

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Katmai National Park and Preserve

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Katmai National Park and Preserve News Release

May 2, 2008 For Immediate Release Contact: Helen Lons (907) 246-2145

Proposed Brooks River Area Communications Upgrade and Bear Viewing Web Camera Installation Environmental Assessment Available & Open for Public Comment

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to upgrade the existing Brooks Camp communications system and install a real-time web camera at the Brooks Falls viewing platform within Katmai National Park and Preserve (KATM). This project would provide a reliable backbone communications infrastructure to the Brooks Camp facility for the benefit of staff and visitors. This project would also provide a remote link to an NPS partnership that is willing to fund high definition color video transmission of bears feeding at the Brooks Falls area. The partnership consists of the NPS, Pratt Museum, RealNetworks and National Geographic Society.

If approved and funded, this project would be implemented during early summer, 2008.

Public comments are requested on the EA <u>through June 1, 2008</u>. To comment, please visit <u>http://parkplanning.nps.gov</u>, or write to the address above. If you have questions, please contact Helen Lons, Chief of Environmental Planning and Compliance, at (907) 246-2145 or email her at Helen_Lons@nps.gov.

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