



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Denali National Park & Preserve
Mile 237 Parks Highway
P.O. Box 9
Denali Park, AK 99755

January 2006

Cantwell Subsistence ORV Environmental Assessment

PROJECT INTRODUCTION: THE PLANNING PROCESS BEGINS

COMMENTS DUE: JANUARY 31, 2006

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2006 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM ANCHORAGE - LOUSSAC LIBRARY, WILDA MARSTON THEATRE

Dear Planning Participant:

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR part 1500), the National Park Service is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for management of the Cantwell traditional ORV use area. The purpose of the EA is to manage subsistence ORV use in this area in a way that will minimize adverse impacts to park resources and values while also providing reasonable access for subsistence purposes. See Figure 1 (enclosed) for a map of the area (*Cantwell Subsistence Traditionally Employed ORV Final Determination, July 22, 2005*).

This “scoping notice” is the first step of the public participation process for the Cantwell Subsistence ORV Environmental Assessment. “Scoping” identifies the potential issues, concerns, and opportunities associated with the project. **WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION** to make sure we evaluate a full range of reasonable alternatives and their impacts. Issues of concern to you or your community will assist us in this effort. In particular, we want to know how **YOU** think we should manage subsistence ORV use in the Cantwell traditional ORV use area. For example, should any ORV trails be built or improved, and if so, where is it most important that they be built? Are there certain places where or times when ORVs should not be allowed, and if so, where and when? How should management options be implemented (permits, registration, etc.)? What kinds of low-impact technologies are available that might reduce impacts from such use?

Management options that may be considered in the environmental assessment include, but are

not limited to:

1. Maintaining the status quo (the Cantwell traditional ORV use area would remain open to use of ORVs by federally qualified subsistence users for subsistence purposes with no restrictions or closures);
2. Limits on numbers, times, and types, but no closures;
3. Limits on numbers, times, and types, with closures of sensitive areas;
4. Broad closures with limited exceptions along designated trails or routes (e.g., former roadbeds and hardened surfaces, well-delineated user-made trails, durable creek/river floodplains, and/or newly constructed trails);
5. Broad closures with limited exceptions along designated trails or routes, plus limits on number, use, times, etc. of ORVs;
6. Full closure of the entire area.

These are *examples* to initiate discussion on how to manage ORV Use in the Traditional Use Area. Comments that will be especially helpful to the park at this time are comments that identify potential strengths and weaknesses of these management options, or suggest other possible alternatives.

You can write, call, or FAX us with your comments. Those of you with Internet access can post your comments using the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) program located on the new NPS public comment website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Your comments may be submitted at any time during the planning process, but they will most helpful if we receive them by January 31, 2006.

We look forward to your participation in this planning process. Your views are important sources of information and insights, and we appreciate you taking the time to share them with us.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures

Figure 1: A map showing the traditional use area.

