

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

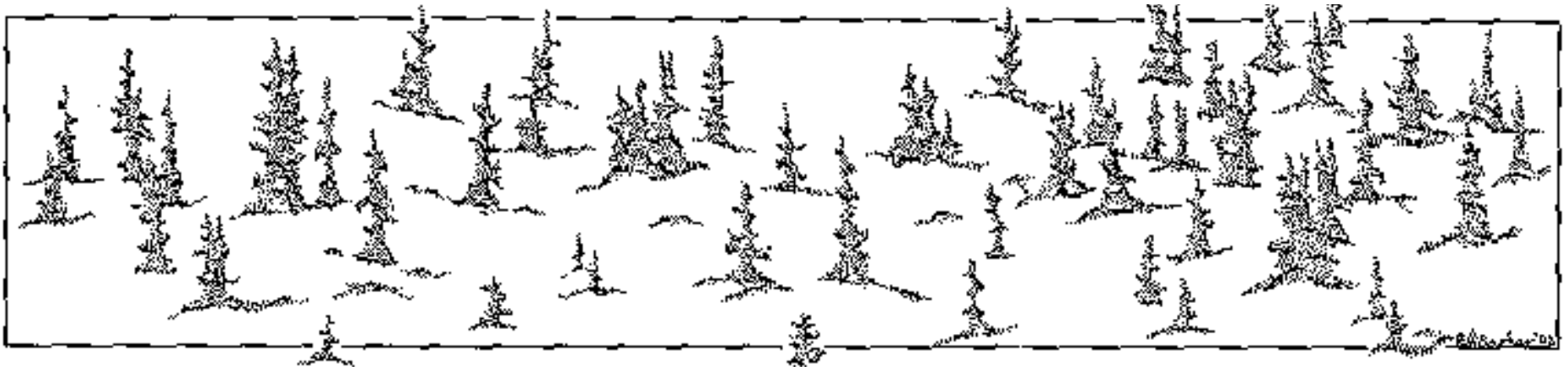


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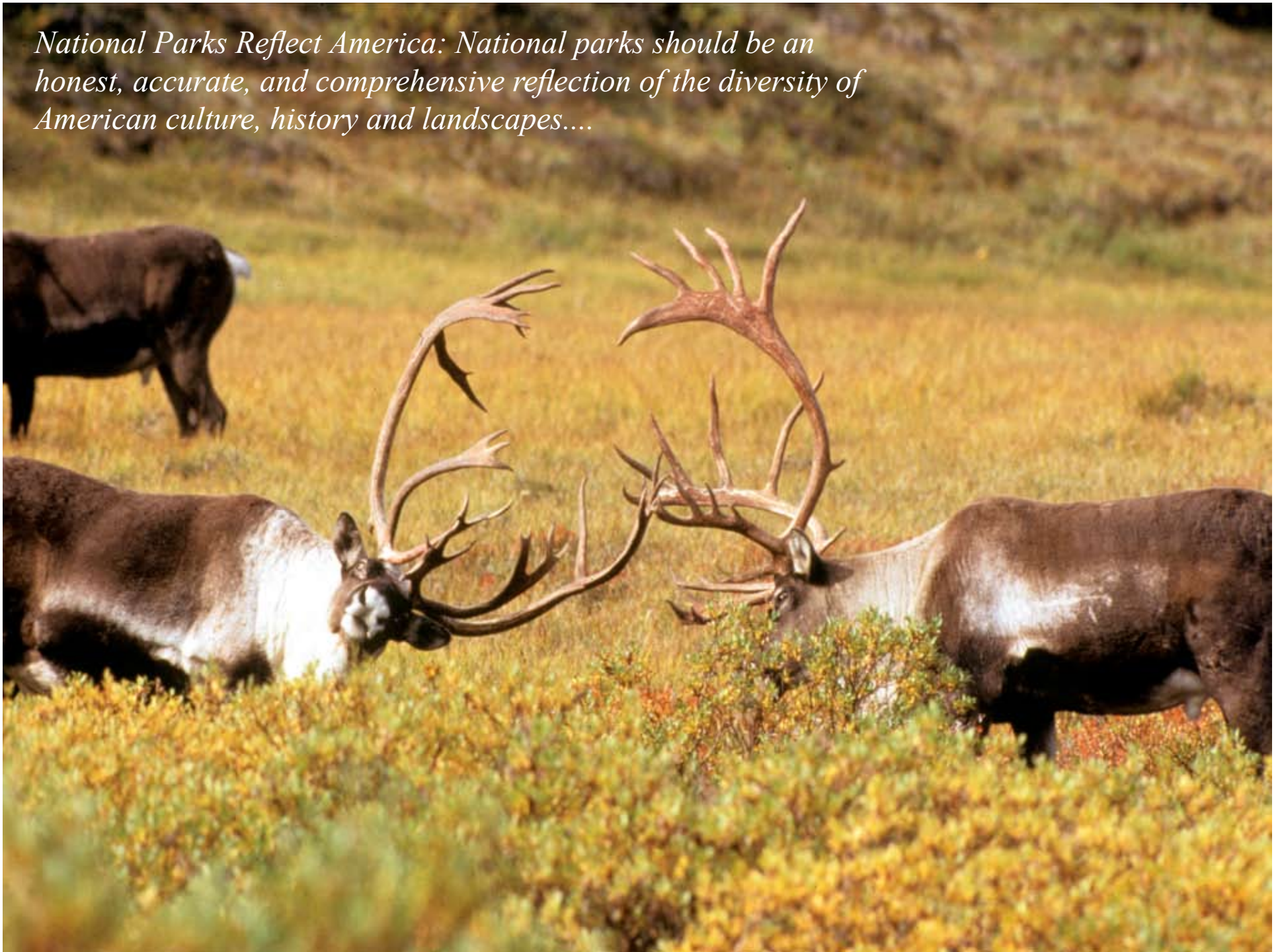
Alaska Regional Office  
240 West 5th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



## 2006 Alaska Region Annual Report



*National Parks Reflect America: National parks should be an honest, accurate, and comprehensive reflection of the diversity of American culture, history and landscapes....*



## Message From the Alaska Regional Director



Alaska Regional Director, Marcia Blaszk

NPS Photo

Cover Photos: NPS Photos

Left to right: Bikers at Denali; Russian Bishop's House at Sitka; Molting moose in Denali

Caribou are found in Denali National Park and Preserve; Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve; Bering Land Bridge National Preserve; Noatak National Preserve; Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve; Kenai Fjords National Park; Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve; Katmai National Park and Preserve; Lake Clark National Park and Preserve; and Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve.

NPS Photo

## The past year was productive, exciting and brought several changes to the National Park Service in Alaska.

Visitation was again a record, as more than 2.4 million visits were made to Alaska parks. Much of the gain was due to the continued growth and popularity of cruise ship travel in Southeast Alaska and the three NPS units there -- Glacier Bay, Sitka and Klondike Gold Rush.

National parks and program offices in Alaska also worked hard in 2006 to look at staff organization and workload, and to attempt to project budgets over the next five years. In government, as in private business, getting the work and the staffing to match the budget is never easy. Parks and programs have found efficiencies in their operating practices, reconsidered what is essential, mission-driven work, and looked toward partnerships with community volunteers, businesses and non-profit groups. Taken together, these will maintain park resources unimpaired for future generations while providing quality visitor experiences. The work will continue throughout 2007 and beyond.

Three major park projects also advanced in 2006. In Seward, planning work on the Mary Lowell Center continued; in Fairbanks, solid progress was made in bringing the Morris Thompson Center toward the construction phase; and in Southcentral Alaska, the South Denali visitor project passed a significant milestone when the NPS, the State of Alaska and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough signed a final agreement on the project.

While those projects may win the headlines, I take the greatest pleasure in knowing that National Park Service employees around Alaska are working in dozens of small ways with communities, neighbors and fellow land managers. In the pages that follow, you will read of several: the restoration of a historic boat, education work in schools, several research projects, and work to resolve the access rights of park neighbors who live on private property within Alaska parks.

2006 also saw the launch of the National Park Centennial Initiative. The NPS will turn 100 in 2016, and the initiative is designed to prepare the Service for the next century of excellence in conservation, preservation and enjoyment. Congress will consider the first of the budget proposals for our next fiscal year, and you'll be hearing more from us about projects large and small to mark this important anniversary.

As always, we look forward to working with you this year and beyond, and I invite you to visit your national parks.

### *New Faces*

Meg Jensen, a deputy state director for the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada, became superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in late 2006. The move represented a return to Alaska, as she had spent many years with the BLM in Anchorage and began her career as a seasonal ranger in Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. Her career has included overseeing wilderness areas, realty programs, and facilities management. Wrangell-St. Elias is the largest national park in America, encompassing about 13.2 million acres.

In the summer of 2006, Ralph Moore assumed the superintendency at Katmai National Park and Preserve. He brings more than 20 years of NPS experience, including work as a backcountry ranger at Grand Teton, Rocky Mountain, Grand Canyon and Channel Islands. He first moved to Alaska in 1985 to work at Denali, including four years as a mountaineering ranger. Katmai, famous for volcanoes, brown bears and fishing, sees more than 50,000 visitors each summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia Blaszk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Visitation

*National Parks are to be Enjoyed and Preserved: People will always be able to enjoy parks but in ways that will preserve and protect them for the future.*

## Visitation to Alaska's parks again set a record in 2006, topping 2.5 million for the first time

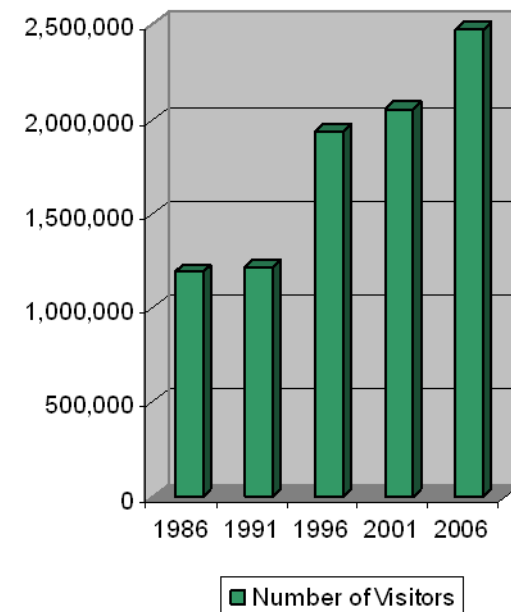
Park visitor patterns continued to mirror the larger state-wide visitor trends, with the continued popularity of cruise ship travel in Southeast and cruise-tour packages in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. Accordingly, Klondike Gold Rush retained its position as the most visited park, topping 900,000 visitors in 2006. The cruise destinations of Glacier Bay and Sitka, along with the road-accessible destinations at Denali and Kenai Fjords made up the top five park destinations, including an all-time record of 400,935 cruise ship passengers visiting Glacier Bay in 2006 -- a 15% increase over 2005.

The new visitor facilities in the Denali entrance area had their first full season of operation in 2006. The buildings -- including the park visitor center, bookstore and dining facility, and the Murie Science and Learning Center -- proved to be an appreciated improvement to the park experience. Visitor satisfaction increased from 95% in 2005 to 98% in 2006.

The completion of new trails in the vicinity of the new facilities increased opportunities for visitors to explore the park at their comfort level. The staff at the visitor center regularly received positive comments about the availability of food and drink within walking distance of the Center. Visitor satisfaction with combined park facilities increased 3% over 2005, and satisfaction with the combined services increased 5%.

The NPS continued its marketing relationship with the Alaska Travel Industry Association in 2006, working with the organization to host familiarization trips in parks and informational sessions for tour operators and journalists, and complete work on a direct marketing campaign to potential park visitors. Funding for specific projects came through a special congressional appropriation in 2005.

Nationally, the NPS moved to a newly designed web page in August which reflects the fact that a high percentage of visits to [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) are for travel planning. The national site, and each Alaska park web page, provides information on visit planning, park facilities and key park features.



## Resource Work

# The natural and cultural resources in Alaska's 54 million acres of national parklands are as diverse as the state is vast.



Student Conservation Association employee Joel Miller getting ready to go up to the transmission site at Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

NPS Photo

The work in parks by biologists, archeologists, historians and others ranges from broad inventories and survey work to detailed projects in single locations.

In Cape Krusenstern National Monument, fieldwork began on the Two Hundred Generations archeological project, the first of four years of work at one of the state's most prominent cultural locations. The project will result in an intensive survey and inventory of the entire 10-mile long, 2.5-mile wide Cape Krusenstern beach ridge complex, a landscape feature composed of 114 relic beach ridges, each showing the succession of shorelines over thousands of years. On those shorelines are evidence of every known cultural tradition in Northwest Alaska for the past 5,500 years, a physical reminder of the continued use by Alaska Natives of what have become national park units. A 2007-2009 International Polar Year project, the fieldwork follows background research done in 2005, and will over the next three field seasons include work in a variety of cultural and physical science disciplines. The goal is to better understand the use of the beach environment over time, and to integrate the new data into decision making on management issues such as coastal erosion and land use.

In Northeast Alaska, two projects are shedding light on ancient use of the land and trading patterns among early residents. Working with existing park collections, artifacts from the University of Alaska Museum and new field collections, researchers conducted geochemical analysis of several dozen obsidian artifacts from Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Chemical signatures from obsidian, a volcanic glass that was used prehistorically to manufacture tools, can be correlated with source signatures to pinpoint the origin of an artifact. About 100 artifacts from Yukon-Charley have been characterized so far and have been found to derive from the Batza Tena source on the Koyukuk River, some 320 miles from the Preserve, as well as the Wiki Peaks source in the Wrangell Mountains, a distance of 190 miles from Yukon-Charley, showing trade and travel patterns through time.

Archeologists also continued a three-year effort to identify and document archeological sites on the Killik River in Gates of the Arctic National Park. In 2006, crews found 59 new sites, which consist primarily of prehistoric stone tool scatters. Recent work has shown the Killik

River valley contains the densest concentration of known archeological sites in the central Brooks Range, documentation of an estimated 8,000 years of human occupation.

In another project that reminds visitors and staff that parks were a homeland to Native people long before their designation as protected areas, Glacier Bay National Park staff completed the final design, layout, and production of the Hoonah Tlingit place names map. The map of the bay and surrounding area has had wide distribution, and the work was accomplished with the one of the park's most important partners and collaborator – the Hoonah Tlingit.

Researchers are also finding out new details of what Alaska looked like before people arrived. In 2006, the search for dinosaur material at Denali National Park continued with great success. Eighteen more trace fossil sites were located in the Igloo Canyon and Double Mountain areas of the park. The majority of the finds have been theropods, (meat-eating dinosaurs that walked on their hind legs), however several hadrosaur footprints, popularly known as duck-billed dinosaurs, also were discovered. This discovery is very exciting as theropods are thought to have preyed on hadrosaurs, and this new evidence provides a beginning for understanding the ecosystem of Denali 70 million years ago. Among the 20 total sites found in the park, four different-sized theropod tracks have been found, and several new bird tracks as well. The largest of the tracks is approximately 20 by 20 inches.

The search for dinosaur evidence has been ongoing for four years, and the recent finds are a welcome reward. The number of tracks and the quality of preservation in some specimens greatly exceeded expectations. Some of the rock surfaces are so littered with tracks and partial tracks that Dr. Tony Fiorillo of the Dallas Museum of Natural History, the principal investigator on the project, has referred to them as "Cretaceous dance floors."

While most the discoveries were made by professionals, some new finds took place during a teacher workshop offered through the Murie Science and Learning Center. The course was designed to examine the dinosaur history of Denali. (continued on page 6)

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*The population there is believed to be one of the densest populations in North America, and also has the longest and most complete recorded datasets for the species.*

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(continued from page 5)

Photographs and information about the class' discoveries can be found at [www.murieslc.org](http://www.murieslc.org).

The Murie Center and Denali park also played host to more than 150 scientists, land managers, community members, students, and educators gathered for the 2006 Alaska Park Science Symposium in September. The symposium, "Park Science in Central Alaska: Crossing Boundaries in a Changing Environment" focused on research by scientists from a variety of disciplines who conducted studies in Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, Yukon-Charley Rivers and the adjacent lands and waters of Central Alaska and the Western Yukon.

The program included 50 presentations and 35 posters on topics including geology, monitoring a changing environment, landscape ecology, vertebrate ecology, profiles in history, educational strategies, evaluating the visitor experience and subsistence management. Symposium highlights included two plenary talks, "Alaskan National Parks in a Warming Climate" by Terry Chapin and "The Yukon Ice Patch Research Project" by Greg Hare. For the first time, the conference was broadcast live over the internet, allowing people from all over the country to view sessions in real time. A published Symposium Proceedings is planned later this year.

Among the many presentations was one that marked the 31st consecutive year that American Peregrine Falcons were monitored in Yukon-Charley, in the upper Yukon River corridor. The population there is believed to be one of the densest populations in North America, and also has the longest and most complete recorded datasets for the species. The number of occupied territories within the study area has been steadily increasing since the species' near extinction in the early 1970s due to DDT contamination. Fifty-four occupied territories were observed in 2006, nearly a five-fold increase since 1975. The number of nestlings, though variable among years, has also increased from 17 in 1975 to 70 in 2005 and remained high at 67 in 2006.

Recent contaminants analyses of falcon eggs from Yukon-Charley suggest that mercury is currently at levels that may affect reproduction, and trends suggest that mercury levels may be increasing. Mercury is a persistent compound that accumulates and causes toxic effects similar to DDT. Additionally, DDT and other pesticides are still being used in wintering grounds in South America, which may cause continued risk to the population. In response to these threats, addled eggs and nestling feathers are collected annually to monitor population health.

Researchers working at an "Old Whaling Site" at Cape Krusenstern, estimated to be from 3000 Before Present.

NPS Photo



## Park Facilities

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***Parks Need Resources:*** Like anything else of value, the future of national parks depends on support; they will require resources - in the form of money, time, and effort - from all Americans in order to thrive.

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With nearly 2.5 million visitors a year and 1,000 employees at the peak of summer employment, a large effort was made to provide the facilities needed for successful visits and daily work.

A variety of projects took place in 2006 that changed the built landscape for both visitors and employees.

Thirty-four residents of Eagle, Eagle Village, Fairbanks and outlying communities joined NPS staff to celebrate the completion of a multi-year restoration of the Coal Creek Mining Camp in Yukon-Charley in the summer of 2006. During the celebration, bunkhouses were named in honor of those people having longevity with the former mining area. The camp now supports NPS field operations in the preserve, and includes a public use cabin. Among those participating were a number of people who had either lived in the area as youngsters or whose parents had worked in the mining operations.

Maintaining the Chilkoot Trail at Klondike Gold Rush is always an important part of the summer season. In 2006, crews spent significant time opening the trail and campgrounds, repairing bridges, and building about 1,200 feet of new trail which avoids the river flood plain. The trail work also included a new, 60-foot long bridge over Waterfall Creek.

After 12 years working in trailers, Glacier Bay's resource management and research staff moved into a new building adjacent to the park's headquarters. In addition to offices, the facility houses park museum collections, research areas, and a library.

In Anchorage, the past year also saw staff from Lake Clark relocate from Alaska Pacific University to the NPS building in downtown Anchorage.

And, more significantly, NPS staff in Fairbanks moved into a new office at 4175 Geist Road. The building houses the staff of Gates of the Arctic and Yukon-Charley Rivers, the Arctic and Central Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Networks, regional office program personnel and staff from other parks. The new facility provides curatorial space, a warehouse, conference rooms, and an up-to-date telecommunications area.





## Park Partners

# Increasingly, the mission of national parks is achieved with partnerships formed between the National Park Service, individuals, businesses and communities.



Rangers at Klondike Gold Rush provided interpretive programs to thousands of cruise ship passengers thanks to a partnership with Holland America.

NPS Photo



Alaska has been fortunate to have many longstanding partners, a few of whom are highlighted below. These individuals are among the more than 750 people who contributed more than 102,000 hours working in Alaska's parks in 2006.

The Alaska Region presented its Summit Award for Lifetime Achievement to Florence Collins whose longstanding association with Denali spans nearly 25 years. Her guidance and leadership on Denali's Subsistence Resource Commission was instrumental in the establishment and continuity of subsistence policies in the park and throughout the state. Until her retirement in 2006, she spent most of her time on the SRC as its chairwoman, devoting numerous hours to the difficult work of inventing a new way of doing business -- that is, basing a system on local concerns and knowledge, then using that expertise to establish federal regulations.

Her credibility with subsistence users, her fundamental belief in resource preservation in parks, and her interpersonal skills were key ingredients to her success. She and the Commission have shared their traditional knowledge regarding living cultures and use of ecologically sustainable practices and traditions, and her support for the NPS mission and understanding of subsistence as a way of life helped to develop winning solutions for both the NPS and subsistence users.

Two other longtime volunteers were also honored for their work in Lake Clark National Park & Preserve. Jerry and Jeanette Mills are an extraordinary couple whose reliability, strength of character and conviction, local knowledge and expertise, common sense, and compassion have built respect and good will with the park staff as well as the public. They live for much of the year at the park ranger station at Telaquana Lake, 50 miles from Port Alsworth and 105 miles from Anchorage. Access is only by float or ski-equipped aircraft. There is no running water, and very limited electricity is provided through a new solar panel inverter system. Human visitors are few by national standards, but wildlife abounds. In their years of service, they have provided daily weather reports that vastly improve the safety for aviators, patrolled the backcountry and assisted with wildlife and fisheries projects. Recently, Jeanette transcribed 15 years (1967-1982) of Dick Proenneke's journals in support of the park's project to publish the insights and observations of this modern-day Thoreau.

Park partners contribute in many ways, and over the years the Alaska Region and park visitors have benefited from several donations. In the fall of 2006, Lake Clark National Park accepted the donation of five acres with important habitat and public use opportunities. The Priest Rock property, on the western shore of Lake Clark, contains and adjoins prime red salmon habitat at the mouth of Priest Rock Creek, and is important brown bear habitat. The property also contains pre-historic house pits and underground storage caches. This donation was made possible by the cooperation of Al Woodward, who owned the property for many years, and by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation generously provided the funding that allowed for purchase by The Conservation Fund, and its subsequent donation to the park.

The Woodwards were also key to another Lake Clark project in 2006. A 1914 era Bristol Bay double-ender wooden fishing boat was restored and dedicated in June at the Port Alsworth Visitor Center. The Woodwards donated the boat, and many other partners worked to outfit the rare historic craft with authentic rigging, anchor, rudder and other equipment.

A new partnership in Southeast Alaska has brought a morning visitor orientation program to Holland America ships. Klondike Gold Rush NHP rangers spoke with more than 320 visitors during each program, describing Gold Rush sites in Skagway and along the highway route to the Yukon Territory, more than 9,000 in all during the summer.

The NPS also provides expertise to communities outside of parks, often through its Rivers, Trails Conservation Assistance Program. In October, the Municipality of Anchorage installed an interpretive kiosk along Campbell Creek focusing on both the natural history and the recreational opportunities along the bike route. NPS staff helped several partner organizations write a comprehensive interpretive plan for the trail.

## Greener Parks

National park units are rightly thought of as naturally environmentally friendly, but several efforts by the NPS and partners in 2006 made Alaska's parks even more "green."



Kenai Fjords National Park tested a prototype propane fuel cell at Exit Glacier.  
NPS Photo

Doyon/Aramark Joint Venture, the major concessioner at Denali, earned a 2006 Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Award in October for its environmental management work. The company's PlanetEVERgreen program sets documented, measurable objectives and targets in energy conservation, purchasing, waste reduction, transportation and other areas, as well as teaching environmental stewardship to visitors and employees. Denali visitors participated in recycling on tour buses, and there is a recycling bin in each employee housing unit. These two initiatives alone diverted over 250,000 pounds of material from the landfill. The concessioner highlighted the sustainable Alaskan fisheries of salmon and halibut and established an environmentally preferable purchasing policy to reduce the rate of consumption of raw materials by purchasing recycled and remanufactured vehicle parts.

Prior to their establishment as parks, many relatively small areas saw intense commercial or military activity which left behind trash and sometimes dangerous waste. In Gates of the Arctic, park staff worked on two significant cleanup projects in 2006. Along the Iniakuk River drainage, 1,125 fuel drums were hauled out for recycling. The park also brought out 385 gallons of diesel fuel which was donated to the Bettles fire department. The initial work on a Chandler Lake cleanup

was also started in July, mapping the location of 130 empty 55-gallon drums and 700 empty fuel cans. The lakes were a popular aircraft fueling stop in the north-central Brooks Range during the initial surveys of the area in the 1950s and 1960s by the Department of Defense. The NPS plans to include high school students and other residents from Anaktuvuk Pass in a cooperative effort to clean up the popular subsistence hunting and fishing area.

Also in Gates of the Arctic, the NPS office in Bettles was the site of a project to remove an underground fuel oil storage tank and replace it with a more environmentally sound above-ground tank.

Kenai Fjords National Park, in a partnership with the Alaska Energy Technology Development Laboratory at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and others, reached an important milestone in the testing of a prototype propane fuel cell at Exit Glacier.

The cell, manufactured by Massachusetts-based Acumentrics and installed in the park's nature center near Seward, ran for more than 1,100 hours straight in 2006 and did so with no measurable degradation in its efficiency. The test at the park was notable for several reasons. It used a fuel source -- propane -- that is more portable and usable in remote areas than the hydrogen or natural gas that usually powers fuel cells. It was also able to adjust its output to deal with fluctuations in power demand at the center. And, importantly, the entire test happened in real-world conditions, rather than in a laboratory with controlled power demands and constant monitoring and adjustment by technicians.

In addition, the Exit Glacier cell is able to efficiently generate relatively small amounts of power. A typical diesel generator is most efficient when it is generating 100 kilowatts of electricity, which is about 100 times more than a small building or cell phone tower would use. In addition to generating electricity, the fuel cell provided heat to the visitor's center during its test run from mid-August to late September.

## Education

An important part of the NPS mission is education-related, including visitors in parks, outreach to schools which may not have easy access to national parks, and using other media to reach the American public.



Animal Planet's crew films at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve for the program "Get Out There!"

NPS Photo

Glacier Bay was featured in Animal Planet's program, *Get Out There!*, in a one-hour episode in a 9-part series of national cable television programs on parks and wildlife. The producers had spent eight days filming wildlife and research work in the park in 2005, showing the experiences of a family exploring with park researchers and rangers.

The park was also the subject for more than 5,000 students participating in an electronic field trip entitled, *Glacier Bay—A Living Laboratory for Studying Marine Mammals*, that was conducted on the internet. In addition to an interactive marine mammal program, students could dive deeper into the subject in an *Ask the Expert Session* by posing questions to the park's education specialist through the internet over a three-day period.

The internet was also the medium of communication for Sitka NHP in March as it developed an interactive electronic field trip titled "*Timeless Totems: The Carved History of Sitka National Historical Park*." The program wrapped up a two-year project designed to detail the complex preservation history of the park's totem pole collection. Work also included new interpretive signs for an exhibit of the park's oldest totem poles. The electronic field trip curriculum unit was completed in time for the 100th anniversary of the placement of the initial poles in the park. Over 4,000 students from around the nation "visited" the park through the field trip.

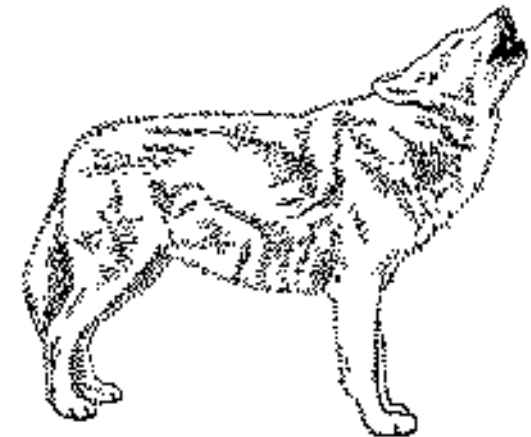
Sitka is also continuing its 12-year collaboration with Baranof Elementary school at the Russian Bishop's House garden. As kindergartners, local students helped plant and cultivate heritage vegetables and fruits. The following fall, the now first grade students return to the garden, helping to harvest and share the produce with their families. The partnership benefits the children -- who learn the full cycle of plant growth -- and the park which is able to maintain a vibrant demonstration garden for summer visitors to the Russian Bishop's House.

More traditional education and visitor services were provided by the Public Lands Information Centers in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Together they hosted nearly 110,000 people and put on more than 225 educational programs in 2006.



Marine mammals were the focus of an "electronic field trip" at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

NPS Photo



## 2007 and Beyond



Several long-term projects moved forward in 2006, and work will continue on them in 2007 and beyond.

Progress continued in 2006 in the Alaska Region's effort to publish an access guide to inholdings in national park areas. A second draft document was circulated for public comment, stakeholder meetings were held with representatives of several groups and communities, and a detailed legal review by the Department of the Interior was started.

The guide will outline the steps needed for owners of private lands within national park units to document their access across public land to reach their property. The guide and resulting documentation will also guide NPS managers and landowners on issues such as maintenance and improvements of routes, and provide certainty for owners and lenders in evaluating opportunities of additional development. Existing Park Service laws, regulations and policies do not provide a definitive process for landowners and managers; a major reason for the guide is to clarify the situation and provide consistency among park units.

Within Alaska's parklands there are more than 1 million acres of private lands. Some are reached by existing public roads, others by river or by airstrips, but many owners reach their land by crossing national park lands. Their right of access is provided for in law, but the specific means and route are subject to reasonable regulation by the NPS to protect public resources.

In 2007, the NPS intends to publish an interim guide and begin work on the first environmental assessment of existing access routes in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. This assessment will be done at no cost to the landowner. Over time, additional environmental assessments and some more detailed environmental impact statements are expected at Wrangell-St. Elias and in other parks.

A final plan was agreed upon by the major partners for the proposed South Denali developments. More than 10 years of cooperative planning by the NPS, the State of Alaska and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough resulted in agreement on a site for a new visitor center on Curry Ridge in Denali State Park, and new year-round recreational opportunities in the South Denali region as a whole. The plan also includes measures to protect cultural and natural resource values of the area and to preserve the quality of life for residents in the nearby communities. The new visitor center will be a focal point for a variety of activities in Denali State Park and Denali National Park, including mountain and wildlife viewing, hiking, boating, and camping.

The Alaska Region is hoping the project can be among the National Park Service's "signature projects" developed between now and the Service's 100th anniversary in 2016 with a combination of federal investment and partner contributions. Construction of new facilities will begin as soon as detailed designs are completed and funding is available.

In Fairbanks, the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center will be the gateway to experiencing the grandeur of Interior Alaska. The one-stop facility will introduce visitors to the land and its people. The future home of the Public Lands Information Center, which is run by the NPS, the Morris Thompson Center will also be a community gathering place. In addition to the NPS, the major partners in the facility are the Fairbanks Visitor and Convention Bureau, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the City of Fairbanks, and the non-profit umbrella group for the center.

The project's funding goal is about \$27.5 million, of which more than \$21 million had been secured through 2006. Construction is expected to begin this year.

Work has advanced on the Mary Lowell Center in Seward with the completion of land acquisition and an environmental assessment. Design work for the \$18.4 million facility will continue in 2007. The NPS is working with the City of Seward and the U.S. Forest Service on the project.

And, in Glacier Bay, the park is preparing a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement to explore options for authorizing the traditional harvest of glaucous-winged gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit in the park. A draft was completed late in 2006, and is being review before an expected public comment later this year.

# FY 2006 Expense Report

## Construction

Morris Thompson Visitor Center	\$5,042,000
Denali entrance area	124,014
Western Arctic Heritage Center	340,908
Wrangell-St Elias visitor center	237,418
Wrangell-St. Elias Kennecott Store & visitor center	175,833

**Construction Total** **\$5,920,173**

**Land Acquisition** **\$4,145,063**

## Operations

Personal Services (salaries, benefits, etc.)	\$49,526,658
Travel (within parks and Lower 48)	\$ 2,188,289
Transportation (supplies and equipment)	\$ 1,648,373
Rent, communications, utilities	\$ 1,611,815
Printing and copying	\$ 178,634
Services (aircraft rental, architecture and design, contracts)	\$12,425,963
Supplies and materials	\$ 7,159,511
Equipment (computers, vehicles, etc.)	\$ 3,533,603
Land and structures	\$ 1,723,516
Other	\$ 2,408,042

**Operations Total** **\$82,404,404**

**National Park Service--Alaska Region 2006 total** **\$92,470,180**

Klondike Gold Rush NHP is unique in the Alaska Region as it leases several of its historic buildings in Skagway to merchants. The park leases nearly 10,000 square feet of space through a total of seven leases, resulting in revenue of \$320,481. The City of Skagway is expected to receive about \$12,800 in sales tax revenues on the leases, plus 4% sales taxes on the tours and merchandise sold by the lessees, plus property taxes on the assessed value of the occupied spaces. All taxes are paid directly to the city by the private lessees occupying NPS buildings under lease. Lease revenue to the NPS is used for the long-term maintenance of the historic structures.

National budget information for the National Park Service is available at <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/budget2/index.cfm>





*Parks Belong to All Americans: National parks belong to all Americans, so all Americans should feel welcome to experience parks....*