Alaska Park Science
Proposal Guidelines (January 2010)

What is *Alaska Park Science*? *Alaska Park Science* is an award-winning full color journal published by the Alaska Regional Office, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior in cooperation with the Alaska Geographic Association. The journal reports information from on-going and recently completed research and scholarship in and around Alaska's National Parks. *Alaska Park Science* covers all relevant scientific and scholarly disciplines in the biological, physical, cultural and social sciences and history. The journal is published twice a year. Alaska Park Science is also available worldwide through the Internet at: http://www.nps.gov/akso/AKParkScience/index.htm

Audience: The principal audience consists of the interested public, educators, scientists, natural and cultural resource researchers, and park staff including superintendents, scientists, resource managers and interpreters. Printed copies are distributed to university, school, and community libraries across Alaska. Copies are also offered by the Alaska Geographic Association through their park and on-line bookstores in Alaska.

Journal Content:

- **Feature Articles**: Overviews of recent studies, research results, and emerging issues.
- **Science Shorts**. Significant happenings in Alaska Park Science. Brief descriptions and links to Internet sites relevant to current issue contents, including project reports, datasets and curriculum-based educational materials. Abstracts of recently completed reports, with bibliographic citations or web links to direct readers to the full reports.

Proposals: **Authors can submit a topic for an article or a special issue at any time** by sending the following information to Robert Winfree AKR_Alaska_Park_Science@nps.gov . Please use the attached format (sample copied below). Calls for additional proposals are issued as needed.

1. Working Title:
2. Authors: Name, position, park or institution, mailing address, phone and e-mail
3. Description: 150-words (or less) about the proposed article
4. Photos/Graphics. Brief descriptions and estimated numbers of photos, figures, tables, etc.
5. When the article could be ready (May 1 or November 1 20XX).

Suggestions will be acknowledged by email and held for review during meetings of the editorial board. Board meetings occur about twice a year. There are no page charges or other fees for publishing in Alaska Park Science.

Deadlines for receipt of final articles and illustrations: Generally, November 1 for issue one (published in June) and May 1 for issue two (published in December). However, deadlines may be earlier for special issues. We encourage authors to have articles peer-reviewed prior to submission.

General Guidelines: Research findings should be described in such a way that generalists can grasp their significance and understand their application. Articles should be written primarily in the active voice, using both technical and non-technical language that can be understood by those outside the specific field of study. Sexist language, provincialism, jargon, and acronyms should be avoided. Authors should include citations and references used.

Our goal is to make this journal informative, exciting, visual, and intelligible for a high school to undergraduate college reading level. Articles and illustrations that highlight Alaska's uniqueness are encouraged. This journal distinguishes itself from progress reports in that it emphasizes research findings, rather than accomplishments. It also differs from technical reports in that it is written for general audiences.

Most feature articles highlight the analysis of data and answering of research questions. The articles should include background about the scientific issue or questions, providing a context for the reader. Explanations of research methodology are included to explain how the information was collected and evaluated, but are not as detailed as would be required for a technical report. Web links can also be included to provide access to additional data, technical papers, and relevant project information.

More specific author guidelines will be provided following proposal acceptance.

Length: Most articles are 1600-2000 words in length, inclusive of bibliography. Shorter articles, abstracts, and science news items are also welcome. We generally use about one illustration (photo, figure, or table) for every 200 words of text, but have sometimes included many more. The editorial staff typically provides length guidelines following review of proposals.

Project Lead: Robert Winfree, Alaska Regional Science Advisor, National Park Service.
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Alaska Park Science Proposal (Sample)

Working Title/Topic: 21st Century Science in Alaska's National Parks: Challenges and Opportunities

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Description: This 1500-word article will be based in part on a new Alaska Regional Science Strategy under development. Both documents will identify emerging resource management challenges and their associated scientific information needs. The Alaska Park Science article will also describe selected NPS-funded and cooperative science programs in Alaska, and provide examples of how these programs are contributing information for better informed management decisions, resource conservation, education and interpretation, and for the advancement of scientific knowledge. Highlighted programs may include the Natural Resource Challenge, Inventory and Monitoring Networks, Research Learning Centers, Beringia Program, USGS/NPS cooperative research, park and regional office based natural and cultural research programs, museum collections, and others. Some of the historic challenges to conducting scientific work in parks will also be discussed in the context of programs and processes helping to overcome factors that have constrained projects in the past (field labs, logistical support, permitting, museum collections, etc.)

Illustrations: A variety of illustrations appropriate to the programs, issues, and projects discussed will be sought for this article. These may include photographs of scientists at work, resource issues, and examples of specific scientific products such as conceptual models, databases, research collections, etc.

Web Links: Web links will be provided to many of the highlighted programs.

When the article could be ready: May 1, 2005