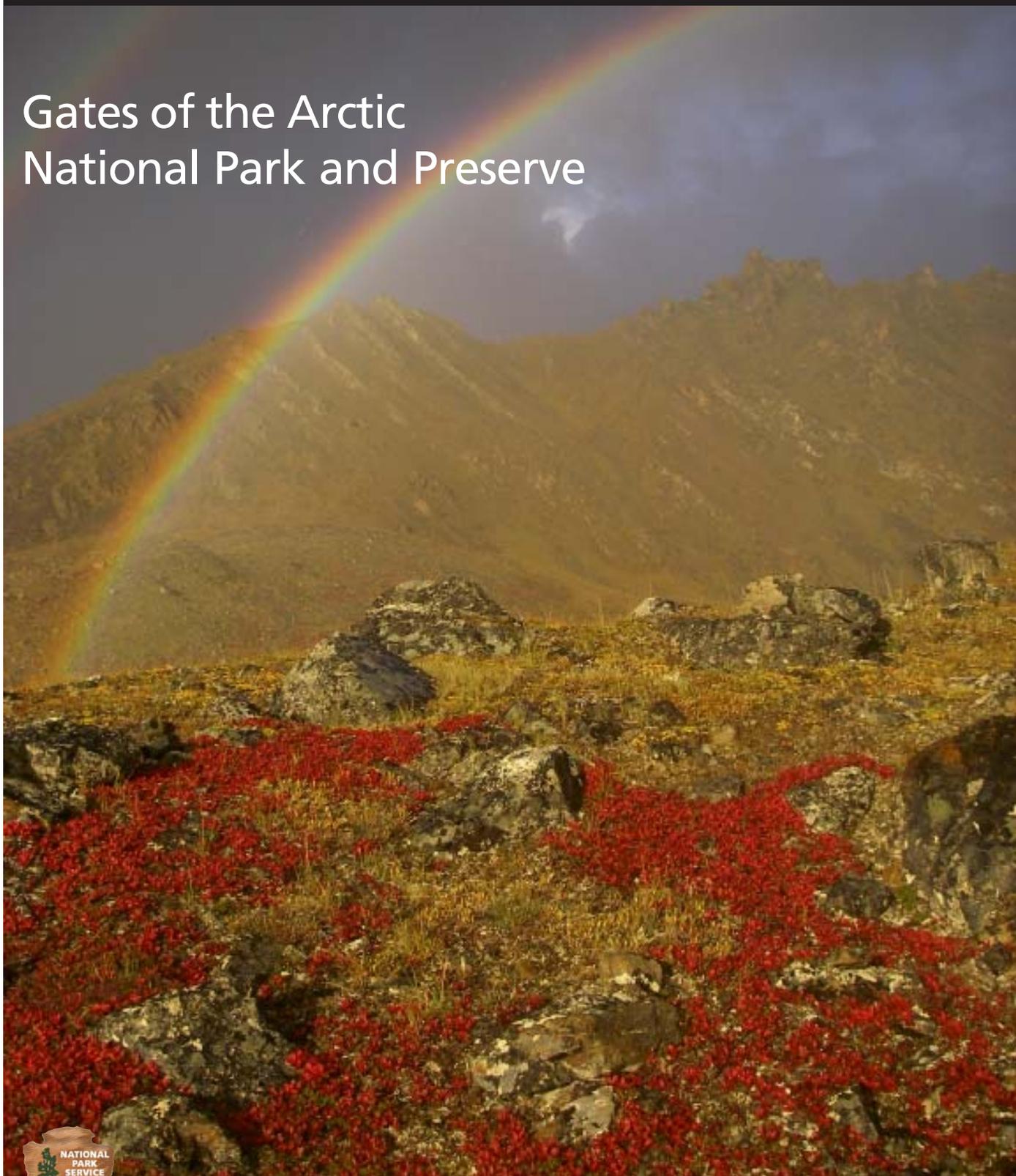


Annual Report 2007

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve



National Park Service
Department of the Interior



*It is a wholesome and necessary thing
for us to turn again to the earth
and in the contemplation of her beauties
to know of wonder and humility.*

Rachel Carson

Message from the Acting Superintendent

As the final months of 2007 draw to a close, a number of changes are underway within the management of Gates of the Arctic and Yukon-Charley Rivers. In September, Dave Mills, who had been Superintendent for 13 years, left the position to head up the NPS Regional Subsistence Team in Anchorage. Dave was saddened to leave his post at the helm of Gates of the Arctic and Yukon-Charley Rivers, but was looking forward to the challenges of his new role.

NPS Regional Director Marcia Blaszak and Deputy Director Vic Knox undertook a search for a new superintendent for these parks and in early October. They announced Greg Dudgeon, who is currently Superintendent at Sitka National Historic Park, as their choice for the position. Greg has also been Chief Ranger for Western Arctic parks in Kotzebue. Greg and his family are looking forward to their move to Fairbanks in early December.

For the months of October and November, I have been asked by the Regional Director to serve as the Parks' Acting Superintendent. I am pleased to fill that role and have been enjoying getting to know and working with the staff here. As part of the transition between Superintendents, the parks are undergoing a management review. This review will provide Greg with recommendations for organizational structure, communication strategies and project review processes. It's likely that these parks will be experiencing some significant changes well into 2008.

The field season was highly productive with a variety of projects researching wolves, Dall's sheep, moose, neo-tropical birds, peregrines, melting ice patches, ethnographic assessments and aquatic habitats. Visitation to the parks continues at steady pace and visitor experience and satisfaction ranks high. A new film is being completed for Gates of the Arctic and will be narrated by actress Glenn Close. A number of new education programs have been instituted and these programs will continue to expand with opening in 2008 of the Morris Thompson Cultural Center. You'll be reading more about these endeavors in the pages to follow.

I thank all those who contributed to this report and special thanks to Donna DiFolco for editing this publication and keeping the contributors on their toes. I hope you find it an enjoyable read.

Vicki Snitzler
Acting Superintendent



Dave Mills, after 13 years as Superintendent for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, bade farewell to Fairbanks at the end of September. Although sad to go, he was looking forward to his new position as head of the National Park Service's Regional Subsistence Team in Anchorage. Above, he and his wife, Ann Wildman, share memories of their years at "YUGA" with staff and other well wishers at a barbecue in their honor.

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.



Purpose of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

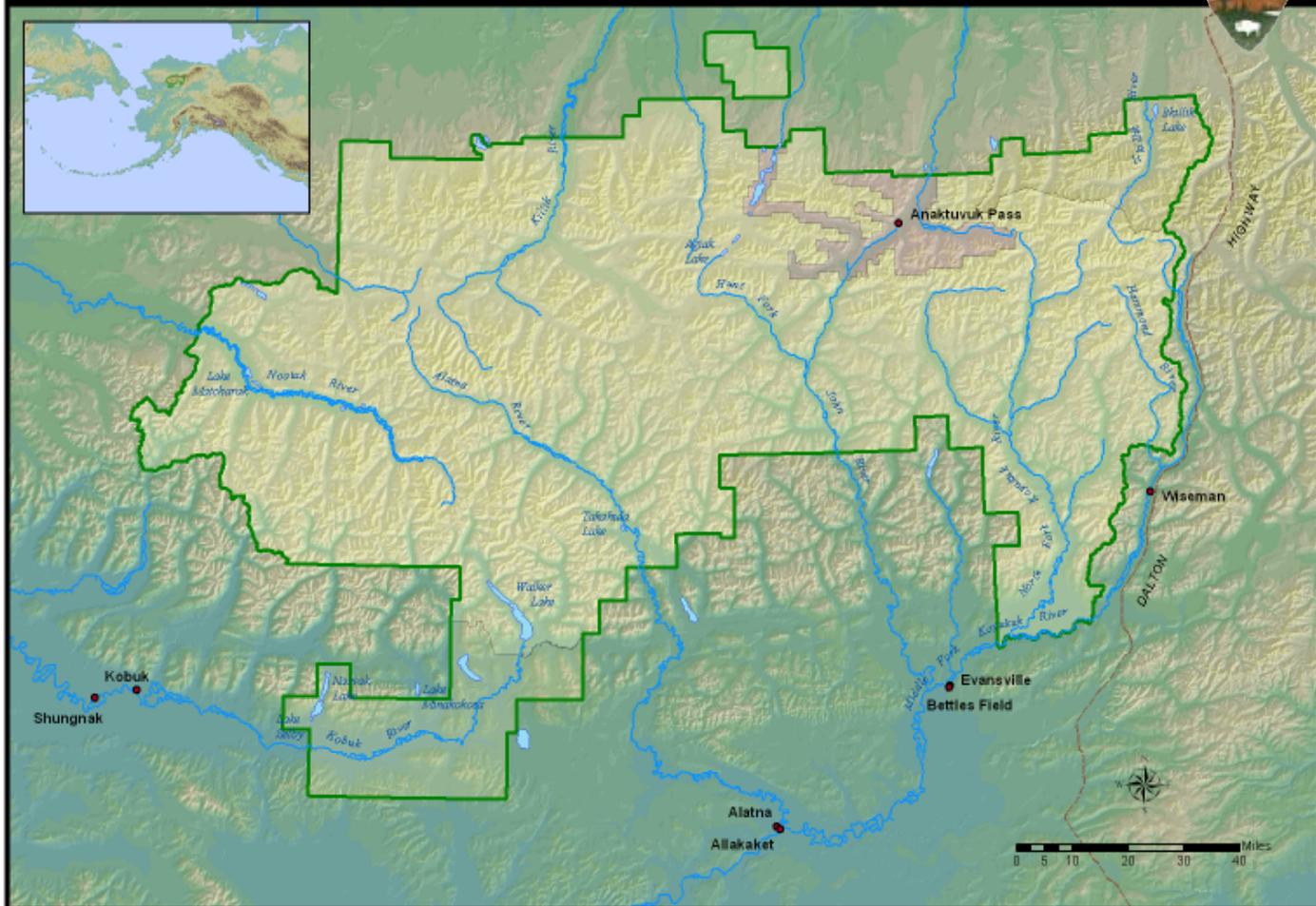
- ❖ Preserve the wild and undeveloped character and natural environmental integrity—including natural processes, habitat, and biodiversity—of the central Brooks Range;
- ❖ Provide opportunities for appropriate wilderness recreational activities and solitude; and
- ❖ Allow rural residents engaged in a 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 everyone may enjoy the pleasures of pristine wilderness and personal discovery.

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by the National Park Service,
unless noted otherwise



Cover photo: A
rainbow graces the
ridges of the Itkillik
Preserve while
kinnikinnick (*Arcto-
staphylos uva-ursi*)
glows red under the
low autumn light.

Printed on
recycled paper.



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.

Editor's Note: You may notice there are no Long-term goals this year. That is because FY2007 was a one-year planning period, effectively making the "long-term goals" the same as the annual goals. Long-term goals are currently being revised and the next planning period will begin this year for FY2008-FY2012.

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2007, 927 (71% of 1,303) of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve's archeological sites are in good condition.

GOAL ACHIEVED

Assessing the Condition of Archeological Sites

By Andrew Tremayne

Archeological sites throughout the Brooks Range contain clues about the long history of human activities in this area. In 2007, National Park Service archeologists, responsible for studying and protecting these sites in Gates of the Arctic, visited 51 sites to evaluate impacts and threats, and to document current site conditions in the John, Noatak, and Nigu river valleys. Most of the sites are small scatters of stone flakes that resulted from brief episodes of tool repair or manufacture. Other sites represent camps or settlements

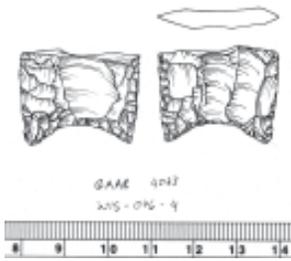
with the remains of tent structures, sod houses, and fire hearths. Another common feature encountered in the Park is the *inuksuk*, or rock cairn, used in lines to drive caribou, or singly as location or route markers.

Most sites were in stable condition, but a few evidenced human disturbance. Purposely toppled cairns and dispersed tent ring stones were noted at two sites. Survey results will be used to prioritize sites for future monitoring and to plan educational efforts to raise awareness about the vulnerability of these non-renewable archeological resources.



Below, NPS Archeologist Andy Tremayne scours a knoll above the John River in a site overview. Close inspections at sites like this reveal artifacts from the past, such as the chert biface flake above, found at another site along the John River.





Above is an illustration of the fluted projectile point from the WIS-076 site. In photo at right, archeologist Andrew Tremayne maps the WIS-076 site using an electronic total station. Below, the North Fork valley near the WIS-076 site.

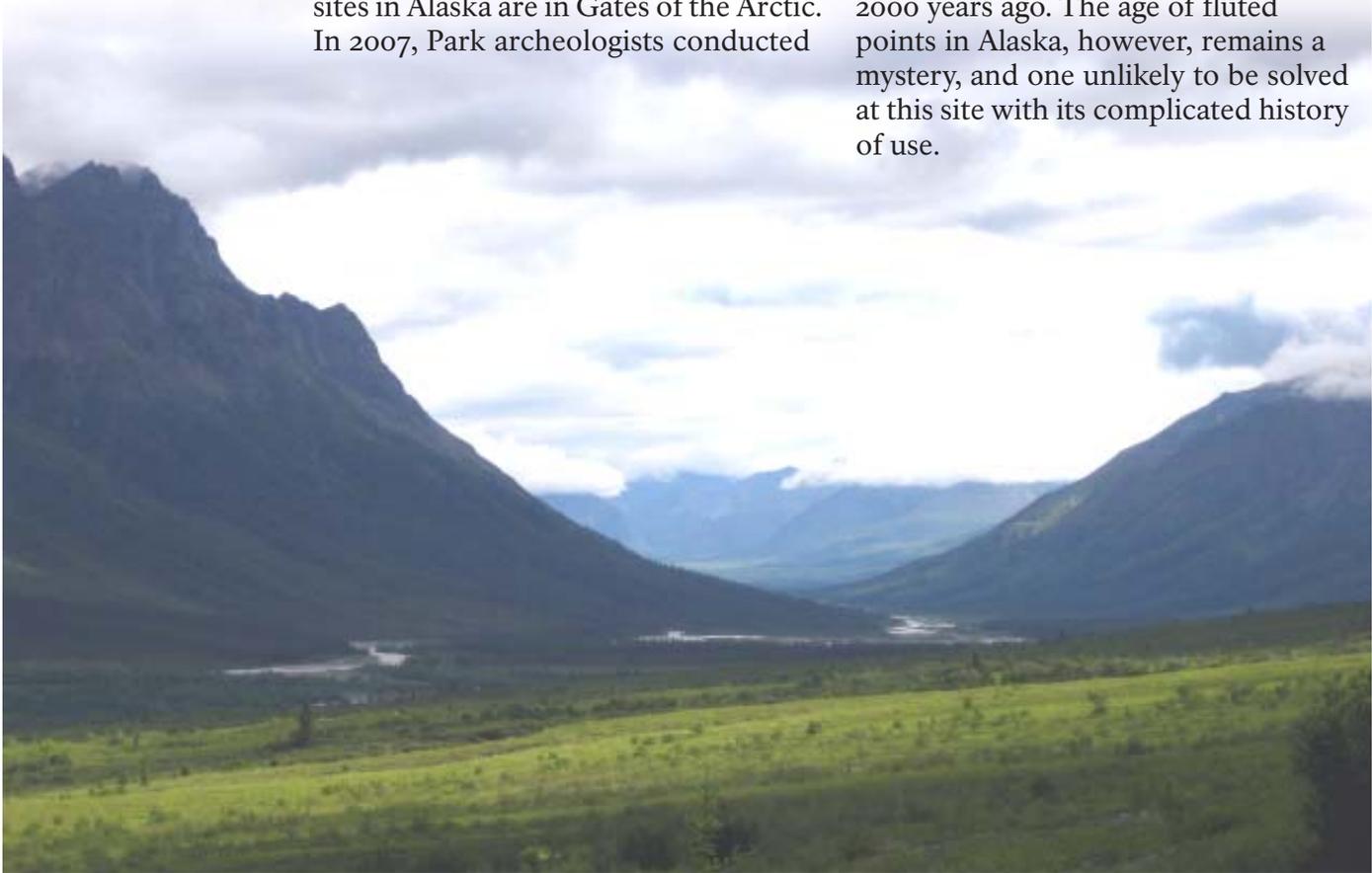
Archeological Testing of a Fluted Point Site on the North Fork

By Andrew Tremayne

Fluted projectile points are a type of artifact associated with the earliest widespread inhabitants of the Americas that include Clovis and Folsom cultures dated to some 13,000 years ago. Archeologists debate whether the Paleoamerican people who used these tools passed through Alaska before settling mid-latitudes, or originated in the south and later moved northward from the Plains. These ideas have been hard to test since no Alaskan fluted point sites have been reliably dated and we do not know if they are older or younger than fluted points in other regions.

At least four of the 50 or so fluted point sites in Alaska are in Gates of the Arctic. In 2007, Park archeologists conducted

work at one of these sites, the WIS-076 site on the North Fork of the Koyukuk River. The team conducted detailed mapping and surface examination of the site, and small-scale test excavations to recover samples for radiocarbon dating. Important finds included additional artifacts consistent with a Paleoamerican-age occupation, and a prehistoric fire hearth dated to 2000 years ago. The age of fluted points in Alaska, however, remains a mystery, and one unlikely to be solved at this site with its complicated history of use.





Museum Collections

By Lance Twitchell

Collections Management has focused on organizing existing collections management data and practices, and implementing methods and resources to make the collections more visible, accessible, accurate, and efficient. As Gates of the Arctic shares its personnel resources with Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, these efforts are combined for both park units. Highlights of the year included: 1) managing one of the largest recorded years of accessioning items; 2) recording the largest cataloging effort for Gates of the

Arctic and Yukon-Charley Rivers with over 30,000 items cataloged between the two park units; and 3) hosting the Digital Imaging Project team from Harpers Ferry Center who professionally photographed over 300 items from Gates of the Arctic and Yukon-Charley Rivers. The digital images will be added to digital images of a rapidly growing body of items in park collections. The images will be made available when the Gates of the Arctic and Yukon-Charley Rivers collections are placed online in FY 2008.

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.

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2007, 1 population (of 9, or 11%) of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve species of management concern are managed to desired condition or desired condition is under development with improved information.
GOAL EXCEEDED



Aerial Population Assessment of Dall's Sheep in Arctic Parks

By Kumi Rattenbury and Jim Lawler

Fixed-wing surveys to assess distribution and abundance of Dall's sheep (*Ovis dalli Nelson*) in the central and western Brook's Range including Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Noatak National Preserve were continued in July 2007. NPS's Arctic Network Inventory and Monitoring Program, Gates of the Arctic, and Western Arctic Parklands staff also surveyed suitable sheep habitat in these two parks in the summers of 2005 and 2006. The goal is to estimate population size and establish a monitoring plan for Dall's sheep in the region.

The Brook's Range is the northernmost extent of Dall's sheep. The last comprehensive survey in the region was done in the early 1980s following the creation of Gates of the Arctic and Noatak Preserve by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and concerns about new sport hunting regulations. A region-wide decline in Dall's sheep was observed in the late 1980s and early 1990s, but most studies conducted since 1984 have been in limited areas.

In 2005 and 2006, attempts were made to re-survey the same large survey units as the 1982-1984 study. However, surveys were only possible for a portion of those units due to weather and other logistics issues. In 2007, good survey conditions and a change in methodology will allow for an area-wide sheep population estimate. We classified survey units into high (>1.6 sheep/km²) and low strata based on all previous population surveys and randomly sampled units. Surveys were completed in 14% (5,734 km²) of the

probable Dall's sheep habitat. Preliminary findings include:

- ❖ Sheep density for the surveyed units was 0.25 sheep/km² across Gates and Noatak;
- ❖ There was higher sheep density in Noatak (0.28 sheep/km²) than in Gates (0.23 sheep/km²), but higher ratios of lambs and rams to ewe-like sheep (ewes and yearlings) in Gates (65 lambs: 100 ewes and 62 rams: 100 ewes) than in Noatak (35 lambs: 100 ewes and 23 rams: 100 ewes).

A final report will include the population estimate, an evaluation of changes to the sheep population between the 1982-1984 study and the current study, as well as a GIS database for sheep distribution in Gates of the Arctic and Noatak Preserve. These data will provide important baseline information for the Arctic Network and will help direct long-term monitoring of Dall's sheep populations as well as management of sheep, sheep habitat, and harvest opportunities in the parks.

These data... will help direct long-term monitoring of Dall's sheep populations as well as management of sheep, sheep habitat, and harvest opportunities in the parks.



Where's Waldo? Can you find the sheep in this image? Hint: it's larger than you may think. This sheep, which may be a ewe or yearling ram, was spotted during July 2007 surveys in Noatak National Preserve, as was the group of rams in the photo on the opposite page.

Distribution and Water Quality of Open-Water Areas in Winter

By Greta Burkart



Preliminary observations suggest that open-water habitats may be associated with increased height and density of willows and increased activity of terrestrial animals such as moose, wolves and ptarmigan.

Open-water areas that persist along rivers and lakes during arctic winters can be considered “islands” of open-water embedded within a frozen land. These open-water islands are associated with areas of groundwater upwelling, and as a result exhibit relatively stable thermal regimes throughout the year. Their persistence is vital to the fitness and survival of many arctic organisms; thus, these habitats are an invaluable part of Gates of the Arctic ecosystems. As the arctic climate continues to warm, altering regional as well as local hydrologic regimes, the persistence and ecological functioning of these open-water habitats may be altered dramatically. Researchers have documented the disappearance of many small, high-latitude lakes; however, our knowledge of the quantity and extent of open-water habitats remains scarce. Our objective was to collect baseline water-quality data and document the quantity and extent of these open-water islands and their association with stands of poplar during the winter.

In March 2007, Arctic Network and Park staff collaborated to map locations

of 29 open-water habitats in most major drainages within and along the perimeter of the Park. We observed poplar in only seven drainages and in six of these we found open-water habitat. Therefore, presence of poplar was a good indicator of open-water presence for at least 20% of open-water habitats documented on our survey. Preliminary observations suggest that open-water habitats may be associated with increased height and density of willows and increased activity of terrestrial animals such as moose, wolves and ptarmigan. Hence, open-water habitats may be important for a diverse terrestrial biota.

During summer, 2007, we sampled longitudinal temperature and specific conductivity along the lower Alatna, which indicated that groundwater upwelling in this river was substantial. Also, the ratio of total nitrogen to total phosphorus in open-water habitats suggests that open-water habitats may be limited by nitrogen and that primary productivity may be stimulated by future increases in atmospheric nitrogen deposition and increases in abundance of terrestrial nitrogen fixers like alder.



Hares, Lynx and... Dirt?

By Donna DiFolco

In 1997, NPS began monitoring snowshoe hares in a small portion of Gates of the Arctic by counting hare tracks. We witnessed drastic changes in vegetation during peak years when hares were abundant. Willows were severely browsed, completely stripped of bark, and many young spruce trees were killed after being completely denuded of needles, bark and branches by browsing hares. We also documented areas where hares visited exposed soil in creek banks. Long-time area residents told us how hare populations farther north and south of our study area were different in that, during their population peak, they did not consume vegetation to such a degree nor did they reach as high a peak as the hares in our study area and other similar areas in the region. They also did not visit soil licks. This soil consumption, or geophagy, during the hare population peak, may have a medicinal effect on the hares enabling them to consume highly defended browse plants to a greater degree. Consuming this mineral-rich soil may extend the peak of hare populations who utilize it in comparison with other populations.

However, this

positive effect may be limited, as hares appear to be lethargic during periods of soil consumption. Additionally, lynx that feed on geophagic hares undergo unusual changes in body condition including decreased weight despite an abundant hare population, and abnormally dark, purplish-blue muscle tissue.

Questions about why hare populations in “mineral” vs. “non-mineral” areas are different and why lynx are affected by eating soil-consuming hares stimulated development of the Snowshoe Hare Ecology Project, where we hope to track changes in vegetation chemistry, monitor trends in hare and lynx populations, and analyze soil chemistry.

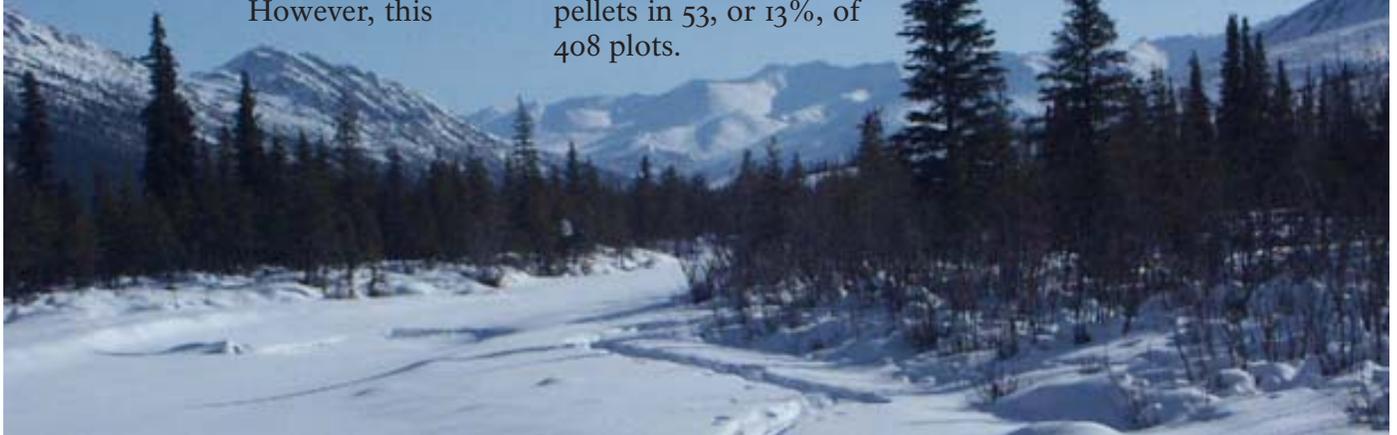
While we continue to build on the 11-year data set of snowshoe hare track counts in the Park, we have also set up pellet plots in the expanded study area to obtain indices to hare densities in six study sites in mineral and non-mineral areas. This year marked the first annual pellet count. Supporting our findings in this year’s track count in March (see side-bar), we tallied a total of 120 hare pellets in 53, or 13%, of 408 plots.

Bunnies are Back

The 11th annual snowshoe hare track count was conducted in Gates of the Arctic March 13, 2007. For the first time since 2002, we counted fresh snowshoe hare tracks along the survey route. Thirteen hare tracks were tallied in one of the densely vegetated areas along Wiseman Creek.



Evidence: Fresh hare tracks, pellets and browsed alder offer proof that the hare population is rebuilding after four years of very low numbers.



A Cross-Disciplinary View of Wilderness, Ecosystem Complexity

By Greta Burkart and Bill Brody

Our objective in this project is to produce art that documents the inherent value of and future changes in the beauty and wild nature of Gates of the Arctic.

Documentation, both scientific and artistic, can provide a statement of what we have and what we may lose. Our objective is to produce art that documents the inherent value of and future changes in the beauty and wild nature of Gates of the Arctic. The kind of artistic and scientific documentation that we propose provides a virtual connection between the artist's experience in this vast wilderness and the naïve observer.

National Parks Volunteer and artist Bill Brody is a technical photographer and painter with a talent for total engagement and immersion in the wilderness. Bill traveled with National Park Service staff and scientists using his camera to document the cross-disciplinary view of wilderness and ecosystem complexity that evolved from sharing a strong sense of devotion to this wilderness

and a strong need to pull artistic and scientific tools together to help communicate the experience of being there.

Accomplishments

- ✧ Bill Brody has produced five high resolution, 360-degree panoramas that are stitched seamlessly into images conveying complex ecosystems along the Wild and Scenic Alatna River. These images allow the viewer to become an active observer immersed in the wilderness landscape of Gates of the Arctic.
- ✧ Potential out-put includes poster-sized photographic prints, outreach and interactive websites where scientists can add their own expository links to point out particular items of interest.

A 360-degree view from a knoll above Takahula Lake. Photo by Bill Brody.





A full-circle view from a hilltop in the Alatna River valley. Photo by Bill Brody.

Brody's spherical panoramas allow one to stand on a lichen covered hilltop with a view of lichen-spruce woodland lit by the arctic's midnight sun.



A sweeping view in the Alatna River valley. Photo by Bill Brody.

The Road Not Taken—A Wilderness Perspective

By Peter Christian

As technology... provides a rationale for accessing areas previously visited only by foot, what are the implications for wild country? Are there any places left on our overcrowded planet that are held sacrosanct?

In Wendell Berry's *Home Economics and Other Essays*, he wrote, "I would argue that it is not human fecundity that is overcrowding the world so much as technological multipliers of the power of individual humans." In other words, it is the power of our machines that amplifies our effect on the planet rather than our numbers that is doing so much harm. A hundred people with shovels may, in time, do some minor damage to the ground, but one man with a machine can level mountains and change the course of rivers.

The 1964 Wilderness Act compels us to take a different view of ourselves and our machines and how they affect our relationship with nature. The Act urges us toward restraint when the easy path would propel us through wilderness astride fast, efficient and comfortable machines. What we leave behind is a part of ourselves that forgets the quiet land and murmuring waters. We would do well to consider this philosophy whenever we use our machines for hunting, fishing, recreating and work-

ing, as we so often do without a second thought.

While Lower-48 park areas generally prohibit machines in Wilderness, Alaska's "ANILCA parks" allow the use of snowmobiles, airplanes and motorboats for traditional activities like subsistence. Subsistence activities are considered part of the natural ecosystem, as people have lived on the landscape for thousands of years. It is a compromise that has proven wise over the course of time, lending an authenticity to designated Wilderness.

But as other technology such as "quiet" helicopters provide a rationale for accessing areas previously visited only by foot, what are the implications for wild country? Are there any places left on our overcrowded planet that are held sacrosanct? We already have the answer: Wilderness—embodied in special places like Gates of the Arctic, largely unaffected by the power of modern humans and their machines, where the road less traveled is best, or perhaps the road not taken at all.

Provide for Public Enjoyment and Visitor Experience

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

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2007, 92% of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve visitors understand the significance of the Park.

GOAL ACHIEVED

Travelers, Students Learn about Gates of the Arctic

By Tracie Pendergrast

This year, Gates of the Arctic continued to offer interpretive programs to a wide variety of audiences. Nightly interpretive talks were provided to independent and tour travelers along the Dalton Highway at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center. Backcountry orientations were provided in person to groups going into the Park from Bettles, Coldfoot, Anaktuvuk Pass and Fairbanks. Tourist visitation to Anaktuvuk Pass continues to increase. Gates of the Arctic has stepped up to provide an interpretive experience to those visitors despite space and staffing limitations.

Gates of the Arctic continues to reach out to a diverse student population. This year we again offered curriculum based programs to the Fairbanks area schools. A presentation on migratory birds was added to the program. We expanded our outreach efforts to include three resident zone communities. A joint venture with Western Arctic Parklands took Interpretive Ranger Tracie Pendergrast to Kobuk and Shungnak. Later in the spring, Tracie and Ranger Al Smith offered programs to the Nunamuit school in Anaktuvuk Pass. Al also participated in the junior high spring camping trip with Anaktuvuk Pass students. In Bettles, a community

outreach program on medicinal plants was well received.

The 2007 Far North Conservation Film Festival at Pioneer Park was a success with 375 attendees view a wide variety of conservation related films. Gates of the Arctic continues to be an integral partner in this community event.

Interpretive Ranger Tracie Pendergrast talks with a school girl in Fairbanks. Gates of the Arctic outreach programs reached a broad audience and covered a variety of topics.



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

Annual Goal: By September 30, 2007, 96% of visitors to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.
GOAL ACHIEVED

Sharing Fish and Friendship at Agiak Lake Clean-Up

By Seth McMillan

The shelter had not been used in over 10 years, and the harsh arctic conditions ...had taken its toll.

In early August, Gates of the Arctic Park Ranger Seth McMillan and Maintenance laborer Brad Dunkin joined Anaktuvuk Pass residents Paul Hugo and Darrel Hugo in cleaning up the remains of an abandoned structure at the south end of Agiak Lake. Paul Hugo told us it had been a cabin from Anaktuvuk Pass in the mid-1980s and had been used as a shelter for hunters, trappers and people fishing in the area. The North Slope Borough's Search and Rescue helicop-

ter had transported it from Anaktuvuk to the Hugo's Native allotment at Agiak Lake. The shelter had not been used in over 10 years, and the harsh arctic conditions of the continental divide in the Brooks Range had taken its toll. Over the years, wind, snow, rain and bears have resulted in its collapse. Paul and his son Darrel met Brad and I at the lake to clean up the structure's remains. While there, Paul shared hunting and fishing stories with us. He told us of how his parents and grandparents lived for some time near Agiak Lake long ago. In those days, large





Before: The scattered ruins of a shelter at Agiak Lake before the clean-up effort began.

numbers of caribou come over the broad, low pass from Chandler Lake (10 miles to the north) which made for good hunting. On the slopes above the lake you can still see *inuksuks*, rock features used long ago to steer the caribou towards hunters using primitive weapons.

Paul told us of the good fishing spots on Agiak, Amiloyak and Chandler lakes. Many of the residence of Anaktuvuk Pass often come to the area to ice fish in late winter or early spring. Fish is an important part of the subsistence users' diet. Brad and I learned a new Inupiaq word while fishing with Paul and Darrel. *Yaholina* is a local word used to describe a big, fighting fish (any species, I guess), because they used it when they would land a big lake trout or char. Maybe it is a *yaholina* only when the fisherman yells out YAHOOO when hooking a big one. Brad and I learned that we had lots of room for improvement in the fishing department and took advantage of the lessons from the local fishermen.

The four of us had a great time at the lake, cleaning up the old shelter, enjoying time and some good fishing to-



After: The neat pile of material to be removed next spring.

gether. Paul was able to see the Agiak Lake area in the summer again, where he hadn't been in over 15 years. It was Darrel's and Brad's first time at Agiak Lake. Darrel got to ride in a De Havilland Beaver float plane for the first time. Brad reluctantly tried *muktuk* (raw whale fat and skin) for the first time. I appreciated the opportunity to spend time with wonderful people in a beautiful place working on an important project. It was a great experience for every one!

The project truly was a "win-win" for all involved. Paul and Darrel have offered to help move the shelter remains back to AKP in the spring. Much of the wood material is still usable and can be put to use in the village. Removing the shelter remains has improved wilderness character, enhanced visitor satisfaction and enjoyment, reduced refuse in the park, continued to foster strong relationships between the National Park Service and the subsistence community of Anaktuvuk Pass, and allowed the four of us to visit Agiak Lake, a spectacular and beautiful place.

More Cleaning To Do

The last day of our visit we saw a group of 7 backpackers that had been hiking for 45 days! These young men were from Camp Manatowish, an outdoor leadership camp in Wisconsin, and had started on foot from the Dalton Highway in mid-June. We were the only people they had seen on their trip in the backcountry. They were happy to see us cleaning up the Park and protecting the wilderness character they had traveled so far to experience. They commented on the amount of refuse and debris surrounding Chandler Lake and thought that area also was worthy of cleaning up. I informed them that a clean-up project has been proposed for the Chandler and Little Chandler lakes area and is anticipated to be funded by the Army Corps of Engineers in FY 2008.

Ensure Organizational Effectiveness

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

Coldfoot Ranger Station Gets New Look

By Julia Youngblood

Maintenance staff successfully turned a once-empty room into an insulated, carpeted, heated space useable year 'round.

Building the new Coldfoot Visitors Center in cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management has offered our visitors on the Dalton Highway a stellar stopping point in their travels along the road north. At the same time, closing the old, unheated visitors' center three years ago provided an opportunity for more accessible office space than what the current situation offered. Dalton Corridor Ranger Peter Christian had been using one of three bedrooms in his residence at Marion Creek as his year 'round work space, and it was time to make a change. The old visitors' center provided the space, and reusing/recycling the building would save NPS dollars in new construction.

In August, 2007, maintenance staff Scott Schoppenhorst and RJ Johnson successfully turned a once-empty room into an insulated, carpeted, heated

space useable year 'round. Project materials were ordered in spring, with delivery scheduled for mid-summer. A new fuel cube was purchased and installed along with a Monitor heater to provide warmth in the previously unheated space. Extra insulation was added to the walls, floor and ceiling. New, energy efficient windows were installed prior to installation of recycled fiber carpet tiles and bead board wall covering.

Now, year 'round, if a research project or other trip up the Dalton brings you to Coldfoot, stop by for a visit. It will be warm inside!

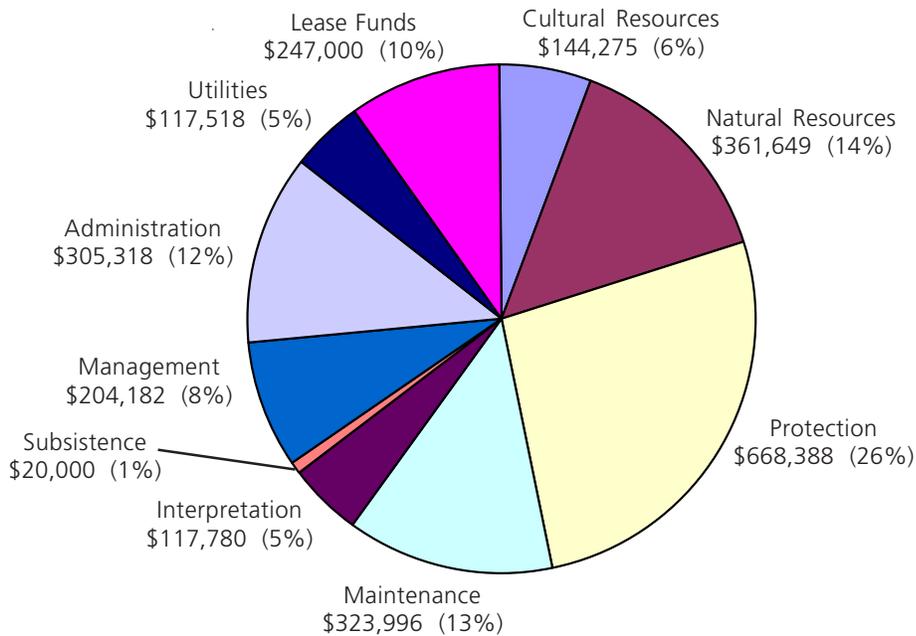


Out with the old, in with the new. Maintenance worker RJ Johnson trims out the interior of the newly renovated office space in the old visitors' center in Coldfoot.

Financial Summary

Operating Budget Base Allocations (ONPS) Expenditures

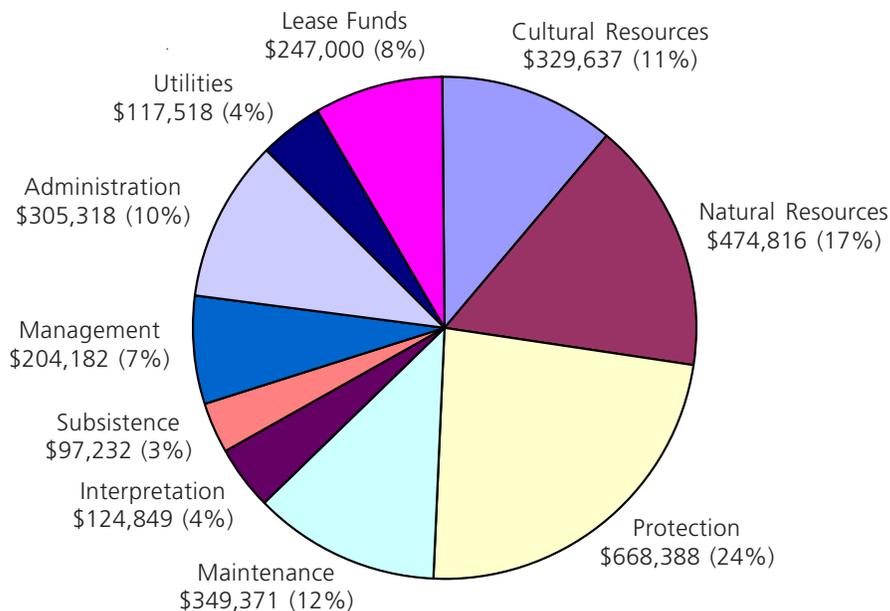
Total = \$2,510,106



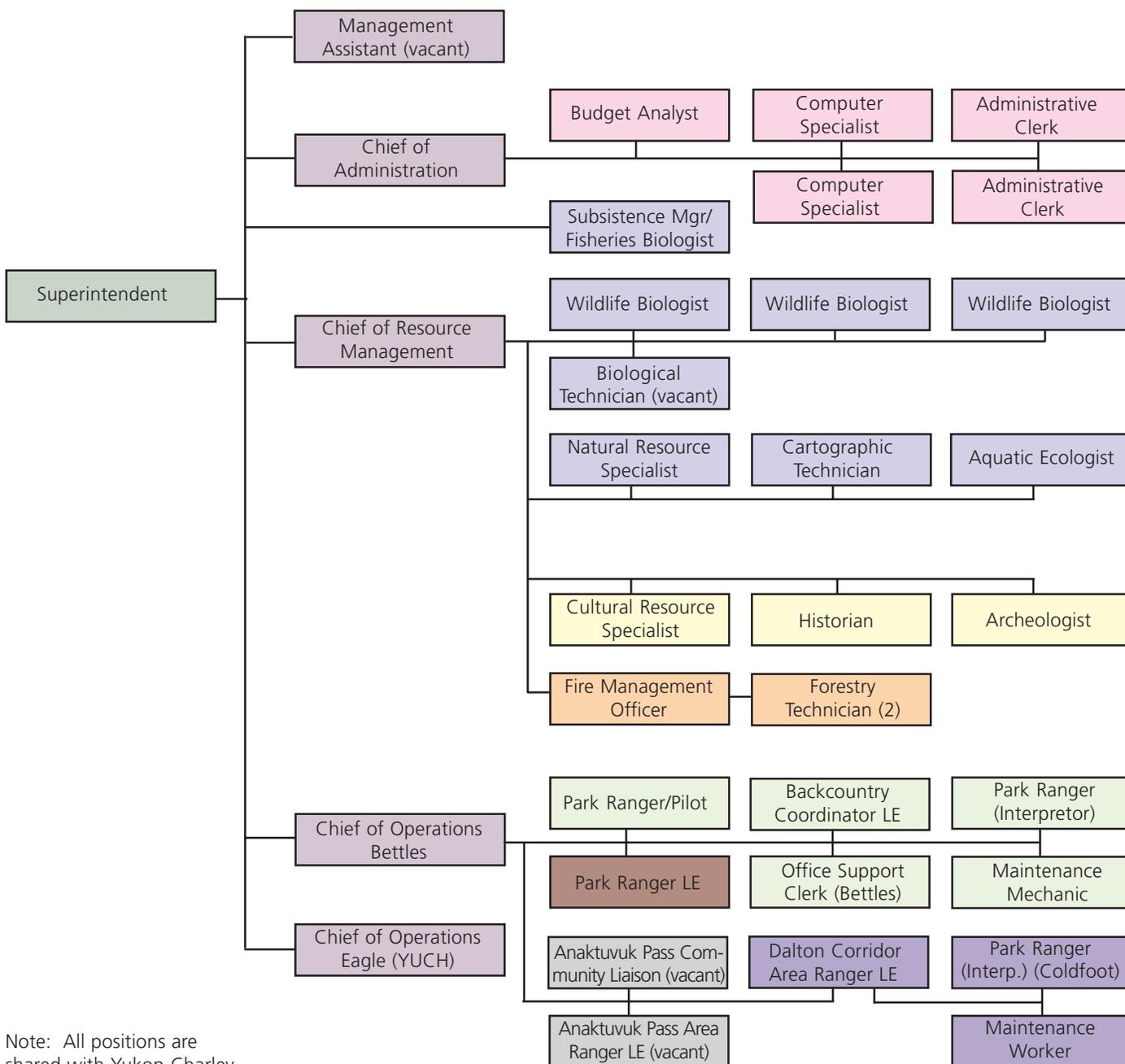
All Funding Source Expenditures

Including Inventory & Monitoring, Project, Fishery Subsistence

Total = \$2,782,759



Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve Organization



Note: All positions are shared with Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve except those under the Chief of Operations in Bettles.



A bull muskoxen peeks at the photographer from behind a willow in the Noatak River valley. An aerial survey in March revealed four bull muskoxen in the Noatak, same as in 2002, and the most seen in Gates of the Arctic at any one time. So far, no cows have been spotted in the Park.

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