

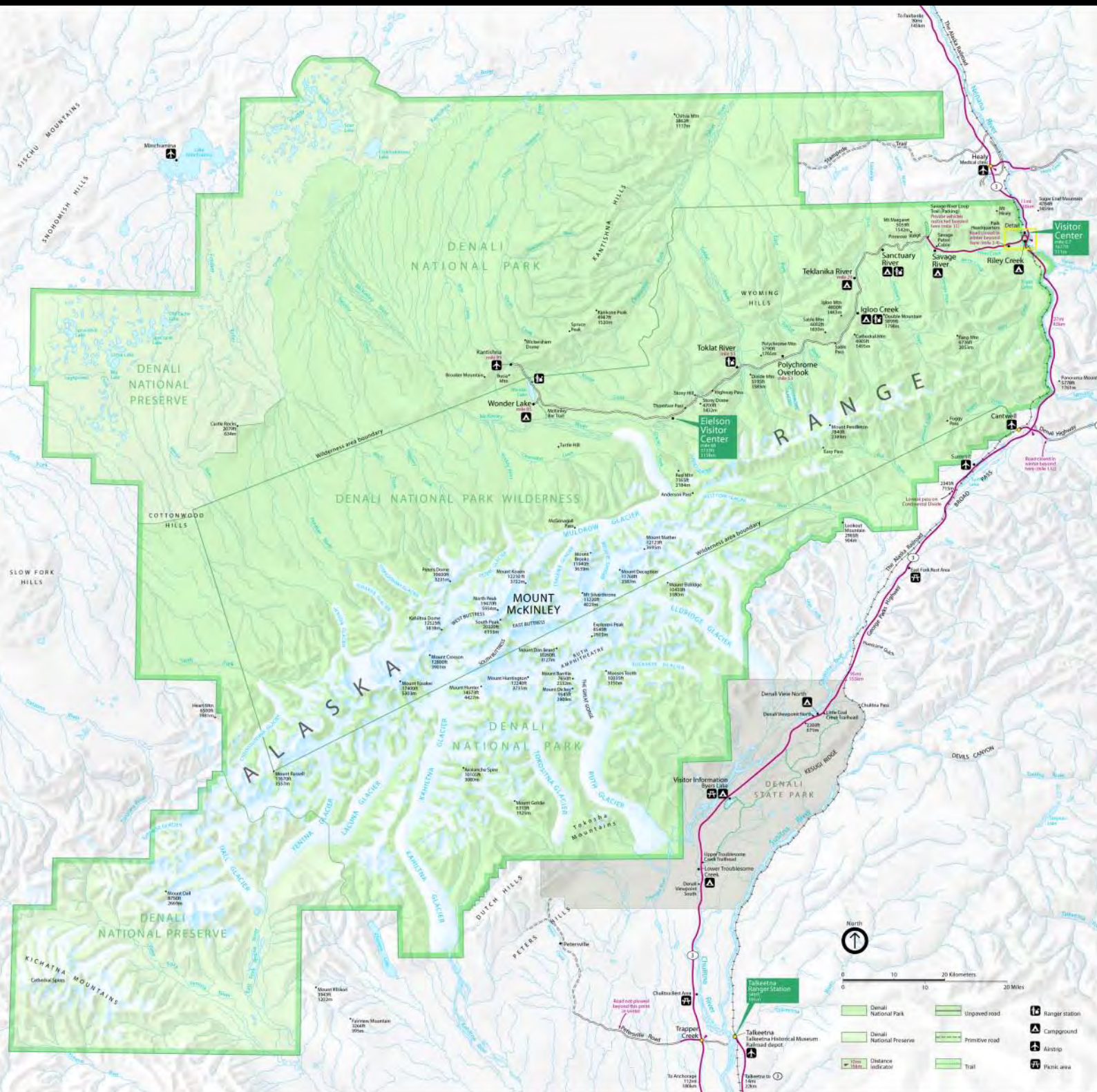
Denali National Park and Preserve

Annual Report 2004





Map of Denali National Park and Preserve



Denali National Park and Preserve encompasses areas north and south of the Alaska Range in the interior of Alaska. Although much of the park is remote, it can be accessed from the east year-round via the George Parks Highway, which connects the cities of Anchorage and Fairbanks. Most Park visitors come by train, buses or private vehicles during the

months of June, July and August. Visitors are encouraged to make advance reservations for buses and campgrounds during the summer. Wilderness permits are required for overnight travel in the backcountry, and they can only be obtained in person up to the day before the trip.



Table of Contents

Message from the Superintendent	4
Purpose and Significance of Denali National Park and Preserve.....	5-6
Performance and Results	7
Preserve Resources	7-11
Public Enjoyment and Public Experience	12-15
Organizational Effectiveness	16-17
FY2004 Financial Summary	19
Park Organization Chart.....	20



Message From the Superintendent



2004 will be remembered as the year in which the park achieved a milestone in its long-term entrance area development plan, with the opening of the Murie Science and Learning Center and its neighboring concessioner-operated dining facility. These new buildings are the first to be available for use in the new visitor center campus, which when completed in 2005 will be the culmination of ten years of planning and partnerships. The opening of the Murie Science and Learning Center heralds the beginning of a new era in the park, one in which we can finally provide visitors, educators, researchers and partners with the quality of services and programs that a treasure such as Denali deserves.

We have many other accomplishments that we can take pride in this year. The process to update the park's Business Plan to more effectively communicate the park's financial and to outline the park's priorities and funding strategies was initiated and mostly completed. The park adopted strategies to more effectively utilize its funding, including instituting new fees in 2004 for applications and road permits for the annual park road lottery in order to recover the extra costs incurred for the four day event. The Western Area Fire Management staff completed a hazardous vegetative fuel reduction project in the park headquarters and C-Camp seasonal housing areas late in the season, removing tons of biomass from a 24-acre area, the largest project of its kind to have taken place in the Alaska national parks. It was the most accident-free season on Mt. McKinley in many years, in terms of total number of injuries and rescues required.

The following pages summarize some of the highlights of 2004, from the grand opening of the Murie Science and Learning Center, to the restoration of parklands and historic resources, and the national recognition of some of the park's long-serving volunteers. It was a year of challenges, but also a year where we saw significant results from the hard work on the part of park employees, partners and stakeholders. I hope you find this annual report interesting and useful. Thank you for your interest in helping to preserve Denali National Park and Preserve for this and future generations.

Purpose and Significance of Denali National Park and Preserve

Denali National Park and Preserve is a vast area that provides visitors of all abilities with opportunities for superlative, inspirational experiences in keeping with its legislative mandates. Over the long term, preservation of the wilderness and its continually evolving natural processes is essential to providing the opportunity for outstanding resource-based visitor experiences.

In 1917 Congress established Mount McKinley National Park to “set apart as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people ... for recreation purposes by the public and for the preservation of animals, birds, and fish and for the preservation of the natural curiosities and scenic beauties thereof ... said park shall be, and is hereby established as a game refuge” (39 Stat. 938).

In 1980 Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which renamed and enlarged Denali National Park and Preserve. The broad purposes of the new and enlarged national parks and preserves include the following:

- Preserve lands and waters for the benefit, use, education, and inspiration of present and future generations.
- Preserve unrivaled scenic and geological values associated with natural landscapes.
- Maintain sound populations of, and habitat for, wildlife species.



- Protect historic and archeological sites.
- Preserve wilderness resource values and related recreational opportunities.
- Maintain opportunities for scientific research in undisturbed ecosystems.
- Provide the opportunity for rural residents to engage in a subsistence way of life.



Purpose of Denali National Park and Preserve

Protect and interpret the entire mountain massif and the additional scenic mountain peaks and formations.

Protect habitat for, and populations of fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, brown/grizzly bears, moose, caribou, Dall sheep, wolves, swans, and other waterfowl.

Provide continued opportunities, including reasonable access, for mountain climbing, mountaineering, and other wilderness recreational activities.

Significance of Denali National Park and Preserve

Denali National Park and Preserve is a park of international significance. It was designated as a Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations in 1976, significant for its potential for subarctic ecosystems research.

The park protects a spectacular array of flora and fauna in a healthy natural ecosystem. More than 2,000,000 acres has been in protected status since 1917, making it the largest continually protected area in the world. The park offers excellent opportunities to study large area natural systems in settings that are primarily undisturbed by humans.

The park contains a major portion of the Alaska Range, which is dominated by North America's highest peak, Mount McKinley. With its summit at 20,320 feet above sea level, the mountain towers 18,000 feet over the adjacent lowlands, a vertical relief that exceeds that of Mount Everest.

The park contains some of the longest glaciers in North America, up to 45 miles long and 4 miles wide.



The park was established as a refuge for large mammals, including Dall sheep, caribou, wolves, grizzly bear, and moose. Even as populations fluctuate, nowhere else in North America can such concentrations of these large species be observed in their natural habitats in such an accessible place.

Denali contains outstanding examples of subarctic plant communities, offering extensive opportunities to observe tundra plant life.

Denali is a designated class I airshed, with exceptional air quality and viewing conditions.

There are more than 180 known cultural sites and complexes within the park boundaries, many of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These include sites associated with Athabaskan Indian groups, early explorers, mining history and the early days of the park.

Denali is among the most popular tourist destinations in the state, as it is linked to Anchorage and Fairbanks by the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad. Traveling the Park Road offers an experience distinctly different from that found in other national parks.

As one of the "seven summits of the world" Mount McKinley is a premier mountaineering location, drawing climbers from all over the world.

This huge park contains large areas with almost no trails, offering superlative opportunities for primitive wilderness recreation.

Preserve Park Resources

PRESERVE PARK RESOURCES

Natural and cultural resources and associated values at Denali National Park and Preserve are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.

Long-term Goal: Disturbed Lands: By September 30, 2005, 45.5 acres of 200 acres of targeted parklands, disturbed by development or agriculture, will be restored.

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, 33 acres were restored.

GOAL ACHIEVED

Restoration of Mining Claim and Construction Sites

The cleanup on the Gold King placer mining claim on upper Glen Creek in Kantishna included moving 20,000 cubic yards of earth to rebuild stream channels and the floodplain on portions of the West Fork and the main stem of Glen Creek. Additional work and revegetation efforts may be continued in 2005, depending on funding.

Several revegetation projects were completed in different areas of the park, including the seeding of the new Denali Visitor Center parking lot areas and the North Face corner at Mile 87 on the Park Road, revegetating sites on upper Glen Creek and planting and maintaining the “tundra mats” used for revegetating areas around the new Denali Visitor Center.



Glen Creek Crew rebuilding stream channel



Glen Creek after restoration



Unloading Tundra Mats

Long-term Goal: Native Species of Special Concern. By September 30, 2005 100% of Denali's six species of special concern are at scientifically acceptable levels.

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, population monitoring of the selected species has been completed for the year. **GOAL ACHIEVED**

Wildlife Surveys Completed

Several surveys to monitor specific wildlife species were completed this year. Some of the projects have been taking place for many years, providing invaluable data to park researchers and other scientists.



The grizzly bear monitoring study in the western portion of the park was originally initiated in 1991, with a focus on cub production and survival. In addition to recording data for this year, four radio collars were replaced on animals in the study.



As part of the long-term study of the size and structure of the Denali caribou herd, females were captured and radio-collared by National Park Service (NPS) and United States Geological Survey-Biological Resource Division (USGS-BRD) staff as needed to maintain an age-structured sample of 60 individuals. The collared animals will provide data on calf production, age structure, survival patterns, seasonal distribution and aid in population monitoring. The post calving census done in May and composition surveys completed in June and September provided data to estimate herd size and composition, adult survival and calf recruitment and sex ratio.

A moose survey was conducted in December 2003 in the Kantishna and Cantwell areas of the park to test a new, GPS-based method of sampling and analysis of survey data, to help assess the impacts of subsistence hunting on park moose populations.



Small mammal survey work begun as part of the Long-Term Environmental Monitoring (LTEM) program continued in the Rock Creek drainage near park headquarters under the auspices of the Central Alaska Monitoring Network and in cooperation with University of Alaska Fairbanks. Systematic gathering of wildlife observation data from shuttle bus drivers continued in 2004.

Fifteen wolf packs were monitored with the use of radio telemetry, providing information on pack size, territory, pup production and survival. New radio collars were placed on 25 wolves, including five with GPS units.



Collared Wolf



Aerial surveys were conducted in spring 2004 to complete the 17th year of monitoring the reproductive success of golden eagles in Denali. Passerine bird surveys were conducted at 175 sampling points, and two breeding bird surveys were conducted along the Park Road. The avian surveys were done in cooperation with the Central Alaska Monitoring Network and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The new duplex and dorm at Toklat were completed and are ready for occupancy. A total of ten new beds were added to the Toklat Road Camp, in addition to two complete ADA accessible bathrooms.

Long-term Goal: Historic Structures: By September 30, 2005, 40 of 144 (28%) of Denali's structures on the List of Classified Structures are in good condition

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, 38 structures are in good condition.

GOAL EXCEEDED

Historic CCC Building Rehabilitated

The rehabilitation of the historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) recreation hall in the park's seasonal C-Camp housing facility was initiated in October 2003. The structure was originally built in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and had been renovated many times over the years. This is the only building from the camp that is still standing in its original location. It is utilized by the more than 60 NPS seasonal employees who reside in the camp during the summer.

The building was slowly sinking into the ground, a common-place occurrence for buildings constructed during this era. The project involved lifting the structure and installing a new concrete footing and wood foundation wall to improve drainage. The decaying flooring material was replaced with new floor framing, which was installed to match existing material. The building interior was completely renovated with new electrical wiring, new plumbing, increased insulation and fire resistant wallboard. The original open ceiling design was restored with the removal of the existing acoustic tile ceiling and the building exterior was also restored to the original design. The newly-restored facility is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.



Hazardous Vegetative Fuels Project at Headquarters

The NPS Western Area Fire Management Program, in cooperation with Ancor Incorporated, a private 8(a) small business and disabled veteran contractor from Anchorage, removed approximately 24 acres of trees, shrubs and other vegetation from around buildings in the park headquarters area. In preparation for a wildland fire event, Ancor created defensible space around park structures to reduce the risk of property damage and to improve safety for employees, visitors, and fire suppression crews. Local residents made up 65% of the employees hired by the contractor, and work was completed in less than six weeks during fall of 2004.



C-Camp before project completion

The Denali hazard fuels removal project sets a precedent as the largest project of its kind to have occurred in a high visitation frontcountry area in Alaska's national parklands. Due to estimated large quantities of biomass and limited disposal venues, fire management staff arranged to recycle materials produced by the project. Cut trees were used for a dendrochronology project at the Murie Science and Learning Center, as well as for historic cabin restoration and firewood for backcountry cabins. In order to reduce biomass removal costs, fire management staff established an exemplary partnership with the Usibelli Coal Mine in Healy, Alaska. Ancor transported cut vegetation to a staging area for use in a reclamation project at the mine, located 12 miles north of park headquarters.



C-Camp after clearing

PRESERVE PARK RESOURCES

The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about visitors and resources are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.

Long-term Goal: By September 30, 2005, 80% (216) of 270 parks with significant natural resources have identified their vital signs for natural resources monitoring.

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, Denali will have identified its vital signs for natural resource monitoring.

GOAL EXCEEDED

Denali, as a critical member of the Central Alaska Network monitoring program, completed the required Vital Signs Monitoring Phase 3 Report. The initial monitoring protocols for climate monitoring and air quality monitoring are being finalized well ahead of schedule and have been widely advertised as examples for other networks to follow. The compounded successes of Denali and the Central Alaska Network will allow the park to become fully operational in natural resource monitoring substantially ahead of schedule, demonstrating leadership through successful implementation of the Natural Resource Challenge.

In the Vital Signs Monitoring Plan Phase 3 Report, thirty-one vital signs have been identified that fall into five ecological footing areas: physical drivers, vegetation, habitat, fauna, and near-field human drivers. The vital signs were selected through an analysis of their value and sensitivity in demonstrating the long-term health of the park ecosystems, and their relationship to management issues that need to be addressed for effective natural resource management. The program has been designed to not only track the critical elements of the park's fragile ecosystems, but also to provide appropriate information on a near-term basis for effective and informed issue resolution.

PRESERVE PARK RESOURCES

The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about visitors and resources are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.

Long-term Goal: Natural Resource Inventories. By September 30, 2005, nine natural resource inventories identified in the Resource Management Plan and General Management Plan are completed for Denali.

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, seven resource inventories will have met their objectives or are in reporting stages in accordance with the timeline for the specific inventory. **GOAL EXCEEDED**

Inventories for vascular plants, freshwater fish, soils, water quality, air quality, weather, small mammals, geologic resources, birds, and large mammals met their objectives.

Installation of Remote Web Camera at Eielson Visitor Center

This web camera documents visibility conditions in Denali National Park and Preserve during the summer months as part of the NPS air quality monitoring program. The air in Denali is exceptionally clean, although small amounts of pollution from regional, local, and international sources are measured in the park each year. Wildfire smoke, which in this six million acre park is as naturally occurring as blizzards and rain, occasionally decreases visibility during the summer and the fall, and can sometimes come from fires as far away as Canada and Russia. Clouds are the most common reason that Mt. McKinley and the Alaska Range cannot be seen from the Eielson Visitor Center. In 2004, the largest fire season on record in Alaska, wildfire smoke obscured the view for several weeks of the summer and fall.



Image from webcam

Long-term Goal: Museum Collections. By September 30, 2005, the number of Denali museum objects catalogued in the NPS Automated National Catalog System (ANCS+) and submitted to the National Catalog is increased from 145,157 to 197,268 (35.9%).

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, 193,000 objects would be cataloged. **GOAL EXCEEDED**



Cultural resources specialist Ann Kain checking a drawer of museum collection objects.

Museum Collection

More accurate counting methods have been developed to check the total number of objects catalogued in the Automated National Catalog System (ANCS+). This new method was used on Denali's data, and resulted in the total number of objects decreasing. A total of 4,500 items were cataloged, exceeding the goal for this year.



Mountaineering crampons from early expeditions on Mt. McKinley.

Provide for the Public Enjoyment and Visitor Experience

PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC ENJOYMENT AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and the quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.

Long-term Goal: Visitor Satisfaction. By September 30, 2005, 95% of visitors to Denali are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.

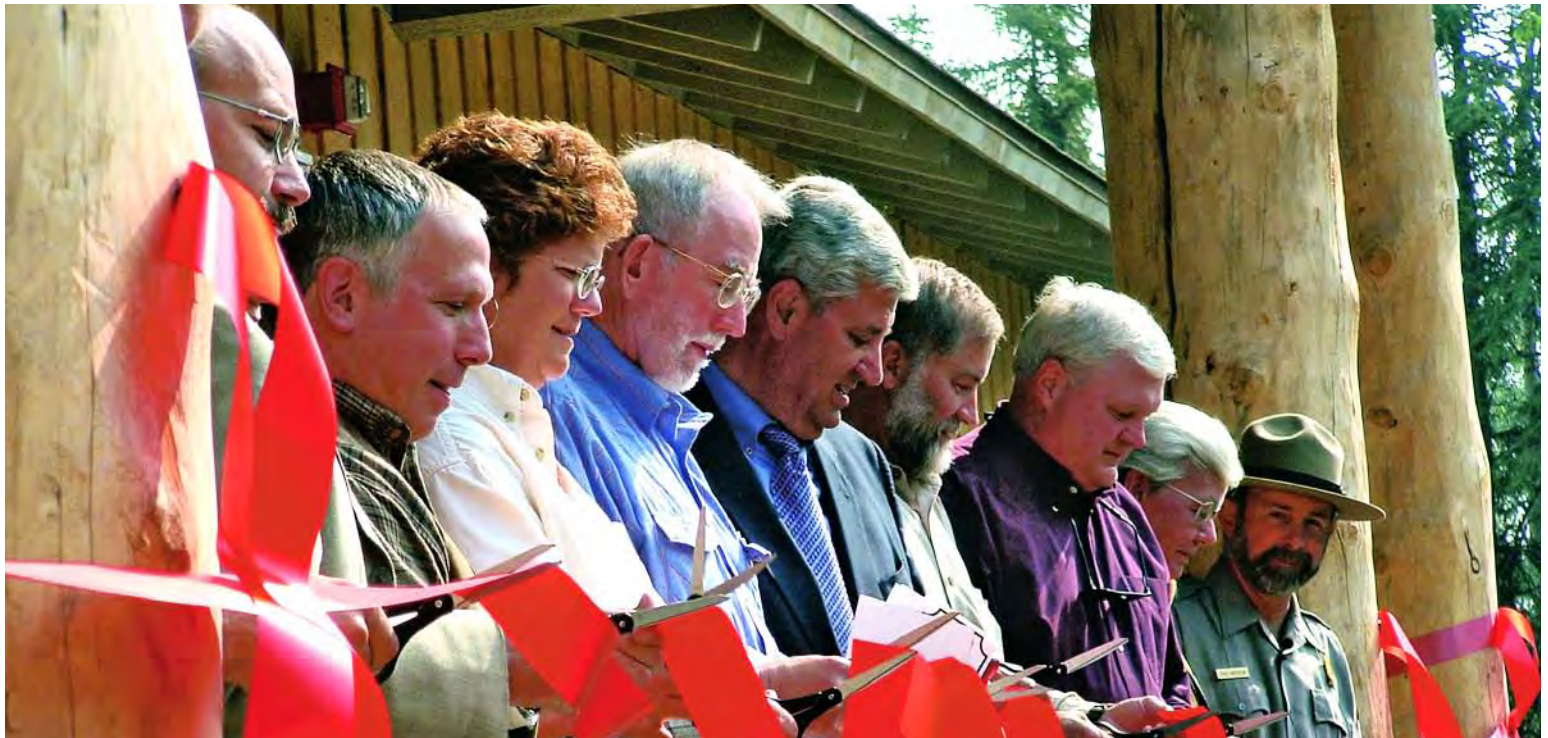
Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, 93% of the visitors will be satisfied with the services of the park. This will be determined by survey results. **GOAL ACHIEVED**

Park concessioner Doyon/ARAMARK Denali National Park Joint Venture (JV) implemented an on-line reservation system for the interpretive bus tours, the shuttle bus system and the campgrounds, which further aided trip planning for Denali visitors. Five new buses with drop-down video screens were added to the tour bus fleet, providing a more comfortable experience and enhanced wildlife sightings. The addition of fifteen new shuttle buses decreased the number of breakdowns. The concessioner also opened a new dining hall facility to feed concession employees and support the programs of the Murie Science and Learning Center.

Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) Opening

The new facilities of the Murie Science and Learning Center were officially dedicated with a public open house on Monday, August 16. The day's events showcased the MSLC

programs, both current and future, and the partners that make up the MSLC. The featured speakers were Dr. James Tate, Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior; Randy Jones, Deputy Director of the National Park Service and Dr. Jan Murie, Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta and son of Adolph Murie. Other high-level officials who participated in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony were NPS Alaska Regional Director Marcia Blaszak; Dr. Mike Sfraga, Chairman of the Denali Foundation Board; Mark Motorow, Chairman of the Alaska Natural History Association Board; Dr. Carol Lewis, Dean of the School of Natural Resources & Agricultural Science at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; Marie Monroe, Vice President of Doyon Limited; Alaska Region Vice President, ARAMARK Corporation Jack Reiss; Bob Whicker, Denali Borough School District Superintendent and Denali National Park Superintendent Paul Anderson.



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Mike Sfraga, Jack Reiss, Marcia Blaszak, Dr. Jan Murie, Dr. James Tate, Mark Motorow, Randy Jones, Dr. Carol Lewis, Paul Anderson

New Fees Charged for Annual Road Lottery

The 2004 road lottery took place on September 17 through 20, with 1227 permits issued over the four-day period. This was the first year that fees were collected for both entries and permits in order to offset the administrative and operational costs incurred by the park due to this annual event. A \$10, non-refundable fee was required for each lottery entry and a \$35, non-refundable fee was required on the day the permit was picked up at the park. This included the \$10 park entrance fee. The park received a minimum number of complaints about the new fees, most supporting the permit fee, but disagreeing with the amount of or the necessity for the application fee. The new fees did reduce the number of applications from an estimated 16-18,000 in 2003 to just under 6,000 in 2004.



This year's permit numbers were comparable to previous years, as it is often weather-dependent as to whether or not a permit is used. Although it had snowed just before the road lottery, the weather cooperated over the weekend and it didn't begin to snow again until Monday evening. Wildlife sightings of note: Dall sheep on and next to the road at Polychrome Pass, including a group of 11 rams; a sow with two cubs at Savage River upstream of the check station much of the



weekend, two two-year old bears at Toklat digging for roots in the gravel bar on Friday, a large single grizzly on the Teklanika River; moose near Primrose, at Mile 70 and in the moose rut area between Mile 5-10; some of the Grant Creek wolf pack at Highway Pass and along the park road west of Eielson Visitor Center late Saturday and Monday. The species that was noticeably absent were caribou, with only a couple of sightings noted.



Long-term Goal: Visitor Safety. By September 30, 2005, the visitor accident/incident rate at Denali is reduced from FY 1999 level of 9.5 visitor accidents per 100,000 visitor days to 8.5 (a 10% decrease).

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, Denali will reduce its number of visitor accidents. GOAL ACHIEVED

The mountaineering rangers based in Talkeetna executed sixteen major search and rescue operations during the climbing season. At least two lives were saved during these operations, one of which was conducted at Denali Pass at 19,000 feet in extreme weather conditions. Park staff responded to two accidents involving downed aircraft, assisting both the NTSB and the Alaska State Troopers and conducted a high elevation SAR for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Rangers park-wide responded to and treated over 78 visitors requiring emergency medical services.



PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC ENJOYMENT AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of parks and their resources for this and future generations.

Long-term Goal: Visitor Understanding and Appreciation. By September 30, 2005, 86% of Denali visitors understand and appreciate the significance of the park (based on survey results).

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, 82% of visitors understand the significance of the park and preserve. GOAL NOT ACHIEVED



The park received only 62 completed visitor survey cards, which is too small a sample size to get a valid representation of visitor understanding. The small sample size may have been contributed to by having fewer uniformed staff making visitor contacts and conducting interpretive programs, due to cuts in funding. In 2005 the new Denali Visitor Center will increase opportunities for contact with interpretive staff, and we will utilize different methods to increase visitor response to the survey.

Ensure Organizational Effectiveness

Artist-in-Residence Program

Four artists participated in the third year of Denali's Artist-in-Residence program. Jon and Jona Van Zyle of Eagle River, Alaska, came as a team, each bringing a variety of experiences to the program. Jon has spent over 30 years in Alaska, and is well known for his paintings, prints and posters. Jona currently works with leather and beads to combine traditional clothing ideas with a humorous Alaskan twist. Diane Canfield Bywaters of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, is a Professor of Art at the University of Wisconsin, with over 26 years of "on location" or "en pleinaire" painting experience. Patricia Savage from Raleigh, North Carolina is also a painter, and had been the natural history artist for a four-week coastal cruise retracing the 1899 Harriman Expedition on one of her previous visits to Alaska.

Each artist spent a period of 10 days between June and September in the park, where they resided in the historic East Fork cabin at Mile 43 on the Park Road. They each presented an evening program for visitors during their stay and have donated a piece of their original artwork to the park. Artists who have participated in previous years include Alaskans Kesler Woodward, David Moffett, Rebecca Voris and Rachelle Dowdy.



East Fork Cabin

ENSURE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

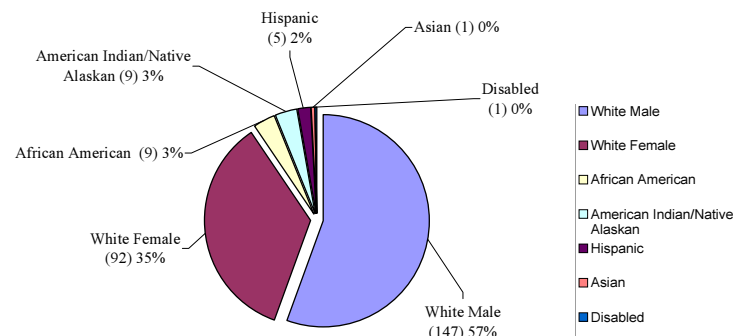
The National Park Service uses current management practices, systems, and technologies to accomplish its mission.

Long-term Goal: Performance Plans Linked to Goals: By September 30, 2005, 100% of employee performance plans are linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance goals and position competencies.

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, all 260 employees will have performance plans linked to strategic and annual performance goals and position competencies. **GOAL ACHIEVED**

Linking the performance standards of these employees to the goals of the National Park Service has been an ongoing task given to all supervisors. Training has been conducted for these supervisors to provide them the tools to write good, thorough performance standards for each of their employees.

2004 - Staff Diversity (Permanent and Seasonal)



Long-term Goal: Employee Housing: By September 2005, the number of Denali employee housing units listed in poor to fair condition is reduced from 32 to 27.

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, only 28 employee housing units remained in poor to fair condition.

GOAL ACHIEVED

Two 18' x 26' wood-framed cabins were constructed during the 2003-2004 school year at the Tri-Valley School as part of the Building Trades program. The completed cabins were re-located to the C-Camp seasonal housing area from the Healy construction site in May, where maintenance crews hooked up utilities so that the cabins could be utilized for the summer season. These cabins replace beds that had been located in the "Compactor" section of the C-Camp Rec Hall, which was removed during the Rec Hall renovation.



Building Trades class at Tri-Valley School with NPS staff

The new duplex and dorm at Toklat were completed and are ready for occupancy. A total of ten new beds were added to the Toklat Road Camp, in addition to two complete ADA accessible bathrooms.



New dorm at Toklat Road Camp

Long-term Goal: Employee safety. By September 30, 2005, the number of Denali lost-time injuries is reduced from the FY 1992-1996 five-year annual average of 2.675 to 2

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, the number of Denali lost-time injuries is 3.

GOAL EXCEEDED



Denali had only two lost-time injuries in FY 2004, which could be attributed to increased training and awareness. OSHA 600 training was provided to supervisors as part of an abatement activity following last year's OSHA citation. The Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) course and an annual refresher were provided to park staff from several divisions, making a total of 22 HAZWOPER cardholders at the 24 or 40 hour levels. Safety orientation checklists for supervisors were developed and distributed with suggestions for use, along with forms to document employee training. The NPSafe program was offered to the park's employees via the TELNPS long-distance satellite learning technology, with a record number of 40 employees attending one of the sessions.

ENSURE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

The National Park Service increases its managerial resources through initiatives and support from other agencies, organizations and individuals

Long-term Goal: By September 2005, the number of Denali volunteer hours is increased from 20,583 to 39,000.

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2004, Denali volunteers will have contributed 37,000 hours to the park.

GOAL EXCEEDED

In 2004, 369 individuals contributed 39,430 hours of volunteer work to various projects, including trail construction, revegetation efforts, Backcountry Information Desk staffing, patrols on Mt. McKinley, sled dog walks, campground hosts, the School to Work program, backcountry patrols and organizing the Artist-in-Residence program.

Denali Volunteers Receive Awards

Five park volunteer received the President's Call To Service Awards for the number of volunteer hours they have contributed to the park. Harry and Phyllis Hassinger, Wonder Lake Campground hosts, were honored for each giving over 6,000 hours of volunteer service to the park. They have been campground hosts in the park for over 13 years.

Ed and Elinore Boyer, Savage River Campground hosts, and Alex Gould, Teklanika Campground host, were honored for volunteering over 4,000 hours apiece. The Boyers have spent eleven seasons in Denali as campground hosts and Alex has given seven summers of support to the park.



Phyllis and Harry Hassinger being presented with their award by Superintendent Paul Anderson



Ed and Elinore Boyer

Operating Budget Base Allocations (ONPS) Expenditure Highlights

\$1,308,000 – Resource Protection and Management

Cultural resource work included the rehabilitation of the historic C-Camp recreation hall, writing and updating the Historic Structures Reports on the Stampede Mine buildings and the Lower East Fork Patrol cabin, completing the Headquarters Historic District Cultural Landscape inventory, completing the archival survey of the park and beginning work to stabilize the Teklanika archeological site. Natural resource work included the completion of wildlife surveys and on-going monitoring studies, including those on grizzly bears, wolves, caribou and golden eagles.

\$3,197,050 – Visitor Services

The dedication of the Murie Science and Learning Center in August provided the opportunity for the public to see the new facility and to learn about the variety of programs being offered by the center’s partners. The mountaineering rangers in the park’s south district responded to sixteen major search and rescue incidents, ten of which involved assistance to, or life-saving rescues of ill or injured climbers. An expedition was struck by a major rockfall on the West Buttress route on the evening of July 27, killing one client and seriously injuring two others. This was the first climbing fatality since 2002.

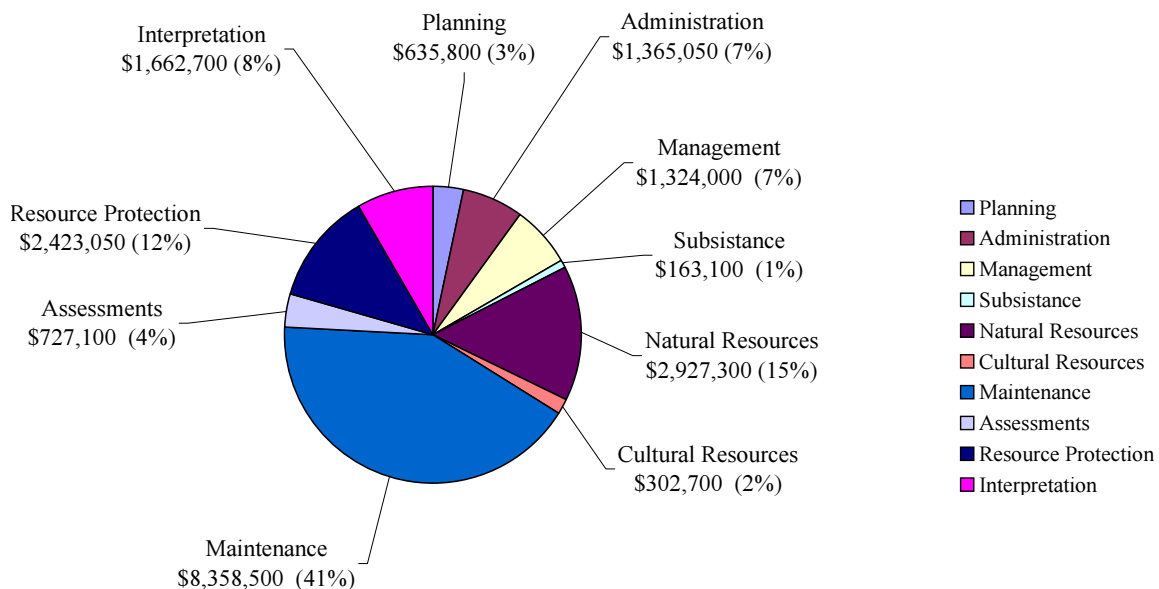
\$3,295,000 – Facility Operations and Maintenance

Road maintenance and preparation for new construction was the focus of the roads and trails branch. The annual spring opening was accomplished and work was done to enhance sight distance and visitor safety on various sections of the park road through brushing of vegetation, repair of soft spots and the construction of new pullouts. Over 1,920 hours of labor were performed to install a fire detection system in all buildings in the headquarters area. The park’s recycling program recycled 9,600 pounds of glass; 1,026 pounds of plastic; 18,190 pounds of paper; 5,930 pounds of scrap metal and 800 pounds of aluminum, making a total of almost 47,000 pounds of material that was diverted from the landfill.

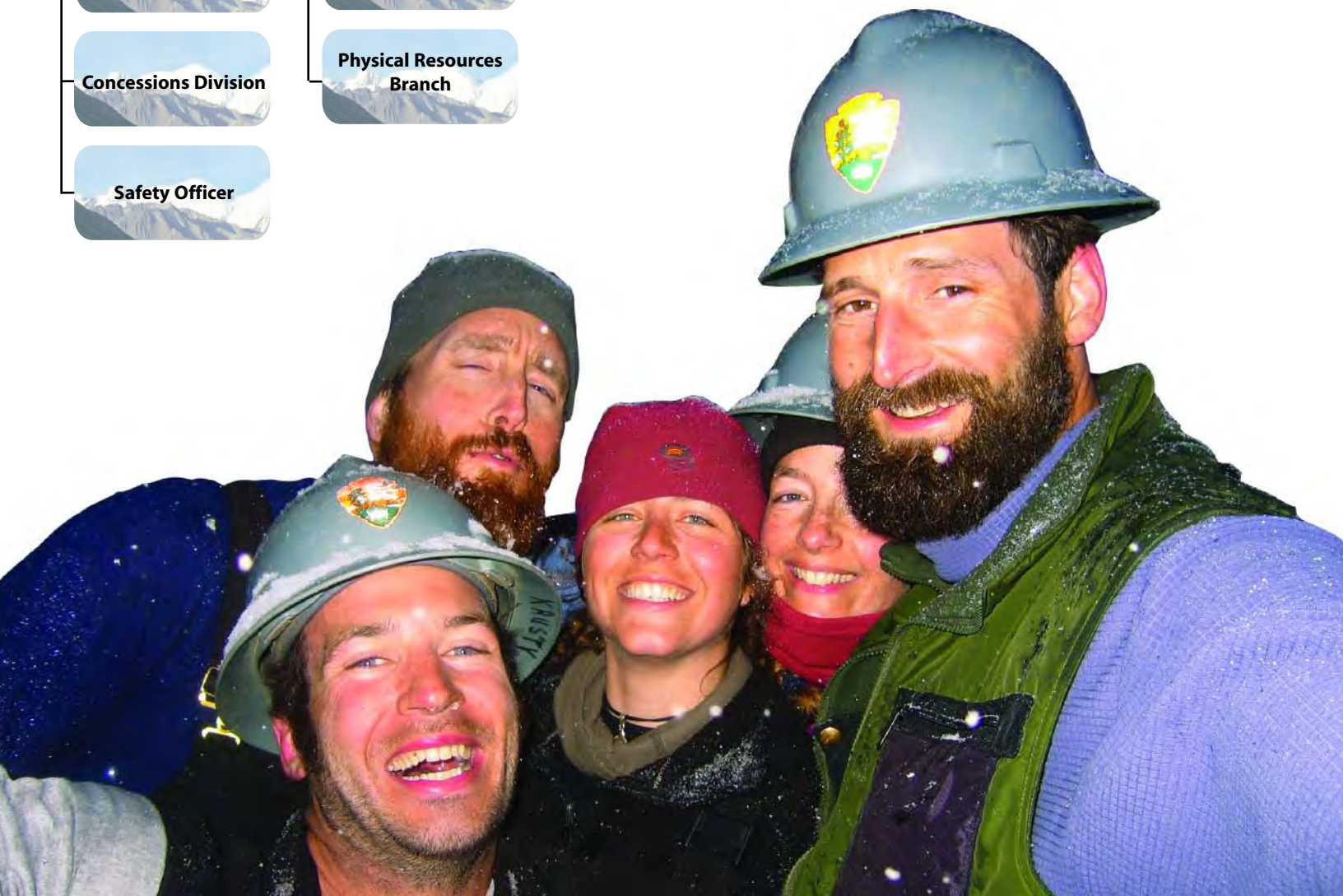
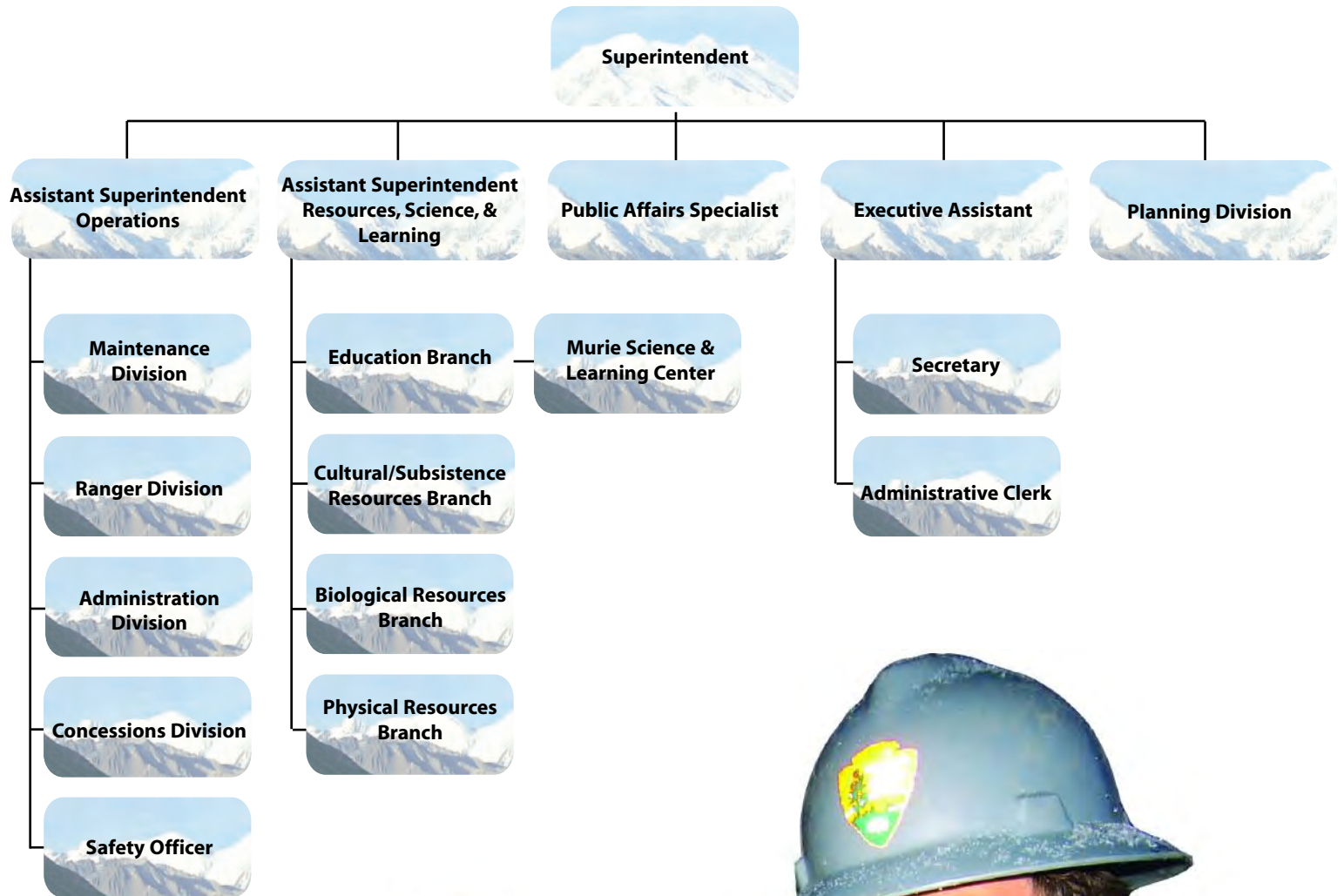
\$2,159,850 – Management and Administration

The park began work on updating the 2001 Business Plan, which will provide information on the park’s financial resources for the public, Congress, park employees, local communities, park partners, and special interest groups. A number of high-level officials were hosted by the park, including Rebecca Watson, Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management; Minerals and Management Service Director Johnnie Burton and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director Steven Williams, in addition to the dignitaries who attended the MSLC dedication in August. The Information Technology (IT) staff kept busy designing and installing wiring for the new Murie Science and Learning Center, Denali Visitor Center, the new building addition for Fire Management and making upgrades at C-Camp. The Human Resources staff participated in several career fairs, including the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Tuskegee University.

All Sources of Park Funding (\$19,889,300)



Denali National Park and Preserve Organization Chart





Visitors had the opportunity to tour the building and explore several stations highlighting park science, education programs, and partnerships of the MSLC. The stations included a demonstration of how wolves are tracked by the use of radio collars, the equipment used and information being obtained by soundscape researchers, information on long-term wolf monitoring, and the re-articulation of a wolf skeleton by local students that will be on permanent display in the MSLC.



Tracking wolves; (Photo: Denali Institute)

The Murie Science and Learning Center is a collaboration between the National Park Service and its scientific and educational partners. The partners include the Denali Foundation, Denali Institute, Denali Borough School District, Doyon/ARAMARK Denali National Park Joint Venture, University of Alaska Fairbanks and seven other National Parks in northern Alaska. The Center is named after Adolf and Olaus Murie, who as scientists and researchers made significant contributions to knowledge of the park's wildlife and predator-prey relationships.



Discovery Camp

The Center's goals are to promote, support and coordinate research and scientific studies in the parks, and to communicate the results of these studies to students, educators and the general public via a wide range of in-depth,



Art Design in Denali seminar; (Photo: Denali Institute)

science-based educational programs. More than 39 million acres of Alaska national parklands are represented in the MSLC partnership. It is one of two Research Learning Centers in Alaska, and one of the 32 planned Research Learning Centers in the National Park System.

A wide variety of offerings were offered through the MSLC in 2004, including the MSLC Field Camp that is utilized for field seminars and teacher training courses offered through the Denali Institute, Denali Discovery Camp, and a daily five-hour excursion on the wolves of Denali.

The new facilities of the Murie Science and Learning Center are part of the entrance area development being funded through a public/private partnership to provide better facilities and services for visitors and to improve the visitor experience in Denali National Park and Preserve. The MSLC will function as the winter visitor contact station for the park from October into May.



Murie Science and Learning Center

