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to meet the anticipated growth in visitation with careful planning of appropriate facilities

Visitor projections for the next 15 years were developed. For the visitor center and headquarters facility, the size and necessary functional elements were determined, and 19 sites were considered for building locations. The possibility of sharing a facility with other public agencies was explored as well.

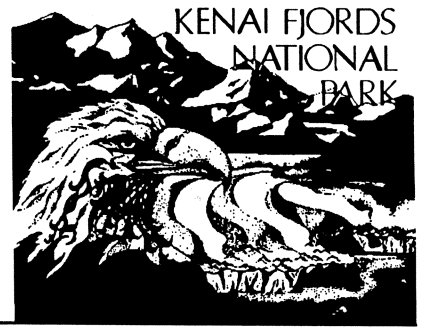
The action alternatives proposed a visitor center that would give the Kenai Peninsula visitor an overview of the various public lands in the area, and would be jointly operated by participating public agencies, with the National Park Service (NPS) as the lead agency. A staffed lobby and trip planning area would provide the visitor with information on recreational opportunities. Exhibits, artifacts, and audio-visual presentations would give the visitor an impression of the park's diverse and mostly inaccessible resources.

The two recommended alternatives propose collaborating with the Forest Service to construct an administration building that includes the visitor center in the same facility.

Alternative development scenarios for Exit Glacier were evaluated. The recommended alternative proposes a 50% expansion of the parking area, with provisions for a shuttle bus service once the parking area use exceeds an acceptable threshold of demand. A carrying capacity study will be conducted to determine this threshold. The recommended alternative also proposes a new, larger visitor contact station, improvements to trails and toilet facilities, use of alternative power sources for lighting, and paving of the access road and parking. Winter use will remain unchanged.

No significant environmental impacts are anticipated for any of the recommended alternatives.

Additional site specific compliance will be completed during the design phase for the preferred alternatives.



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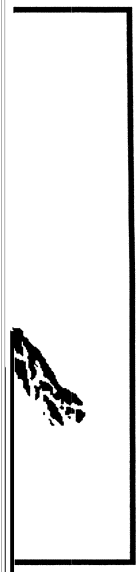

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:rs of visitors to Seward. The number of
ships docking in the port of Seward
doubled between 1993 and 1995, and
ening of the ASLC is expected to
ute to further growth in the numbers
se ships ports-of-call. Improvements to
it Glacier access road will allow buses to
ıdditional visitors to Exit Glacier.

tions suggest that visitor numbers in the
)03 will be close to 300,000 annually,
third of these stopping at the Seward
Center and two thirds traveling to Exit
r. By 2008, visitation for both facilities
ve nearly doubled from 1993 levels,
the Exit Glacier area may receive almost
people on a busy weekend day and the
center may receive nearly 1,800 people
eak day.

ion to the park is concentrated within a
period during the year. Most people visit
summer months, with July as the peak
ı; in July of 1994 the park received over
) visitors. June and August were the
usiest months, with over 46,000 visitors
The season is becoming longer, as
on during the months of April, May,
nber, and October has increased. These
ns are expected to continue with the
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developments

keeping with the small-town
f Seward;

npatible in scale and land use
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parking in compliance with
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npatible with city and area
ment plans;

ted to provide easy and safe
park visitors;

with other public land
nt agencies such as the Forest
ska State Parks and others in
artnerships for sharing
ive and interpretive facilities.

EXIT GLACIER GOALS

To meet the needs of visitors at Exit Glacier by:

- Providing the opportunity to experience the glacier in a predominately natural setting at the edge of a wilderness;
- Providing interpretation which complements personal contact with the glacier as the primary visitor experience;
- Providing a network of trails which are of varying difficulty in order to allow for a variety of visitor experiences and to minimize crowding;
- Providing visitor facilities which are appropriate in location, size, scale and character, in order to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural resources of the park;
- Providing options for the management of visitors during peak season.

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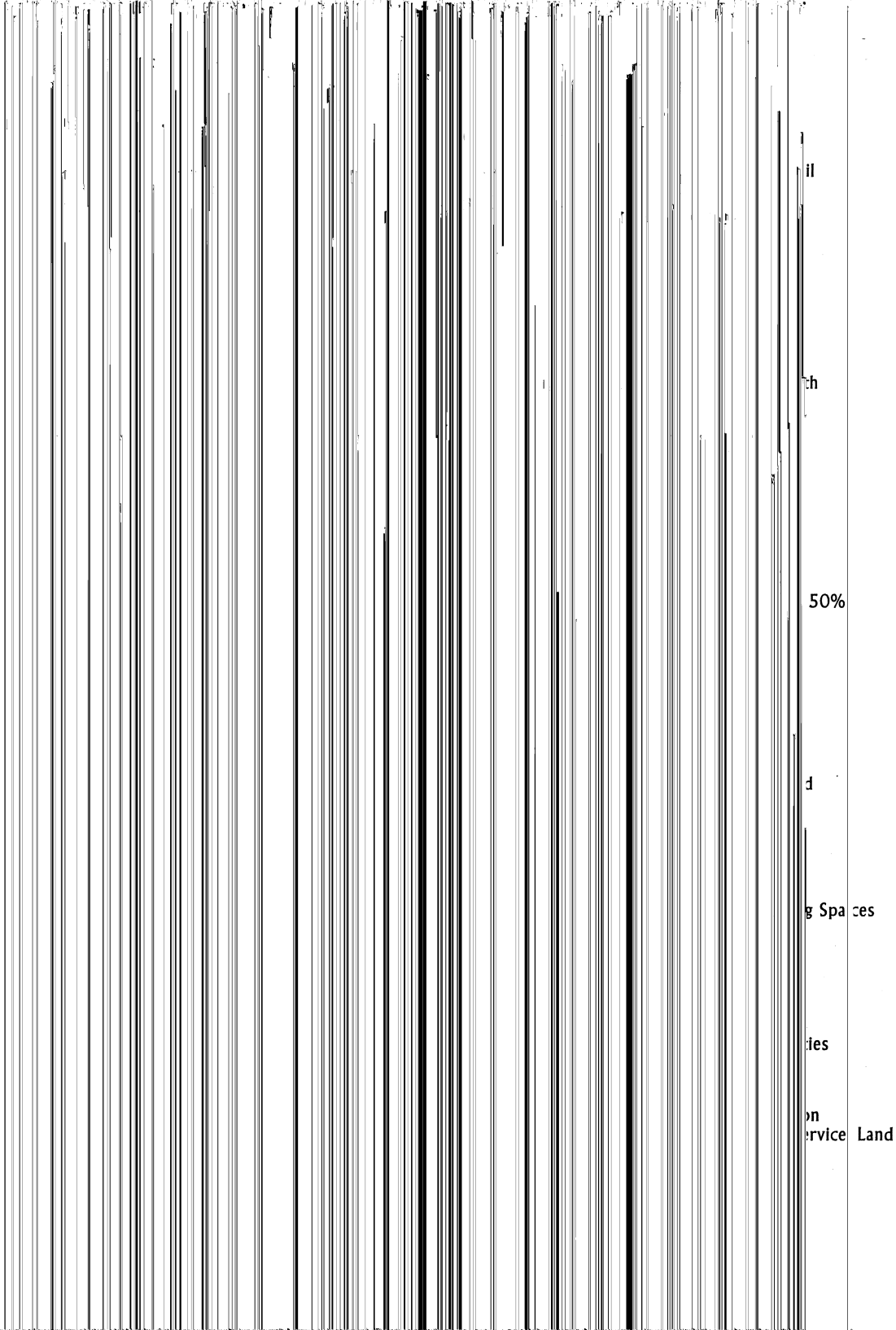
r Visitor Contact Facilities

Glacier area, a range of visitor
ld satisfy needs for visitor contact
ı minimum, the park needs to
rrent contact station for safety,
operations, and shelter for visitors
ely inclement weather. Visitor
uggest that a larger facility will be
facility could serve an
l function identical to the
on, or could add hands-on
lisplays that would relate to the
area. In scoping meetings the public expressed a desire for a new facility to be built in a rustic style, using natural materials harmonious with the surrounding environment.

A covered area to accommodate 50 people is needed for group orientation and ranger talks. This area could be a separate pavilion or a covered area attached to the visitor contact station.



Recommended Alternative

Improve the nature trail

Improve trail signage

Extend accessible trail to outwash plain

Improve trail to Ouzel Falls

Gate at Resurrection River Bridge

Legend

Trail

Accessible Trail

Extended Trail

Extended Accessible Trail

EXIT GLACIER
MODERATE DEVELOPMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DSC/MAY '96/186/20,049A

KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK

APPENDIX A: ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS CONSERVATION ACT (ANILCA): PUBLIC LAW 96-487, SEC. 101, A,B,D

Section 101. (a). In order to preserve for the benefit, use, education, and inspiration of present and future generations certain lands and waters in the State of Alaska that contain nationally significant natural, scenic, historic, archeological, geological, scientific, wilderness, cultural, recreational, and wildlife values, the units described in the following titles are hereby established.

(b). It is the intent of Congress in this Act to preserve unrivaled scenic and geological values associated with natural landscapes; to provide for the maintenance of sound populations of, and habitat for, wildlife species of inestimable value to the citizens of Alaska and the Nation,

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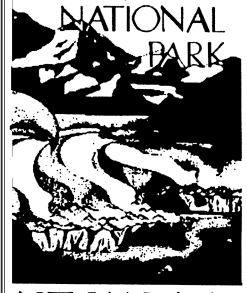

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