous fish.

**Coastal Environment**

- Lake Clark protects approximately 123 miles of relatively unaltered coastline habitats that are among the most biologically productive in Cook Inlet.
- The coastal environment provides particularly important habitat for resident and migratory bird species, brown bear, and a variety of other nearshore plants and animals.

**Other Important Resources and Values**

- The park provides an opportunity for science-based studies that inform resources management.
- Research and monitoring promote the long-term viability of the park’s animal populations, including maintaining age-structures, abundance, density and distributions within normal ranges, and a full range of natural genetic variability.
- Park ecosystems are free of nonnative animal species.
- Effects of native diseases and pests are within normal range of variation, and are not worsened by human-caused factors.
- Adequate data are available to determine the presence and abundance of any nonnative species in the park and in potential infestation source areas.

**Strategies**

- Preserve shoreline areas that provide spawning, feeding, and rearing habitats for fish.
- Complete and maintain baseline inventories of wildlife in the park. Monitor the distribution and condition of selected vital sign species, such as caribou, brown bear, wolves, eagles, and moose. Habitats, population dynamics and ecosystem conditions will also be studied to establish baseline data.
- Research will focus on natural conditions of wildlife species and habitats and declines caused by anthropogenic sources, such as recreation, climate change, resource development, and consumptive use.
- If threatened and endangered species are found to occur in the park, these species and their habitats will be maintained and protected.
- Monitor human-caused factors so the normal range of effects of native diseases and pests is not worsened.
- Preserve habitat and populations of wildlife species occurring in the park.
- Recognize that preserving habitat for wildlife includes the range of unfettered ecological system responses to global change.
- Continue to cooperate with other public agencies, local communities, and private landowners to seek protection of natural wildlife populations and to mitigate negative effects that future development may have on wildlife.
- Provide information to visitors on how to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on wildlife.
- Continue to cooperate with federal, state, and university partners in the collection, interpretation, and dissemination of fish and wildlife data.
- All NPS management plans will be compatible with the purposes for which the park was established.
- Avoid wildlife manipulation. Wildlife habitat in the wilderness varies naturally based on complex interactions between recent physical (e.g., precipitation, temperature) and biological (e.g., insect outbreaks, plant disease) factors.
- Cooperate with other state and federal agencies to ensure migratory routes of fish and wildlife populations are intact

<p>and maintained in a natural state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with other state and federal agencies, local communities, and private landowners, NPS staff will, as feasible, inventory and monitor for the presence of nonnative plants on park lands. If nonnative species are found, their distribution and condition will be monitored.</li> <li>• Manage nonnative plant species in accordance with the Alaska Region Invasive Plant Management Plan.</li> <li>• Focus management and eradication of any nonnative plant species on those that are considered highly invasive.</li> </ul>	
WILDERNESS	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>These desired conditions cover designated and eligible wilderness in the park (i.e., wilderness designated by Congress through law, and areas that have met the NPS initial screening assessment as to whether they meet the minimum criteria for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilderness Act of 1964</li> <li>• ANILCA</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 41: <i>Wilderness Preservation and Management</i></li> </ul>
Desired Condition/Goals	
Fundamental Resources & Values	
<p><b>Wilderness Character</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park maintains wilderness that is substantially free of the footprint of modern civilization, and with seemingly untouched ecosystems functioning in a natural state.</li> <li>• Wilderness ecosystems and their species assemblages are allowed to evolve and adapt to changes as they will.</li> <li>• Lake Clark wilderness provides a setting where visitors can leave behind societal constraints in search of solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, challenge, discovery, and renewal.</li> <li>• Visitors will rarely find any sign of contemporary human civilization, such as mechanized equipment, signs, unnatural noise (aside from airplane noise), artificial light, and other modern artifacts.</li> </ul>	
Other Important Resources and Values	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Lake Clark wilderness encompasses precontact sites and cultural artifacts and the park continues to honor the cultural resources as integral to our contemporary idea of wilderness.</li> </ul>	

Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of wilderness will continue to follow a minimum requirements analysis (MRA) where required, including all scientific studies that occur within the wilderness boundary. Research in the wilderness will be encouraged when consistent with the NPS’s responsibilities to preserve and manage wilderness.</li> <li>• The park will have a process in place for evaluating proposals for scientific activities that occur in wilderness.</li> <li>• The park will have a process in place for evaluating whether commercial services in wilderness meet the necessary and appropriate criteria.</li> <li>• Current wilderness boundaries will be mapped and current acreage calculated.</li> <li>• Map installations and administrative facilities.</li> <li>• Monitor trends in wilderness character and report trends at least every five years to regional and Washington offices.</li> <li>• Avoid and prevent intervention in natural processes or manipulation of resources in wilderness.</li> <li>• Monitor visitor use activities as needed and take appropriate actions to address degradation to wilderness resources.</li> <li>• Encourage self-reliant travel through the wilderness. Emphasize Leave No Trace practices in education and interpretation programs.</li> <li>• Protect cultural resources, cultural landscapes, archeological sites and other evidence of human use using methods consistent with preserving wilderness character.</li> <li>• Coordinate park operations to manage and protect natural and cultural resources in wilderness and preserve wilderness character.</li> </ul>	
WILD RIVERS	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>These desired conditions and strategies apply to the three designated wild rivers in the park: the Chilikadrotna, Mulchatna, and the Tlikakila rivers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 USC 1276(d)(1))</li> <li>• ANILCA (section 601)</li> <li>• Director’s Order 46A: <i>Wild and Scenic Rivers within the National Park System</i></li> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006</li> </ul>
Desired Condition/Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park’s three wild rivers offer unparalleled scenic and recreational opportunities.</li> <li>• The park’s free-flowing wild rivers support habitat, which sustains natural populations of fish and wildlife.</li> <li>• The National Park Service manages and protects the park’s wild rivers for their outstandingly remarkable values.</li> <li>• The rivers’ free-flowing condition and natural and cultural values are safeguarded.</li> </ul>	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor use on these rivers and if impacts are evident, develop more detailed management plans.</li> <li>• Section 7(a) determinations under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will be prepared on any proposed activities affecting the bed or banks of the wild and scenic rivers.</li> </ul>	
VEGETATION	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>Four out of five Alaskan biotic communities are found in the park and preserve—tundra, boreal forest, coastal, and rivers/wetlands. Additionally, nonnative species are not considered in this discussion (see subarctic fish, wildlife populations, and habitat topics for a description of nonnative species).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006</li> <li>• NPS-77, “Natural Resource Reference Manual #77”</li> <li>• The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended</li> </ul>

Desired Condition/Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park provides naturally evolving examples of plant communities, encompassing flowering plants, ferns, mosses, lichens, algae, fungi, bacteria, etc.</li> <li>• The natural diversity, dynamics, and ecological integrity of the native plant mosaic are maintained throughout natural disturbance regimes, such as insect and disease outbreaks, fire, and wind events, as components of intact ecosystems.</li> <li>• The full range of genetic types (genotypes) of native plant populations is protected by perpetuating natural evolutionary processes and minimizing human interference with evolving genetic diversity.</li> <li>• The park staff promotes long-term viability of native plant communities, including maintaining age-structures, abundance, density and distributions within normal ranges, and a full range of natural genetic variability.</li> </ul>	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term monitoring of vegetation plots in different vegetation communities will evaluate trends in succession and shifts in system types.</li> <li>• Periodically update vegetation landcover maps to reflect current conditions within the park.</li> <li>• The effects of activities in the park, including hiking, camping, snow machines, and subsistence harvests, may be monitored for their effects on park vegetation.</li> <li>• Develop and implement visitor education programs to avoid introduction of nonnative species.</li> <li>• The National Park Service will manage exclusively for native species. Native species with local provenance will be used in all revegetation programs.</li> <li>• Implement park management actions in a manner that minimizes the potential for introduction of nonnative species.</li> <li>• Develop a vegetation management plan prior to re-establishment of any extirpated plant species.</li> <li>• Work in cooperation with agencies, local communities, and other adjacent landowners on nonnative species control.</li> </ul>	
FIRE MANAGEMENT	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>Fire management consists of a program of activities designed to meet management objectives for protection of resource values, life, and property and, where appropriate, for using naturally ignited and human-ignited wildland fires as management tools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>• DO-18 and RM-18 <i>Wildland Fire Management</i></li> <li>• DM 620, Chapter 2 1998</li> <li>• Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan 1998</li> <li>• Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management Agreement, 2010.</li> <li>• ANCSA</li> </ul>

**Desired Condition/Goals**

- Wildfire is recognized as a natural process. Wildfires continue to occur in the park with minimal amount of suppression action. Natural fire regimes are maintained.
- Fires are suppressed only if they pose a threat to human lives or private property, or if they will enter another suppression zone. Fire suppression is conducted according to guidance provided by the interagency fire management plan, the Lake Clark Fire Management Plan, and agency administrator.
- All wildland fires are effectively managed, considering resource values to be protected and firefighter and public safety, using the full range of strategic and tactical operations as described in the approved fire management plan.
- Park fire management programs are designed specifically to meet park resource management objectives—including allowing fire to perform its natural role as much as practicable—and ensure that firefighter and public safety are not compromised.
- The best available technology and scientific information are used to manage fire within the park, to conduct routine monitoring to determine if objectives are met, and to evaluate and improve the fire management program.
- Fire processes in fire dependent/adapted vegetation communities are managed to promote healthy, functional ecosystems. Vegetation succession reflects the natural range of variability.

**Strategies**

- Maintain a current fire management plan to reflect the most recent wildland fire policy, planning, and the body of knowledge on fire effect within the park’s ecosystems.
- Maintain cooperative agreements for fire suppression with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies and organizations.
- Manage wildland fire incidents in accordance with accepted interagency standards and the achievement of maximum efficiency through interagency coordination and cooperation.
- All wildfires in the park will be monitored, according to the minimum required monitoring levels in RM-18 or higher levels as determine by the fire management officer and agency administrator.
- Hazard fuel reduction efforts may be conducted to protect structures and cultural resources where appropriate and necessary.
- Prescribed fires may be conducted in cooperation with landowners and the Alaska Fire Service to protect values at risk. Prescribed fires may be pile burning debris from manual treatment or larger scale broadcast burns (Any prescribed fire larger than 4,000 acres requires additional NEPA analysis.)
- During natural or prescribed ignitions, fire management operations will be specifically designed to protect and/or enhance cultural resource integrity, scientific research potential, and interpretive value.
- Fire management staff will collaborate with appropriate resource management staff to seek information and technical expertise for the purpose of identifying cultural resource preservation and protection needs.
- Communicate and inform visitors and the public on the role of fire, its importance in Alaska, the inevitability of smoke impacts in the short term, and the long-term ecosystem benefits.
- Allow for research and monitoring of naturally occurring fire, including plant and animal communities that are potentially affected by fire. Results will help NPS staff manage the wild and undeveloped character of the area, including plant and animal communities that are fire-adapted or fire-dependent. Long-term monitoring of burn severity, successional pathways and active layer consumption are key to interpreting climate change effects on wildland fire in Lake Clark.

SOUNDSCAPES	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>Natural sound is both a resource in its own right as well as an important aspect of park wilderness resource values. Soundscapes include both natural and human components. Natural soundscapes include all naturally occurring sounds (in the absence of human-caused sound) such as waves on the shoreline, running water, bird calls, wind blowing through trees, or thunder.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 47: "Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management"</li> <li>• Federal Aviation Regulation</li> <li>• 36 CFR 2.12</li> </ul>
Desired Condition/Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Park Service preserves and restores the soundscape to the natural condition wherever possible and protects the natural soundscape from unacceptable impacts.</li> <li>• Noise from management or recreational uses is minimized to provide a high-quality visitor experience and protect biological resources and processes that involve natural sounds (e.g., species that use sound to attract mates, protect territories, locate prey, navigate, or avoid predators).</li> <li>• Noise-generating activities that could adversely affect park wildlife populations are prevented or minimized to the greatest extent possible. Ecological interactions that depend on or are affected by sound are protected.</li> </ul>	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park staff may monitor soundscape for trends in specific anthropogenic sources and potential impacts to the natural soundscape.</li> <li>• The National Park Service, as feasible, will inventory and monitor key locations for maintaining natural acoustic conditions.</li> <li>• Consider and use best technologies and methods to minimize noise when procuring or using equipment.</li> <li>• Work with partners to mitigate and encourage noise reduction.</li> <li>• Encourage visitors to avoid making unnecessary noise.</li> <li>• Provide interpretive programs and materials to help visitors understand the role of natural sounds and the value of natural quiet.</li> </ul>	

AIR QUALITY	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>The park and preserve is classified as a Class II airshed under provisions of the Clean Air Act amendments (42 USC 7401 et seq.). This air quality classification is the second most stringent and is designed to protect the majority of the country from air quality degradation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean Air Act</li> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>NPS-77, "Natural Resource Reference Manual #77"</li> <li>Wilderness Act</li> </ul>
Desired Condition/Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Park Service strives to achieve the highest attainable air quality levels and visibility standards, consistent with both the EPA and the NPS Air Resources Division.</li> <li>Scenic views of the landscape are protected from visibility degradation for the enjoyment of current and future visitors.</li> <li>The National Park Service will work toward stabilizing or improving visibility, ozone and atmospheric deposition. The park staff will help visitors understand that some natural processes such as fire can have a negative impact on air quality.</li> <li>Visitors will understand what affects air quality and how they contribute to it.</li> </ul>	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Park Service, through the Air Resources Division, will monitor air quality to establish current conditions and to assess long-term trends of air pollutants, using resultant data to ensure desired conditions are met.</li> <li>Seek to participate in regional plans for development that might affect the air quality of the park and preserve, and in the review of the effects of wildfire smoke on regional air quality.</li> <li>To the extent possible, minimize emissions associated with park operations and visitor use through timing and the use of feasible and affordable best management practices and appropriate equipment. Use sustainable practices and pollution prevention measures in park operations. Promote the use of clean fuels for use by the park, visitors, and communities. Use best available practices and technologies to provide healthful indoor air quality.</li> <li>Continue to educate and promote greater public understanding of the importance of air quality to the park. Provide information regarding air quality and related values, including threats of air pollution to park resources, to park visitors and regional residents.</li> <li>Review permit applications for new air pollution sources that could affect the park.</li> </ul>	
Night Skies	
Description	Policy/Law/ANILCA
<p>The naturally dark sky exists in the absence of human-caused light. It is a resource in its own right and an important aspect of Lake Clark's wilderness resource values. Lightscapes are significant to natural resources, cultural resources, and visitor experience of the national park. Lightscapes include natural physical processes that affect a broad range of species and ecosystems function as well as nighttime scenery, which is integral to visitor experience and cultural resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>Green Parks Plan, 2012</li> </ul>
Desired Conditions/ Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Park Service preserves, protects, and restores naturally dark night skies and a natural photic environment.</li> <li>Light-generating activities that could adversely affect park wildlife and the photic environment are prevented or minimized to the greatest extent possible.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of artificial light is minimized in order to provide a high quality visitor experience, protect biological resources and protect naturally dark skies.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Strategies</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrict the use of artificial lighting in the park to those areas where it is deemed warranted.</li> <li>When artificial lighting is warranted, minimal impact lighting techniques will be used.</li> <li>The National Park Service will inventory and monitor sky quality.</li> <li>Work with partners to reduce and mitigate impacts of artificial light.</li> <li>Encourage visitors to avoid generating unnecessary artificial light.</li> </ul>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b></p>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Policy/Laws/ANILCA</b>
<p>Paleontological resources include fossilized remains of vertebrate and invertebrate organisms, fossil tracks and trackways, and plant fossils. At Lake Clark, these resources include small fossils of invertebrates, shells, and corals, as well as a few plants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS Organic Act</li> <li>Preservation of American Antiquities, 43 CFR 3.</li> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>NPS-77, "Natural Resource Reference Manual #77"</li> <li>Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009</li> </ul>
<p><b>Desired Condition/Goals</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Park Service has a comprehensive understanding of paleontological resources in the park.</li> <li>The park staff will work to ensure paleontological resources are protected and preserved.</li> <li>Opportunities are provided for public education, interpretation, and scientific research regarding the park's paleontological resources consistent with applicable statutes, regulations and management policies.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Strategies</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to inventory and monitor for newly exposed fossils. Catalog and assess identified paleontological resources to determine their extent and scientific significance, and to ensure that these nonrenewable resources are not lost.</li> <li>The National Park Service may issue permits to qualified researchers for collecting paleontological resources.</li> <li>The National Park Service will encourage scientific research and inventory of paleontological resources.</li> <li>The National Park Service will inform the public about the value of paleontological resources and the statutes, regulations, and management policies that apply to their protection.</li> <li>Research involving disturbance or collections of these resources will require a permit, in accordance with regulations concerning the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA) of 2009. NPS staff will take appropriate action to prevent damage to and unauthorized collection of paleontological resources.</li> <li>Develop interpretive and educational programs to inform visitors and the public about paleontology. Fossils will be prepared, exhibited, and stored according to NPS museum standards.</li> </ul>	

<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>A primary responsibility of the National Park Service is to identify, protect and share the cultural resources under its jurisdiction through research, planning and stewardship. The National Park Service categorizes cultural resources as archeological resources, historic and precontact structures, ethnographic resources, cultural landscapes, and museum collections.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended</li> <li>• American Indian Religious Freedom Act</li> <li>• Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>• Directors Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management Guideline</i></li> <li>• 36 CFR 60</li> <li>• Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s implementing regulations regarding the “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800)</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Structures</b>	<b>Policies/Laws — Historic Structures</b>
<p>The National Historic Preservation Act directs that federal agencies inventory and evaluate the eligibility of historic structures for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and, through formal consultation, assess the effects of possible federal actions on these properties. NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.4) calls for the treatment of historic (and precontact) structures to be based on sound preservation practice and in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards to enable the long-term preservation of a structure’s historic features, material, and qualities.</p> <p>Lake Clark National Park and Preserve’s historic structures include cabins, caches, outbuildings, a restored fishing boat, and structural ruins. There are no recorded precontact structures in the park with above-ground structural remains. Historic structures listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places include the restored Dena’ina Fish Cache, Double Ender Boat, Richard L. Proenneke Historic Cabin Site, Snipe Lake Cabin, Joe Thompson Cabin, the Allen Woodward Cabin site at Priest Rock Creek, the Elmer Bly House, and the Earl Woodward Cabin on Hardenberg Bay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiquities Act of 1906</li> <li>• Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended</li> <li>• Archaeological Resources Protection Act</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”</li> <li>• <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (2008)</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1)</li> <li>• Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management Guideline</i></li> <li>• <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i></li> </ul>

**Desired Conditions (Historic Structures)**

- Structures listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are managed to ensure their long-term preservation and protection, unless it is determined through formal section 106 consultation that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable.
- The qualities that contribute to the listing or eligibility for listing of historic structures in the national register are protected in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*, and section 5.3.5.4 of *NPS Management Policies 2006*.

**Strategies (Historic Structures)**

- Historic structures identified by survey investigations will be inventoried and their significance and integrity evaluated under National Register of Historic Places criteria. Structures will be treated as national register-eligible pending formal determinations.
- Historic structures will be routinely monitored to provide condition assessments and recommendations to guide and enable the long-term preservation of historic / architectural features, qualities, and materials.
- Appropriate preservation treatments for historic structures (e.g., preservation maintenance, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration) will be carried out in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. For properties lacking specific preservation plans, preservation actions would follow the Secretary's Standards and NPS policy and guidelines.
- Historic structures will be managed in accordance with recommendations provided in historic structure reports and assessments, and existing reports will be amended as needed. Actions identified in historic structure reports will be prioritized and implemented, and records of treatment will be added to the reports.
- Selected historic structures will be adaptively managed for visitor use to assist preservation objectives.
- Furnishing plans will be completed for the Richard L. Proenneke Cabin, the Allen Woodward (Priest Rock) Cabin, the Earl Woodward (Hardenburg Bay) Cabin, and the Joe Thompson Cabin.
- Design guidelines and/or historic structure / cultural landscape reports will be prepared for all developed areas including the Port Alsworth headquarters area and Tanalian Point to guide the preservation of architectural and cultural landscape features. Design review oversight will be conducted to help ensure the compatibility of new planning, design, and construction with historical and culturally important settings.
- The management of historic structures and associated cultural landscapes will adhere to all relevant cultural resource protection and preservation policies and directives, including the minimum requirement concepts for preservation activities conducted in wilderness areas.
- Actions potentially affecting the qualities contributing to the national register eligibility of historic structures will be carried out in accordance with section 106 consultation and compliance requirements.
- Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation will be completed for the Proenneke site, and the national register site boundary amended to include additional contributing features (e.g., stone levees).
- An up-to-date and comprehensive management plan for the Proenneke site will be completed.
- PMIS statements for implementation of comprehensive and long-range cultural cyclic maintenance plans for the restored and rehabilitated historic structures will be developed.

**Museum Collections**

**Policies/Laws — Museum Collections**

*NPS Management Policies 2006* (section 5.3.5.5) states that the National Park Service “. . . will collect, protect, preserve, provide access to, and use objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collection . . . in the disciplines of archeology, ethnography, history, biology, geology, and paleontology to aid understanding among park visitors and to advance knowledge in the humanities and sciences.”

The park museum collection serves as a repository for artifacts, natural history specimens, oral histories, movies, images, ethnographic objects, and associated records resulting from park administration, community partnerships, systematic baseline investigations and other research studies. The museum collection supports interpretive and educational exhibits and

- The Antiquities Act of 1906
- Historic Sites Act of 1935
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Native American Graves and Repatriation Act
- Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”
- *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*

<p>programs, and informs management and other resource stewardship decisions.</p> <p>The interdisciplinary museum holdings exceed 220,000 items and the collections are actively used by park and regional staff for research and interpretation, as well as by outside researchers and the interested public. The primary storage facility for the Lake Clark collections is the multipark Alaska Regional Curatorial Center at the Alaska Regional Office in Anchorage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (2008)</li> <li>• <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.3)</li> <li>• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collection Management</i> and Handbook</li> <li>• 40 USC 483 [b], Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended</li> <li>• 36 CFR 79, "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections"</li> </ul>
<p><b>Desired Conditions (Museum Collections)</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All museum collections and archives and their component artifacts, objects, specimens, documents, photographs, maps, plans, and manuscripts, are properly inventoried, accessioned, cataloged, curated, documented, protected, and preserved. Appropriate provision is made for the access of the collections by NPS staff and other researchers and for their use in scientific and historical research, exhibits, and interpretation. The qualities that contribute to the significance of collections are protected and preserved in accordance with established NPS museum curatorial and storage standards.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Strategies (Museum Collections)</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an official dedicated space at the field headquarters, with controlled access and adequate environmental protection for temporarily storing items requiring suitability assessments prior to incorporation into the primary museum facility.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a policy to transfer resource management, planning, and other permanent records to the park museum collection archives in accordance with the NPS records schedule. A systematic records and archives program is required to preserve the administrative history of the park, document management actions, and provide access to archived information resources.</li> <li>• Ensure research and development projects account for and include plans to properly curate collected objects and specimens.</li> <li>• The park's approved archival processing plan will be followed to ensure proper archival management of collection items.</li> <li>• Records management advisory and collections advisory committees will be established in accordance with the guidelines found in Director's Order 11D: <i>Records and Electronic Information Management</i> and the Museum Handbook.</li> <li>• An interdisciplinary preservation, maintenance, and education plan for the Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site will be developed to coordinate long-term protection and preservation of site features and objects.</li> <li>• Provide appropriate research access and interpretation of collection items to scientists, educators, and others. Showcase collections on the park's website using high-definition artifact and specimen photos or other means. Work with park staff to use collections in a variety of website features (e.g., programs documenting place names using audio and visual techniques, archeofauna and climate change, historic photos, and landscape change).</li> <li>• Develop museum exhibits and interpret the collection to associated communities in coordination with park interpretive and resource staff and cooperating partners.</li> <li>• Collections facilities will be upgraded, improved, and expanded as appropriate.</li> </ul>	

Archeological Resources	Policies/Laws – Archeological Resources
<p>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1) requires the National Park Service to manage archeological resources in situ unless physical disturbance is justified and mitigated by data recovery or other means in consultation with the state and/or tribal historic preservation officer.</p> <p>Lake Clark National Park and Preserve contains hundreds of archeological sites documenting over 10,000 years of human history. The park’s precontact archeological resources include hunting camps, village sites, and resource use areas. The Kijik National Historic Landmark Archeological District includes an old village site, a Russian Orthodox cemetery, and more than a dozen other archeological sites associated with the inland Dena’ina Athabascan people. The park’s historic archeological resources include artifacts and material remains typically associated with 19th century and early 20th century trapping, hunting, and prospecting activities (e.g., the 1906 Kasna Creek mining district).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Antiquities Act of 1906</li> <li>• Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended</li> <li>• Archeological Resources Protection Act</li> <li>• Abandoned Shipwreck Act (1987)</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”</li> <li>• <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (2008)</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1)</li> <li>• Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director’s Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i></li> <li>• 36 CFR Part 79</li> </ul>
<p><b>Desired Conditions (Archeological Resources)</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archeological sites are protected in an undisturbed condition unless it is determined through formal processes that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable. Historic and precontact archeological sites are identified and inventoried, and their significance is determined and documented. Archeological investigations may also be authorized on a case-by-case basis to support research and cultural resource management objectives.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Strategies (Archeological Resources)</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat all archeological resources as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places pending formal determinations of eligibility.</li> <li>• Archeological resources threatened by project development activities, erosion and other environmental factors, and visitor use impacts are avoided to the extent possible by project redesign, trail rerouting, or other avoidance measures. Other preservation strategies such as data recovery are implemented if avoidance cannot be achieved.</li> <li>• Archeological site baseline data is established, and site conditions are monitored to record changes in resource conditions.</li> <li>• When disturbance or deterioration of a national register-eligible site is unavoidable, the site is professionally excavated and documented, and the resulting artifacts, materials, and records are curated and conserved in consultation with the Alaska state historic preservation office, traditionally associated tribes and other concerned parties.</li> <li>• Field data and geo-archeological data will be gathered to develop an accurate predictive model of precontact and historic site distribution and to address related research questions.</li> <li>• Monitor and conduct annual or biannual condition assessments at the Tuxedni Bay and Clam Cove pictograph sites</li> </ul>	

- and the Telaquana ice-patch sites. Monitor and conduct biannual condition assessments at threatened coastal sites in Chinitna Bay and monitor other sites as needed on a case-by-case basis.
- Educate visitors on regulations governing protection and conservation of archeological resources. Archeological sites that can be adequately protected may be interpreted to park visitors.
  - Document, track, and prosecute violations of cultural resource protection laws.
  - Maintain and update archeological site data in the Archeological Sites Management Information System and the cultural resources GIS database.
  - Determine significance of XLC-234, the oldest documented site on the Lake Clark coast, which will be conveyed to the Cook Inlet Regional Corporation (CIRI).
  - Consult with affiliated tribes and the CIRI about preservation of the Clam Cove pictograph site, the lower Telaquana Trail, and the Kijik Archeological District NHL (valid ANCSA 14(h)(1) selections eventually to be conveyed and removed from NPS protection).
  - Integrate archeological resources into climate change vulnerability assessments to identify resources at risk and propose protection strategies.

Ethnographic Resources	Policies/Laws – Ethnographic Resources
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<p>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.3) calls for gathering ethnographic information through anthropological and collaborative community research that recognizes the sensitive nature of such cultural data and documents the meanings that traditionally associated groups assign to traditional natural and cultural resources and the landscapes they form.</p> <p>Ethnographic resources typically hold significance for traditionally associated groups whose sense of purpose, existence as a community, and identity as an ethnically distinctive people are closely linked to particular resources and places. Over 2,000 Dena’ina place names have been documented in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve indicating (along with archeological evidence) that the park and preserve are part of ancestral homelands of the Interior and Coastal Dena’ina. The Kijik Archeological District National Historic Landmark encompasses an area of particular cultural significance to the Dena’ina of Nondalton. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Park Service preserves, conserves, and encourages the continuation of the diverse traditional precontact, historic, ethnic, and folk cultural traditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Antiquities Act of 1906</li> <li>• American Indian Religious Freedom Act</li> <li>• Native American Graves and Repatriation Act</li> <li>• Executive Order 13007, “Indian Sacred Sites”</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.3)</li> <li>• Archeological Resources Protection Act</li> <li>• Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (2008)</li> <li>• Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> </ul>
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Desired Condition (Ethnographic Resources)
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- All park ethnographic resources of cultural importance to traditionally associated peoples are protected.
- To the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions, the National Park Service accommodates traditional access to culturally important places, including ceremonial use of sacred sites (such as the historic Kijik cemetery and church site) and assists affiliated tribes in avoiding adverse effects to these places and sites.
- Potentially sensitive natural and cultural resources and traditional cultural properties (ethnographic resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places) are identified, recorded, and evaluated through consultation with associated tribes. The integrity of traditional cultural properties is preserved and protected.

<b>Strategies (Ethnographic Resources)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to maintain cooperative relationships and consult on a government-to-government basis with each of the tribes traditionally associated with the park. The park staff will consult with tribal governments before taking actions that could potentially affect tribal interests.</li> <li>• In fulfillment of NAGPRA requirements, Alaskan Natives and other individuals and groups linked by ties of kinship or culture to ethnically identifiable human remains, sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony, and associated funerary objects will be consulted when such items may be disturbed or are encountered on park lands.</li> <li>• Continue to support and expand efforts to survey, identify, and document ethnographic resources (including traditional practices, beliefs, and languages) in cooperation with government, native, tribal, and other organizations and stakeholders.</li> <li>• Collaborate with affiliated tribes to share or interpret cultural information, materials, and demonstrations to the visiting public.</li> <li>• Treat all ethnographic resources as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places pending a formal determination of eligibility.</li> <li>• All ethnographic resources determined eligible for listing or listed in the national register will be protected. In accordance with section 106 requirements, the park staff will consult with the state historic preservation officer, affiliated tribes, other concerned parties and, as necessary, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding potential project effects on traditional cultural properties.</li> <li>• The identities of community consultants and information about sacred and other culturally sensitive places and practices will be kept confidential according to protocols established in consultation with the affected tribal governments.</li> <li>• Continue to develop the Lake Clark village liaison program and recruit partners from affiliated tribes.</li> <li>• Continue to work with tribes and communities to record and document traditional knowledge, practices, and values and provide training opportunities at traditional subsistence camps in the park as appropriate.</li> <li>• Continue to work with the Nondalton Village Council to protect the Chulitna River watershed and Sixmile Lake by cooperating to complete an Integrated Resources Management Plan and an Ethnographic Landscape Inventory. Continue to work with the Nondalton Village Council and the Kijik Corporation to protect the historic Kijik village, church, and cemetery site and the Kijik Archeological District National Historic Landmark.</li> <li>• Maintain and update the Dena'ina Place Names database according to NPS data management standards.</li> <li>• NPS staff will continue to work collaboratively with the tribes and communities when conducting research related to the resources they value.</li> <li>• Incorporate traditional knowledge in assessing climate change effects on cultural resources and developing adaptation strategies.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cultural Landscapes</b>	<b>Policy/Laws – Cultural Landscapes</b>
<p>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.2) requires the preservation of the physical attributes, biotic systems, and uses of cultural landscapes that contribute to historical significance. The treatment of cultural landscapes will consider both the natural and built characteristics and features of a landscape, the dynamics inherent in natural processes and continued use, and the concerns of traditionally associated peoples.</p> <p>Cultural landscapes reflect human adaptation and use of natural resources, and are often expressed in the way land is organized and divided, patterns of settlement, land use, systems of circulation, and the types of structures that are built. The character of cultural landscapes is defined both by physical materials, such as roads, buildings, vegetation, and by use reflecting cultural values and traditions (NPS Director's Order 28, pg.87). The Kijik Archeological District National Historic Landmark has been evaluated as a cultural landscape as well as national register-listed Telaquana Trail. The entire park and preserve is also an ethnographic landscape, encompassing a significant part of the ancestral Coastal and Interior Dena'ina homelands. The park's inventoried cultural landscapes are often subsets of the larger ethnographic landscape and tier off of national register-listed properties. The Chulitna ethnographic landscape inventory is underway.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Antiquities Act of 1906</li> <li>• Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act as amended</li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i></li> <li>• Archeological Resources Protection Act</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory</li> </ul>

	<p>Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (2008)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1)</li> <li>• 36 CFR Part 79</li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> </ul>
<b>Desired Condition (Cultural Landscapes)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Character-defining features and attributes contributing to the national register significance of cultural landscapes are appropriately preserved. Surveys and inventories are conducted to identify landscapes potentially eligible for listing in the national register and to assist management decisions regarding the treatment of associated natural and cultural resources.</li> </ul>	
<b>Strategies (Cultural Landscapes)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural landscape inventories will be undertaken to identify and document the historical and cultural significance of cultural landscapes and their character-defining features.</li> <li>• Monitor, inspect and manage identified and evaluated cultural landscapes to enable the long-term preservation of historic / cultural features, qualities, and materials.</li> <li>• Complete cultural landscape reports for inventoried cultural landscapes and implement recommended actions. Treatment records documenting the actions undertaken will be added to the reports.</li> <li>• Appropriate cultural landscape treatments (e.g., preservation, rehabilitation, restoration) will be undertaken in accordance with the <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i>.</li> <li>• Treat all cultural landscapes as eligible for listing in the national register-eligible until formal determinations are made.</li> <li>• Comply with all cultural resource protection and preservation policies and directives to manage cultural landscapes and associated viewsheds, including the minimal requirements protocols for actions in wilderness areas.</li> <li>• Complete cultural landscape inventories for the Richard L. Proenneke Historic Site and the recently acquired Jim Kennedy-Rasmuson Historic Site.</li> <li>• Develop design guidelines and/or cultural landscape reports for all historic developed areas to ensure that character-defining features are preserved. Guidelines would include provisions for design review oversight to ensure the compatibility of new planning, design, and construction.</li> <li>• Complete the ethnographic landscape inventory for the Chulitna River watershed and formally determine its national register eligibility.</li> </ul>	
<b>SUBSISTENCE</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Policy/Laws/ANILCA</b>
<p>Subsistence Use "means the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation for the making and selling of handcraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade" (ANILCA section 803). Subsistence use management is primarily addressed in 36 CFR Part 13 Subpart B and the "Lake Clark</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANILCA 203</li> <li>• ANILCA Title VIII</li> <li>• Migratory Bird Treaty Act</li> <li>• 36 CFR 13.4</li> <li>• "Subsistence. Alaska Strategic Plan 2009 to 2014"</li> <li>• Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Subsistence Management Plan</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> </ul>

SUBSISTENCE	
<p>National Park and Preserve Subsistence Management Plan.” The Lake Clark General Management Plan will not affect ANILCA Title VIII mandates for providing continued subsistence opportunity for federally qualified local rural residents or the priority of subsistence uses over the taking of fish and wildlife for other purposes whenever restrictions are necessary. Resident zone communities are communities where significant concentrations of qualified local residents have been identified who have customarily and traditionally engaged in subsistence uses of the park. These communities include Iliamna, Lime Village, Newhalen, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, and Port Alsworth. Individuals who live inside park boundaries but not in a named resident zone community and residents with 13.440 permits issued by the superintendent are also eligible to engage in subsistence uses of the park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 512 DM 2</li> <li>• Director’s Order 75A: <i>Civic Engagement and Public Involvement</i></li> <li>• ANILCA 1301 (b)(8)</li> <li>• Executive Order 13007</li> <li>• Executive Order 13175</li> <li>• Memorandum of understanding among tribes, resident zone communities, Alaska State Troopers, state and local government agencies, and others.</li> </ul>
Desired Condition/Goals	
Fundamental Resources and Values	
<p><b><u>Subsistence Resources</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park’s renewable resources, such as fish, wildlife, and plants, are an integral part of a traditional subsistence way of life.</li> <li>• Continued consumptive uses of fish and wildlife populations and the collection of firewood, edible plants, and other materials within the park do not disrupt the “natural balance.”</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Local and Traditional Knowledge</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Park Service collects and documents local and traditional knowledge of the ecology, plants, fish, and wildlife; this knowledge assists in the management of the park’s resources and landscapes.</li> <li>• Local rural residents who have personal knowledge of the park’s resources, local conditions, and subsistence requirements have a meaningful role in subsistence management through the Lake Clark Subsistence Resource Commission, Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, and the Federal Subsistence Board.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Preference for Subsistence Uses</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsistence is afforded priority over all consumptive uses. Local subsistence users are also ensured reasonable access to subsistence resources.</li> <li>• Consistent with sound management principles and the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife, the use of park lands causes the least adverse impact possible on rural residents who rely on subsistence use of resources.</li> </ul>	
Other Important Resources and Values	
<p><b><u>Park Resident Zone and Tribes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Park Service continues to maintain good relationships with neighboring tribes, communities, and park residents and fosters a sense of trust, goodwill, and mutual purpose. Local residents feel they have an important stake in the park and NPS staff feel they have a connection to the local communities and residents.</li> <li>• NPS managers and key staff members are familiar with local issues and concerns and actively engage residents to address problems and topics of shared interest.</li> <li>• The National Park Service works with these communities to achieve cooperative conservation between boundaries as well as cooperative planning efforts.</li> <li>• The National Park Service works to maintain relationships with resident zone communities considered gateway communities to the park unit. Park staff helps to minimize user conflicts that may arise in areas of the park and preserve frequently used for subsistence by resident zone community members and other qualified users.</li> <li>• Park visitors understand and respect the unique connection local tribes and communities have with Lake Clark.</li> </ul>	

## SUBSISTENCE

- Park visitors have an understanding and appreciation of subsistence use and its significance for local tribes and local rural residents.

### Strategies

- The Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) will continue to meet biannually to discuss issues of subsistence management on parklands, provide subsistence management plan recommendations to the Secretary of Interior pursuant to section 808 of ANILCA, and provide input to the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council and the Federal Subsistence Board on regulatory proposals and issues affecting the Federal Subsistence Program.
- Collaborate with tribes and community members on issues such as traditional use, access, and the protection and interpretation of natural and cultural resources. Develop interpretive and educational programs highlighting subsistence and living cultures in the park and promote understanding of subsistence issues.
- Work closely and collaboratively with local subsistence users on issues concerning subsistence management and continue to consult and rely on the Subsistence Resource Commission for recommendations and suggestions for changing Federal Subsistence Program regulations; input on critical issues affecting subsistence resources and uses, and hunting plan recommendations.
- Neither habitat manipulation nor the reduction of one species to increase the abundance of another will be undertaken for the purpose of maintaining subsistence uses within the park and preserve.
- Pursuant to section 811 of ANILCA, subsistence use of snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed will be allowed subject to reasonable regulation.
- If any of the commission's hunting plan recommendations are accepted by the Secretary of the Interior and found to be in conflict with components of the general management plan, or other park planning documents, these planning documents will be amended or revised to incorporate the commission's recommendations.
- Permits may be issued for the temporary use, occupancy, construction, or maintenance of new or existing cabins and other structures, provided that such use is reasonably necessary to accommodate subsistence. Each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Air taxi operators and others operating fixed-wing aircraft will be requested to avoid flying below a specified altitude and disturbing local residents engaged in hunting, fishing, and other subsistence activities. NPS staff will similarly adhere to these standards and will not allow unnecessary or disruptive helicopter use.
- Address conflicts among subsistence users and nonconsumptive users, such as hikers and boaters, on a case-by-case basis.
- Closures of areas to subsistence use will occur only if necessary for reasons of public safety, administration, or to ensure the continued viability of fish or wildlife populations.
- Regularly review and update the park's subsistence management plan as necessary. Make copies available for public review.
- Regularly consult with local tribes and communities and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to develop cooperative strategies to monitor subsistence harvest and needs.
- Continue to conduct studies to identify general subsistence use areas, primary resource sites, and subsistence customs and traditions.

### Park Resident Zone

- The National Park Service will support opportunities for commercial and other services in resident zone communities compatible with the park's enabling language, mission, and general management plan.
- The National Park Service will support opportunities for local residents to participate in park programs such as research projects, interpreting cultural sites, and educational programs.
- Continue to regularly consult and meet with local tribes and communities to identify problems and concerns and formulate actions that can be taken to address them. Continue to inform local residents of planning and other actions in the park that could affect local tribes and communities. Likewise, NPS managers will seek relationships with local residents that will keep NPS managers informed about activities that may affect the park. NPS staff will continue to work with the Alaska State Troopers, and local emergency services and community education programs.
- Where possible, the National Park Service will establish formal partnerships that protect resources, leverage funding, provide in-kind services, and provide mutual benefits to both parties.

**SUBSISTENCE**

- Participate in regional planning and compliance processes as needed. Participation may include serving as a subject matter expert, preparing section 810 analyses, addressing specific comments and concerns related to the park or park operations, participating in public forums, and reviewing draft documents.
- Help educate and inform visitors about logistics and cultural considerations for visiting local gateway communities.

<b>COMMERCIAL SERVICES</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Policy/Laws/ANILCA</b>
<p>“Visitor Service” means accommodations, facilities, and services determined by the director of the National Park Service as necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment of a park area provided to park area visitors for a fee or charge by a person other than the (NPS) Director. (36 CFR 51.3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANILCA</li> <li>• National Park Service Concessions Management and Improvement Act of 1998</li> <li>• 36 CFR 51</li> <li>• The Wilderness Act of 1964</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>• NPS Interim Guidelines for Commercial Use Authorizations</li> </ul>
<b>Desired Condition/Goals</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial service providers fill a vital role in helping the National Park Service perform its mission. Through the use of concession contracts or commercial use agreements, the National Park Service provides for commercial visitor services that are necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment.</li> <li>• These commercial services are diverse and responsive to public needs. At Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, they include air-taxi operations, guided sportfishing, bear viewing, wildlife photography, and a host of other services.</li> <li>• Commercial service operators specialize in these operations and are thus able to provide quality services at reasonable prices. By welcoming the private sector as a partner in park operations, the National Park Service broadens the economic base of the region and encourages resource stewardship in communities surrounding the parks.</li> <li>• Commercial service operations are consistent to the highest practicable degree with the preservation and conservation of the fundamental resources and values of the park and preserve. Commercial service providers and the National Park Service will partner to demonstrate and practice sound environmental management and stewardship. Open communication with commercial entities will be sought and positive relations will be maintained in order to accomplish NPS goals, and for public benefit and enjoyment.</li> </ul>	
<b>Strategies</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All commercial service providers will continue to be required to meet specific minimum requirements to obtain a commercial use agreement or concession contract. These include but are not limited to: current general liability, aircraft, and watercraft insurance, a current State of Alaska business license, current hunting guide certifications and licensing, and appropriate FAA certifications. They will continue to be required to comply with all applicable state and federal regulations.</li> <li>• The National Park Service will annually evaluate concession contract holders to ensure high quality visitor services are being provided. Meetings or other regular communications will occur so the National Park Service can provide information to CUA holders, receive feedback, and good relationships between commercial service providers and NPS staff can be maintained.</li> <li>• CUA holders will continue to be required to provide information to clients concerning safety and environmental ethics, adherence to best practices, pay day-use fees, and to submit annual activity reports to document visitor use.</li> <li>• Continue to value all types of visitor use as well as subsistence use. The National Park Service will proactively communicate with visitors, commercial operators, and subsistence users to minimize conflicts.</li> <li>• Use concession contracts to provide necessary and appropriate visitor services that enhance public enjoyment and safety and protect park resources. When the National Park Service solicits offers from qualified operators for concession contracts; the focus will be on ensuring high quality services and protecting park resources as outlined in 36 CFR 51.5.</li> <li>• The National Park Service will continue to administer guided hunting concession contracts in the preserve. No permanent facilities or land assignments for facilities would occur under these concession contracts.</li> <li>• The National Park Service encourages and provides a wide variety of visitor experiences and opportunities. These include visitor services that facilitate both guided and unguided trips into the park and preserve through a variety of transportation methods.</li> </ul>	

CLIMATE CHANGE	
Description	Policy/Laws/ANILCA
<p>There is increasing evidence from scientific and traditional knowledge that climate is rapidly changing in Alaska.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS Organic Act</li> <li>• Executive Order 13423 (includes requirements for the reduction of greenhouse gases and other energy and water conservation measures)</li> <li>• Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3226 (ensure that climate change impacts be taken into account in connection with departmental planning and decision making)</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (including sections on environmental leadership [1.8], sustainable energy design [9.1.1.6], and energy management [9.1.7])</li> <li>• NPS Environmental Quality Division <i>draft</i> Guidance on Considering Climate Change in NEPA</li> <li>• <i>Alaska Region Climate Change Response Strategy 2010 to 2014</i></li> <li>• <i>National Park Service Climate Change Response Strategy 2010</i></li> </ul>
Desired Condition/Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park is a leader in addressing climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing use of renewable energy, and other sustainable practices.</li> <li>• The park is a leader in the application of sustainable design and construction.</li> <li>• Using the best available science, park staff proactively monitor, plan, mitigate, communicate, and adapt to the effects of climate change on cultural and natural resources and visitor services. Education and interpretive programs help visitors understand climate change impacts in the park, Alaska, and beyond, and how they can respond to climate change.</li> <li>• The National Park Service and its stakeholders recognize the special value of the undisturbed ecosystems of the park and their role in understanding the cumulative effects of human developments and climate change in the Bristol Bay and lower Cook Inlet regions.</li> <li>• In order to realize its maximum value as a control area, the park's undisturbed, and unmanipulated nature must be maintained. Scientific activities conducted in the park must, to the greatest extent possible, remain unobtrusive to avoid disturbance of wildlife.</li> <li>• Recognizing that the NPS servicewide response to climate change will include an entire spectrum of responses from continual and intense intervention to a hands-off approach, the park staff understands that large wild Alaska parks are the best candidates for the latter approach due to their existing high degree of wildness, the social values associated with wildness, the size of the parks, the small sign of pre-settlement influence, and the scale of the stressor (climate change would affect huge acreages that would be too challenging to hold to some historical period of time).</li> <li>• Park staff promotes innovation, best practices, and adaptive management to respond to the challenges of climate change and its effects on park resources and visitor experience.</li> </ul>	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory and monitor key natural and cultural resources and visitor amenities that are at risk from climate change. Establish baseline resource conditions, identify natural variation, and monitor for change.</li> <li>• Assess, plan, and manage resources at multiple scales, from site-specific to international for effective management actions to climate change.</li> <li>• Identify key resources in management zones/areas that may require different management responses to climate change impacts.</li> </ul>	

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- Collaborate with partners to identify and monitor climate change effects in parks and apply accurate and relevant science to management and policy decisions.
- Contribute to the scientific understanding of climate change and its effects.
- Form partnerships with other resource management entities to maintain regional habitat connectivity and refugia that allow species dependent on park resources to better adapt to changing conditions. Use best management practices to reduce human-caused stresses (e.g., park operations and visitor-related disturbances) that hinder the ability of species or ecosystems to withstand the impacts of climate change.
- Use adaptive management to minimize risks to park resources.
- Develop feasible and actionable scenarios of climate change effects and create a flexible framework for dealing with impacts.
- Use the dynamic environment of the Lake Clark region as a teaching opportunity about climate change. Educate visitors (both on-site and virtual visitors) about climate change and related research at the park, and climate change impacts on park resources. Inspire visitors and promote an ethic of stewardship through leadership, education, and opportunities for citizen science.
- Protect key natural and cultural resources to increase their resiliency to climate change. By reducing other types of impacts on resources, the overall condition of the resources may stabilize or improve, increasing the likelihood of recovery or resistance to the impacts of climate change.
- The park will become a member of the Climate Friendly Parks program, measuring park-based greenhouse emissions, developing sustainable strategies to mitigate these emissions and adapt to climate change impacts, educating the public about these efforts, and developing future action plans.

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