



Kenai Fjords National Park 2013 Fact Sheet

Superintendent	Jeff Mow
Established	December 1, 1978 Designated as a national monument December 2, 1980 Designated as a national park, through the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA.)
Mission	Kenai Fjords National Park was established to maintain unimpaired the scenic and environmental integrity of the Harding Icefield, its outflowing glaciers and coastal fjords and islands in their natural state; and to protect seals, sea lions, other marine mammals, and marine and other birds and to maintain their hauling and breeding areas in their natural state, free of human activity which is disruptive to their natural processes.
Park Acreage	669,983 acres / 1047 square miles: (legislative boundary) 601,839 acres / 940 square miles: (managed by the National Park Service)
Visitation	2012: 281,279 recreation visits 2011: 346,852 total recreation visits 2010: 297,596 total recreation visits
Budget	2012 base appropriation: \$3,737,100 2011 base appropriation: \$3,725,975 2010 base appropriation: \$3,729,925
Staff (FY2012)	Permanent: 30 Seasonal: 42 Volunteers-In-Parks: 86 volunteers contributed 11,876.25 hours of service in FY12.
Campground	12 campsites at the Exit Glacier area, with 2 wheelchair accessible sites. Campground is tent-only, and no reservations required. Vehicle camping is strictly prohibited. Backcountry camping is allowed throughout the park except within 500 feet of a public use cabin or within 1/8 mile of a road or trail at Exit Glacier.
Public Use Cabins	<i>Aialik and Holgate</i> : available during summer months through the Alaska Public Lands Information Center. <i>Willow</i> : available during winter months by contacting Kenai Fjords National Park.
Trails	The only maintained trails in Kenai Fjords National Park are those in the Exit Glacier area. Trails to Exit Glacier : These 3 short trails are on the valley floor, range from .5 to 1.5 miles (one-way) and provide views and/or access to Exit Glacier. The Harding Icefield Trail : A strenuous hike with an elevation gain of approximately 3500 feet that ends in a spectacular view of the Harding Icefield (4.1 miles). Coastline : Over 545 miles to kayak, camp, and explore.

Human History	The Alutiiq (plural: <i>Alutiit</i>), also called Pacific Yupik, or <i>Sugpiaq</i> , are a southern coastal people of the Yupik peoples of Alaska. There is archeological evidence and oral tradition that indicates they have lived for hundreds if not thousands of years in this area. They traditionally lived a seasonal, coastal lifestyle, subsisting primarily on ocean resources such as salmon, seabird eggs, seal and whale, as well as, rich land resources including berries and land mammals. The descendants of the early Alutiiq people live today in coastal fishing communities, such as Nanwalek and Port Graham at the end of the Peninsula. They name themselves and their language <i>Sugpiaq</i> .
Climate	Kenai Fjords generally enjoys a relatively temperate maritime climate, primarily due to the influence of the Alaska coastal current that flows through the Gulf of Alaska. Summer: The daytime temperatures range from the mid-40s to the low 70s (Fahrenheit). Overcast and cool rainy days are frequent with occasional sunny days. Winter: Temperatures can range from the low 30s to -20 (Fahrenheit). The Exit Glacier area averages close to 200 inches of snowfall annually, but conditions vary greatly.
Harding Icefield	The Harding Icefield is the largest feature within Kenai Fjords National Park, and is the largest icefield contained entirely within the boundaries of the United States. The area of the icefield and its outflowing glaciers as of 2005 was 1,903 sq. km (735 sq. mi) . It is approximately 50 miles across at the longest point; 20 miles wide across the widest point. 1,367.51 sq. km (528 sq. mi) of the Harding Icefield are contained within the boundaries of Kenai Fjords National Park. From 1986 to 2000 the Harding Icefield lost 22 sq. km or 1.6% of glacier ice cover.
Glaciers of the Harding Icefield	There are at least 38 glaciers that flow from the Harding Icefield. 12 of these glaciers, officially named by the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), terminate within park boundaries: Lowell, Exit, Bear, Skee, Lechner, Aialik, Addison, Pedersen, Holgate, Northwestern, McCarty and Split.
Elevation	Truuli Peak, at 6,612 feet above sea level, is the tallest peak on the Harding Icefield. The highest surface on the Harding Icefield is approximately 5,200 ft. above sea level. The highest peak within the boundaries of Kenai Fjords, at 6450 ft., is unnamed.
Fauna	Land mammals: 29 species Marine mammals: 11 species Birds: 191 species Fish: 40 species (marine and freshwater) Threatened or endangered species: humpback whale, sei whale, gray whale, and Steller's sea lion. Species of special concern/ rare species: Kittlitz's murrelet, peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, gray-cheeked thrush, Townsend's warbler, blackpoll warbler, and harbor seal.
Flora	Interior valleys are primarily comprised of Sitka spruce and western hemlock forest, with alder, cottonwood, and willow showing up in recently de-glaciated areas. Hemlock, bunchberry, mountain cranberry, and devil's club crowd the forest floor. Sitka spruce and rich growths of devil's club, salmonberry, and skunk cabbage are found along the coast. Large stands of kelp forest dominate the intertidal zone. Management Species of Concern: Enander's sedge, dunhead sedge, sessileleaf scurvygrass, Alaskan douglasia, Pale poppy, Chimisso's orchid, Arctic pennycress. Invasive Plant Species: field mustard, common chickweed, yellow toadflax, pineapple weed, common timothy, common plantain, annual bluegrass, tall buttercup, common sheep sorrel, curly dock, common dandelion, alsike clover, prostrate knotweed.