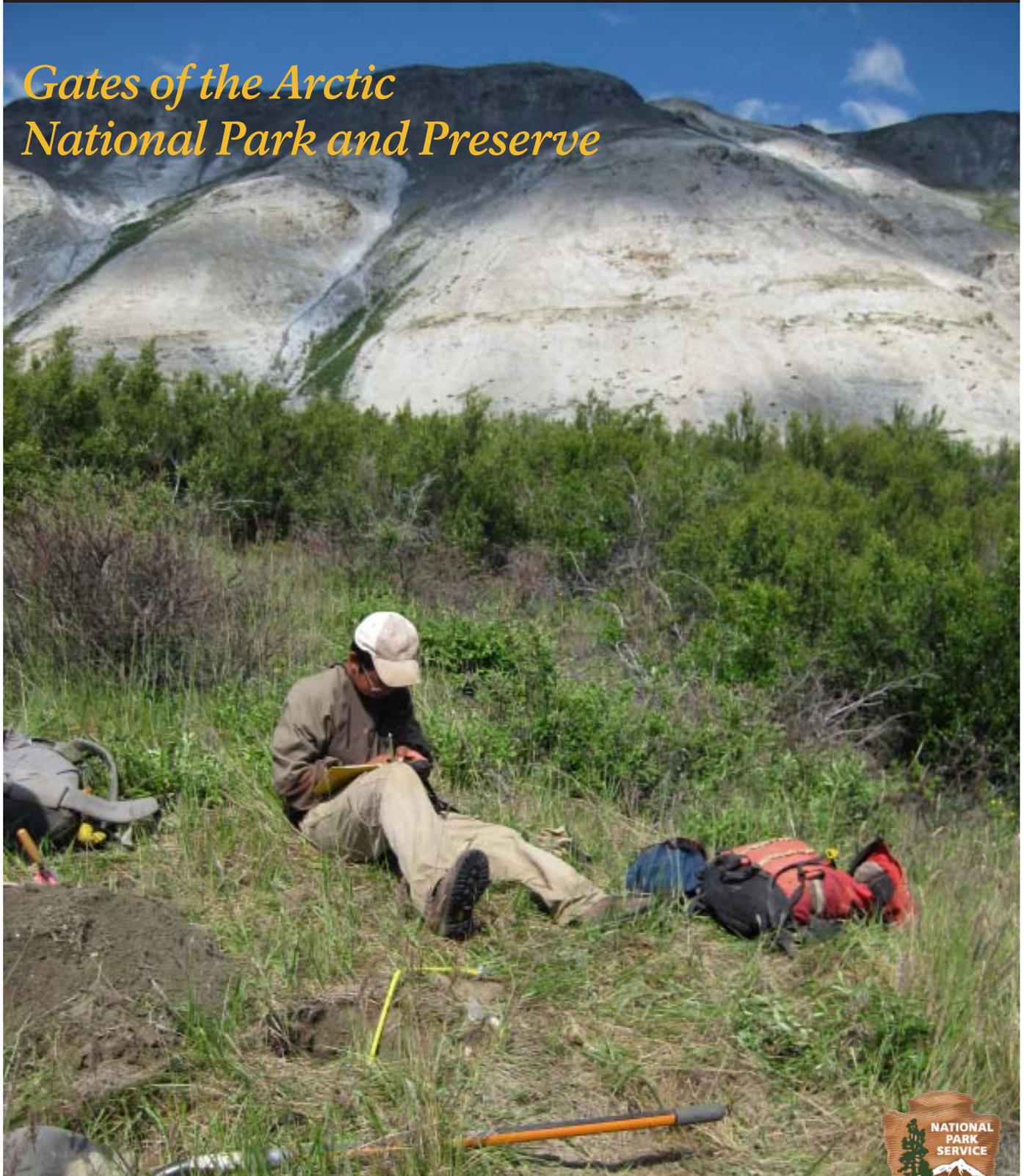


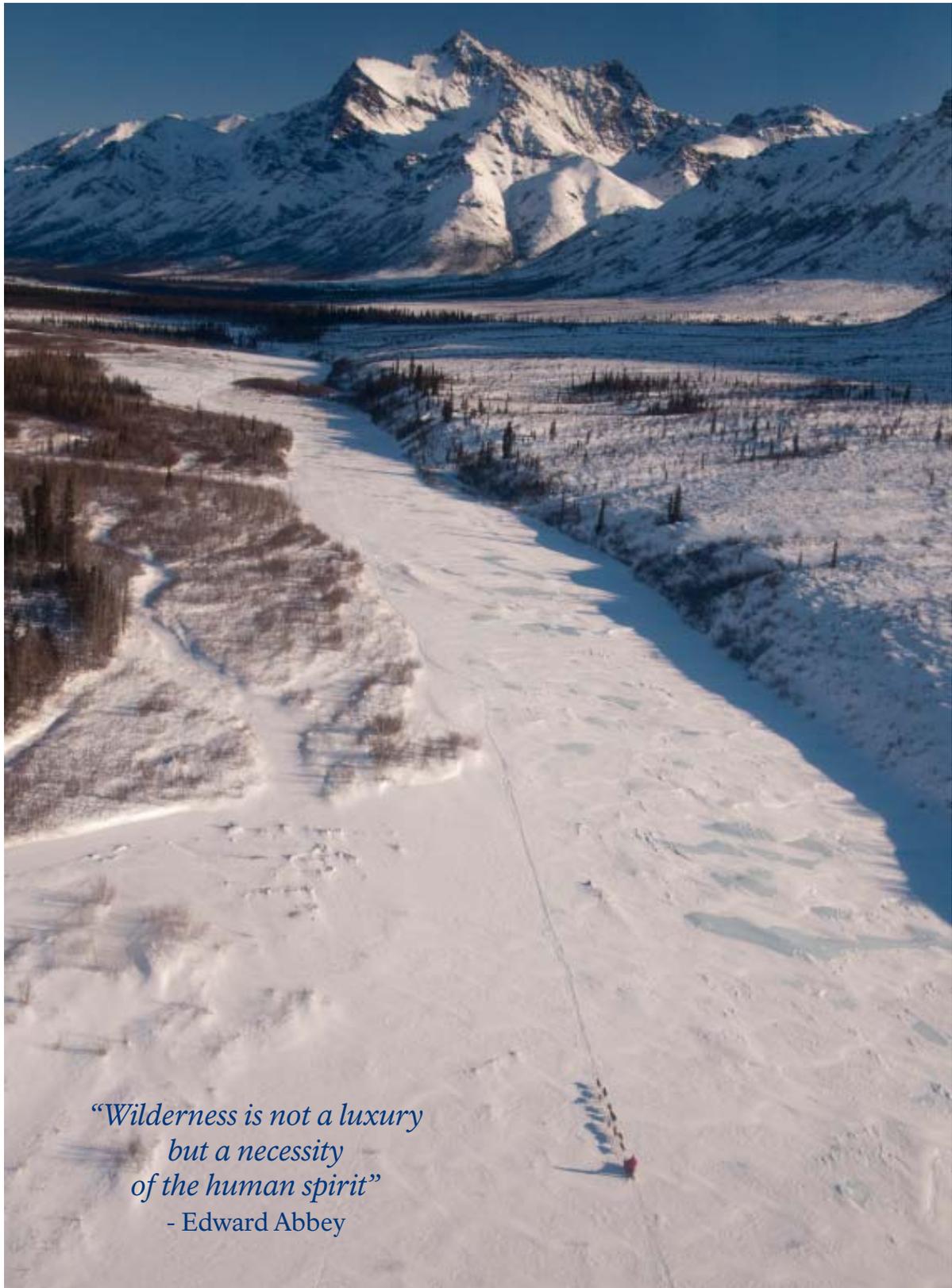
2010 Annual Report

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve



**National Park Service
Department of the Interior**





*“Wilderness is not a luxury
but a necessity
of the human spirit”
- Edward Abbey*

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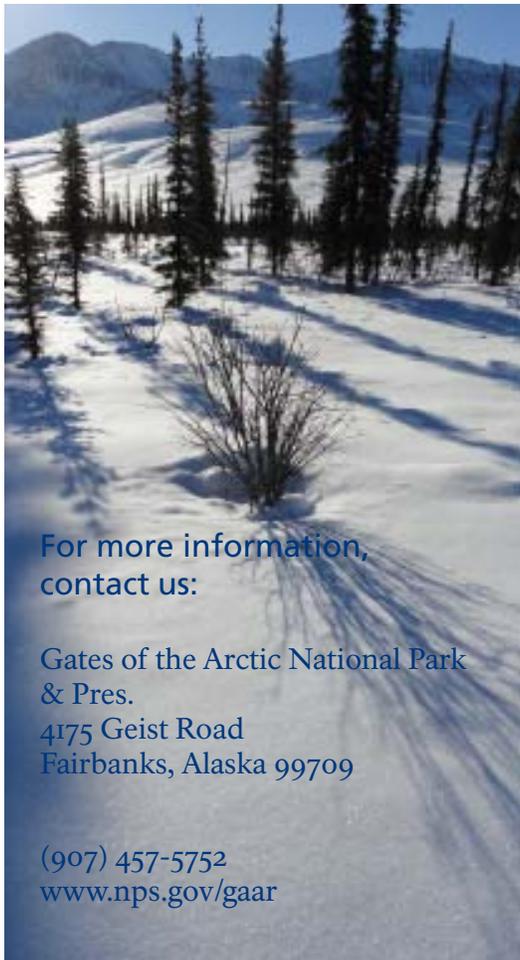
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Photos

by the National Park Service



UAA archaeology student Tim Williams records data from a newly discovered pre-historic site found along the upper Noatak River.

Editing, Layout and Design

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Printed on recycled paper.



Purpose and Significance

By establishing Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve in Alaska’s Brooks Range, Congress reserved a vast and essentially untouched area of superlative natural beauty and exceptional scientific value – a maze of glaciated valleys and gaunt, rugged mountains covered with boreal forest and arctic tundra, cut by wild rivers and inhabited by far-ranging populations of caribou, Dall sheep, wolves, grizzly and black bears. Congress recognized that a special value of Gates of the Arctic is its wild, undeveloped character and the opportunities it affords for solitude, wilderness travel, and adventure. Gates of the Arctic encompasses several congressionally recognized elements including the national park, national preserve, wilderness, six wild rivers, and two national natural landmarks. The National Park Service is entrusted to manage this area to protect its physical resources and to maintain the intangible qualities of the wilderness and the opportunity it provides for people to learn and renew its values.



The Arrigetch Peaks are exemplary of the “wild and undeveloped character” of the land that Gates of the Arctic was established to preserve.

Purpose of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

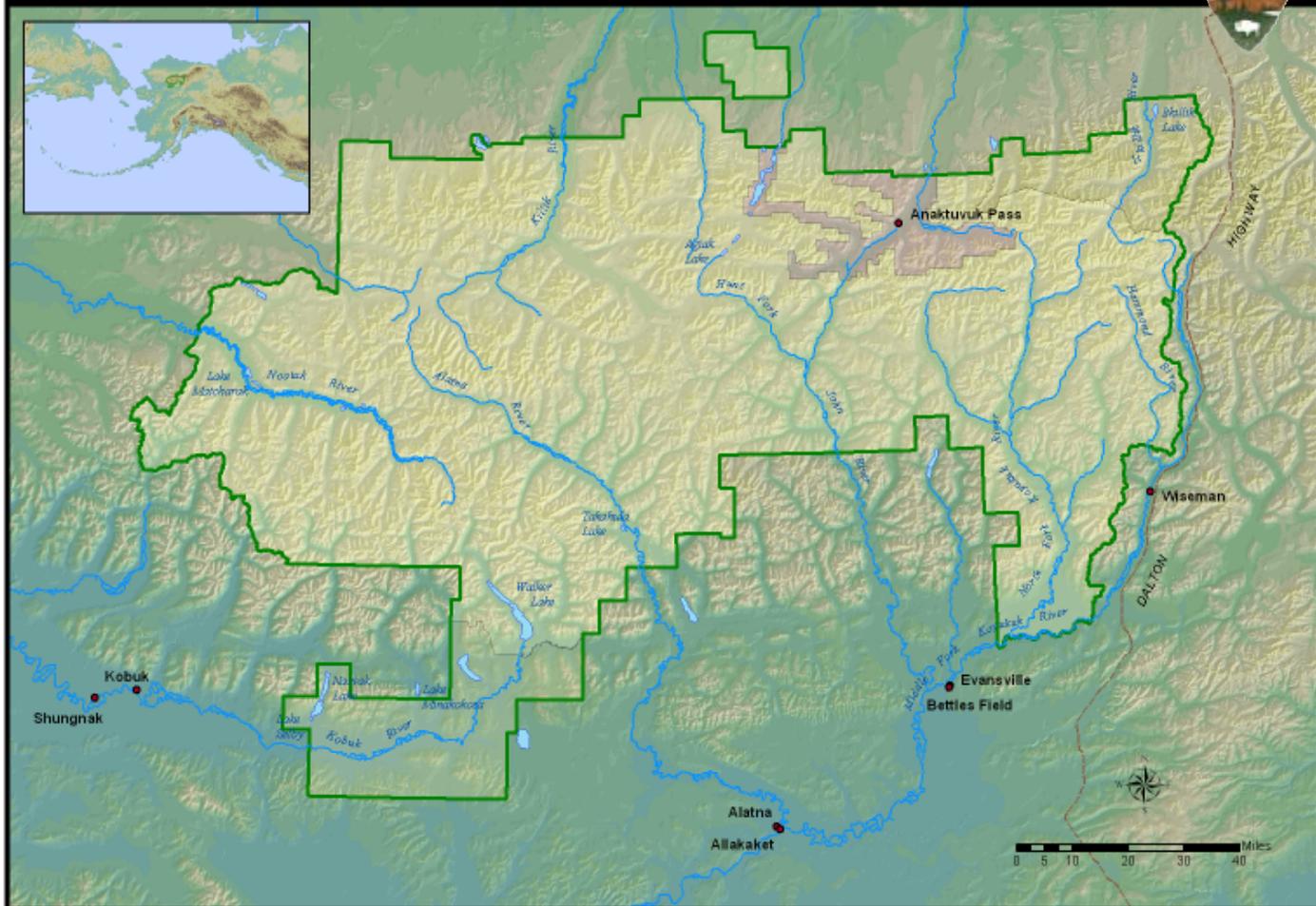
- ❖ Preserve the wild and undeveloped character and natural environmental integrity—including natural processes, habitat, and biodiversity—of the central Brooks Range;
- ❖ Provide opportunities for appropriate wilderness recreational activities and solitude; and
- ❖ Allow rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to continue to do so.

Significance of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

- ❖ Gates of the Arctic is the central component of a 40-million-acre contiguous, undeveloped protected area, one of the largest protected areas in an increasingly developed world.
- ❖ Due to its vastness and undeveloped character, Gates of the Arctic provides outstanding recreational wilderness opportunities.
- ❖ Gates of the Arctic protects the core of the traditional homelands of the Nunamiut peoples.
- ❖ The area inspired Bob Marshall, who coined the term “Gates of the Arctic,” and was one of the earliest proponents of arctic preservation and one of the founders of the American wilderness system.
- ❖ Gates of the Arctic exemplifies an intact, high latitude arctic ecosystem with its corresponding natural processes, flora, and fauna.

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

National Park Service
Department of the Interior



Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve lies north of the Arctic Circle in the central Brooks Range of Alaska. Visitors to the Park typically access the area via the Dalton Highway and hike in, or by air. Commercial carriers serve Bettles and Anaktuvuk Pass, where the Park maintains field offices. Air charter operators based in Bettles fly visitors into the Park using float planes that land on many of the larger lakes and rivers.

Visitors to Gates of the Arctic are encouraged to check in at one of the Park's field offices in Bettles or Anaktuvuk Pass, or at the Visitors Center in Coldfoot prior to their trip. Park Rangers and VIPs offer orientations which brief visitors in safety issues and Leave No Trace camping techniques.



Visitors are encouraged to practice "Leave No Trace" techniques while travelling in the Park so that everyone may enjoy the same pleasures of pristine wilderness and joys of discovery.

Performance and Results

*Archaeological inventories,
collections management,
wildlife surveys,
vital signs monitoring,
resource protection,
visitor education,
outreach...*



Preserve Resources

Natural and cultural resources and associated values at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.

Kobuk River Land Use 2010 Archaeological Inventory

By Chris Ciancibelli & Phoebe Gilbert

Archeological investigations in the upper Kobuk River valley continued during the 2010 summer field season in Gates of the Arctic NP&P. Additional survey was conducted and one site was excavated during the second year of the three-year project.

The survey strategy focused on investigating remote locations off of the river corridor including the uplands and the Kobuk River headwaters. Specific areas of focus were the Lockwood, Norutak, and Helpmejack Hills, south of the Kobuk River in the Preserve portion of the study unit. Survey was also performed at Lake Selby and Narvak Lake where a concentration of sites spanning thousands of years is known to exist.

Six archeologists were involved in surveying approximately 23,000 acres. Overall, 48 new sites were identified and 64 site revisits and condition assessments were conducted, combining for a total of 112 site visits. Since the start of the project two years ago 100 new sites

have been identified and one-third of the 261 previously recorded sites have been revisited and assessed. Site revisits and assessments help save valuable information at significant sites and are a crucial part of preserving and protecting the cultural resources within Gates of the Arctic.

Interesting finds from the summer include a crystal quartz projectile point fragment which was found within the moraine complex at the south end of Walker Lake, and several prehistoric house and cache pits on the shores of Lake Selby.

Archeologists also spent a week performing subsurface investigations and gathering data at a prehistoric stone tool cache found during the 2009 field season near Nutuvukti Lake. The site was tested to determine the condition, contents and extent. Sixteen complete bifacial stone tools were identified, all in varying stages of production, in addition to fragments of several others. Data collected from this site will be further analyzed.



Phoebe Gilbert records the location and characteristics of artifacts marked by pin flags. Archeologists returned to further document this lithic scatter near Nutuvukti Lake.



One of the stone tools researchers found at the above site. A "biface" such as this may have been used as a knife for butchering animals.



A rare occurrence in interior Alaska, this ceramic sherd was discovered at Lake Kipmik.



Goal Ia8: By September 30, 2010, 975 (66% of 1,482) of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve's archeological sites are in good condition. GOAL EXCEEDED



Systematically recording test units during sub-surface tests near Lake Kipmik.



A small obsidian blade discovered subsurface near Kipmik Lake.



Part of the site documentation process records artifacts in their original locations and analyzes them to see what they might tell us about a site.

Upper Noatak River and Lake Kipmik Archaeological Inventory

By Andrew Tremayne

Archeological work was conducted in the upper Noatak River valley again in 2010, particularly around Matcharak Lake as this area has turned out to be quite rich with evidence for prehistoric people camping, hunting and fishing. The discovery of frozen animal remains associated with 4,000- year-old artifacts has prompted a closer evaluation of all the lakes in the region.

The project entailed survey and subsurface testing of lake shores in the upper Noatak River drainage, from Nelson-Walker Lake to the park boundary. We found three new historic age occupations upriver of Matcharak Lake, none warranting much excitement. At Matcharak Lake, however, we focused our efforts to the south-side of the lake discovering a total of seven new sites producing stone artifacts associated with preserved caribou bones. Radio-carbon dates suggest these sites are around 4,200 years old, while one of the occupations is close to 8,000 years old. Small test excavations at one of the sites revealed numerous animal bones including caribou, Dall's sheep, possible musk ox, small mammals, birds and fish. It is becoming clear that Matcharak Lake was a popular destination for hunter-gatherers throughout the early to mid-Holocene.

Survey work conducted at Lake Kipmik revealed five new site locations and increased knowledge of a number of important sites in the area. Evidence was found of Eskimo pottery on the beach on the southeast end of the lake. A notched arrow point site and a small lithic scatter on the large hill separating Kipmik from Midas Creek were discovered. Also found was an isolated inuksuk on the knolls above the lake.

The research team revisited a number of sites discovered in the 1970s and 1980s adding important new information to these narratives. One in particular was shown to be Arctic Small Tool tradition (ASTt), a 3,000-5,000-year-old group of hunter-gatherers of considerable interest. Test excavations at a lakeside ASTt site uncovered a trove of stone tools, used for hunting and processing caribou meat and hides. Ongoing analyses of these artifacts is providing intriguing new evidence for hunting strategies, stone tool production and land-use patterns for prehistoric people living in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Overall, fieldwork here led to the discovery of 17 new sites, with revisits to 16 known sites and a number of samples were collected for future analysis.

Gates of the Arctic in a Historic Context

By Chris Allan

Work has begun on a Historic Context Study for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve focusing on exploration of the central Brooks Range. This study is designed to enhance park interpretation activities and to document the role of park lands in the history of the region. The scope of the study extends from discussion of ancient peoples and Alaska Native use of the land to government-sponsored mapping to Bob Marshall and other latter day adventurers. The study will also address the role of exploration or discovery in the every-day experiences of park users. As late as the 1930s, the Brooks Range and most of Arctic Alaska remained one of the last large areas in the United States unexplored by outsiders. If you would like to discuss the history of exploration on park lands, contact Chris Allan, YUGA Historian.



Bob Marshall and his traveling companion Al Retzlaf pose before leaving Wiseman to explore and map the North Fork of the Koyukuk River, July 1929. On this trip Marshall named Frigid Crags and Boreal Mountain and declared them the "Gates of the Arctic." Alaska State Library, Robert Marshall Photograph Collection, P197-24.



Bob Marshall created this map during his 1929 reconnaissance of the North Fork of the Koyukuk River to the Arctic Divide where water flows north rather than south in the Brooks Range. The accounts of his adventures in this region were later published as *Alaska Wilderness* (1956). Alaska State Library, Robert Marshall Photograph Collection, P197-25.



Mountaineer and wilderness advocate Hans van der Laan traveled up the Alatna River and into the central Brooks Range in 1969. His love of the mountains prompted his family to create the Hans van der Laan Brooks Range Library after his death during a climb in 1971. The library is available for public use at the Simon Paneak Memorial Museum in Anaktuvuk Pass.

The museum is more than simply a repository where collections are simply stashed away under lock and key.

Expanded Museum Program Revitalizes Collections' Use, Storage

By Chris Houlette

2010 was a busy year for the burgeoning Gates of the Arctic museum program. Following a trend over the past several years, the collections have continued to grow. As such, in order to further provide for the long term care of these irreplaceable collections, two major changes took place: the hiring of a full time curator and the installation of a state-of-the-art compact storage system.

With the addition of 4,897 newly cataloged items the total collection housed at the Fairbanks Administrative Center Curation Facility now numbers 260,488 individual objects. While much of these additions reflect the efforts of GAAR archaeologists (including objects and documentation from the Kobuk River and Matcharak Lake projects), other additions include various archival

documentation, as well as a large backlog collection of ARCN herbarium specimens.

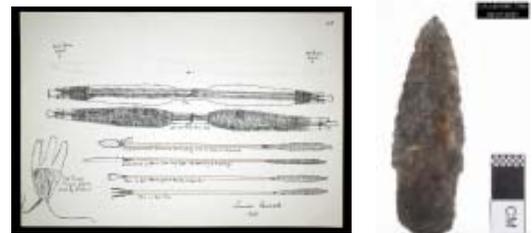
The museum is more than simply a repository however, where collections are simply stashed away under lock and key. A collection of artifacts from the Hungry Fox archaeological site and archival drawings created by Simon Paneak of Anaktuvuk Pass were loaned to the University of Alaska Museum of the North as part of a special exhibit highlighting the changing Arctic landscape. A graduate student at the University of California, Davis is examining archaeological materials from Matcharak and Kipmik Lakes for his PhD research. Another is investigating faunal remains from the Hungry Fox site as part of a Masters program at Washing State University, and two others conducted ancient DNA analyses on faunal remains from Matcharak Lake at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



Before: "Cramped" might sum up the state of our collections before additional space became available and museum curator Chris Houlette arrived.



After: With the increased space, the collections are now organized sequentially by accession number, making them more easily accessible.



Above left is a drawing by Simon Paneak depicting traditional Nunamiut hunting technology (from the J.M. Cambell archives). At right is a stone projectile point from the Hungry Fox site. Both of these items are currently on loan to the University of Alaska Museum of the North for exhibit.

The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.

Long-term Goal 1a2B: By September 30, 2012, 5 populations (56% of 9) species of management concern in Gates of the Arctic have improved information for management. Desired condition not currently known, but under development.

Annual Goal 1a2B: By September 30, 2010, 4 populations (41% of 9) of Gates of the Arctic species of management concern are managed to desired condition (brown bear), or have improved information to contribute to their management.

GOAL ACHIEVED



Brown Bear Survey in Eastern Gates of the Arctic

By Brad Shults

During the last week of May 2010, the National Park Service completed an aerial survey to determine the abundance of brown bears in the eastern half of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. We used 5 tandem-seat aircraft (pilot + observer) to search approximately 1,890 square miles during 126 hours. Preliminary results were 66 adult bears and 26 cubs (2 years old or younger) observed. These preliminary observations will be used to calculate the estimated abundance and density of brown bears within the entire study area of 6,684 mi². Surveys will be completed every 4 years in this area as part of the NPS Vital Signs Monitoring Program. The next survey will be completed in May 2014.

In the approximately 1,890 square miles searched, observers recorded 66 adult bears and 26 cubs (2 years old or younger).

A sow brown bear with three yearling cubs forage in late spring in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

Ten cow moose in the Dalton Highway corridor near Coldfoot/Wiseman have GPS collars that record their position every 8 hours.



Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist Tony Hollis prepares to collar a cow moose captured in the Koyukuk River valley near Coldfoot. The radio collar transmits signals that help biologists relocate the moose to see where it has travelled, what type of habitat it frequents, whether it has a calf (or two) and other information.

Moose Movements and Survival in the Upper Koyukuk Region

By Kyle Joly

A multi-agency project involving NPS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Alaska Department of Fish & Game to track moose near the southeastern region of Gates of the Arctic is continuing. About 50 radio collars are currently deployed on both bull and cow moose from the southern end of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge to Sukakpak Mountain east of Gates of the Arctic. The moose are located each month by

aircraft. Of these, 10 cow moose in the Dalton Highway corridor near Coldfoot/Wiseman have GPS collars that record their position every 8 hours.

The goals of the project are to learn more about the distribution, movements, habitat usage, survival and twinning rates of this population. This year, we hope to initiate a new phase to the study that would include GPS collar deployment on bull moose and also GPS collars on moose in Kanuti NWR for the first time.

Snowshoe Hare Population Dips Again

By Donna DiFolco

A track count conducted in March and pellet counts made in June both indicated that, rather than building, the hare population is again slumping to low levels. Local

trappers explained that lynx were systematically hunting out one pocket of hares before moving on to the next.

In a cooperative effort with UAF, we



Annual movements of GPS-collared Western Arctic herd caribou cows. Green lines, like the north-south migrations through Kobuk Valley NP, indicate fast movement rates, whereas red lines indicate slow movement rates, such as the feeding areas in the Nulato Hills winter range.

Tracking Caribou in Northwest Alaska

By Kyle Joly

Fifteen additional GPS-satellite radio collars were deployed on Western Arctic Herd caribou. These collars provide biologists with the locations of these caribou every 8 hours, 365 days a year – more than 55,000 so far. These data will be used to track the migrations and distribution of caribou throughout the year. The results of winter range

studies, survivorship modeling studies and advancements in GPS data management were presented the North American Caribou Workshop in Winnipeg, Canada. The NPS was instrumental in launching the WAH Working Group’s webpage, check it out at www.westernarcticcaribou.org.

...data will be used to track the migrations and distribution of caribou throughout the year

captured only one hare (in 4 days of trapping) on which we fitted a 30-gram GPS collar. We hope to put 5 GPS collars on hares to study movement patterns of hares in this area, which lies in close proximity to a large bluff thought to be used by hares as a mineral lick during

population peaks. Unfortunately, this hare must have been killed by a predator and carried far from the area, since we were later unable to relocate the signal.

The long period of low-densities between peaks in hare populations in our study area mirrors that predicted by local area knowledge.





Dall's sheep ewes and lambs run across a mountainside during the 2010 survey in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Survey results estimated that lambs composed approximately 19-20% of the total sheep population in the park.

Estimating Dall's Sheep Abundance with Distance Sampling and Hierarchical Modeling

By Kumi Rattenbury and Joshua Schmidt

In July 2010, the Arctic and Central Alaska Networks conducted aerial distance sampling surveys to estimate Dall's sheep (*Ovis dalli dalli*) abundance in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve (GAAR). Distance sampling is an efficient and cost-effective survey tool that produces unbiased estimates of abundance, accounts for detection probability (the unknown number of sheep not detected from survey aircraft), and can provide density distribution maps for large park units. These methods can also be used to estimate abundance and sex and age composition of sheep in smaller areas, such as the Itkillik Preserve, that are important for harvest management.

The 2010 survey built on lessons learned in 2009 by improving both the GIS tools for recording and storing data and the methods for generating survey area and transects and analyzing data. Five pilot-observer teams completed 318 of the 321 20-km transects that were systematically generated across all potential habitat in GAAR, thus sampling 11% of the 27,000 km² survey area. They detected 220 groups totaling 557 sheep on 86 of these transects, with

observed ratios of 33 lambs per 100 ewe-like sheep (ewes, yearlings and d¹/₄ curl rams) and 51 rams per 100 ewe-like sheep. The 2009 data were re-analyzed with the 2010 data using spatially-explicit Bayesian hierarchical modeling that can incorporate random effects and variables such as elevation, weather conditions and sheep activity that may influence detection, group size and abundance. The estimates were also adjusted for group size effects on detection. Preliminary results indicate that total sheep abundance in GAAR did not differ significantly between 2009 and 2010 and are comparable to the helicopter census conducted from 1982 to 1984 when 10,939 sheep were counted in the same area.

The distance sampling and hierarchical modeling methods used to estimate sheep abundance in GAAR also are being adopted for monitoring and detecting changes in the abundance and distribution of Dall's sheep in Noatak National Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park, Denali National Park and Preserve, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

Methods Tested for Monitoring Landbirds along Noatak River

By Melanie Flamme

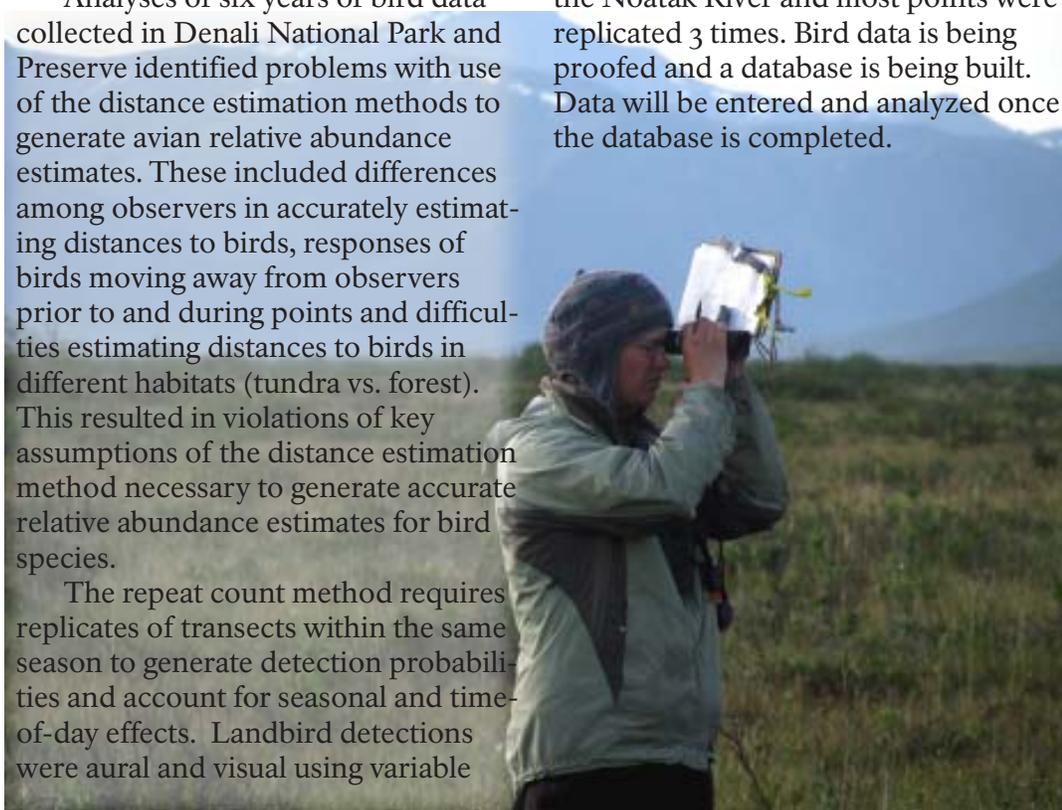
In 2010, we tested new methods for conducting riparian-based avian point counts in Arctic Network parklands to improve estimates of relative abundance. Modifications in study design, field techniques and data collection methods were made to facilitate collaboration with Central Alaska Network on a shared avian monitoring program. We conducted a pilot study along the Noatak River in Gates of the Arctic and Noatak National Preserve using both repeated counts and distance estimation methods to compare detection probabilities and relative abundance estimates for bird species. The repeat count method uses time of detection rather than distance to generate detection probabilities and abundance estimates for each species.

Analyses of six years of bird data collected in Denali National Park and Preserve identified problems with use of the distance estimation methods to generate avian relative abundance estimates. These included differences among observers in accurately estimating distances to birds, responses of birds moving away from observers prior to and during points and difficulties estimating distances to birds in different habitats (tundra vs. forest). This resulted in violations of key assumptions of the distance estimation method necessary to generate accurate relative abundance estimates for bird species.

The repeat count method requires replicates of transects within the same season to generate detection probabilities and account for seasonal and time-of-day effects. Landbird detections were aural and visual using variable

circular plot methods. Vegetation and environmental data were also collected. To accomplish the replicates, three two-person crews, staggered 3-4 days apart, surveyed about 110 miles (182 km) of the Noatak River from June 10-30, during the breeding season when birds are most active and as early as river access (thaw) allowed. Points were separated by 1/2-mile, placed on both sides of the river and 100 m from the bank to minimize river noise. Points were surveyed from 2:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. daily and all points completed each day defined a route. The 1st crew established each daily route. Pin flags were placed at each point so they could be relocated and replicated by the 2nd and 3rd crews. In 2010, 16 routes and 171 points were completed along the Noatak River and most points were replicated 3 times. Bird data is being proofed and a database is being built. Data will be entered and analyzed once the database is completed.

In 2010, 16 routes and 171 points were completed along the Noatak River and most points were replicated 3 times.



Technician Heidi Kristenson uses a laser rangefinder to determine the distance to landmarks in preparation for a landbird point count along the Noatak River.



Peter Neitlich and Kristin DeGroot sample vegetation on a permanent monitoring plot near Agiak Lake in July, 2010, dressed for bugs and bad weather.

Arctic Network Terrestrial Vegetation and Soils Monitoring

By Dave Swanson

Vegetation is the basis for ecosystem productivity and wildlife habitat. Arctic vegetation is very sensitive to climate change and disturbance such as fire, herbivory, and traffic. Research has documented an increase in shrubs and, to a lesser extent, trees in the arctic over recent decades, probably related to climate change. Major changes in vegetation structure such as these have a cascading effect on other ecosystem attributes, such as herbivore use patterns, fire regime, and the chemistry of water bodies. In addition to vascular plants such as shrubs and herbs, the arctic has abundant lichens that provide biodiversity and wildlife forage. Lichens are quite sensitive to caribou and reindeer grazing, competition from other plants, fires, and contaminants. All of these factors could lead to decreased lichen diversity and biomass in the future. Below are summaries of work done in 2010 by the Arctic Network (ARCN) to monitor three vital

signs in Gates of the Arctic.

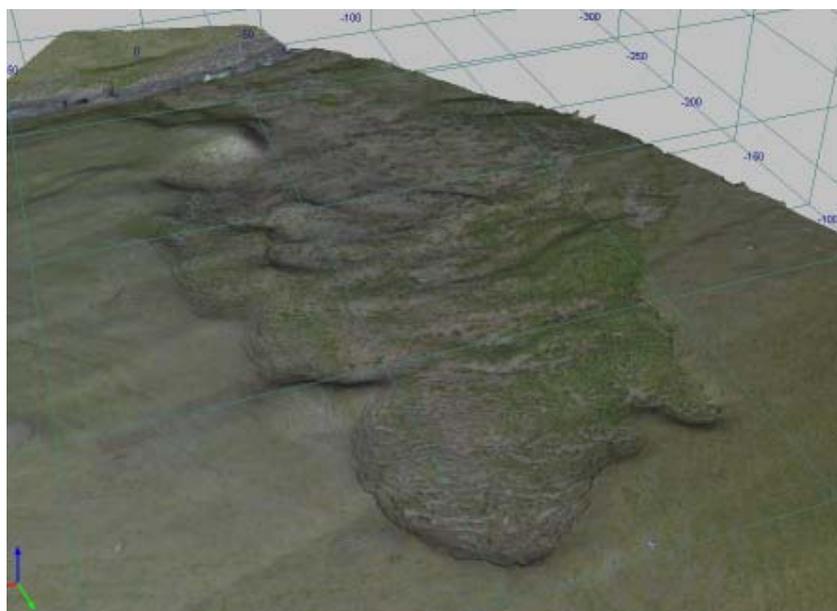
Vital Sign: Vegetation. ARCN ecologist Dave Swanson, biological technician Kristin DeGroot, and Western Arctic (WEAR) ecologist Peter Neitlich sampled vegetation near Agiak Lake. They established and sampled 21 new permanent monitoring plots in a variety of environments ranging from lowland tundra wetlands to sparse alpine vegetation and talus slopes. These plots will be re-measured every 10 years to document changes in vegetation. ARCN also completed a \$103,000 cooperative agreement with Oregon State University to complete a lichen community composition study in Gates of the Arctic. Fieldwork for this project is scheduled for 2012-13 with the final products delivered in 2014.

Vital Sign: Terrestrial Landscape Patterns and Dynamics. Ecologist Swanson analyzed available historical satellite

landscape “greenness” data (NDVI) for the period 1990-2009 for Gates of the Arctic and completed a report, “Satellite Greenness Data Summary for the Arctic Inventory and Monitoring Network, 1990-2009.” This report documents increasing greenness over the study period, probably resulting from an increase in vegetation biomass. Also, in cooperation with Matt Nolan of University of Alaska Fairbanks, we obtained high-resolution aerial photography to cover 43 points along a sample grid with 20 km spacing that will be used for monitoring vegetation and landform change. These photos, along with those taken at 40 points in previous years, now provide a systematic sample of the entire park. Finally, two products from previously completed land cover mapping work by Alaska Biological Research, Inc., were completed: a calibrated satellite image mosaic of Gates of the Arctic and an atlas of high-resolution satellite imagery.

Vital Sign: Permafrost. Permafrost underlies most of the Arctic Network parks and affects nearly everything in the arctic ecosystem, from soils and vegetation to water and wildlife. Permafrost is ground that doesn’t thaw in the summer due to a cold climate. Permafrost perches water near the surface, making soils wet and runoff fast. The striking polygonal patterned ground so characteristic of the arctic is due to permafrost. Ice can build up in the ground and then thaw, producing pits, ponds, lakes, and landslides. Many scientists believe that our climate is warming and permafrost will thaw; some think that permafrost thaw has already started. Thaw of permafrost

could have many consequences, such as drainage of lakes, creation of new ponds, soil erosion, slumps, siltation of streams and lakes, release of greenhouse gasses, and changes in soil wetness and nutrient supplies. Ecologist Swanson and Ranger-pilot Seth MacMillan took field photographs and completed a field survey of slumps caused by thaw of permafrost at two locations in Gates of the Arctic. These large slumps can expand rapidly into adjacent undisturbed ground at a rate of 30 feet per year or more, and shed large amounts of sediment into adjacent water bodies. The photographs were used to create detailed 3-dimensional models of the slumps. By re-photographing the slumps at intervals of 1 to 5 years in future, they will be able to document the continued growth or stabilization of the slumps.



This 3D topographic model of a large thermokarst slump near Kurupa Lake was constructed from a set of aerial photographs taken by ARCN Ecologist Dave Swanson. Future photos will be used to create another 3D model that will be overlaid on this one to track the growth or stabilization of this slump.

Two wildfires burned near Walker Lake in 2010. One, which flared up near cabins, was suppressed by firefighters and consumed only 0.1 acre. The other, at the north end of the lake, burned 40 acres.



2010 a “Normal” Year for Fire

By James Savage

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve had a “normal” fire season in 2010 with four fires burning a total of 1,437.1 acres. The first fire of the year was the Ernie Creek fire, which burned 114 acres, the fourth northernmost fire in the park’s history. The next fire broke out in the Nilunorat Hills in Kobuk Preserve, burning 25 acres. Smokejumpers responded to a fire that threatened cabins on Walker Lake, suppressing the flames, which burned

only 0.1 acre. Another fire at the northern end of Walker Lake burned 40 acres. The Divide fire near the eastern boundary of Kobuk Preserve burned 1,258 acres. All of these fires were successfully managed with the help of the Alaska Fire Service; the park staff in Bettles also was helpful informing the public about the fires.

Furbearer Track Count Joins SnowStar 2010 Expedition

By John Burch

The 2010 furbearer track survey was tied to a much larger expedition by snowmachine traveling from Fairbanks to Barrow and Prudhoe Bay. Coined 'SnowStar 2010,' the purpose of the expedition was to measure snow and conduct educational outreach at village schools along the way. Furbearer track counts were conducted along the Gates of the Arctic portion of the route. The expedition was headed by Matthew Sturm of the Cold Regions Research & Engineering Laboratory-Alaska (CRREL), and assisted by Jon Holmgren and Tom Douglass, also of CRREL, Henry Huntington of the PEW Foundation, and Wildlife Biologist John Burch as the NPS representative.

The expedition followed nearly the same route as Phillip Smith and John Mertie in 1923 and 1924, who traveled by dog team and canoe for USGS searching for oil for the Department of the Navy. Our expedition route followed the Tanana River from Fairbanks to Tanana, then crossed overland on the historic trail to Allakaket. We then roughly followed the Alatna River, (entering the park at this point) crossed Kutuk Pass, dropping down to Chandler Lake and then on to Anuktuvuk pass. From Anuktuvuk we backtracked to Chandler Lake, and headed north out of the park and west to Ivotuk. From Ivotuk we went north to Barrow, then east to Deadhorse in Prudhoe Bay. The nearly month-long expedition covered 13,266 miles, performing educational outreach in 9 village schools along the way. The programs consisted of slide shows about the elements of snow science, looking at different snow crystals under micro-

scopes, digging a snow pit, demonstration of a 'Magnaprobe' (electronic snow depth measuring device) an in-classroom demonstration on avalanches and avalanche safety, and a section on identifying animal tracks in the snow.

Snow science was conducted along the route, taking thousands of measurements of snow including snow depth measurements, snow pit measurements, snow-water equivalents, and collecting snow samples for contaminant analysis.

Furbearer tracks were recorded along the portion of the route through Gates of the Arctic. Tracks of all species encountered were recorded with a GPS coordinate, species, number of individuals, and weather they were fresh or old. This data will be incorporated with past furbearer survey data for the park, but will only be used as a comparison as furbearer track counts have not been collected in the Alatna drainage before.

The nearly month-long expedition covered 13,266 miles, performing educational outreach in 9 village schools along the way.



A wolverine track in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

Provide for Public Enjoyment and Visitor Experience

Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.

Goal IIa1A: By September 30, 2010, 96% of visitors to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.
GOAL EXCEEDED

Backcountry Ranger Beau Bracken drags a 6-foot metal cone out of the Wilderness in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.



Spaceships in the Arctic?

By Beau Bracken

What is the cost of preserving Wilderness, especially in a place as remote and rugged as Gates of the Arctic?

What is the cost of preserving Wilderness, especially in a place as remote and rugged as Gates of the Arctic? Ranger Chris Dunn and I asked ourselves this question as we labored through knee high tussocks, swamps, dwarf birch, and mosquitoes while dragging a three by six foot white metal cone.

Our goal was to locate and remove if possible a large white object from a mountaintop in the North Fork Koyukuk drainage. Gates of the Arctic Ranger-Pilot Seth McMillan had spotted the object during an earlier aerial patrol. After a flight into Long Lake, Chris and I spent an arduous day locating the cone which had come to rest on the steep north face of a peak in

the Ipnek drainage. The condition of the object and the lack of vegetation covering it suggested that it had not been there long. But where did it come from? This we could not discern, but it was an obvious sign of modern society and we were determined to remove it.

We realized it would entail a massive effort from both of us and probably take a few days to transport to a lake to be flown out. We started early and tried several different techniques, eventually settling on one person pulling it like a mountaineering sled and the second person pushing from behind. After nine hours of nearly continuous effort and many miles later, we made it to our destination, Long Lake, and felt the satisfaction of a job well done.

Hunting Patrols Provide Assistance, Information

By Seth McMillan

Rangers assisted a local subsistence user during the fall moose hunt. The Bettles resident had successfully taken a moose, but then experienced difficulty salvaging the animal due to a medical condition and environmental limitations. He hailed park rangers, who assisted him with the successful salvage of a 60-inch bull moose, which was then distributed amongst many Bettles residents. This chance meeting on the banks of the Koyukuk was fortunate and timely as the meat would have likely



Hunters study maps with a Park Ranger-Pilot Seth McMillan. Patrols during hunting season help ensure that preserve resources are protected while hunters are well informed about land status and harvest limits.

become inedible if it had not been salvaged and transported immediately.

Rangers also patrolled rivers along the park boundary during hunting season, providing visitors information on land status, harvest limits and local resources.

Agiak Lake Cleanup Finished

By Seth McMillan

This summer, Gates of the Arctic rangers completed a multi-year service project at Agiak Lake. We removed a pile of debris from a recently acquired parcel near Agiak Lake at the headwaters of the John River. Rangers worked with local residents to remove the remnants of a dilapidated structure that was originally built on a private parcel in the mid-80s. Items of interest and value were returned to Anaktuvuk Pass residents and the remaining debris was transported to Bettles for disposal.

The project yielded positive results in several ways. First, it improved the wilderness character of the area by the removal of refuse from park lands. Second, it strengthened NPS relations with the residents of Anaktuvuk Pass. And third, it removed potentially hazardous materials from park lands, preserving environmental quality and protecting wildlife from harm.



Park rangers and Anaktuvuk Pass residents sort through debris at a parcel recently acquired by the National Park Service. Items of value or interest were returned to the village, while the remainder was hauled out of the park for disposal.



Backcountry Rangers Adam Mehlhorn and Steve Duby (with drum) prepare to haul debris from the park.

Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of parks and their resources for this and future generations.

Goal IIb1: By September 30, 2010, 92% of visitors to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve understand the significance of the park.

GOAL ACHIEVED

Boreal Mountain and Frigid Crags (were) named by Bob Marshall “the Gates of the Arctic”

Artist in Residence Dog Mushing Patrol

By Zak Richter

During March, the 2010 Artist in Residence, Bill Brody, flew with park ranger Zak Richter and volunteer trail breaker Greg Nappi to the base of Boreal Mountain and Frigid Crags located on the North Fork of the Koyukuk River. They brought nine sled dogs with them to these two mountains, named by Bob Marshall “the Gates of the Arctic,” to dog mush back to Bettles. A professional photographer, Carl Johnson, also joined the patrol for a few days to obtain some winter photographs for use by the Park Interpretive Division. Bill painted two 6 x 9-foot paintings during the patrol. They returned to Bettles 20 days and 70 miles later after travelling down the North Fork Koyukuk River and across the mountains.

New Interpretive Ranger Program

By Zak Richter

Interpretive Park Ranger Zak Richter spent a week this summer at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center presenting evening programs about dog mushing in Gates of the Arctic. His evening programs focused on Gates of the Arctic Wilderness and the opportunities this unparalleled landscape offers to winter visitors.





Chopped black spruce trees and destroyed vegetation was the primary resource damage that occurred for over five miles in the upper Alatna River drainage.

Ranger Christian Breen (in helicopter) provides medical assistance to patient.

Protecting Park Resources

By Nina Valadez

As much as park rangers would rather educate the public on wilderness preservation than issue citations, several enforcement actions were needed in 2010. We cited one couple with various camping violations and natural resource damage. The couple had chopped a trail spanning over 5 miles in the upper Alatna River drainage. The trail was quickly remediated by backcountry rangers so it would not draw more people to using the cut trail.

Rangers also prevented and cited two unpermitted backcountry guiding operations from proceeding into the

park until they had received commercial use operations permits. In coordinated efforts with the new wildlife trooper in Coldfoot, we identified and cited hunters with hunting violations: one failure to salvage moose rib meat on the bones on the Wild River, and two illegally killed bears in the Itkillik River valley by nonresidents.

Other events that kept rangers busy were two emergency evacuations from the park, two local medical assistance calls, and support for a visitor after he was attacked by a bear.

Arctic Interagency Visitor Center, “The Nicest Visitor Center”

By Heidi Schoppenhorst

What AIVC Offers

- Detailed weather forecasts
- Bird sightings list
- Brooks Range and Dalton Hwy maps, backcountry trip planning & orientations
- LNT/Safety DVD
- Bear resistant food containers for backcountry travelers
- Binoculars and guidebooks
- Junior Ranger program
- Project Jukebox
- Theater for viewing educational & interpretive films
- Staff led evening presentations
- Exhibit loop and panels on the 3 ecosystems experienced along the Dalton; solar effects on the arctic; and history & geology
- Historical information and Bob Marshall brochure
- Educational books & supplies, maps, T-shirts, and creative toys

Cooperation between NPS, Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Alaska Geographic managed to pull off another successful season serving Dalton Highway travelers’ needs, including those with more remote backcountry destinations within Gates of the Arctic, and the Arctic, Kanuti, and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges. This was the 8th season of operating from the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center (AIVC) facility, and the 22nd year of having a visitor service presence in Coldfoot (since 1988).

The Center was open 10 hours a day every day from May 24 through September 10, 2010, with a minimum of 2 staff on duty to greet visitors and provide general and detailed information on a wide range of subjects relating to travel, safety, services, and natural and other resources. The Dalton Visitor Guide, brochures from all land management areas, as well as brochures on a variety of natural resources were also available. In addition to the 103 staff-led programs, we hosted 13 special presentations from guest speakers during 2010, one of our most diverse presentation seasons. Films also were popular this summer, possibly due in part to the poor weather. Despite a 3.7% decline in visitation at AIVC in 2010, overall numbers of Dalton Highway travelers rose to 17,813, up 30.5% over 2009.

Guided visitation was up 268 individuals for a total of 2,611 this season; however, independent travelers still made up the bulk of people who walked through our door. Independent travelers totaled 5,453 compared to 5,807 in 2009. They arrived in Coldfoot via a variety of modes, from hitchhiking to

aircraft. We hosted visitors as diverse as local residents and area workers, to VIP’s, foreign visitors and families with children. Interests were equally wide ranging, from birding, fossil hunting and photography, to gold mining, research and construction. Some just wanted to travel the Dalton for the experience of driving to the arctic to learn what it has to offer, and for the first time I heard a few say that visiting the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center was their destination and purpose for traveling the highway!

Back-country enthusiasts wanted to get off the road and into the backcountry despite the poor weather we had. Backcountry travel might have been much greater if river conditions had been more favorable. Rain persisted through most of the summer, especially in July, causing the Koyukuk and other streams and rivers to be impassable for hikers. One couple lost their tent and camping gear to the fast rising river near Wiseman in July. This was also one of the most extreme mosquito seasons many have ever seen in the Brooks Range. By July, mosquitoes were so thick in places that several hikers cut their trip short!

AIVC continued to offer bear-resistant food containers to all backcountry travelers, and require them for those with parkland destinations. The BRFC loan program is a significant resource for backcountry visitors since many do not bring their own containers. The NPS Bettles Ranger Station is our on-call source to ensure enough containers are available in Coldfoot (primarily for river trips), and likewise some of our checked-out containers end up getting

dropped off in Bettles, Anaktuvuk Pass, Fairbanks, or mailed back to AIVC. Although containers get shuffled around throughout the season, our current supply and resupply system seems to be working well.

Dalton travelers love the AIVC. As we frequently hear from our visitors, we have “the nicest visitor center they have been to!” On a separate note, 2010 to me felt like a turning point along the Dalton. Possibly it’s just the fact that pavement running past Wiseman now feels like we are no longer “200 miles from the 21st Century”, or maybe it was the noticeably better informed visitors I met this year – the repeat visitors, and the ones who already knew where they were going to pick berries, find animals, go hiking, or look for fossils.

Whatever the reason, the Dalton over the last 10 years or so has slowly been receiving more exposure. It’s starting to lose some of its mystery, and part of the challenge associated with traveling into the unknown is losing strength. There have been films, TV shows, articles, steadily improving road conditions, new facilities, modern communications, and more remote locations visited by more people. Another wave of exploration, study, and research to further expose and extract resources from the arctic is also ensuing. ‘Pipeline project’ workers mingled amongst the hunters, wildlife photographers, birders, backpackers and climate change researchers, most within view of the Princess busses traveling the highway this summer. Visitors are feeling more comfortable traveling the Dalton—driving the road is no longer a challenge for many. The challenge is competing for resources in

some fashion. In light of this, there is still limited law enforcement, and no emergency medical facilities or other crucial oversight in place to manage rapidly increasing use. At this point it’s dangerous, not only for visitors, but also for fragile arctic ecosystems. The Dalton Highway Scenic Byway Corridor Partnership Plan addressed these issues well, but there has not been much action beyond addressing the issues.

What does all this have to do with AIVC? Some of you may have the authority to actually create and implement actions to protect this corridor and surrounding lands, and I would encourage all sister agencies within this northern region to continue using the AIVC as a communication platform to find common ground and work cooperatively to compliment each partner’s mission for management of this sensitive arctic region.

AIVC is an important channel to the public. Although we may not reach everyone, new projects and good ideas for educating Dalton travelers stem from needs addressed by the AIVC interagency working group. With a good long range interpretive plan in place, rooted in the facts that make the arctic special, I hope the education and interpretation we continue to provide at AIVC can effectively match, at least in part, the increased use, and address some of the need for enhanced guidance.



Park Visitor Stats

By Pam Rice, Heidi Schoppenhorst, DaleLynn Gardner, and Zak Richter

A total of 10,840 guests visited Gates of the Arctic facilities in 2010, as recorded at the Bettles Visitor Center (1,435), Anaktuvuk Pass Ranger Station (490), and the Arctic Inter-agency Visitor Center (8,311). Of these visitor contacts, 657 actually set foot inside the park. Most park visitors, 422, came through Bettles, 35 passed through Anaktuvuk Pass, and 200 visited the AIVC. An additional 94 visitors received backcountry orientations at the Fairbanks Alaska Public Lands Information Center before entering the park. While the record shows that most backcountry visitors access Gates of the Arctic via Bettles, it is likely that more visitors hike in from the Dalton Highway than just those who stop at the AIVC.

Ensure Organizational Effectiveness

The National Park Service uses current management practices, systems, and technologies to accomplish its mission.

Volunteer Richard Kahn paddles through an upper tributary of Easter Creek in Gates of the Arctic National Park. During the 2010 season, volunteers for the Operations Division were vital in assisting rangers in patrolling the backcountry to protect resources and to educate and assist visitors when necessary.



Volunteers Provide Needed Support

By Nina Valadez

Backcountry operations would not have been as successful without the support of 13 dedicated volunteers. Each had a special connection to the park and wonderful experiences to share. Among them were Dennis and Penny Knuckles, former NPS employees, who volunteered for about a month. The Knuckles' past experience

with Gates of the Arctic provided insight beneficial to the other staff members. Local Wild Lake resident Heather Meader-McCausland volunteered for a sheep patrol hiking up Tobin Creek and rafting down the Allen River, the same areas her family had walked before the land was designated a national park. Volunteers Richard Kahn and Sharon Blackburn floated the Nigu River. Richard is currently writing a report describing the value of the Nigu River as Wilderness.

Swift Water Rescue and River Safety Training

By Seth McMillan

In preparation for the 2010 field season, employees and volunteers from several disciplines attended a three day workshop on river safety and swift water rescue. Attendees learned valu-



able techniques to enhance the safety of NPS staff as well as the safety of park and preserve visitors.

YUGA Green Team: Who We Are and What We Are Up To

By Julia Youngblood

The Green Team for YUGA (Yukon-Charley Rivers, Gates of the Arctic and the Fairbanks Administrative Center) is composed of 8 representatives from several divisions and the networks.

Recycling. This is our largest project at the Fairbanks Administrative Center (FAC) and field offices. We met with K&K Recycling in Fairbanks to see how we might be able to partner with them in our recycling program. A multi-sectioned recycling container is out of the question for our lot, so we have obtained permission from the sustainability director at UAF to drop our plastics recycling in their bin until K&K bins are located in the University Avenue transfer station. We will continue to recycle cardboard, aluminum and mixed paper with the Fairbanks Rescue Mission.

♻️ Recycled in 2010:

3271 lbs aluminum, plastic, cardboard and mixed paper;
262 lbs lead acid batteries;
230 lbs alkaline batteries.

Sustainable energy. Another goal has been to participate in GVEA's SNAP (Sustainable Natural Alternative Power) program and to install moveable solar panels to supply power to the grid from the Fairbanks office. FAC will make monthly SNAP donations to support local alternative power source providers. A moveable photo voltaic (PV) system at FAC depends on future funding sources. At our field sites, alternative power is going strong. The PV system for the Bettles VC/office was repaired and on line for summer 2010,

cutting in half the building's electrical costs. The wind turbine system for the Anaktuvuk Pass Ranger Station was brought on line summer 2010. Marion Creek/Coldfoot staff installed a meter on the housing PV system in order to better record and report alternative power generated. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds supported an energy audit for park facilities, which provided us with additional ideas for increasing energy efficiency.

Alternative transportation. The FAC participated in the annual "Don't Be Fuelish" campaign sponsored by the city of Fairbanks and the Northern Alaska Environmental Center. We bicycled, walked and car-pooled 11,141.8 miles instead of driving our cars, placing second in per capita miles recorded by all participating agencies or groups.

Carbon offsets. The Green Team is supporting the NPS Interpretive Division's Carbon Offset Sticker program. This program identifies a species at risk due to climate change and offers the visitor an opportunity to offset their travel with a sticker purchase. The Smith's Longspur is our species of concern for Gates of the Arctic NP&P. The YUGA's Green Team will continue striving to incorporate attainable sustainability goals in our work place through communication with our partners and staff.





Pollock Simon, Sr., Chairman



Jack Reakoff, Co-chairman



Levi Cleveland



Rachel Riley



James Nageak



Taqulik Hepa

April Subsistence Resource Commission Meets on Gates' Business

By Dave Krupa and Marcy Okada

The Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) held a one-day meeting at the Iñupiat Cultural Heritage Center in Barrow on April 28, 2010. SRCs were established under the Title VIII mandate of ANILCA to serve as local advisory commissions for National Park Service (NPS) management of subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering on parklands. SRC meetings are held bi-annually and the commission currently has a full roster of nine members representing many of the park's resident-zone communities with customary and traditional ties to parklands.

SRC community members who were in attendance were: Chairman Pollock Simon Sr. (Allakaket), Co-chairman Jack Reakoff (Wiseman), Taqulik Hepa (Barrow), Chris Zwolinski (Fairbanks), Levi Cleveland (Shungnak), James Nageak (Anaktuvuk Pass), and Rachel Riley (Anaktuvuk Pass). Members Tim Fickus (Crevice Creek/Fairbanks) and Louie Commack (Ambler) were not in attendance.

NPS staff updated the SRC on park projects and management, including an update of the decades-old *General Management Plan*; planned grizzly bear survey work in the NE area of the park; annual Dall's sheep

and moose surveys; fire occurrences and effects; and an intellectual repatriation project that aims to create digital access from villages to books, articles, historic photographs, archival records, and museum collections at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

SRCs are authorized to make formal recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior regarding hunting and fishing policies and regulations on parklands. They may also weigh in on subsistence hunting and fishing regulations on federal lands statewide, as well as general hunting and fishing regulations on state lands. At the 2010 meeting, the SRC endorsed in concept a draft petition to the Board of Game to "repeal all or parts" of Proposal 104A, which was passed by the BOG in Spring 2010 and liberalizes the resident caribou season and bag limit in Game Management Unit 26B. The petition cites procedural errors in the BOG's handling of the proposal, as well as broad public opposition to its passage. The SRC also voted in support of Federal Wildlife Proposal WP10-67 establishing a winter moose hunt season and bag limit in GMU24B.

On April 29, 2010, the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management offered SRC members the opportunity to visit a bowhead whale monitoring station on the Arctic Ocean sea ice. Bowhead whales were spotted far off in an open lead as well as beluga whales migrating past the monitoring station. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to observe common North Slope marine mammal species and the adventure of traversing across land fast sea ice.



Chris Zwolinski



Tim Fickus
(Not pictured: Louie Commack)

Park Facilities Maintenance and Construction

By Arch Thompson

Success came in many areas for the YUGA maintenance staff during 2010. Our work ranged from environmentally sustainable energy installation projects and water systems reconstruction to the day to day maintenance and operational work done on our far flung facilities. Below are the highlights of work done in Gates of the Arctic and at the Fairbanks Administrative Center.

Accomplishments:

- Installed and placed in service a 2.4 KwH electricity generating wind turbine in Anaktuvuk Pass;
- Completed a new power generation system at Marion Creek, making optimal use of a solar cell system, getting over 97% of energy needs from the sun;
- Replaced 3-inch failed PVC water line with 3-inch HDPE Arctic Pipe in Bettles, thereby upgrading the water system for improved dependability in year-round operations;
- Reviewed and updated Park Asset Management Plan (PAMP) for Gates of the Arctic;
- Improved asset management database information accuracy to 98.6%, resulting in YUGA winning the Alaska Region's award in that category;
- With the exception of remote cabins, we completed our annual condition assessments for our assets. The only assets not inspected were those we were prevented from doing due to budgetary and administrative travel caps;
- Generated 853 repair and operational work orders in 2010 and showed completion of 345;
- Successfully implemented a fleet accounting record system;
- Increased our fleet by 4 vehicles to meet growing operational transportation needs;
- Employed two new permanent staff to replace two retirees and added two new seasonal positions in Bettles;
- Obtained clearance to dispose of two former housing units in Bettles that FAA declared hazardous to navigation;
- Obtained state permit to install a fuel tank at Dahl Creek in support of park research and protection missions.



Facilities at Marion Creek obtain over 97% of their electrical needs from the sun.

Admin Team Strives for Efficiency and Convenience to Users

By Monica Cross

We started the year by tackling travel to provide more support... The change was an instant success among employees... (and) we were still able to process over 300 purchase requests and 253 personnel action requests, track over 200 account codes, in addition to answering phones, filing, processing mail, greeting visitors, and helping customers.

FY 2010 came with more changes for Administration. Monica Cross became the official Administrative Officer in October. Being short staffed was rectified with the hiring of Administrative Assistants Susan Holly in January and Beth Patterson in February. This change in alignment allowed for new training opportunities and the refocusing of administrative duties. The goal was administrative cross-training and better overall support of all six organization codes with differing legislation under the Fairbanks Administrative Center mantel.

The Administrative Team supports the GPRA goals for Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Fairbanks Alaska Public Lands Information Center, the inventory and monitoring programs of Central Alaska and Arctic networks, and the Eastern Area Fire Management Program. The Administrative Team, in addition to the AO, two IT specialists, and five administrative assistants (4 in Fairbanks, 1 in Eagle), also receives help from the Arctic Network, Fire Program and Cultural program admin assistants, plus the interpretive ranger in Bettles.

We started the year by tackling travel to provide more support to employees by helping with input for Travel Autho-

rizations and Vouchers. The change was an instant success among employees who had struggled with the constantly changing GovTrip program. While absorbing this additional workload, we were still able to accomplish the processing of over 300 purchase requests and 253 personnel action requests, tracking over 200 account codes, in addition to our daily tasks of answering phones, filing, processing mail, greeting visitors, and helping internal and external customers.

Our IT program has been outstanding. For eight years running we have had no successful virus attacks on our computer network. We are forward-looking and continue to be ahead of the curve in meeting new NPS/DOI security requirements. We are testing the new Server 2008 operating system and Symantec Endpoint Protection, version 11, before being required to move to this new system in the near future. Required encryption software was installed on 58 of our laptops in about three weeks this spring.

In looking for ways to give users what they need, we recently installed a DSL line into the FAC for users who need to communicate with partner entities outside the NPS network. We installed additional capacity in our data backup system and obtained new hardware to allow this system to run even faster than before. We also more than doubled the capacity of our GIS server. An upgrade to the data and electrical infrastructure of the FAC this year has enabled us to add workstations anywhere there is room for a desk and chair. The upgrade has also allowed us to relocate and add printers to make things more convenient for users.

Former Bettles resident Susan Holly joined the Admin team in January. Her personal knowledge of Gates of the Arctic and her background in aviation have been invaluable to the entire organization.



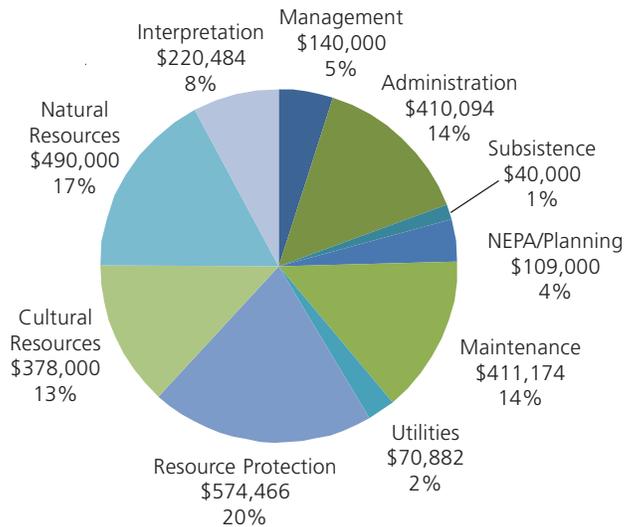
Financial Summary

Breakdown of Operating Budget Base Allocations (ONPS) by Division

- ❖ Research & Studies: \$1,017,000
- ❖ Facilities Operation & Maintenance: \$482,056
- ❖ Resource Protection & Visitor Services: \$794,950
- ❖ Management & Administration: \$550,094

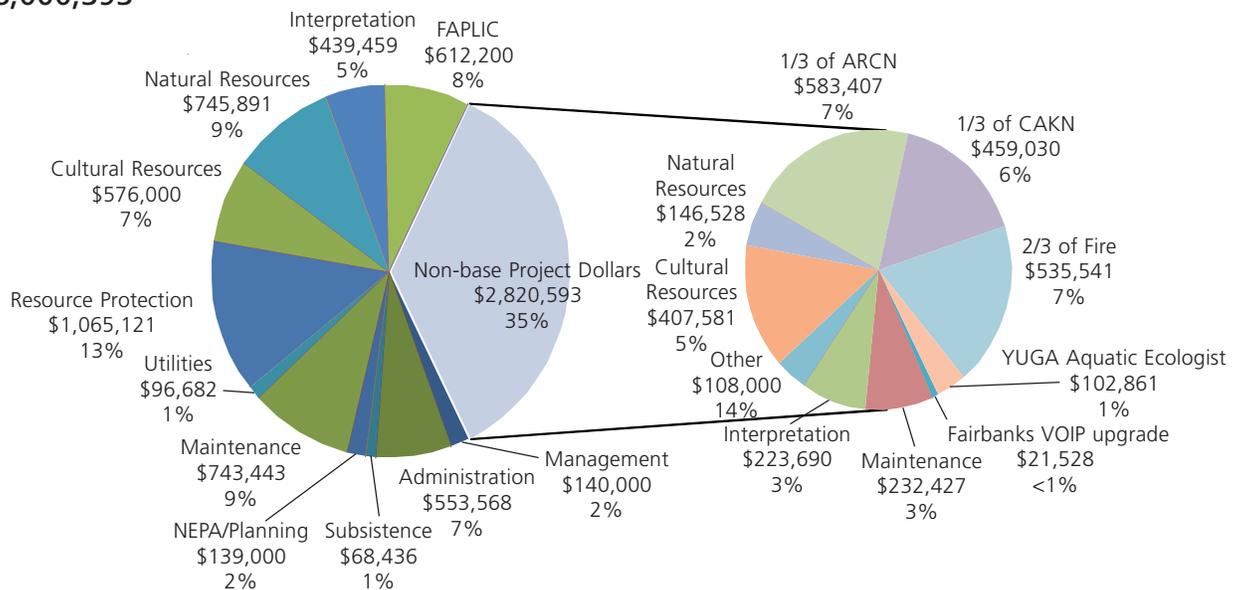
Gates of the Arctic Operating Budget Base Allocations (ONPS)

Total = \$2,844,100

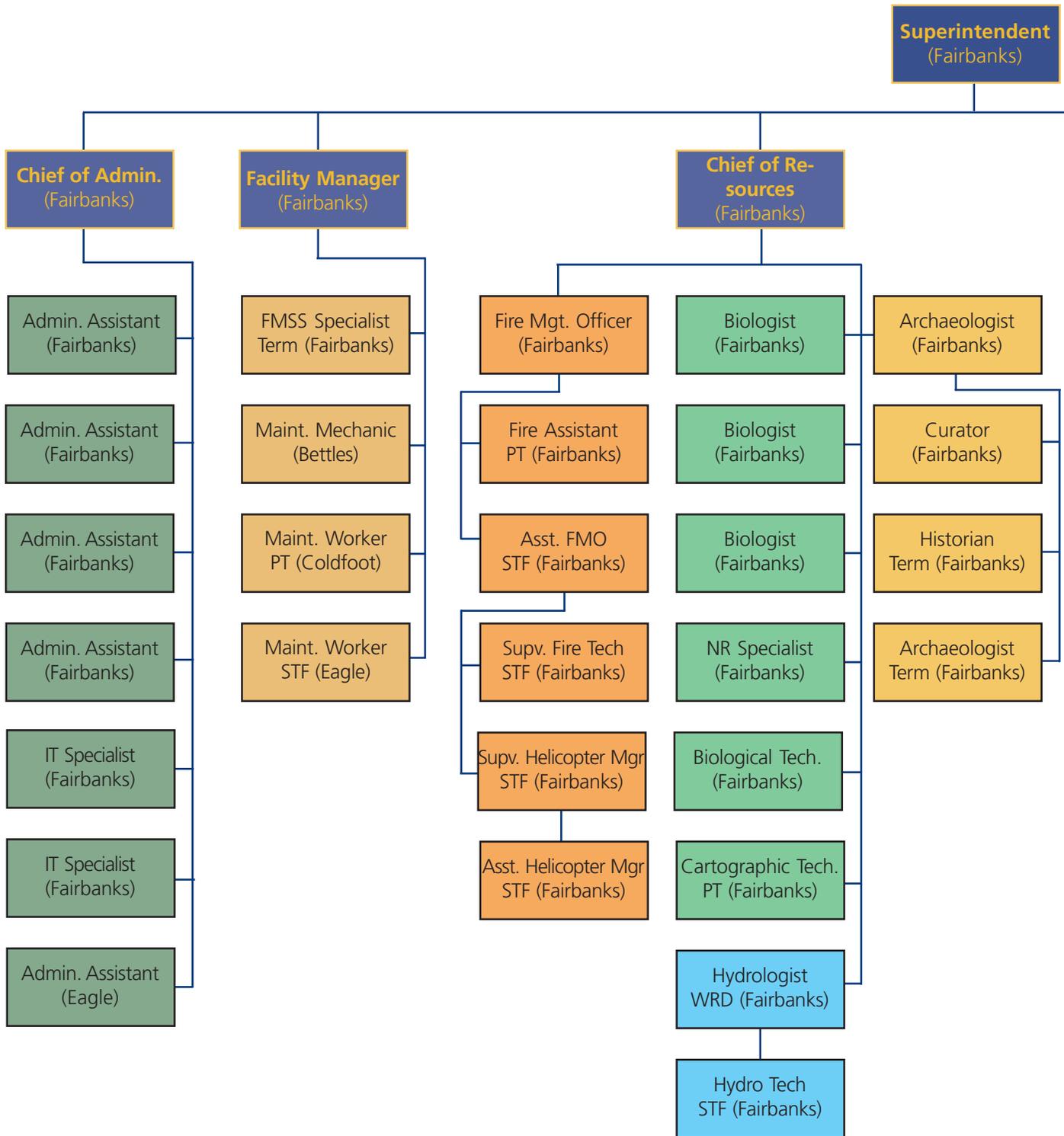


YUGA All Funding Sources Allocations

Total = \$8,000,393



Gates of the Arctic, Yukon-Charley Rivers, Alaska Public Lands Information Center Organization





Young backcountry visitors to Gates of the Arctic take a rest near Nolan Lake on the park's eastern border. The Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in Coldfoot reported seeing more families with children driving the Dalton Highway in 2010.

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



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