State of the Park Report for Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

Scoping Workshop and Report Development Documentation

January 8-10, 2013

1. Introduction

This document provides background information and methods used to develop the 2013 State of the Park report for Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, including a summary of the scoping workshop process, the list of participants involved in the scoping workshop and the assessments of resource condition, and notes to document why certain decisions or assessments were made.

A State of the Park report will be developed for each park to "assess the overall status of park resources and use this information to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public in a clear and simple way" (NPS Call to Action Plan). The report is a truthful assessment of the overall condition of priority park resources and values, irrespective of the ability of the park superintendent or the National Park Service to influence it. The purpose of each report is to:

- Provide to visitors and the American public a snapshot of the status and trend in the condition of a park's priority resources and values.
- Summarize and communicate complex scientific, scholarly, and park operations factual information and expert opinion using non-technical language and a visual format.
- Highlight park stewardship activities and accomplishments to maintain or improve the State of the Park.
- Identify key issues and challenges facing the park to help inform park management planning.

State of the Park reports bring a standardized approach to assessing the condition of priority resources and values for a park, and for communicating the condition summaries. The reports focus on the priority resources and values of the park based on the park's purpose and significance, as described in the park's Foundation Document or General Management Plan. The assessments of resource condition are based upon the best available scientific and scholarly research, reports, and publications, which are cited and linked to throughout the report and the associated "drill-down website version" of the report, but the condition assessments also involve expert opinion and the professional judgment of park staff and the subject matter experts involved in developing the report. The in-depth knowledge by park staff of park resources and recent events and activities, plus their expertise from being involved in the day-to-day practice of all aspects of park stewardship, are reflected throughout this report.

The status and trends in the condition of priority park resources and values are continually changing, and this State of the Park Report will require updating as new data and understanding for the resources becomes available. A full revision of the report is expected every five years; however, incremental updates may be made periodically between major revisions.

2. Approach and Methodology

2.1 Definition of Key Terms

- **Fundamental and Other Important Resources and Values**: Fundamental resources and values are the particular systems, processes, experiences, scenery, sounds, and other features that are key to achieving the park's purposes and maintaining its significance. Other important resources and values are those attributes that are determined to be particularly important to park management and planning, although they are not central to the park's purpose and significance. These priority resources are identified in the Park Foundation Document and/or General Management Plan. The short-cut name that will be used for this will be **Priority Resources**.

- **Desired Conditions**: A qualitative description of the integrity and character for a set of resources and values, including visitor experiences, that park management has committed to achieve and maintain. These Desired Conditions are tied to the Park Foundation Document and/or General Management Plan.

- **Indicator of Condition**: A selected subset of components or elements of a Priority Resource (i.e., a Fundamental or Other Important Resource or Value for the park) that are particularly "information rich" and that represent or "indicate" the overall condition of the Priority Resource. There may be one or several indicators of condition for a particular Priority Resource.

- **Specific Measure of Condition**: One or more specific measurements used to quantify or qualitatively evaluate the condition of an Indicator at a particular place and time. There may be one or more Specific Measures of Condition for each Indicator of Condition.

- **Current Condition**: The current quantifiable or otherwise objective value or range of values for an Indicator or Specific Measure of Condition based on scientific data or scholarly analysis.

2.2 Symbols Used to Communicate State and Trend in Resource Condition

The Status and Trend symbols used throughout the State of the Park report are summarized in the following key. The background color (Green, Yellow, or Red) represents the current condition of a resource, the direction of the arrow summarizes the trend in condition, and the thickness of the outside line represents the degree of confidence in the assessment of condition based on available data and understanding. In some cases, the trend arrow is omitted because trend is unknown (e.g., data from a one-time inventory or only one year of monitoring data) or not applicable.

Condition Status		Trend in Condition		Confidence in Assessment	
	Warrants Significant Concern		Condition is Improving		High
	Warrants Moderate Concern		Condition is Unchanging		Medium
	Resource is in Good Condition		Condition is Deteriorating		Low

Examples of how the symbols should be interpreted:

Resource is in good condition, its condition is improving, high confidence in the assessment.

Condition of resource warrants moderate concern; condition is unchanging; medium confidence in the assessment.

Condition of resource warrants significant concern; trend in condition is unknown or not applicable; low confidence in the assessment.

2.3 Rules for Combining Multiple Status and Trend Symbols

The overall assessment of the condition for a Priority Resource or Value may be based on a combination of the status and trend of multiple indicators and specific measures of condition. A set of rules are proposed for summarizing the overall Status of a particular Priority Resource based on assessments of Status for two or more specific measures of condition, and for summarizing the overall Trend for the resource based on multiple Trend arrows. The proposed set of rules, based on an approach used by Parks Canada Agency to develop State of the Park reports, is as follows:

Condition:
To determine the combined condition, each red symbol is assigned zero points, each yellow symbol is assigned 50 points, and each green symbol 100 points. Calculate the average, and apply the scale below to determine the resulting color.

Score 0 to 33	Score 34 to 66	Score 67 to 100
Red	Yellow	Green

Trend:
To determine the overall trend, subtract the total number of down arrows from the total number of up arrows. If the result is 3 or greater, the overall trend is up. If the result is -3 or lower, the overall trend is down. If the result is between 2 and -2, the overall trend is unchanged.

3. Scoping Workshop Agenda and Participants

The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park State of the Park workshop was held at park headquarters at Skagway, Alaska on January 8-10, 2013. See Appendix 1 for the workshop agenda.

3.1 Participants in Development of the State of the Park Report

Name	Title
Mike Tranel	Superintendent
Theresa Thibault	Chief of Resources
Johnnie Powell	Chief of Maintenance
Tim Steidel	Chief Ranger
Cindy Von Halle	Chief of Interpretation
Bruce Dansby	Lead Interpreter
Karl Gurcke	Historian
Samantha Richert	Curator
Amanda McCutcheon	Education specialist
Corey Thole	Maintenance Assistant
Teresa Wilson	Facility Services Assistant
Vickie McMillan	Administrative Officer
Chris Sergeant	Ecologist, Southeast Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Network

Dave Schirokauer	Former KLGO Natural Resources Program Manager
Kirstie Haertel	Regional Archeologist, Pacific West Region
Jennifer Pederson	Cultural Resource Team Lead, Alaska Regional Office
Jeremy Karchut	Archeologist, Alaska Regional Office
Grant Crosby	Historic Architect, Alaska Regional Office
Samson Ferraira	Cultural Landscape Specialist, Alaska Regional Office
Bob Lyon	Historian, Alaska Regional Office
Steve Fancy	NPS Servicewide coordinator, State of the Parks

4. Notes/Comments about Decisions Made in Selecting the List of Priority Resources and Values, Indicators of Condition, and Specific Measures of Condition and Assessing the Condition of Priority Resources

The internet version of the park's State of the Park report, available at http://www.nps.gov/stateoftheparks/klgo/, provides detailed information and sources of information for the resources summarized in the report, including references, accounts on the origin and quality of the data, and the methods and analytical approaches used in the assessments. The intent of the "drill-down website version" is to allow the reader to access the large amount of complex scientific and scholarly data and information upon which the assessments of condition are based. There will be some situations in which it may not be clear how the assessments were made based on the underlying "evidence" available through the website version plus the professional expertise of the participants. The information and notes in the table below are intended to assist the readers and reviewers of the report in understanding why certain decisions were made as part of summarizing a large amount of complex data and information professional judgment for the purposes of communicating the information to visitors and the public.

4.1 Notes/Comments about the List of Priority Resources Used in the Report

4.2 Natural Resources Section

Priority Resource	Notes/Comments
Climate	
Air Quality	Lichens are well known sensitive receptors for air pollution and are used as biomonitors of air quality worldwide. Elemental analysis of lichens has a long history of use as an integrator of contamination and was used to set reference conditions for the KLGO-Skagway area and nearby Tongass National Forest (TNF; Geiser et al. 1994, Furbish et al. 2000, Geiser 2004, Derr et al. 2007, Dillman et al. 2007). In addition to being used as a tool to monitor legacy metal levels in Skagway, lichen tissue analysis is emerging as a method to monitor total mercury deposition (Mitchell et al. 2000, Krishna et al. 2003, Guevara et al. 2004), which is a growing concern worldwide due to increased emissions and its long atmospheric residence time. Currently, lichen elemental analysis is the only method being used to assess levels of toxic metals deposited by atmospheric transport at KLGO. The thresholds established by the TNF are the upper most limits for element concentrations expected in target lichen species from background (clean) sites. Concentrations above threshold can be considered elevated due to enhancement from natural or anthropogenic sources. In the Schirokauer et al. 2013 air quality report, ambient Nitrogen is high in the summer in the Skagway Unit based on the Ogawa passive atmospheric sampler data. For this reason, N concentrations for Skagway were evaluated as Caution with an unchanging

	trend based on the AQ report.
Air Quality	The "rule set" for combining the status and trend symbols for Air Quality results in a Yellow condition (350 / 6 = 58.3). However, we evaluated the overall condition for Air Quality as Green based on data for all three units of the park. Lead concentrations in the Skagway unit are improving.
Water Quantity and Quality	
Freshwater and Marine Contaminants	
Flora	
Fauna	The overall symbol for Fauna was evaluated as Caution, even though the formula would indicate it to be right on the boundary of yellow and green. The status of boreal toads in the park (significant concern) is an important local resource that the NPS has some capacity to influence, and should carry a bit more weight that the status of breeding birds and coastal birds.

4.3 Cultural Resources Section

Priority Resource	Notes/Comments
Archeological Resources	
Cultural Anthropology	
Cultural Landscapes	
Historic Structures	
History	
Museum Collections	

4.4 Visitor Experience Section

Priority Resource	Notes/Comments
Visitor Numbers and Visitor Satisfaction	
Interpretive and Education Programs – Talks, Tours, and Special Events	
Interpretive Media – Brochures, Exhibits, Signs, and Website	
Sense of Place	
Accessibility and Visitor Amenities	
Recreational Opportunities	
Safety	
Partnerships	

4.5 Park Infrastructure Section

Report Component	Notes/Comments
Facility Condition Index (FCI)	Facility condition data extracted from NPS Facility Management Software System (FMSS): Deferred Maintenance (DM) and Current Replacement Value (CRV) are summed by Asset Category for all assets with "Operating", "Oper/Obso", or "Inactive" Status. Each Asset Category's FCI is calculated by dividing its subtotaled DM by its subtotaled CRV. The park's Overall FCI is calculated by dividing its total DM by its total CRV. A lower FCI indicates a better condition. To achieve standardization between 2008 and 2012, 2008 CRV is multiplied by (1.7774 ÷ 1.45), resulting in 2008 Adjusted CRV.
FCI Condition Status	Good condition rating: FCI ≤ 0.100 Fair condition rating: FCI = 0.101 to 0.150

	Poor condition rating: FCI = 0.151 to 0.500 Serious condition rating: FCI > 0.500
FCI Condition Trend	Based on calculated percentage change in FCI: (2012 FCI - 2008 FCI) ÷ 2008 FCI. Up Arrow: FCI improved by > 10% over the 5 years Unchanged: FCI is within plus or minus 10%, 2012 vs. 2008 Down Arrow: FCI degraded by > 10% over the 5 years
API/FCI Scatter Plot	Retrieved from AMRS. For more information, refer to: http://www.nps.gov/stateoftheparks/assets/docs/Park_Facility_Management_Terminology_and_Concepts.pdf
Energy Consumption and Water Consumption	Energy consumption data were downloaded from the NPS Energy Management Database and Reporting System for the five years of 2008-2012. Building gross square footage data were also obtained from the Energy Management database. It was not possible to summarize water consumption for KLGO in the report because water use in Skagway is not metered and there are no measurements of water consumption available. The park is not in the Climate Friendly Parks program.

4.6 Other Notes or Comments