



# Serpentine Hot Springs Master Plan/EA Alternatives Newsletter



Dear Friends,

As you may know, the National Park Service (NPS) is currently developing a Master Plan for the Serpentine Hot Springs area of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. This plan will provide updated direction for managing that area over the next 15 to 20 years.

In the spring of 2012, we held public meetings and asked for your ideas and concerns regarding stewardship of Serpentine. Taking your feedback into account, we have developed three draft alternative concepts (plus one "no-action" alternative) for the Master Plan. During the next step of the planning process, we will compare these alternatives against a "no-action" alternative where management would continue without addressing future planning issues.

The draft alternatives in this newsletter are guided by Bering Land Bridge National Preserve's legislated purpose, significance, and issues facing the park that require formal planning.

Please review the draft 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, of 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 Serpentine Hot Springs.

After reviewing the draft alternatives, please share your comments with us in one of the following ways:

- return the enclosed comment form or mail a letter to the park;
- submit your comments electronically via the internet or e-mail;
- or if you live in the area, you can provide your comments at one of the open houses we will conduct later this Fall (please see the 'How to be Involved' section of this newsletter for more details).

You are also always welcome to call the Superintendent or staff to provide comment.

The planning team will review all comments submitted, however, comments received by November 30th will be most helpful for this phase of planning. Following this review, we will refine the draft alternatives and proceed with the National Environmental Policy Act evaluation. We appreciate your interest in the management of Serpentine Hot Springs and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, and look forward to your continued involvement in this important planning process.

Sincerely,

*Jeanette Pomrenke*

Superintendent  
Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

# Get involved



## How to Get Involved

Your ideas and concerns on the draft alternative concepts for Serpentine 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 you may have. Receiving your input before **November 30th** will allow us to learn from you before we continue to refine the Serpentine Hot Springs Master Plan.

Share your comments in one of the following ways:

- Complete the electronic version of the comment form on the web at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> (search for "Serpentine Hot Springs Master Plan" 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 house or village meetings 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:  
Bering Land Bridge National Preserve –  
Serpentine Master Plan  
240 W. 5th Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501

- Email your input to:  
[zachary\\_babb@nps.gov](mailto:zachary_babb@nps.gov)



## Please Join us for a Public Meeting

This fall, the park will host meetings with the public to hear your ideas, concerns, and thoughts about the alternative concepts for Serpentine. Open houses will be held in Anchorage, Shishmaref, and Nome, Alaska. In addition, park staff will continue to visit local communities in the region to hear the ideas and concerns of local residents. We will also be hosting a week-long on-line chat forum.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Nome  
Date and Time: TBD  
Location: TBD

Shishmaref  
Date and Time: TBD  
Location: TBD

### VIRTUAL MEETING

The NPS will be hosting an on-line meeting at the AlaskaNPS facebook page from 11/26/12 to 11/30/12

[www.facebook.com/AlaskaNPS](http://www.facebook.com/AlaskaNPS)

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.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

The purpose of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is to protect and provide opportunity to study and interpret the landscape which contains an invaluable record of floral, faunal, and human migration between Asia and North America and which supports an ongoing traditional subsistence culture.

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve  
PO Box 220  
Nome, AK 99762  
<http://www.nps.gov/bela/index.htm>

Phone  
(907) 443-2522

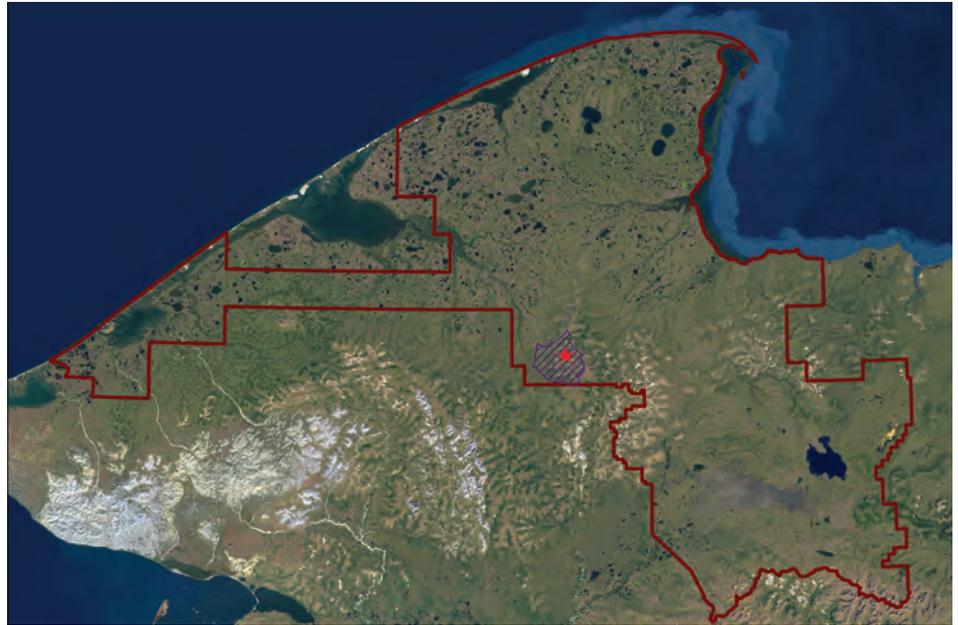
Project E-mail Contact  
[Zachary\\_Babb@nps.gov](mailto:Zachary_Babb@nps.gov)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

# Project Overview

Serpentine Hot Springs is one of the most revered places on the Seward Peninsula. It is a site that has been used continuously by residents of the region for at least 12,000 years. Serpentine Hot Springs contains significant archeological, historic, natural, recreational, spiritual, and subsistence values. The hot springs are located approximately thirteen miles from the end of the Nome-Taylor Highway and eight miles north of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve's southern boundary. 2010 visitation to the site was estimated to be 2,145 visitor use days split between winter and summer seasons.

The 1986 General Management Plan stated that Serpentine Hot Springs is the most frequently visited area of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. At that time, the existing development was a 1,110-foot landing strip, a 20- by 54- foot cabin, a 15-square-foot bathhouse, and an outhouse. The Plan proposed the construction of a new NPS administrative cabin that would also be available for public use. In accordance with the Plan, if the existing structures cannot be repaired or if they are destroyed by wind or fire, the Park Service will replace them with structures similar to the existing structures. The Plan also suggested the Park Service not make any



*This satellite image shows Bering Land Bridge National Preserve's boundary and the project's planning area. The purple demarcates the Tors Area (approximately 28,000 acres) and Serpentine Hot Springs is marked with the red star.*

improvements to access such as improving the trail from Taylor, constructing an off-road vehicle trail, or allowing recreational use of helicopters.

Since 1986, facilities at Serpentine have deteriorated to the point where they will soon need to be replaced and there has been some public support for improved

access to the site. The purpose of the Serpentine Hot Springs Master Plan will be to update the 1986 General Management Plan with guidance and direction for the future development and management of the Serpentine Hot Springs area of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

Planning Timetable			
	NPS Planning Activity	Dates	Description
Step 1	Collect public input	Fall 2010 to Winter 2011	Public meetings were held as part of the access study.
Step 2	Develop potential changes and improvements that could occur as part of this plan.	Fall 2011 to Winter 2012	Grounded in public input and information from the Access Study, park staff and the planning team started to identify what future options might exist for Serpentine Hot Springs.
Step 3	Share potential changes with the public.	Spring 2012	Newsletter #2 was released, and public meetings held to share ideas and to begin to shape alternatives.
Step 4 (We are here)	Draft alternatives and share them with the public.	Summer 2012	The planning team will incorporate public comments and ideas into a range of draft alternatives and then share them with the public for further refinement.
Step 5	Draft the plan and environmental assessment.	Fall to Winter 2012	The planning team will work to finalize the plan/EA
Step 6	Release the plan/EA and begin implementation.	Spring 2013 and Beyond	The public is encouraged to stay involved throughout implementation of the approved plan.

# Major Issues and Goals

## ISSUES

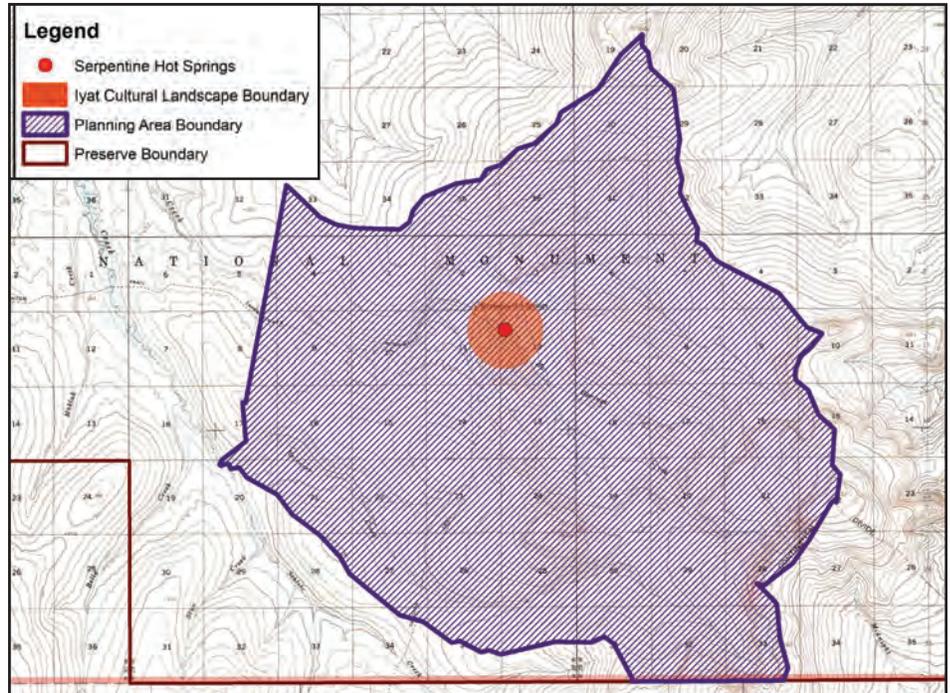
### Access:

The legislation that created Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (ANILCA section 201(2)) states that one of the Preserve's purposes is "to provide outdoor recreation and environmental education, including public access for recreation at Serpentine Hot Springs."

Current access is primarily by fixed-wing aircraft in the summer months and snowmachines in the winter. Winter access is aided on some routes by the use of trail markers. Summer visitors have limited access. Some visitors walk in from the end of the Nome-Taylor Highway, but the majority use aircraft to access this site. The existing airstrip is short (1100') and infrequently maintained. As a result, few commercial operators will fly into Serpentine Hot Springs. There has been an ongoing dialogue about how to improve access to Serpentine Hot Springs since the preserve's inception in 1980. The new plan must identify how the NPS can improve access to ensure visitation can continue in a safe and efficient manner.

### Facilities:

Existing facilities include a 1940's era bunkhouse, a cedar hot tub enclosed in a wood frame bathhouse, and an outhouse. There are reports of occasional crowding and conflict between groups converging on the site. Sanitation issues have arisen in the past, and the transportation and storage of heating fuel is an ongoing concern. Additionally, the bunkhouse is located on an island between the main branch of Hot Springs Creek and a secondary branch and flooding from seasonal high water is an area of concern. This issue is exacerbated by recent beaver activity immediately upstream from the bunkhouse facilities. These facilities will need to be replaced in the near future and this plan is an opportunity to recommend new locations at the site for the facilities as



An overview of the planning area.

well as to possibly recommend new types of facilities.

### Significance:

The Serpentine Hot Springs area contains significant park resources. The unique environments created by the hot springs also provide habitat for some unusual aquatic plant species.

Serpentine Hot Springs is also a site of great importance to the residents of the Seward Peninsula. The landscape is enjoyed by a broad spectrum of people including

soakers, hunters, and traditional healers, to name a few.

### Wilderness Eligibility:

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. To meet this requirement, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve included a wilderness suitability review as part of its 1986 General Management Plan (GMP). That plan found the area around Serpentine Hot Springs "suitable" for wilderness. However, existing conditions and established uses of the hot springs may not be compatible with wilderness designation. Designated wilderness is managed primarily for specific social and resource conditions (solitude, untrammled, undeveloped, and naturalness).



*Polygonum bistorta* otherwise known as "Bistort" or "Pink Plume" is an edible plant found at Serpentine.

# Major Issues and Goals, Cont.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The major goals and objectives of the Plan that have been identified thus far are listed below. These ideas have been identified through internal and public scoping and through the work of the NPS planning team.

- Facilities should be of a scale and design that does not dominate or detract from the area's natural setting.
- If relocated, facilities should be moved to maximize site opportunities and minimize site constraints and negative impacts.
- Facilities should embrace sustainable technology and techniques and must account for the unique challenges of the remoteness and climate of Serpentine Hot Springs.
- Improvements to access should make Serpentine safer.



Bath House pre-1976



Bath House post-1976



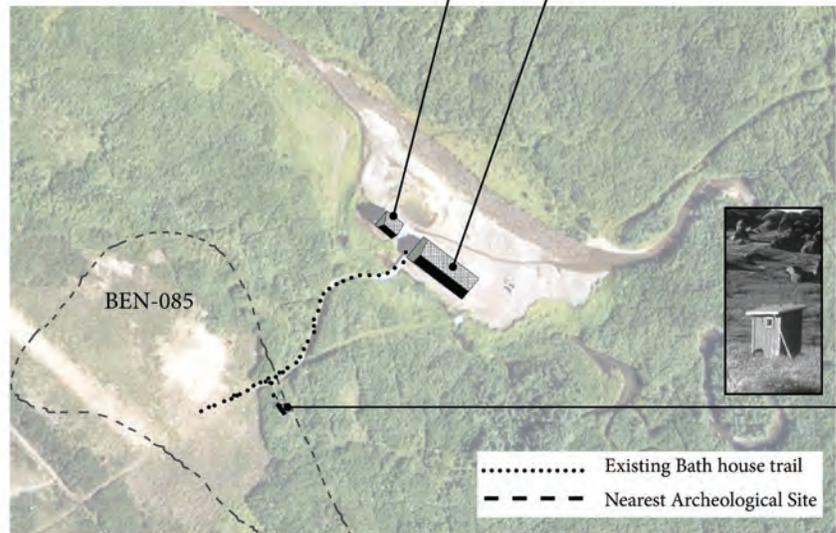
North View



Bunk House East Elevation



South View



Serpentine Hot Springs facilities.



Winter icing in the bathhouse is a major issue at Serpentine Hot Springs.

- Improvements to access should not degrade resources or visitor experience at Serpentine Hot Springs.
- Access improvements should respect the existing policies which guide management of the preserve.
- Improvements to access and facilities should be fiscally feasible.

- The Plan should identify opportunities for interpretation, education, and outreach.
- The plan could update the Preserve's wilderness status and propose to remove up to 500 acres of the Iyat Area (the Cultural Landscape) from eligibility because of a documented history of uses and developments not typically considered compatible with Wilderness designation.

# Summary of Comments Received

Three public meetings were held in late May, 2012. The meetings were held on Wednesday, May 23rd in Shishmaref, Thursday, May 24th in Kotzebue, and Saturday, May 26th in Nome. Overall, a total of approximately 25 people were in attendance. A fourth meeting was held in Shishmaref on June 27th. Participants shared ideas about the level of recreational facility development at Serpentine, how to balance periods of high visitor use while preserving the sense of place and the fragile landscape, and how to manage visitors, wildlife, and the changing stream course.

Below is a summary of the comments made during the four public meetings, letters, and emails sent in during the 45 day public comment period. Comments from these meetings were entered in the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) database.

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Below is a brief summary of the comments we've received. For the full scoping report, please visit the project's PEPC website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/bela>

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## SUMMARY COMMENTS

### Facilities:

Overall, commenters agreed that the facilities at Serpentine are in need of repair and/or replacement. Some felt that a simple interior paint job would suffice for a few years more while others supported a total relocation of the bunkhouse to disturbed land near the airstrip. A few mentioned the need for better accessibility for Elders. While some would like to see more bunk space, others felt that added bunk space would only mean more people. It was unanimous that sanitation issues should be addressed in the plan, and there were a range of suggestions from composting toilets located within a new bunk house for children and



*Serpentine Bathhouse pre-1970's.*

elders, to simply two new outhouses separated by gender.

One person did not support an additional facility at Arctic Hot Spring. One person championed a campground while some suggested another bath and bunkhouse at the Arctic Hot Spring location. There was a lot of concern for the archeology and history at Arctic Hot Spring and many wanted to make sure that proper precautions would be taken before any substantial plans were implemented at the site.

### Overland Access:

Many felt access to Serpentine could be improved, particularly by installing more route markers. These markers would need to be able to withstand the winters and the wildlife. A few people mentioned wanting a hardened trail or at least some hardened parts of a trail from the park boundary to Serpentine for better hiking and mountain biking possibilities from the end of the Nome-Taylor Highway.

### Trails:

The topic of trails around Serpentine garnered mixed reviews. Some felt there need not be any change and others felt that creating some hardened trails now would keep people from destroying the tundra and creating "a spaghetti network" of trails in the future.

### Airstrip:

Overall the general feeling was that the airstrip should be improved and adequately maintained. Some felt it did not need an extension while others felt a modest extension would serve to make landing a little safer. Almost no one wanted to see an extension that would cause unnecessary stream re-routing or stabilization.

### Visitor Use and Experience

Commenters upheld the importance of Serpentine retaining its rustic feel. Conflicts affecting visitor experience revolved around not having enough space to accommodate multiple parties, feelings that big game hunting should not be permitted and issues with not having enough toilets. Also many want a weather station or camera to be set up to make traveling to Serpentine more safe. Some commenters mentioned wanting additional education and interpretation resources at Serpentine. Suggestions ranged from use of old photographs of Serpentine to creating a guide that identifies vegetation and geological features in the area. At Arctic Hot Springs it was noted a few that the area's history should be protected and signage was requested.

### Wilderness Eligibility

One commenter supported removing the lyat area from wilderness eligibility explaining that revising the wilderness eligibility determination "will allow the Service the needed flexibility to properly administer the area." Another commenter agreed but with the stipulation that "any proposed Wilderness exclusion be kept to an absolute minimum."

# Alternatives Development Process

Two critical building blocks needed to develop a Serpentine Hot Springs Master Plan are public input and the development of management alternatives. The following draft alternatives have been created 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.

Four draft management alternatives have been developed, presenting different options for managing resources and visitor use, and improving facilities and infrastructure at Serpentine Hot Springs.

## DRAFT ALTERNATIVES

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



*The Serpentine bathhouse ices up during the winter months.*

abling legislation, NPS policies, and other agreements and laws that currently guide management.

Alternatives B-D are the 'action-alternatives.' These 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 improving facilities and infrastructure and changing the general management, visitor use and experience at

Serpentine Hot Springs. Alternative B offers a minimal amount of potential change. Alternative C accommodates current use while adding limited additional facilities for recreational and administrative purposes, and focus on dispersing visitor use. Alternative D focuses on expanding visitor opportunities and proposing the greatest increase in infrastructure. The draft alternative concept maps and tables are presented on pages 8-15.

## NEXT STEPS: Guidance for pages 8-15:

The following pages include a summary table of the draft alternatives for the management of Serpentine Hot Springs, along with concept diagrams that illustrate how each alternative would fit together spatially. Please take some time to read through the table and then review the concept diagrams.

Please let us know what you think about each alternative. Please remember that these are the draft alternatives. They are meant to represent a wide range of possibilities for Serpentine Hot Springs. There will be elements of each that many people do not like or feel are inappropriate. That is a normal part of the alternatives development process.

Based on your feedback, the NPS planning team will make further refinements to the alternatives and then we will work with the Preserve staff to develop a preferred alternative. The preferred alternative could be very similar to one of the draft alternatives, but may be a combination of elements from the existing alternatives. Please use the enclosed comment card or go online (see page 2 for the different ways to submit comments) to let us know what you think. Thanks for your help.

Table 1. Comparison of Alternative Actions

	No-action Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Concept Overview</b>	The No-action Alternative provides a baseline for evaluating the changes and impacts of the three action alternatives. Under this alternative, the current conditions at the site and the existing management program would continue as is.	Alternative B would focus on replacing existing facilities and amenities largely in-kind and without offering a wider range of new opportunities for visitors to the site. The NPS would continue to have a minimal presence at Serpentine Hot Springs, and the hot springs experience would continue to be one that is highly informal.	Alternative C would provide moderate improvements to all facilities. The existing airstrip would be expanded somewhat. The bunkhouse would be replaced and relocated to the vicinity of the airstrip. Restrooms will be improved.	Alternative D would provide significant improvements and addition of facilities. The existing airstrip would be expanded and realigned. The bunkhouse would be replaced with a larger cabin and relocated to the vicinity of the airstrip.  Additional improvements such as a formal camping area, more and improved restrooms, and an NPS administrative structure would eventually be constructed.
<b>Airstrip</b>	Visitors to Serpentine Hot Springs would continue to use the existing airstrip. The NPS would continue with the existing maintenance program. No additional improvements would be made.	Visitors to Serpentine Hot Springs would continue to use the existing airstrip. The park would moderately increase maintenance to the airstrip to include adding some gravel to maintain the surface, minimally fixing the grade/drain and an increase brush cutting.	The airstrip would be extended on both ends as much as possible without causing significant impacts to resources.  The park would increase the existing maintenance program to include increased levels of grading and brushing.	The airstrip would be slightly realigned and extended as much as possible without altering Hot Springs Creek.  The park would increase the existing maintenance program to include increased levels of grading and brushing.  The apron on the north side of the strip would be expanded to provide more areas for aircraft to park.
<b>Bunkhouse</b>	Repairs would occur as needed.	The bunkhouse would be replaced with a similar-sized structure using appropriate building construction in the same approximate location. Mitigations will be developed to protect the facilities from possible flooding	The bunkhouse would be replaced with a similar-sized structure using appropriate building construction and relocated above Hot Springs Creek near the airstrip.	The bunkhouse would be replaced using appropriate building construction and relocated away from Hot Springs Creek. Building size will be increased to accommodate up to 10 more visitors.
<b>Camping</b>	Camping around the hot springs would be informal, with no areas identified for formal camp sites.	Visitors will be directed away from areas that could be most impacted by camping.	A small, primitive camping area would be identified. Resource protection and visitor health and safety would be key criteria in evaluating proposed improvements.	A small, primitive camping area would be identified. Resource protection and visitor health and safety would be key criteria in evaluating proposed improvements. Improvements may include a pit toilet, picnic tables and other appropriate amenities.

<b>Bathhouse</b>	The bathhouse would be repaired and/or replaced in-kind and in-place.	The bathhouse would be replaced in-kind and in-place. A changing room would be added to the structure.	The bathhouse would be replaced in-kind and in-place. A changing room would be added to the structure.	The bathhouse would be replaced and expanded. The location would not be changed. A separate changing room would be added nearby.
<b>Sanitation</b>	<p>A single pit style outhouse would be replaced and relocated to areas approved by resource staff.</p> <p>All trash would be removed by the visitor. A burn barrel would be provided by the park.</p>	<p>Restroom facilities would be replaced and improved A decision will be made at the time of implementation as to what is the best type of toilet to use.</p> <p>All trash will be removed by the visitor. As needed, a second burn barrel or different burn technology will be provided by the park at a safe distance from facilities.</p> <p>Visitors will be provided bear proof trash containers to temporarily hold garbage.</p>	<p>Restroom facilities would be replaced and improved. One or more toilets will be added as needed to support a possible increase in visitors. A decision will be made at the time of implementation as to what is the best type of toilet to use.</p> <p>All trash will be removed by the visitor. A second burn barrel or different burn technology will be provided by the park at a safe distance from facilities.</p> <p>Visitors will be provided bear proof trash containers to temporarily hold garbage.</p>	<p>Restroom facilities would be replaced and improved. One or more toilets will be added as needed to support a possible increase in visitors. Specialized toilet systems will be installed utilizing the appropriate technology for the area. A decision will be made at the time of implementation as to what is the best type of toilet to use.</p> <p>All trash will be removed by the visitor. A second burn barrel or different burn technology will be provided by the park at a safe distance from facilities.</p> <p>Visitors will be provided bear proof trash containers or receptacles to temporarily hold garbage at the bunkhouse and in camping areas.</p>
<b>Trails</b>	<p>There would be a marked trail connecting the Serpentine Hot Springs area to the Nome-Taylor Highway.</p> <p>There would be no formal recreational trails into the tors area.</p> <p>The trail and boardwalk that connects the airstrip to the bunkhouse and bathhouse would be expanded to improve safety, accessibility, and resource protection.</p>	<p>An entrance marker (sign) would be added on the Nome-Taylor winter/hiking trail to mark the Preserve boundary.</p> <p>There would be no formal recreational trails into the tors area.</p> <p>The trail and boardwalk to the bunkhouse and bathhouse would be expanded to improve safety, comfort, and resource protection.</p>	<p>The number of trail markers on NPS lands would be increased on the trail to the Nome-Taylor Highway and the trail to Shishmaref. An entrance marker (sign) would be added on the Nome-Taylor winter/hiking trail to mark the Preserve boundary.</p> <p>Where feasible, the trails and boardwalks would be made accessible for visitors with disabilities.</p>	<p>The number of trail markers on NPS lands would be increased on the trail to the Nome-Taylor Highway and the trail to Shishmaref. An entrance marker (sign) would be added on the Nome-Taylor winter/hiking trail to mark the Preserve boundary.</p> <p>The NPS would construct primitive trails from the hot springs to the tors area to promote efficient way-finding and for resource protection</p> <p>A trail would be added to connect the Serpentine Hot Springs with Arctic Hot Spring.</p> <p>Where feasible, the trails and boardwalks would be made accessible for visitors with disabilities.</p>

	<b>No-action Alternative</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Interpretive Program</b>	<p>Continue to have a limited interpretive program at Serpentine Hot Springs.</p> <p>Continue plans to produce a new SHS brochure. Basic information about SHS would continue to be put on the website for visitors. Education and winter programs for special events would continue.</p>	<p>Continue to have a limited interpretive program at Serpentine Hot Springs.</p> <p>Continue plans to produce a new SHS brochure. Basic information about SHS would continue to be put on the website for visitors. Education and winter programs for special events would continue.</p> <p>Field guides on area flora and fauna would be produced.</p>	<p>Expand the interpretive program at Serpentine Hot Springs to include very limited signage for interpretation, education, and outreach. Signage could be seasonal.</p> <p>Educational and winter programs for special events would occur.</p> <p>Field guides on area flora and fauna would be produced.</p>	<p>Expand the interpretive program at Serpentine Hot Springs to include very limited signage for interpretation, education, and outreach. Signage could be seasonal.</p> <p>Educational and winter programs for special events would occur.</p> <p>Field guides on area flora and fauna would be produced.</p> <p>A ranger would be stationed at the hot springs during the summer months.</p>
<b>Administrative Facilities</b>	<p>When on-site, the NPS would continue to share the existing facilities with the public.</p>	<p>When on-site, the NPS would continue to share the existing facilities with the public. An administrative camping area would also be identified.</p> <p>A small storage building would be constructed near the airstrip.</p> <p>Information from the weather station would be made available to the public. A webcam would be installed at the airstrip to provide information about current conditions to visitors and pilots.</p>	<p>When on-site, the NPS would continue to share the existing facilities with the public. An administrative camping area would also be identified.</p> <p>A small storage building would be constructed near the airstrip.</p> <p>Information from the weather station would be made available to the public. A webcam could be installed at the airstrip to provide information about current conditions to visitors and pilots.</p>	<p>The NPS would construct a small cabin for use by staff working on projects in the area. The cabin would be located in the general vicinity of existing facilities.</p> <p>The cabin would be available for use by the public by contacting preserve staff. A small storage building would be constructed near the airstrip.</p> <p>Information from the weather station would be made available to the public. A webcam could be installed at the airstrip to provide information about current conditions to visitors and pilots.</p>
<b>Shelter Cabins</b>	<p>There would be no shelter cabins proposed in the planning area.</p>	<p>Same as the No-action alternative.</p>	<p>A shelter cabin would be built to the south of Serpentine Hot Springs, up slope from the trail that leads to the Nome-Taylor Highway. It would be located close to the Preserve boundary.</p>	<p>Same as the No-action alternative.</p>

	No-action Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Arctic Hot Springs</b>	No improvements or new uses would be proposed at Arctic Hot Springs.	Same as the No-action alternative.	Same as the No-action alternative.	<p>A small outdoor bathing pool would be added to Arctic Hot Springs.</p> <p>A small, primitive camping area would be identified and hardened in the vicinity of Arctic Hot Springs.</p> <p>A toilet would be added to the area.</p>

## Common to All Alternatives

### Add Route Markers

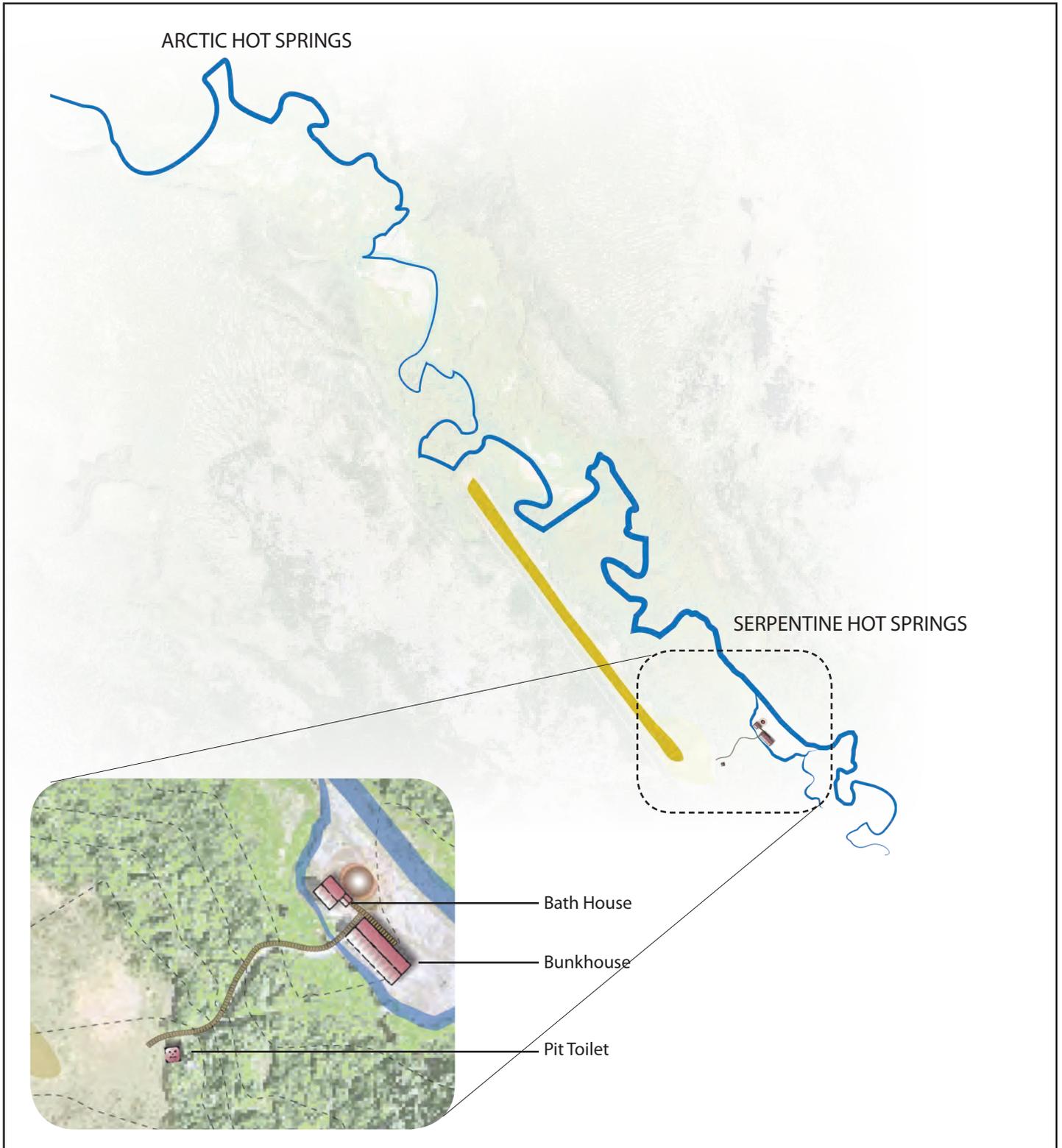
The NPS will continue to maintain the existing route markers that lead people from Shishmaref and Nome to Serpentine Hot Springs during the winter months, and from the Kugoruk Road during the summer months. If other communities request additional route markers be added, the NPS will consider this on a case-by-case basis dependent upon need, cost, and the capacity of the NPS to provide this service.

### Wilderness Eligibility of the Serpentine Hot Springs Area

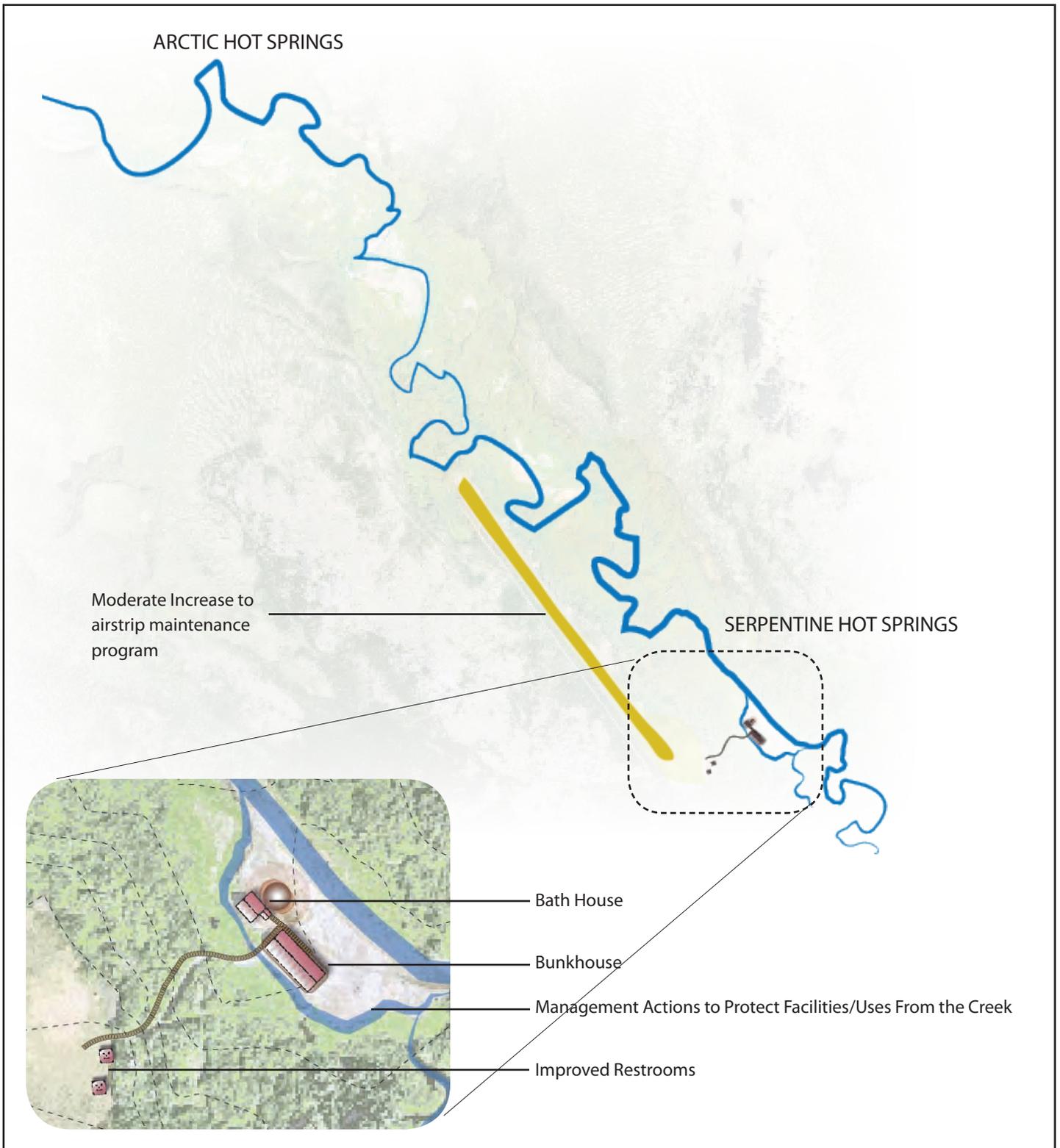
As part of this project, the NPS is proposing to remove the immediate area surrounding Serpentine Hot Springs from wilderness eligibility. The purpose of this action is not to diminish the wilderness qualities of the site, but rather to preserve the site's long established history and current use as a place of cultural and subsistence practices, and to ensure recreational activities can continue unimpeded.



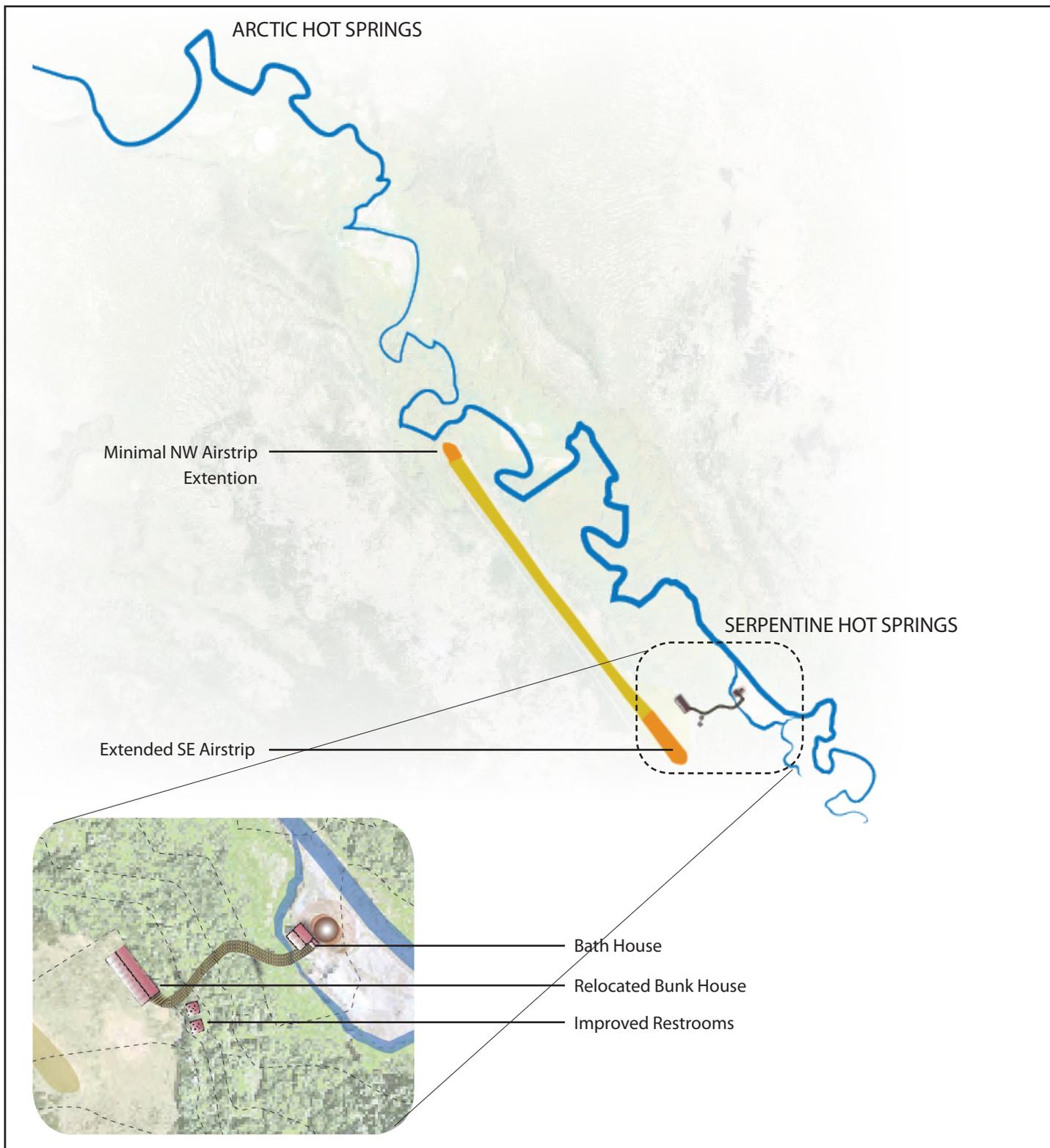
# Draft Alternative Concepts No-Action Alternative A



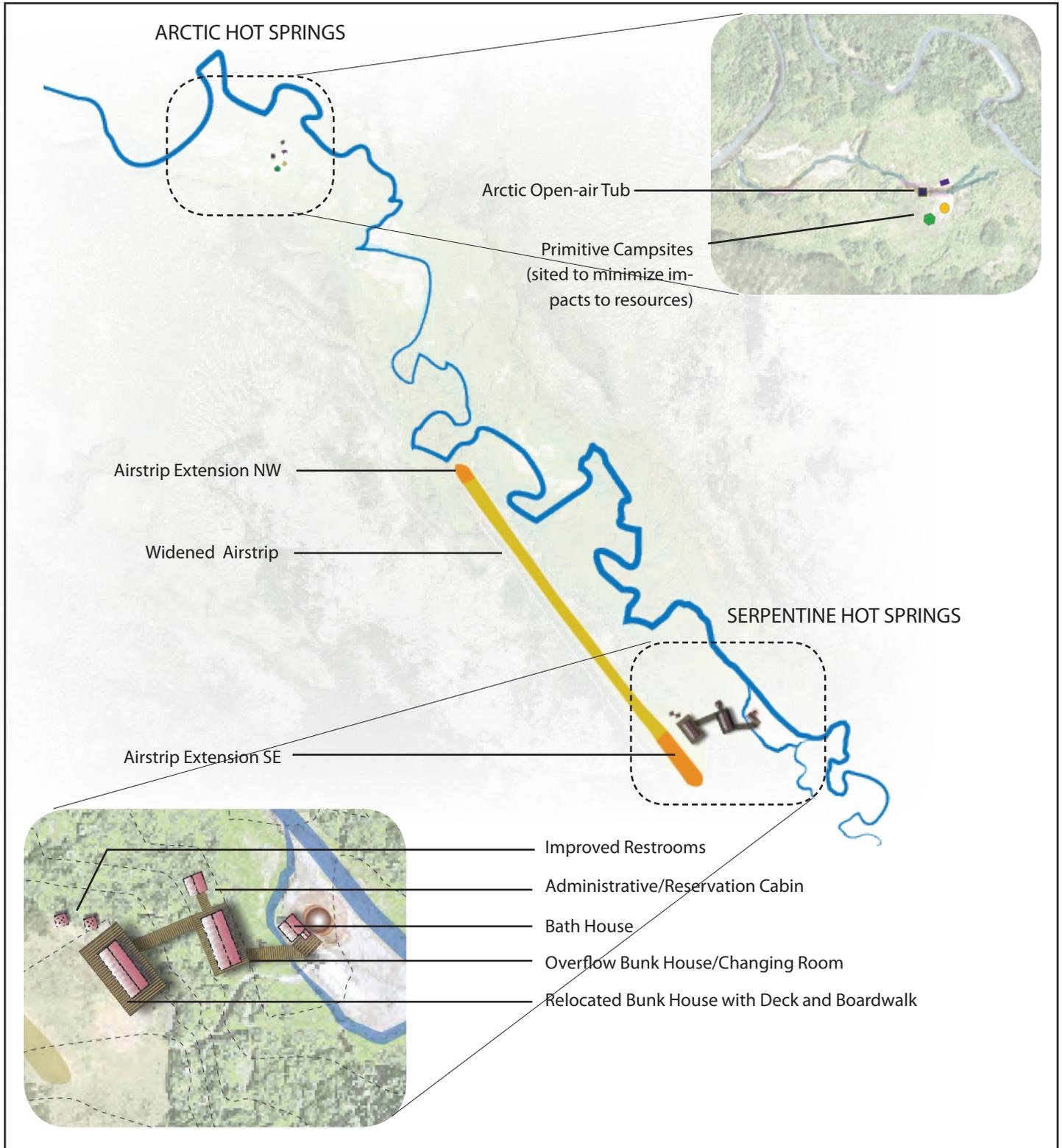
The No-action Alternative provides a baseline for evaluating the changes and impacts of the three action alternatives. Under this alternative, the current conditions on site and the existing management program would continue.



Alternative B would focus on replacing existing facilities and amenities largely in-kind and in-place and without offering a wider range of new opportunities for visitors to the site. The NPS would continue to have a minimal presence at Serpentine Hot Springs, and the hot springs experience would continue to be one that is highly informal.



Alternative C would provide for an expanded range of opportunities for visitors to Serpentine Hot Springs. This would be accomplished by a moderate level of facility improvement and by promoting opportunities for dispersed uses away from the area immediately around the hot springs.

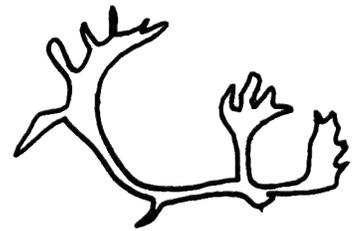


Alternative D calls for improving access to the Serpentine Hot Springs area by expanding the existing air strip. Facilities such as the bunkhouse would be replaced. Some facilities would be expanded. Additional improvements such as a formal camping area, better toilets, and an NPS administrative structure would eventually be constructed.



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™



The purpose of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is to protect and provide the opportunity to study and interpret the landscape which contains an invaluable record of floral, faunal, and human migration between Asia and North America and which supports an ongoing traditional subsistence culture.