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Alaska National Parks

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Write something...

Alaska National Parks

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve has officially become a marine reserve!

Like · Comment · Share · Yesterday at 12:39pm ·

91 people like this.

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Local harvester
I hope this means we can still continue our traditional harvest...
11 hours ago · Like · 2

Interested citizen
What will the park be doing to monitor changes to the marine ecosystem?
4 hours ago · Like

Write **Interested citizen**
This will be great for the salmon and halibut!

Bob Roberts

Dudes! Just bought my personal jetpack permit for a daytrip over Brady Icefield. I am totally STOKED.

Like · Comment · February 8 at 10:42am ·

Alaska National Parks
Careful out there, Bob... Have fun!
February 8 at 10:50am · Like

You and Alaska National Parks

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, National Park Service, Alaska Dispatch

Recommendations (15) See All

Orlean C Lapinid Alaska - one of the states on my bucket list!!

Tommy Gee In 2010 Sitka National Historical Park received an ABI grant so Alutiiq elders a...See More
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Write a recommendation...

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Alaska National Parks

The National Park Service in Alaska today announced that pending further studies that support for aquaculture in waters adjacent to parks would be withheld pending further analysis. Under this analysis, the NPS would take into consideration:
1. the purposes for which an affected unit was established,
2. the impacts of aquaculture on the additional mandates required of the federal agency,
3. and the budgetary constraints on the agency's ability to monitor aquaculture activities.

Response
What's wrong with you guys! With the collapse of the wild fisheries due to whacked out timing of the fish runs and stream flows, how do you guys expect those of us living in rural Alaska to make a living??? Between NOAA, USFWS, ADF&G, NMFS, and SOB all we get is a runaround on this issue. Please get it together and solve this issue!

Write

Response
Now that our coastal streams either flood or go dry during the summers, we've lost our cheap hydro power. What we face now are outrageous fuel prices and few job opportunities leaving us no option but to move into town to find work. You NPSers will probably be the last ones living in rural coastal Alaska. EAT JELLYFISH AND DIE!!!!

Response
We're not happy about not being able to catch fish, not only do we lose food from our table, but we lose our century's old traditions and culture associated with sharing between family and community. We look forward to ways that we can adapt to these changes and that hope we can reconnect our family patterns.

You and Alaska National Parks

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, National Park Service, Alaska Dispatch

Recommendations (15) See All

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Alaska National Parks

To alleviate southern California water demand, Ice Harvesters began Monday to harvest calved icebergs from Icy Bay at Wrangell – St. Elias National Park near Yakutat, Alaska. National Park Service scientists worry about the impact to already declining harbor seal populations.

View all 8 comments 16 shares

Response
The ice harvesters are scaring off the seals. My cousin went out to hunt seals in Icy Bay on Thursday, and all the seals had left. We didn't see any pups, so we were wondering what is going to happen to the seals since the pups should be here now.

Response
When is the state going to start the water export tax? They just keep arguing and the price of water is almost double a gallon of gas in the lower 48. I'm glad we at least got the permanent water fund dividend created a few years ago.

Write a

Response
Do we have any emergency procedures in place for if the icebergs damage the ship and cause an oil spill? That could be catastrophic in the Bay. Also what if the boats hit the wave energy generator near the mouth? We don't have any resources for emergency response nearby as far as I can see. Why doesn't the Park get some people down there to watch out for us all.

Response
Well, I guess they can have it. It'll only be another 3 years max before the glacier grounds anyway. Why didn't the Park Service make this a protected area too like Glacier Bay. The pretty much let everyone take whatever they want and don't do anything. I don't think the feds care about anything except the lower 48. We should get the State to take it all back.

You and Alaska National Parks

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, National Park Service, Alaska Dispatch

Recommendations (15) See All

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Write a recommendation...

<u>Narrative – "Disasters Mastered"</u>
Inland group -- "Disaster Zone" nested in Big Problems Big Solutions

The year is 2030. Young Jennie, aged 16, a resident of a Southeast Alaska village, has travelled to Washington D.C. as part of the well-known Closeup program. There she is meeting with Representative B. Gladd, Senator I. M. Responsive, and Senator U. R. Adaptive. Below is her conversation with B. Gladd.

B. Gladd: I'm so pleased to be meeting a young lady from your community. The Senators and I have been hearing so much about the efforts you've been making to welcome the folks who had to evacuate when the village of [x] washed away after the last series of river floods. I hope the funding from the Relocation Bill is helping.

Jennie: Thank you, it is – although moving was so hard for a lot of people from [x]. Still, we all knew it was coming. We made plans, built homes, found ways to reconnect with distant family from [x] and to make new connections – so it's not all bad. Besides, a lot of people from [x] helped us out, in the big fire three summers ago, and in the blizzard year, when I was in fourth grade. So it's nice to be able to do something in return.

B. Gladd:
Yes -- you've certainly had a lot of fires, and what with that and the pest outbreaks, we all know the forest industry can't last. Senator Adaptive and I have been talking to the village councils from your area about adaptation strategies.

Jennie:
Oh, I know. I've been taking part in some of those initiatives in school, as part of the Hands-On-Learning program. I'm a tidal energy specialist now! And my cousin Susie is a hydro-power technician. Also, she's teaching me to cure bison hides. We never had bison until grasslands started coming in after the fires. It's pretty tasty. I do miss salmon, though.

B. Gladd:
A hatchery is still a possibility – but only if the local people agree to it, of course. The funding could be channeled to other initiatives as well, such as the redwood plantations.

Jennie:
I don't know. The Councils have been meeting to talk these ideas over. My friends and I go to the meetings – it's part of our school, and the elders like having us there. They say that if we are to plan for the future, we need the future to be in the room. I know everyone worries about jobs, and about traditions. We've had to change pretty quickly, and that can be hard on people, but we're doing it together, and that helps. There are still some good jobs. My uncle is an interpretive ranger, in the Park.

B. Gladd:

You know, there were people who said the visitors would stop coming, now that the glacier has almost disappeared, but it seems like the Dynamic Change Program that Senator Responsive championed is really working.

Jennie:
Yeah. Visitors used to come to see things that hadn't changed in millennia. Now they come to see things that are disappearing, and new things that are showing up – like the bison, and all the wildflowers, and our combined Geothermal and Wind plant. Pretty soon we'll start selling energy to British Colombia.

B. Gladd:
That's wonderful. I was proud to sponsor the International Intertie to make that power marketable.

Jennie:
It's not the same as the old ways, and sometimes I really wish things hadn't changed so fast. The older people talk a lot about everything they've lost – but they look to the future, too. I guess my people have always adapted, and always will.

Ranger Ray and the Raven

The novice Ranger Ray proudly dressed in his new agency uniform of the National Parks and Forests and prepared for his first day on the job. While on his walk to work he begins to ponder why some things he sees don't add up. The sights, sounds, and people surrounding the park do not seem to match what the National Geographic TV specials and IMax movies had portrayed about Southeast Alaska. He stops to take in the surroundings and sips his coffee along the river, or what is now more like a creek. Lost in thought he was suddenly startled by a raven that fluttered close to him and landed on a branch just inches away from his shoulder. Ray looks into the Raven's eye and contemplated what the Raven and his ancestors knew about Alaska. He had an urge to ask the Raven what had happened to Southeast Alaska? Where were the famous salmon he had heard about, why did the glaciers seem smaller? Why were the evergreens trees so bare?

If only ravens could talk he thought…..and with a strange squawk he was startled again. Had the Raven heard him?

"Raven will you tell me more about what happened to Southeast Alaska and its people?"

Raven nodded and hopped excitedly.

"No one is talking about it. The other rangers at work didn't even mention the receding glaciers, the infested forest, the burning muskeg, or the missing salmon. Where did they go?"

Raven makes a motion, a sweeping away with his wing, as to say, "They are just gone."

Ranger Ray looks baffled by the response and ponders the response. How could these changes have happened and the world missed it? It is as if they were distracted with the national reorganization of natural resource agencies, deficit problems, downsizing of the federal government. The people were consumed with daily life, basic needs, and in the end they just ignored it.

"But Raven what will the native cultures, fishermen, bears and whales do with so few fish? Won't the people argue about the salmon and who gets how many?" Raven nods in agreement and cocks his eye in concern.

"Who will decide? The new agencies are in chaos right now. The local governments and tribes have so much to worry about now, with the floods from the glacial dams breaking and muskeg fires."

Raven shrugs his wings as to say "Who knows?"

Ray asks, "What about the Tlingit people Raven? They cared for the land for so long and they know it so well. Can they help?"

Again Raven makes his sad sweeping motion towards the big city of Juneau. The indigenous people are suffering as well. Many have been displaced by floods, lack of salmon and limited subsistence opportunities and some have even relocated to the cities. Tribal communities are a trying to cope with a disruption of cultural practices and take of their families. Ray is bewildered and again thinks how this could have gone unnoticed.

Ranger Ray is in denial and is dazed when he suddenly notices the time and realizes that he is almost late to board the newly developed Princess/ Holland America ferry that transports visitors to the park for a fee. "Raven I have to go, but I thank you for your ancient insight. Can we meet again?"

Raven squawks with eagerness and turns, spreads his wings and glides off in search of the now rare yellow cedars for a nap. Ranger Ray watches the black bird fly away and heads to work with a new perspective. How will he tell people what he has learned from raven….he begins to imagine a children's book to teach the youth.

Feb. 2030 – 4th Regional Climate Change Scenario Planning Workshop for SE AK
Juneau, AK Centennial Hall – 255 attendees (Public Welcome)
(Notes from the First Day Proceedings)

Theme for Day One: **"You Look Lost – We Can Help"**

8:00am <u>Keynote Panel discussion: "The Next Big Thing"</u>
Panelists: James Balog, First Director, US Department of Reason
Melinda Nelson, Honorable Governor of Alaska,
Ray Wilson, Andy Gambel, and Ed Kuntz,Village elders,

This spirited discussion outlined the current plans about to be finalized for an innovative regional distribution network serving all of SE Alaska. This multi-partner collaboration should provide transportation and delivery of food, fuel and supplies to communities through the region at lower cost and twice the frequency as present practices. A prime example of the benefits this new agency (analogous to the Homeland Security) is enabling through coordination of federal, state, local gov't, businesses and NGOs.

10:30am: <u>Progress update – Habitat Restoration Projects</u>
Presenters: Regional Subcommittee for Habitat Integrity

As you know, salmon fisheries and other fish stock are in decline, and in recent years, there has been significant loss in habitat structure. Amongst other things, this subcommittee has been tasked with helping the region's communities develop new economic and subsistence alternatives. We're happy to report that 90% of the backlog of young growth clearing has been accomplished as of this Spring. Project manager Seth Anderson says that all of the crews have made excellent progress. In addition to providing funding support, agencies have actively engaged the youth in these communities as active agents in increasing and maintaining browse for deer and moose populations – reaping expanded harvests. Seth, who started his career in 2010 as a YCC work leader, noted that agencies have enjoyed high retention of enrollees (many becoming permanent staff) and they are also experiencing a boom of interest in citizen science research activities associated with this project. (Looks like the CCC is alive and well for a new generation.)

Lunch

1:30pm: Special event - The 2030 "Fireside Chat for Climate"
Live Video chat presenting community and tribal leaders from communities across the region – including: Kake, Hydaberg, Klawock, Angoon, Petersburg, Wrangell, Haines, Klukwan, Gustavus, Craig, and many others.

This multimedia event was developed to discuss recent shifts occurring in the region's tourism patterns as a result of changing climate. Recent growth in the package-tour market, coupled with the new larger cruise ships serving the region, provide opportunity to collaborate on new climate-inspired strategies for eco-tourism as well as for interpretive and education products and services. The focus of discussion included a wide range of options: sharing tradition ecological knowledge and expanding opportunities for eco-tourism by villages, embracing newer technologies and mobile devices by growing our products and services around a "personalized" perspective, and addressing the need to raise awareness about the current extreme conditions with key climate-related messages about adaptation strategies and concerns. The session concluded with a region-wide multi-venue rendition of "Alaska's Flag" – the first time ever, we believe!

3:30pm: Progress update – Energy Development and "Greening" Projects
Presenters: Regional Subcommittee for Energy Conservation

Several energy-related efforts have made good progress through this partnership over the past few years. Most notably, significant strides in bringing together communities via the grid have seen completion. Funding has been secured for installation of salt water transmission cables, the Thayer Lake hydro project has been operational since 2020, and there has been a concerted effort to reduce demand while increasing availability during peak periods. All the region's national parks have completed their Climate Friendly Parks Action plans and are making progress towards their reduction targets. Several partners have invested in plug-in hybrids for their fleets, and LEED certification standards are the standards for all new construction.

Finally – The Highlight from the Evening Reception – the 10th annual "Big Black Boot" award presentation to Hoonah for excellence in reducing their community's carbon footprint. The trophy is accompanied by a generous cash incentive, so competition has been fierce for this prize – congratulations to all the nominees!