



# GMP Alternatives Newsletter



Dear Friends,

As you may know, the National Park Service (NPS) is currently developing a General Management Plan (GMP) Revision for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve that will provide updated direction for managing the park over the next 15 to 20 years. In the summer of 2011, we held public meetings and asked for your ideas and concerns regarding stewardship of the park. Taking your feedback into account, we have developed three preliminary alternative concepts for amending the existing 1984 GMP. In this newsletter, we would like to share with you these preliminary management alternatives. They include a general concept for each alternative and management zones that help us explain the conditions we hope to achieve in different areas of the park. During the planning process, we will compare these alternatives against a “no-action” alternative where management would remain unchanged and would not address current or near-term planning needs.

The preliminary alternatives presented in this newsletter are guided by Lake Clark National Park and Preserve’s legislated purpose and its significance to all people, primary interpretive themes, administrative mandates and commitments (such as providing subsistence opportunities), and issues facing the park that require formal planning. Please review the alternatives in this newsletter, and tell us whether they reflect an appropriate range of ideas for future management of the park. It is possible that you may like some, but not all, the elements of one alternative, or maybe you have an entirely different vision that would address the park’s needs. Please share with us your likes, dislikes, and other ideas. This feedback is essential for us to formulate the future direction for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

You can comment by:

- returning the enclosed comment form or mail a letter to the park;
- submitting your comments electronically via the internet or email;
- providing your comments at one of the

open houses we will conduct in April (please see the ‘How to be Involved’ section of this newsletter for more details). You are always welcome to call the Superintendent or staff to provide comment.

The planning team will review all comments submitted; however, comments received by May 8 will be most helpful for this phase of planning. Following this review, we will refine the preliminary alternatives and proceed with the National Environmental Policy Act evaluation. We appreciate your interest in the management of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and look forward to your continued involvement in this important planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hard".

Joel Hard, Superintendent

# Summary of Public Scoping Comments Received

## Public Scoping Meetings for the General Management Plan

The National Park Service asked the public for comments about the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's general management plan in summer 2011. A newsletter was sent out in July 2011 introducing the planning effort. That same month, public meetings were held in Homer, Soldotna, Anchorage, and 5 villages. At these public meetings, Lake Clark staff discussed the planning effort and collected feedback on a variety of park issues from about fifty total meeting participants. About thirty comments were also received on the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website, emails, or mail-back comment cards. Most comments came from individuals, but the park also received feedback from the State of Alaska and the National Parks Conservation Association. The main topics and issues on which comments were received are summarized below. These ideas were incorporated into the range of preliminary management alternatives and zones included in this newsletter.

### Increased Visitor Opportunities

More trails were suggested and supported by meeting attendees and responses on mail and email. Suggestions included defined marked trails, trails in key areas to minimize impact, upgrades

of old trails that had historic use, and enhancement of trails in Lake Clark and Kontrashibuna Lake areas. However, some commenters expressed support for a more trail-less and undeveloped park. A request was made to make a few trails accessible for those with disabilities, especially in Port Alsworth. There was also support for a more trails around Port Alsworth, including possibly a mountain bike trail. New concession and visitor opportunities such as canoe and kayak rentals, and boat storage were suggested by some meeting attendees. Public use cabins or yurt systems were also supported by those who commented during the scoping period. Multiple suggestions were made on how existing cabins should be used in the park, and there was support of the restoration and opening of cabins that already exist. The construction of new cabins was not supported. The commenters felt that any further development that may occur should be held to the high wilderness ethic. One commenter stated that cabins and huts can provide a jumping-off point to other areas of the park, but the impact of the cabin needs to be small and contained.

Campgrounds and campsites were also supported as a new use inside the park. A campground was requested in Port Alsworth, and the size and impact of the campsite at Hope Creek was mentioned by one commenter. The public requested that decisions be made about how many campsites should be in the park, and where overflow campers might go. A request was made for a campground at the head of Lake Clark near the eastern end of the beach for those exiting a river float. Similar to comments about trails, there were also members of the public who expressed their desire for little or no further development in the park, to support an "untouched, trail-less, pristine" visitor experience.

### Wild Experiences

Commenters expressed support of the wild nature of the park, and park managers were cautioned about expanding facilities, concessions and development. A light touch by park managers was stressed by commenters, who used words like "primitive," "solitude," and "self-sufficiency" in their comments about park wilderness. One commenter mentioned the importance of wilderness at Lake Clark in light of development pressures increase nationwide. Two commenters expressly commented on new wilderness designation, while other commenters remained silent on the topic of designated wilderness.

### Richard Proenneke Site

Many commenters encouraged park managers to continue preservation of the cabins. Some commenters complimented the volunteer docents' work at the site, though one person expressed disappointment that no park staff is was appointed to the Twin Lakes area. (continued on Page 12)



Public meetings were held along the road system and in 5 communities surrounding the park.

# Zones and Alternatives Development Process

The following draft zones and alternatives have been developed after considering the park's purpose, significance, and legal mandates as well as public and agency comments received during the scoping phase of the planning effort.

## Draft Management Zones

Management zones are sets of descriptions of desired conditions for park resources and visitor experiences in different areas of the park. The planning team has identified three management zones for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The zones differ in how visitor use and experience as well as resource conditions, administrative infrastructure, facilities, and commercial services would be managed in different areas of the park. Details of these management zones are provided in the table on the next pages. The enclosed maps also show how the zones were applied in varying configurations and locations based on the preliminary alternative concepts developed.



## Preliminary Alternatives

Three preliminary action alternative concepts have been developed, presenting different options for managing resources and visitor use, and improving facilities and infrastructure at Lake Clark.

Alternative A, the no-action alternative, serves as a basis for comparison between Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's current management and the other alternatives. It provides a baseline for evaluating changes and impacts of the other alternatives. This alternative is also useful in understanding why the National Park Service or the public may believe that changes in management direction are needed. Under this alternative, there would be no change in the current management direction for the foreseeable future. The National Park Service would continue to manage the park under the overall operational direction provided in its enabling legislation, NPS policies, and other agreements and laws that currently

guide management. The no action alternative is not part of in the preliminary alternative concept table.

The three action alternatives organize the range of new concepts and ideas we have heard from the public, and that are within the framework of NPS laws and policies. Alternatives B-D focused on enhancing natural and cultural resource conditions, and visitor use and experience at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Alternative B would offer a broad range of recreational opportunities. Alternative C would accommodate current use while adding limited additional facilities for recreational and administrative purposes. Alternative D would focus on accommodating current use patterns while maximizing the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The preliminary alternative concept maps are presented on pages 6-8. The insert for the preliminary alternatives concept descriptions can be used to compare differences on the maps.

## How to Get Involved

Your ideas and concerns on the preliminary alternative concepts and zones for managing the park are welcomed and encouraged. Comments can be sent by mail, shared at a public meeting, or submitted electronically (email address listed below). Please consider the questions listed on the enclosed comment form in addition to any other thoughts and ideas. Receiving your input before May 8 will allow us to learn from you before we continue to refine general management plan amendment.

### Share your comments electronically:

Complete the electronic version of the comment form on the web at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lac> (click on "General Management Plan - Lake Clark National Park and Preserve" and then "Open for Public Comment").

### Share your comments at an open house:

You can provide your comments (verbally or in writing) at the upcoming open houses. We invite you to attend one of the open houses to talk with the planning team firsthand about your ideas, experiences, and questions. The open house schedule is listed on the back.

### Mail your comment form or letters to:

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve – GMP Amendment  
240 W. 5th Ave, Suite 236  
Anchorage, AK 99501

### Email your input to:

[LACL\\_Planning@nps.gov](mailto:LACL_Planning@nps.gov)

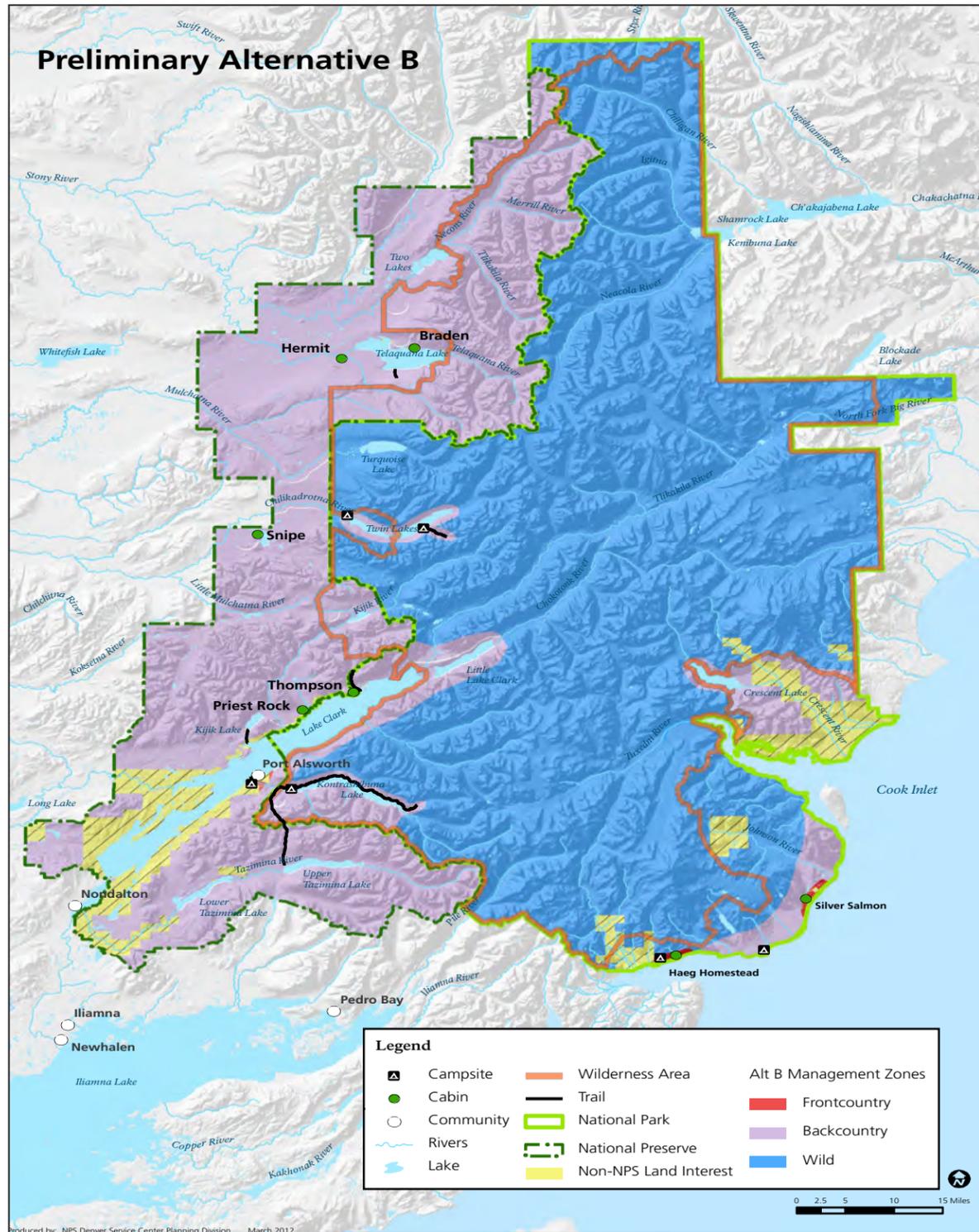


## Draft Management Zone Descriptions

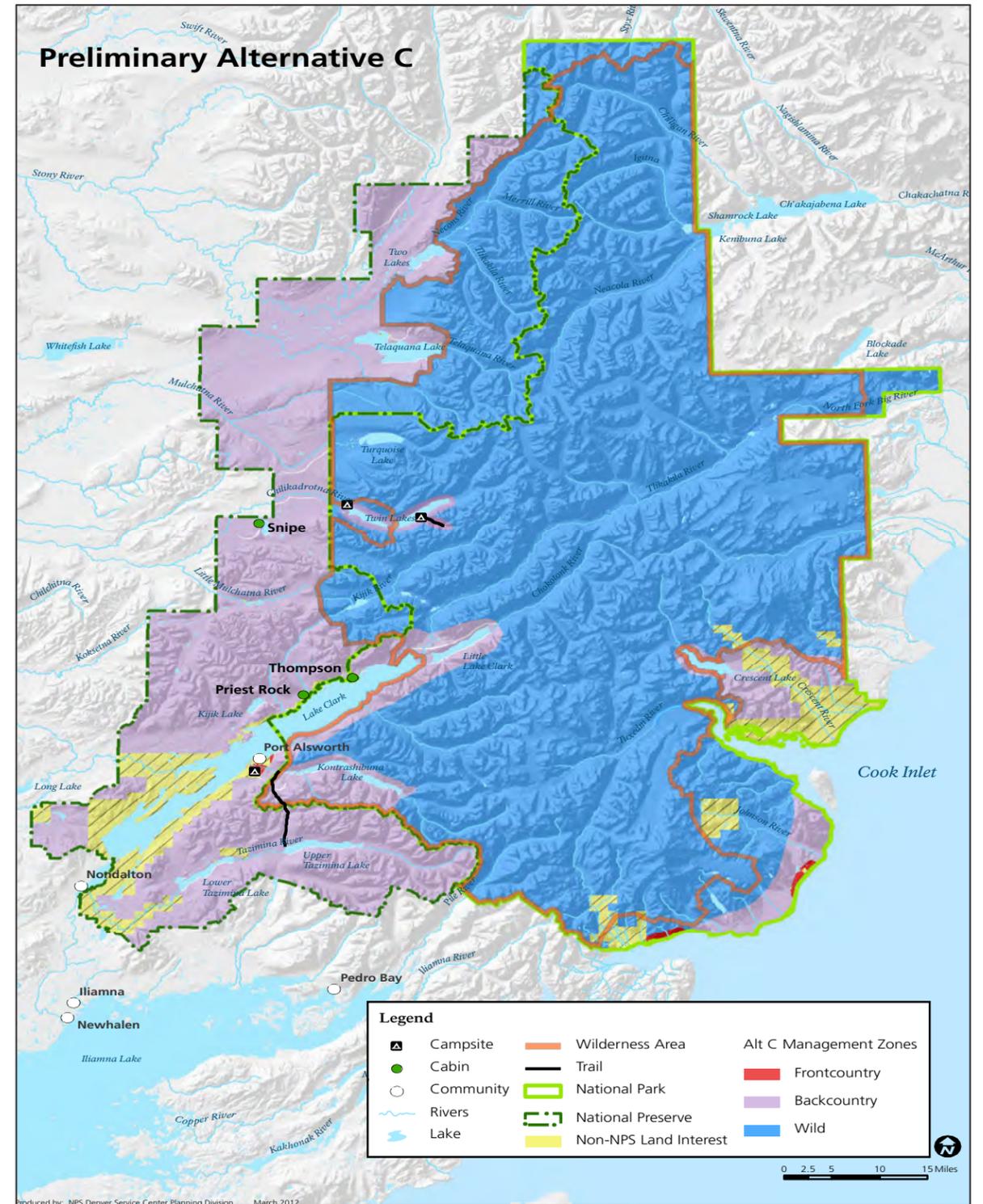
Wild Zone (blue)	Backcountry Zone (purple)	Frontcountry Zone (red)
<b>Zone Concept</b>		
The purpose of this zone would be to provide the most wild, unmanipulated, and natural setting that supports wilderness-oriented visitor experiences. This zone would preserve wilderness character to the highest degree, providing unconfined recreation and opportunities for solitude.	The purpose of this zone would be to provide a setting that is remote and natural, and allows visitors to use some facilities to support backcountry use (i.e. rustic cabin, brushed trail).	The purpose of this zone would be to reflect the areas that serve as the major points of entry into the park and higher density recreation areas. This zone supports administrative infrastructure and visitor facilities like visitor centers and networks of trails that are not found in other parts of the park. This zone would serve as a hub for educational programming, visitor facilities, commercial services, and park operations. This zone would also provide compatibility with neighboring developed private lands.
<b>Resource Conditions</b>		
Natural processes would dominate in this zone. The ecosystems would function naturally and ecosystem integrity would be at the highest level.  Natural resource management activities would focus on inventory and monitoring to increase understanding of natural ecosystem functions.  Cultural resource management in this zone would focus on inventory, condition assessments, and evaluation.	Natural processes would dominate in this zone, with limited impacts to natural resources expected in localized areas to support visitor and administrative activities.  Natural resource management activities would focus on inventory and monitoring to increase understanding of natural ecosystem functions. It would also include minimal activities to mitigate or rehabilitate human-caused impacts.  Cultural resource management in this zone would focus on inventory, condition assessments, and evaluation.  Specific resources may be a primary attraction at higher use areas. Cultural sites and natural resources would be managed by the NPS to protect them from the impacts of visitor use. Some natural or cultural resources could be used for interpretive purposes in this zone.  If natural and/or cultural resources experience unacceptable impacts, some resources may be altered to accommodate visitor use or to protect resources from visitor use impacts.	Some degree of localized resource impacts would be expected and tolerated in this zone, such as impacts from the development and use of new facilities.  Natural resource management activities would focus on inventory and monitoring, and actions to mitigate and/or rehabilitate impacts from human activities.  Cultural sites may be the primary attraction at higher use areas. Cultural sites would be managed by the NPS to protect them from the impacts of visitor use. Some cultural resources could be used for interpretive purposes in this zone.  If natural and/or cultural resources experience unacceptable impacts, some resources may be altered to accommodate visitor use or to protect resources from visitor use impacts.
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b>		
Encounter Rates: Visitors would have the expectation of seeing no one else during their visit throughout much of this zone. In more popular access points or during the hunting season in the National Preserve, visitors might see one other group (visitors or staff) per one-week trip	Encounter Rates: Throughout much of this zone, visitors would expect to see other visitors on a weekly basis. On trails, at campsites, or at other popular destinations or access points, visitors might see another group or two daily.	Encounter Rates: Visitors would expect a high degree of contact with other visitors in this zone. Visitors would encounter other visitors during interpretive and educational programming, and in normal use of park facilities in this zone.
Challenge: The highest level of challenge and self-reliance would be required in this zone. This zone would also require the highest level of effort for entry and use.	Challenge: Self-reliance and unconfined recreation would be important aspects of this zone, but there would be greater support of group activities in this zone. Visitors to this zone may expect a trade-off between lower levels of challenge and higher levels of infrastructure to support visitor use. would be available to visitors	Challenge: This is the zone of access, entry and pick-up points into the park resulting in the lowest level of visitor challenge.
Encounters with Staff: Encounters with staff would be minimal. Most visitors to this zone would not encounter staff during their entire visit, although visitors may occasionally encounter staff near popular access points	Encounters with Staff: Visitors may occasionally encounter staff in this zone, as the maintenance and support of facilities and access would require higher staff activity.	Encounter with Staff: Encounters with staff would be highest in this zone. Visitors would expect to encounter staff daily in this zone.
Soundscape Conditions: This zone would have very natural soundscape conditions with little human-caused sound except for occasional aircraft overflights in specific areas (such as along Lake Clark Pass).	Soundscape Conditions: Visitors would expect more human-caused sounds in this zone, such as from group encounters, boats and aircraft.	Soundscape Conditions: Visitors would expect to hear the highest levels of human-caused sounds in this zone. Commercial services, administrative and maintenance activities, and recreational and educational activities would contribute to the soundscape in this zone. In addition, this zone may be found adjacent to non-park lands such as Port Alsworth, which would contribute human-caused sounds to the soundscape.
No new recreational improvements would be allowed except those provided by ANICLA Section 1315(d) and 1316(a)	Some recreational improvements occur in this zone. Cabins and routes would be in this zone, and trails may be brushed to provide for safety and visitor experience.	Recreational improvements would occur in this zone, to provide for greater variety of recreational opportunities and access. Trails and campsites may be hardened in this zone, and facilities may be provided for additional commercial services.
<b>Administrative Facilities</b>		
If unacceptable impacts to resources occurred in this zone, actions would be taken to alter visitor behavior rather than using infrastructure to sustain that use. If necessary for reasonable protection, minimal NPS facilities or infrastructure would be considered for this zone.	Some new NPS facilities and infrastructure may occur in this zone, to the extent needed to support activities and protect resources. For example, a trail might be signed or hardened to protect sensitive resources or manage backcountry recreation.	NPS facilities and infrastructure would occur in this zone to enhance visitor experiences, protect resources, support educational and interpretive programming, and improve operational efficiency.
<b>Commercial Services</b>		
Commercial services would contribute to public education and visitor enjoyment of wilderness values or provide opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Any new commercial services in this zone would be evaluated under these wilderness-based criteria. Services would need to emphasize the wilderness related recreation opportunities.	Commercial services would support backcountry type recreation activities. Some facilities may occur to support recreation in this zone. Recreation activities include those for people who are not self-sufficient and do not expect the highest level of solitude and primitive recreation. Evaluations of commercial use levels would occur to minimize impacts to water bodies and access points.	This zone focuses on areas where operators most often access the park to drop off and pick up visitors. This zone also encompasses hubs of operation for commercial services. Due to a higher volume of visitor activities, there may be a need for more infrastructure and commercial service allowance in this zone.



# Preliminary Alternative Concepts and Draft Management Zones

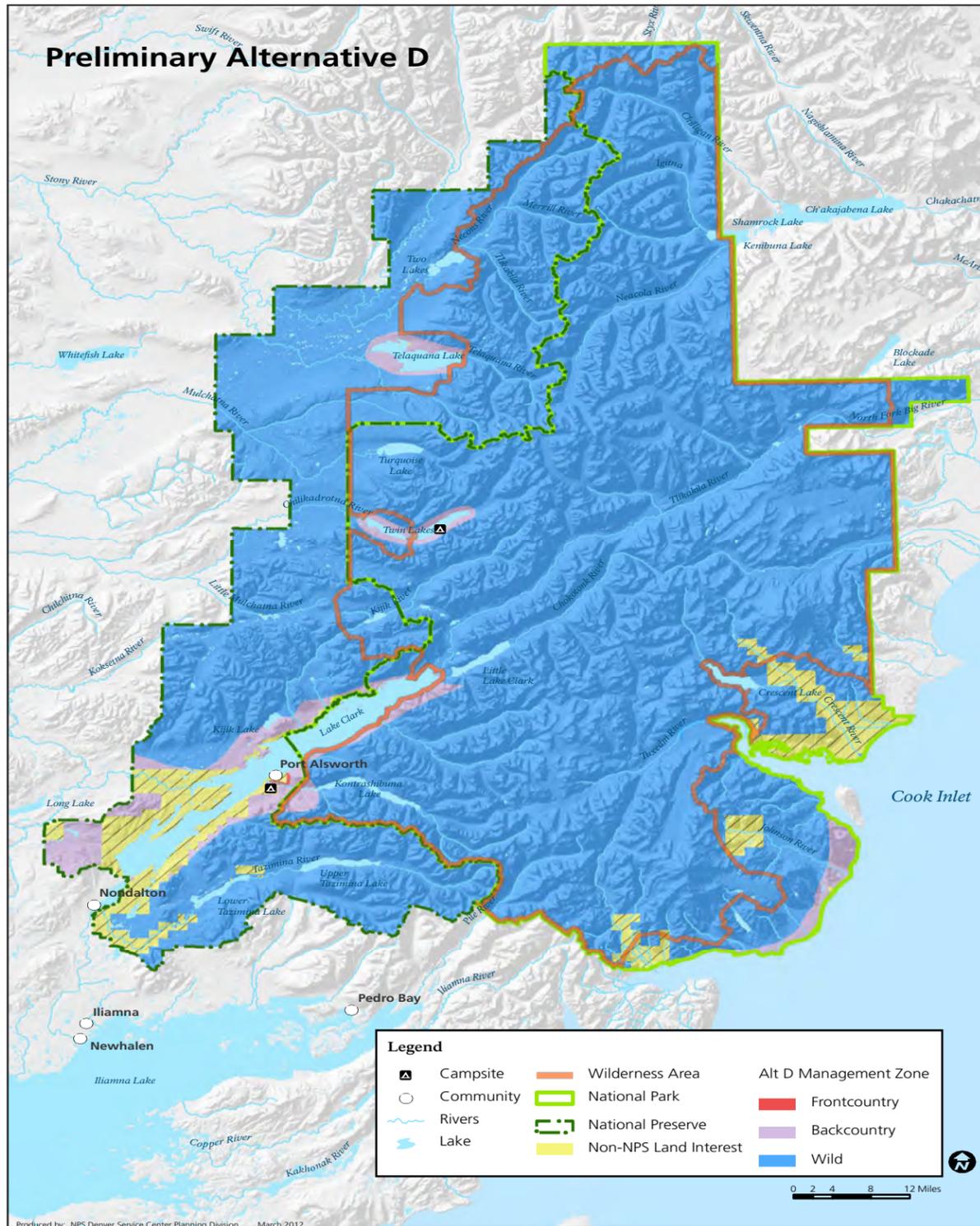


This alternative would expand opportunities for a diversity of visitor activities while continuing to protect and maintain wilderness and park resources. This alternative would provide additional facilities in areas that receive higher visitor use, such as in the preserve, near Lake Clark, and in the coastal areas. Other amenities would include expanded interpretive services and commercial activities, opportunities for wildlife viewing, long distance/loop hiking, and water trails. Some resources may be hardened in high-use destination areas.



This alternative would accommodate current uses with some limited additional visitor opportunities provided, including additional infrastructure. The focus of this alternative would be on ensuring visitors have a sense of discovery and self-reliance. At sites that receive higher visitation (e.g., Proenneke site, Lake Clark, coastal areas, and Kontrashibuna Lake), more facilities and staff may be present to provide services and manage visitors.

# Preliminary Alternative Concepts



This alternative focuses on preserving the wilderness character of the park and accommodating current patterns of use, ensuring the vast majority of the area continues to be wild, untrammled, undeveloped, and with opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. The alternative would continue to maintain existing access, visitor use, and infrastructure. Minimal new infrastructure and staff would be provided.

# Proenneke Site Management Alternatives

Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
The site would be managed as an historic exhibit. NPS staff would be on site at all times during the main summer season. Visitors would enter the site only with NPS staff, who would provide tours of the site and ensure protection of park resources. Visitors would not explore the site on their own. On-site and in-cabin artifacts would be left in place.	The site would be managed as an open-air exhibit. Visitors would have the opportunity for both NPS-led and self-guided visits. NPS staff would be on-site during the summer to provide interpretation of the site and to ensure protection of park resources. Most on-site and in-cabin artifacts would be left in place, though others would be replicated and removed.	The site would be managed to provide an experience that would feel much like Richard L. Proenneke was still living there. Site management would focus on the wilderness aspect of Proenneke's experience in the area and protection of resources. Visitors would have the opportunity for self-guided visits. NPS staff may occasionally be available to answer questions and ensure protection of park resources, but NPS staff would not be stationed at the site itself. Most on-site and in-cabin artifacts would be replicated and removed.
Use existing Proenneke historic site boundary	Expand Proenneke historic site boundary	Expand Proenneke historic site boundary
Hope and Spike's cabins would be occupied by NPS staff during the entire summer season.	Hope and Spike's cabins would be occupied by NPS staff during most of the summer season.	Hope and Spike's cabins would be unoccupied and used as storage or for the occasional NPS patrol; all added trails, patios, and outhouses would be removed to return the site to the way it was when Dick lived there.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to five campsites would be hardened and maintained.</li> <li>An outhouse would be installed</li> <li>A bear-resistant container would be provided</li> <li>Up to two campsites would be maintained at the Hope Creek delta</li> <li>Maintain fire pit and provide firewood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three existing campsites would be maintained</li> <li>An outhouse would be installed</li> <li>A bear-resistant container would be provided</li> <li>No campsites would be maintained at the Hope Creek delta</li> <li>Maintain fire pit and provide firewood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three existing campsites would be maintained</li> <li>An outhouse would be installed</li> <li>A bear-resistant container would be provided</li> <li>Hope Creek delta would be closed to camping</li> <li>Fires prohibited</li> </ul>
NPS would install a seasonal bridge (to be removed at the end of each summer) across Hope Creek and mitigate adverse effects to the RLP Historic Site	NPS would install a replica of the RLP bridge across Hope Creek (to be removed at the end of each summer)	No bridge over Hope Creek

## Richard Louis Proenneke

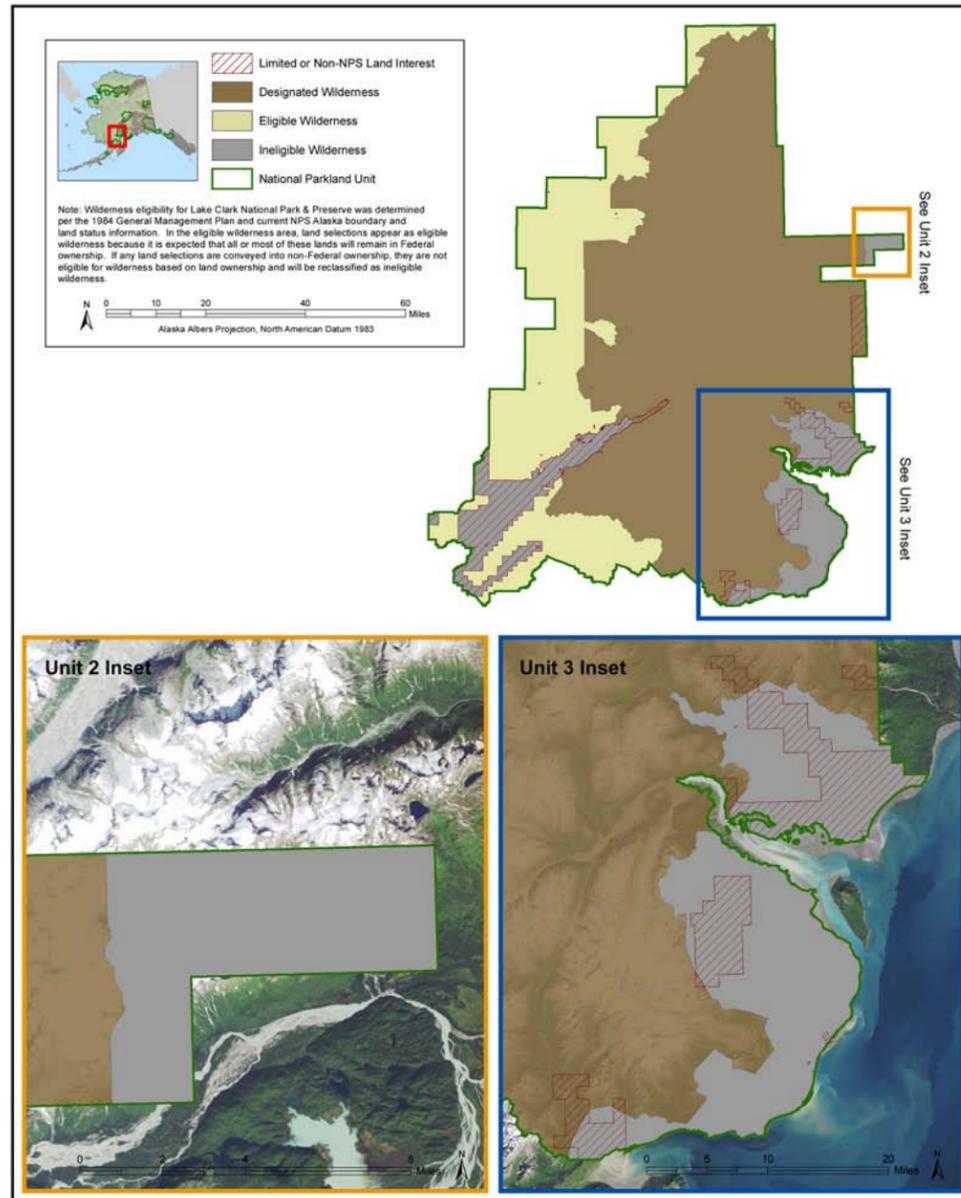
Richard Louis Proenneke (1916-2003), known as Dick, has become an icon of wilderness living in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. In 1949, he made his first visit to Alaska at the invitation of a friend. He lived and worked in Alaska off and on for years, making his first visit to Twin Lakes in 1962. By 1967, he had begun work on a cabin there. It was completed in 1968. His was not the first cabin on Twin Lakes, nor was it the biggest. Proenneke's cabin, though, stands out for its remarkable craftsmanship, which reflects his unshakeable wilderness ethic. The cabin was built using only hand tools, many of which Proenneke himself had fashioned.

- NPS would provide a virtual site tour on the NPS web site
- NPS would recognize the Richard L Proenneke site as both an historic, wilderness, and administrative site. NPS would recognize some level of administrative presence is necessary to protect natural and cultural resources.
- Fires would be prohibited on the Hope Creek delta.
- Visitors and NPS staff would be prohibited from camping inside the RLP site.
- Boat storage and set-up, camping, cooking, fires, and parking an airplane for more than two hours would not be allowed on Dick's beach.

## Common to all alternatives

- All management options would involve a minimal amount of infrastructure so that visitors can appreciate the natural, undeveloped qualities that make the site significant and that were so important to the life and experiences of Richard L Proenneke.

# Wilderness Eligibility Re-assessment for Units 2 and 3



All lands in the national park system must be assessed to determine if they are eligible or ineligible for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system (NPS Management Policies 2006, Director's Order 41, the Wilderness Act). To meet this requirement, LACL included a wilderness eligibility review as part of its 1984 Lake Clark National Park and Preserve General Management Plan (GMP). The 1984 GMP found approximately 1.03 million acres (about 28% of the park/preserve) eligible for wilderness designation. The GMP determined two areas (Units 2 & 3) along the eastern edge of the park as ineligible for wilderness primarily due to Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) selections.

The two areas that the 1984 GMP considered not eligible were identified as Unit 2 and Unit 3. Unit 2 consists of approximately 19,000 acres and Unit 3 is approximately 256,000 acres. Much of the land comprising these areas of the park were not conveyed to the Native Corporation and are now owned by the National Park Service. NPS 2006 Management Policies Section 6.2.1 states that lands that were assessed as ineligible for wilderness because of nonconforming or incompatible uses must be reevaluated if the nonconforming uses have been terminated or removed. This plan will include a Wilderness Eligibility Re-assessment that reevaluates these lands for eligibility to meet this important requirement.

Planning Timetable			
	NPS Planning Activity	Dates	Description
Step 1	Collect Public Ideas for Park Management	Summer 2011	Eight public meetings were (five in villages near the park, and three in cities) to discuss planning issues facing the park and gather input from the public
Step 2	Develop Alternative Management Concepts	Fall 2011 to Winter 2012	Park staff and planning team developed different management alternatives based on public input.
Step 3 (We are here)	Share Preliminary Alternatives	Spring 2012	Newsletter #2 released, and public meetings held to share preliminary alternatives, management zoning, and other key concepts in the plan.
Step 4	Prepare Draft General Management Plan Revision	Summer 2012 to Winter 2013	The planning team will incorporate public comments and ideas into plan.
Step 5	Share Final Plan with Public	Spring 2013	The planning team will share final plan with the public and a minimum 30-day review period.
Step 6	Finalize and Implement the Approved Plan	Summer this could be Fall 2013 and Beyond	The public is encouraged to stay involved throughout implementation of the approved plan.

## Please Join us for a Public Meeting

This spring, the park will host meetings with the public to hear your ideas, concerns, and thoughts about the alternative concepts and draft management zones. Open houses will be held in Anchorage, Soldotna, and Homer, Alaska. In addition, park staff will continue to visit local communities in the region to hear the ideas and concerns of local residents.

Tuesday April 10, 2012  
4:00pm to 7:00pm  
Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center  
95 Sterling Highway  
Homer, AK 99603  
907-235-6961

Wednesday April 11, 2012  
4:00pm to 7:00pm  
Donald E. Gilman River Center  
514 Funny River Road  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
907-260-4882

Thursday April 12, 2012  
4:00pm to 7:00pm  
Campbell Creek Science Center  
5600 Science Center Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
907-276-1247

Thursday April 26, 2012  
10am to 11 am  
online meeting  
<http://www.facebook.com/AlaskaNPS>  
<https://twitter.com/#!/AlaskaNPS>





**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve  
GMP Amendment  
240 W. 5th Ave., Suite 236  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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## Summary of Scoping Comments Received (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

The public noted that regulations in the area may need to be better defined, such as for the campsite area, dog activity around the site, moving Dick's Bridge, and managing visitor activities around the site. Some people commented that preservation of the heritage area was important to creating a personal connection with the park. One commenter questioned where there is a more appropriate designation for the site that doesn't conflict with the wilderness designation.

### **Collaboration with Neighbors and Partners**

Many comments were received that stressed the importance of collaboration with local communities. Suggestions were made about incorporating local knowledge into park management and interpretation, and working with local residents. Other comments cited the importance of increasing the education and interpretation opportunities for local residents and as well as visitors, including books and programming about the

area, longer visitor center hours, and enhanced interpretation of the Kijik site. One comment requested that the park educate visitors on the connection between "research, resource management, and the subsistence lifestyle" and another suggested use of indigenous names in the park. Some commenters noted that the "leave no trace" ethic in the park could be improved, and mentioned that more sustainable operations like recycling should be adopted.

Please Note: Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.