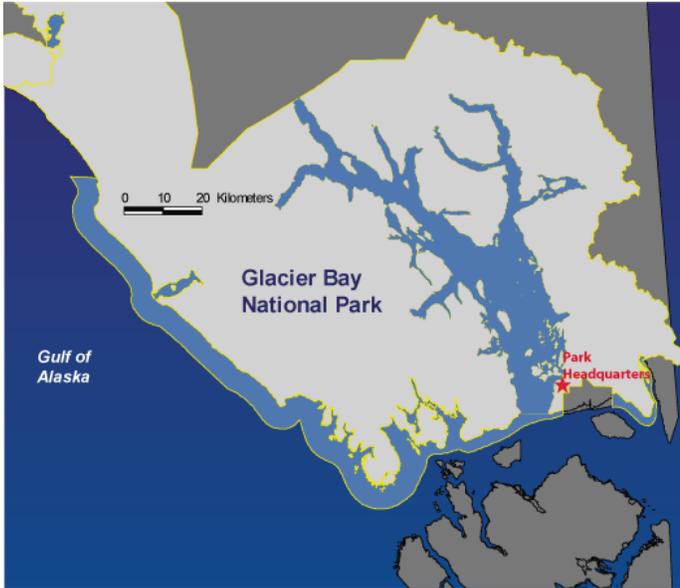


Student Resource

Protecting Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

Directions: Read the following information about wilderness and NPS policies used to protect wilderness areas. Then, write answers to the questions in **Think About It**.



How Glacier Bay Became a National Park and Preserve

- Glacier Bay was designated a National Park by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA). It was also designated as **wilderness** with all the protections guaranteed by the Wilderness Act of 1964.
- In 1986, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and Admiralty Island National Monument were jointly designated an **International Biosphere Reserve** as part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Man and Biosphere program. This designation made Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and Admiralty Island National Monument part of a world-wide

network of representative and protected research ecosystems.

- In 1994, with the support from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve was voted a **World Heritage Site** as an extension of the already existing Kluane–Saint Elias National Park site. Together, these parks form one of the world's most outstanding protected natural treasures.

What is an International Biosphere Reserve?

International Biosphere reserves are created “to promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere.” They must “encompass a variety of ecological systems,” ... mixtures of terrestrial, coastal or marine ecosystems.

An International Biosphere Reserve has three purposes. They are to:

1. conserve important biological resources;
2. develop economic growth while protecting the environment; and,
3. support research, monitoring, education, and information discussions that focus on conservation issues.

What is a World Heritage Site?

A World Heritage Site (a forest, mountain range, lake, desert, building complex or city) is considered to be an outstanding cultural or natural area that is important to the common heritage of humankind.

What is designated wilderness?

The following characteristics are used in The Wilderness Act of 1964 to define and describe a wilderness area. Wilderness is an area:

1. where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

2. of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation.
3. which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
4. which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions.
5. which has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
6. which has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
7. which may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Park policy for wilderness areas

- On the basis of this definition of wilderness, commercial visitor services within the park are allowed only if they are necessary and support the intended use of the park for visitor use and enjoyment.
- Any commercial operation must protect the park resources and reflect the park's values.
- Certain **consumptive** (consume or use, often wastefully) uses of park resources are allowed, i.e., traditional visitor activities, such as fishing and berry picking, as long as they are for personal use.
- These uses must not harm park wildlife, or the reproductive potential of a plant species or other park resources.

Think About It

Work with your group to briefly, answer the following questions about a national and international preserve, such as Glacier Bay.

Why might a wilderness park, such as Glacier Bay, need extra protection to keep it in its wilderness state? Explain.

What purpose(s) does each entity — the U.N., the U.S. Government and the NPS — have by protecting Glacier Bay?

What protections are in force from the U.N.? From the U.S. government? From national park policy?

Do you think these protections are necessary? Explain. What might you lose if Glacier Bay were not protected? Explain.