Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
Alaska

National Park Service
Department of the interior

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

FOUNDATION STATEMENT

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
Foundation Statement

May, 2010

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Elements of a Foundation Statement

The Foundation Statement is a formal description of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve's (park) core mission. It is a foundation to support planning and management of the park. The foundation is grounded in the park's legislation and from knowledge acquired since the park was originally established. It provides a shared understanding of what is most important about the park. This Foundation Statement describes the park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, primary interpretive themes, and special mandates.

The legislation that created Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve guides the staff in understanding and documenting why Congress and the president created the park. The Foundation Statement includes the following elements:

- **Purpose Statement**
  The purpose statement identifies why Congress and the president established the park as a unit of the national park system. The purpose of the park is based on the enabling legislation.

- **Significance Statement**
  Guided by legislation and the knowledge acquired through management, research, and civic engagement, statements of significance define what is ***most important*** about the park's natural and cultural resources and values.

  The significance statements are used to guide planning and management decisions to ensure that the resources and values that Congress and the president wanted preserved are the first priority.

- **Fundamental Resources and Values**
  The National Park Service works to preserve those resources and values fundamental to maintaining the significance of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Through identifying and understanding the resources and values that support each significance statement, managers and their staff gain a clearer understanding of what is truly most important about the park. That which is ***most important*** about the park could be jeopardized if these resources and values are degraded.

- **Primary Interpretive Themes**
  Primary interpretive themes describe the key stories or concepts that will help visitors understand and appreciate the purpose and significance of the park. The primary interpretive themes provide the foundation on which the park's educational and interpretive program is based.

- **Special Mandates**
  Special mandates are legal requirements and administrative commitments that apply to the park. These special mandates may include direction from Congress or formal agreements with other public or private entities that are consistent with NPS legal mandates and policies. The special mandates are identified to ensure their consideration in planning and decision making for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Establishment of Alaska National Parks

The National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 states that units of the national park system are established to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." This statement represents the most basic mission of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Most of the national parks in Alaska, including Wrangell-St. Elias, were established or expanded under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which was adopted on December 2, 1980. ANILCA's passage culminated more than twenty years of deliberation on federal land claims after Alaska statehood.

Prior to Alaska becoming a state in 1959, nearly all land was federal. The Alaska Statehood Act granted the state the right to select 104 million acres of federal land. Within a few years the state land selection process began to include lands traditionally used by Alaska Natives. This led to objections which eventually resulted in a freeze on further state land selections pending Congressional settlement of the Native claims.

In 1971 Native claims were resolved by passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). ANCSA, in addition to Native land claims, also provided for withdrawal of 80 million acres for possible designation as national parks, fish and wildlife refuges, national forests, and wild and scenic rivers. Wrangell-St. Elias is among those park areas first established in 1978 by Presidential Proclamation by President Carter when he withdrew over 100 million acres of federal land, including 56 million acres as National Monuments.

ANILCA mandates the specific purposes for each park established. Congress also provided that ANILCA would permit some key activities necessary to perpetuate the rural Alaskan lifestyle, including subsistence uses, traditional uses, access, cabins, and hunting and trapping. Providing for ANILCA's mandates and special uses makes management of Alaska parks unique within the national park system.

We care for those special places in Alaska saved by the American people as a part of a national system of parks so that all may experience our heritage. We serve residents and visitors who seek inspiration, recreation and education, as well as those who come for traditional activities, subsistence and scientific study. We cooperate with local communities, tribes and others to protect the natural and cultural resources in these special places for this and future generations to experience and enjoy.

Alaska Region Mission Statement (2008)

Summary

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is to maintain the natural scenic beauty of the diverse geologic, glacial, and riparian dominated landscapes, and to protect the attendant wildlife populations and their habitats; to ensure continued access for a wide range of wilderness-based recreational opportunities; to provide continued opportunities for subsistence use.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

1. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve provides superlative scenic beauty.

2. Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve encompasses the nation's largest protected active glacial complex.

3. Encompassing portions of three major mountain ranges, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve contains vast areas of scenic high mountain terrain from sea level to 18,000 feet and includes nine of the sixteen highest peaks in North America.

4. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve contains major river systems with more miles (over 1,000) of scenic, free-flowing, glacial rivers in their natural state than are found in any other protected area in the United States.

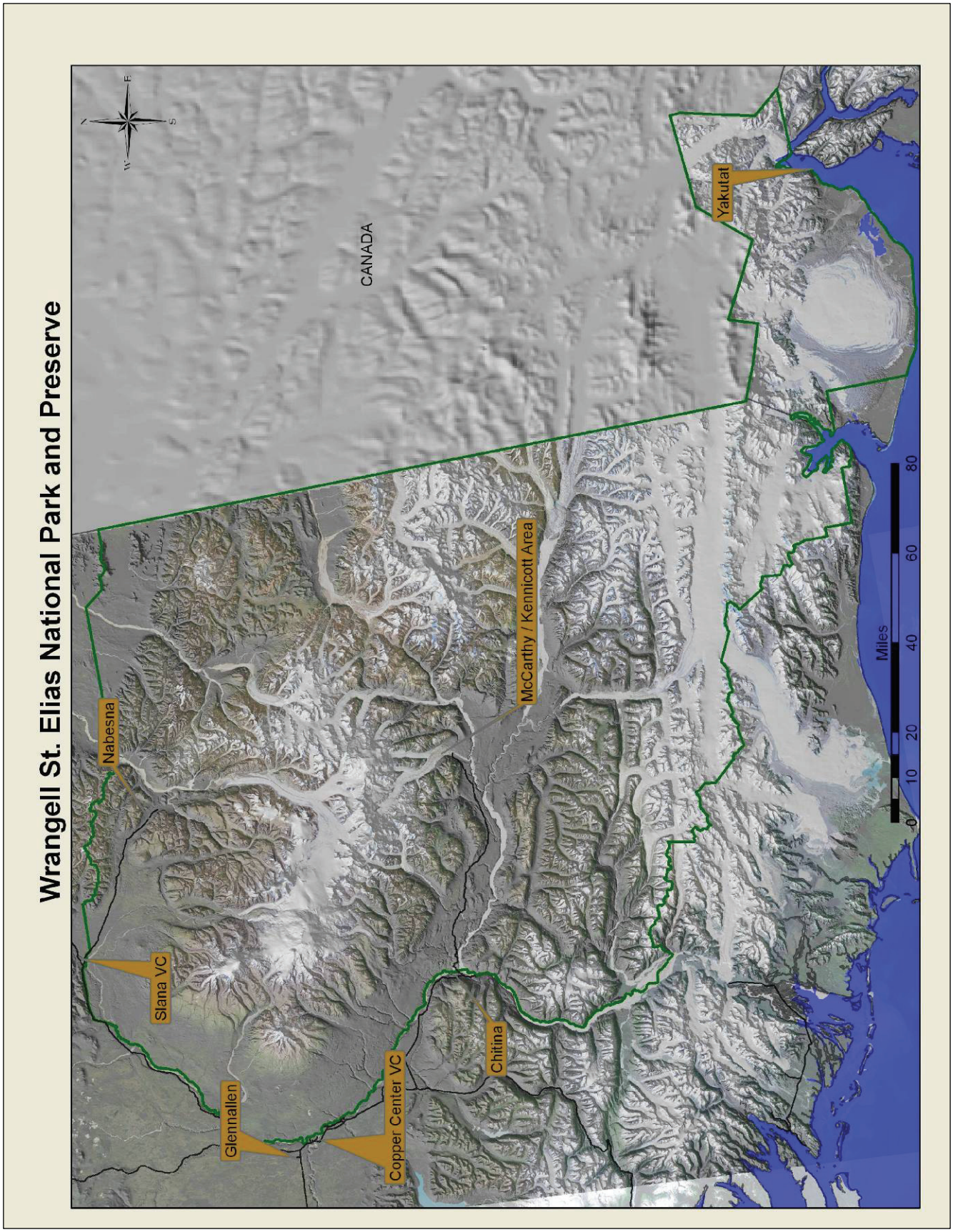
5. The vast undeveloped expanse of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve contains diverse aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, ranging from alpine to marine, and providing natural habitat for populations of Alaskan flora and fauna.

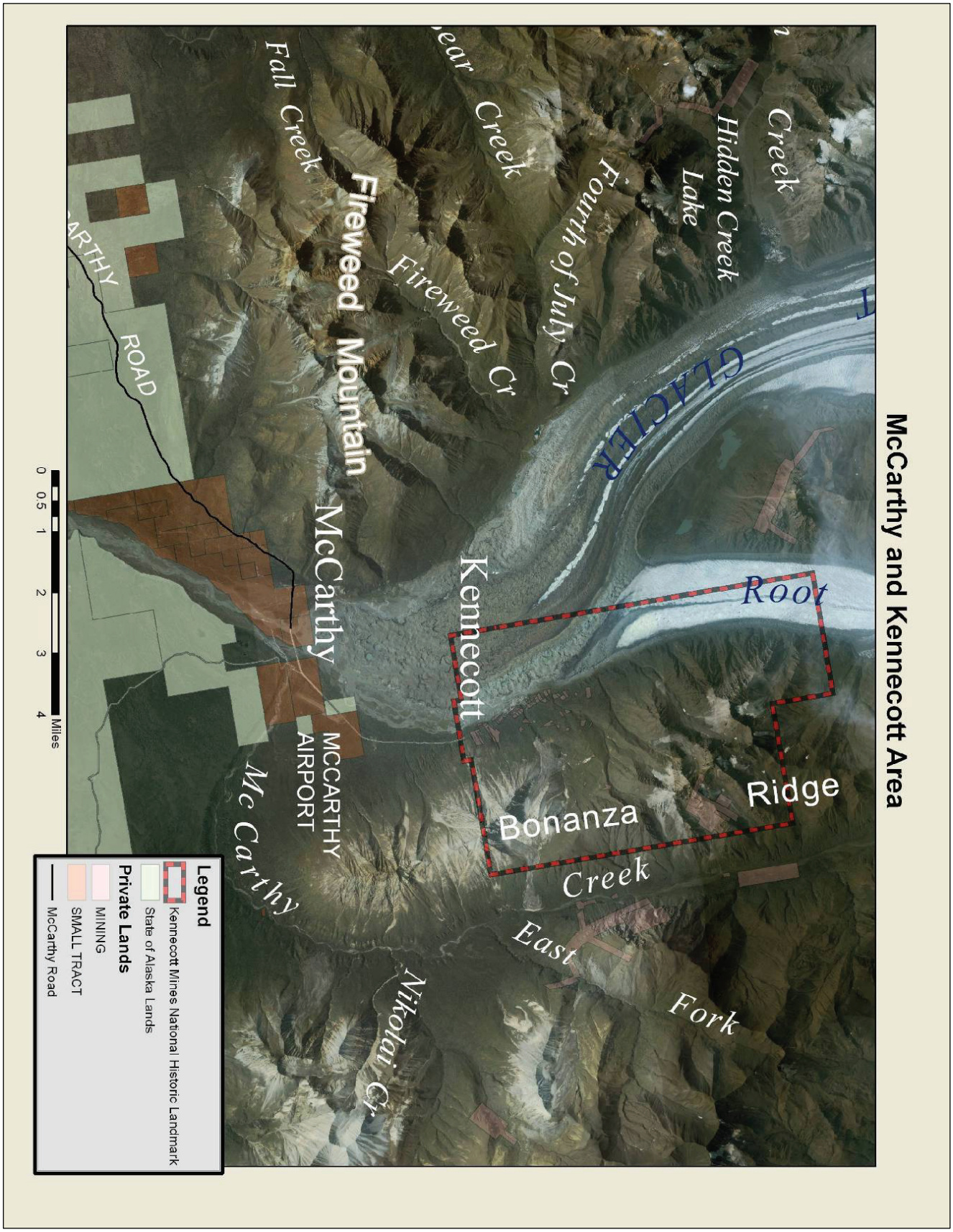
6. The Wrangell-St. Elias Wilderness is the largest unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System, encompassing nearly 10 million acres of remote and geographically diverse mountainous landscapes.

7. Preserved within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is abundant evidence of more than 3000 years of cultural and technological development. This long history reveals a range of human adaptations to changing climates, environments, and economic circumstances.

8. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is an inhabited area where local communities and traditional human activities remain integrated with the wilderness setting.

Location


Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
Nabesna
Slana VC
Glennallen
Copper Center VC
Chitina
McCarthy / Kennicott Area
CANADA
Yakutat
Miles
0
10
20
40
60
80


McCarthy and Kennecott Area
Root
GLACIER
Ridge
Bonanza
Creek
East
Fork
Nikolai Cr
Kennecott
McCarthy
MCCARTHY
AIRPORT
Mc Carthy
Fireweed Mountain
Fireweed Cr
Creek
Fourth of July Cr
Hidden Creek
Lake
Creek
Fall Creek
ROAD
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles
Legend
Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark
State of Alaska Lands
Private Lands
MINING
SMALL TRACT
McCarthy Road

Purpose Statement

The purpose of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is to maintain the natural scenic beauty of the diverse geologic, glacial, and riparian dominated landscapes, and to protect the attendant wildlife populations and their habitats; to ensure continued access for a wide range of wilderness-based recreational opportunities; to provide continued opportunities for subsistence use.

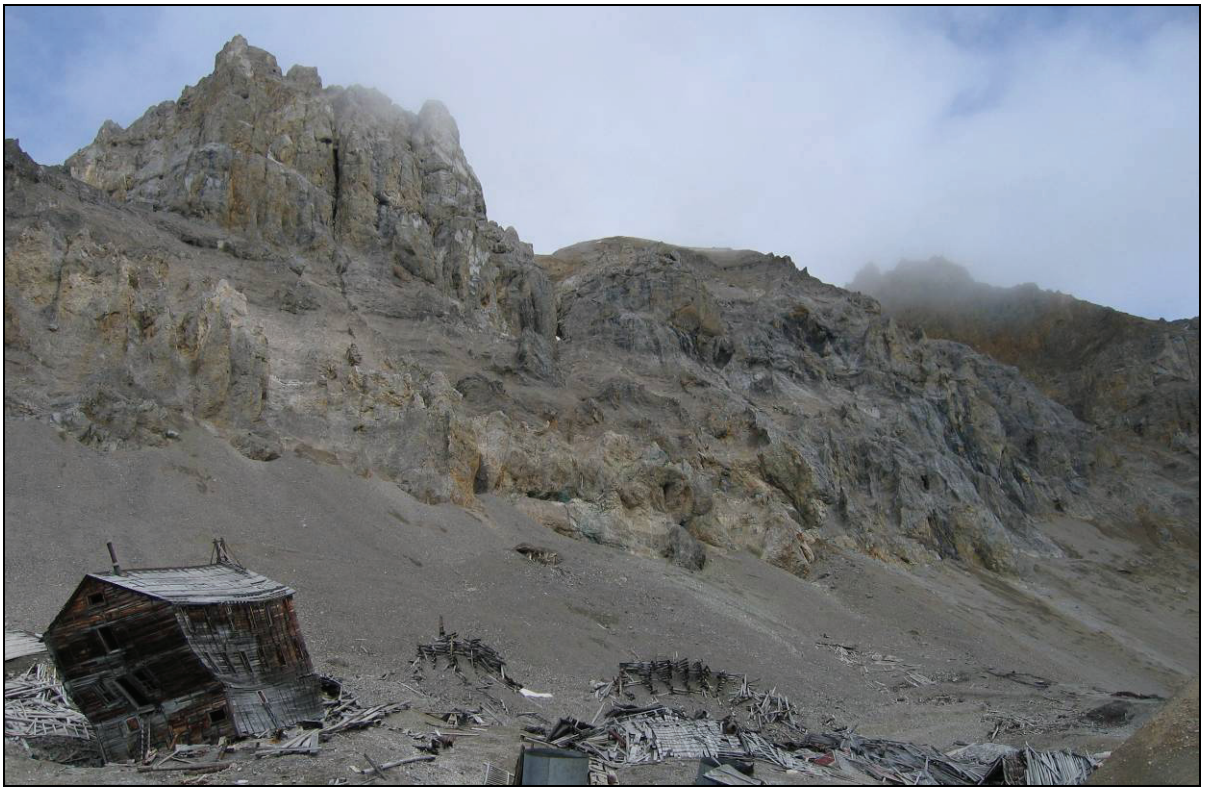
Section 201 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) states that the park shall be managed for the following purposes, among others:

- To maintain unimpaired the scenic beauty and quality of high mountain peaks, foothills, glacial systems, lakes, and streams, valleys, and coastal landscapes in their natural state,

- to protect habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including but not limited to caribou, brown/grizzly bears, Dall sheep, moose, wolves, trumpeter swans and other waterfowl, and marine mammals;

- and to provide continued opportunities, including reasonable access for mountain climbing, mountaineering, and other wilderness recreational activities.

- Subsistence uses by local residents shall be permitted in the park, where such uses are traditional, in accordance with the provisions of title VIII.



The ruins of Kennecott's Jumbo Mine camp rest on Bonanza Ridge.

Superlative Scenic Beauty

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve provides superlative scenic beauty.

FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Expansive Vistas**
  The shear scale and undeveloped nature of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve ensures the continuance of spectacular, massive vistas.

- **Ecological Resources**
  Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve protects continuous intact native ecological communities which create visually diverse scenery largely unaffected by humans.

- **Scenic Wildlands**
  Natural, undeveloped viewsheds, including water bodies and landforms dominate the viewscape of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Lakina Valley, the site of many scenic vistas.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve's vast size, high peaks, glaciers and wilderness provide world class opportunities for discovery, reflection, unconfined recreation and adventure in a remote setting.

Active Glacial Complex

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve encompasses the nation's largest protected active glacial complex.

FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Unique Glacial Landscapes**
  The great ice and snow fields and enormous glaciers dominating the high mountains and valleys are protected and managed by the park and preserve.

- **Glacial Outwash System**
  Wrangell-St. Elias national park and preserve protects a productive, evolving, coastal ecosystem that is driven by glacial processes and may provide a refugia for coastal species suffering from the effects of climate change.

- **Educational Opportunities**
  The park and preserve ensures the opportunity to explore, learn from, and add to the body of scientific research in regards to glacial systems.

Glaciers in upper Kennicott Glacier Valley.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve's dynamic natural landscapes provide opportunities to study and witness the processes of biodiversity and wildlife ecology as well as the dynamic forces of weather, water, glaciers, plate tectonics and volcanism.

Highest Peaks

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Encompassing portions of three major mountain ranges, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve contains vast areas of scenic high mountain terrain from sea level to 18,000 feet and includes nine of the sixteen highest peaks in North America.

FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Mountains**
  Portions of three major mountain ranges: the Wrangell-St. Elias Range, Chugach Range, and Alaska Range are protected in their natural state.

- **Geologic Research**
  Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve provides opportunities to learn about the earth's history and geologic processes, and to perform scientific research.

Mount St. Elias rises above the surrounding mountain range.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve's vast size, high peaks, glaciers and wilderness provide world class opportunities for discovery, reflection, unconfined recreation and adventure in a remote setting.

Rivers

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

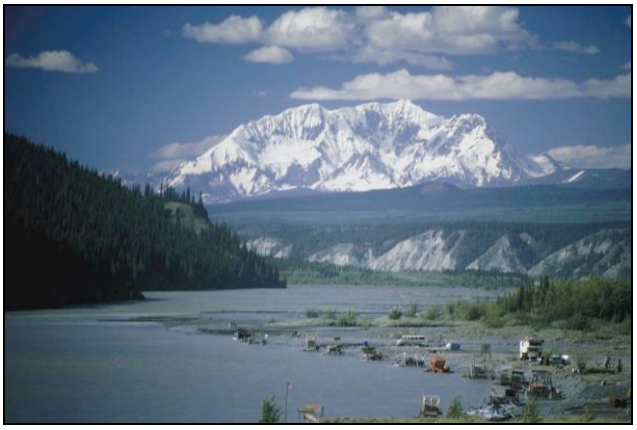
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve contains major river systems with more miles (over 1,000) of scenic, free-flowing, glacial rivers in their natural state than are found in any other protected area in the United States.

FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Glacial River Systems**
  Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve protects the scenic, free-flowing braided glacial river systems, including the Copper, Chitina, Bremner, Nabesna, White, and Chisana Rivers.

- **Protected Salmon Habitat**
  Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve protects freshwater habitat for Copper River salmon, an internationally recognized fishery.

- **Educational Opportunities**
  Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve provides the opportunities to learn about the glacial river systems, and to perform scientific research regarding them.



Fishwheels turn on the Copper River near Chitina, with Mt. Drum in the background.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Kluane National Park, and Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park make up a World Heritage Site, one of the largest terrestrial protected areas in the world in which natural processes function relatively undisturbed.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, other agencies, and landowners manage the watersheds necessary for the perpetuation of the Copper River salmon fisheries; salmon are the heartbeat of the economy, ecology, culture and history of south central Alaska.

Ecological Diversity

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The vast undeveloped expanse of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve contains diverse aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, ranging from alpine to marine, and providing natural habitat for populations of Alaskan flora and fauna.

FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Wildlife**
  Wildlife populations, regulated by natural processes, thrive within the boundaries of the park and preserve.

- **Unfragmented Habitat**
  The park and preserve protects large, unfragmented terrestrial and aquatic habitats and their associated biodiversity.

- **Educational Opportunities**
  Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve provides opportunities to learn about the large, nearly natural ecological systems, and opportunities to perform scientific research regarding them.

- **Native species**
  Moose, Dall's sheep, caribou, mountain goat, wolf, grizzly bear, black bear, lynx, wolverine are some of the species that live within the park and preserve.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve contains a variety of ecosystems.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve's dynamic natural landscapes provide opportunities to study and witness the processes of biodiversity and wildlife ecology as well as the dynamic forces of weather, water, glaciers, plate tectonics and volcanism.

Wilderness

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The Wrangell-St. Elias Wilderness is the largest unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System, encompassing nearly 10 million acres of remote and geographically diverse mountainous landscapes.

FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Massive Wilderness**
  Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve contains the largest continuous area of designated Wilderness in the United States. These Wilderness characteristics are defined by the 1964 Wilderness Act as modified by ANILCA.

- **Wilderness Experiences**
  The opportunities for visitors and residents to experience remote and challenging wilderness activities are outstanding at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

- **Accessibility**
  Trails, airstrips, and landing areas provide access to remote wilderness.

Backpackers following a lateral morraine west of Kennicott Glacier.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is an inhabited wilderness where human activity and diverse cultural values remain integrated with natural processes.

Cultural Heritage

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Preserved within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is abundant evidence of more than 3000 years of cultural and technological development. This long history reveals a range of human adaptations to changing climates, environments, and economic circumstances.

FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Pre and Post-Contact Archaeological Resources**
  These resources preserve evidence of the utilization and exploitation of the landscape in the form of obsidian collection sites, village sites, subsistence sites, and trails.

- **Historic Resources**
  Historic resources chronicle the early utilization of the landscape by explorers, miners, trappers, settlers, and tourists.

- **Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark**
  Mining operations at Kennecott occurred between 1901 – 1938. During this period the Kennecott copper mines were among the nation's richest, containing the last of the great high-grade copper ore deposits in the American West.

- **Ethnographic Resources**
  Ethnographic resources are landscapes, objects, plants and animals, or sites and structures that are important to the sense of purpose or way of life of peoples traditionally associated with the park and its resources.

- **Cultural Landscapes**
  Cultural landscapes embody evidence of 20th century exploration, resource extraction and utilization, transportation, federal and tribal land management, tourism, and recreation.

- **Archive/Collections**
  The park maintains collections, which include cultural objects, photographs, oral histories, historic resource maps, archives and natural collections of flora and fauna specimens.

The Kennecott mill town is one of the park's most iconic features.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Today, we continue a long history of humans who for thousands of years have found refuge, sustenance, challenge, and inspiration in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Living Cultures

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is an inhabited area where local communities and traditional human activities remain integrated with the wilderness setting.

FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Subsistence**
  Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve ensures the continued opportunity for local rural residents to engage in a subsistence way of life.

- **Other Consumptive Uses**
  Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve allows the harvest of fish, wildlife, and other renewable resources by non-local residents or for purposes other than subsistence.

- **Ethnographic Resources**
  The documentation of landscapes, objects, plants and animals, or sites and structures that are important to the sense of purpose or way of life of peoples traditionally associated with the park and its resources.

- **Accessibility**
  Access for subsistence users, recreational users, commercial fishermen, private property owners, and those engaged in traditional activities.

Salmon are a crucial part of local lifeways.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, other agencies, and landowners manage the watersheds necessary for the perpetuation of the Copper River salmon fisheries; salmon are the heartbeat of the economy, ecology, culture and history of south central Alaska.

Since prehistoric times, the Wrangell-St. Elias region has been home to many peoples, ranging from Ahtna and Upper Tanana, Eyak and Tlingit speakers to Euro-American settlers; each has developed and continues to develop different livelihood strategies based on their unique relationship with the area's rich diversity of resources.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Title VIII Subsistence Management and Use

Section 811 provides for continued access to public lands for subsistence use. Specifically, it states that ". . . rural residents engaged in subsistence uses shall have reasonable access to subsistence resources on public lands" and ". . . the Secretary shall permit on the public lands appropriate use for subsistence purposes of snowmachines, motorboats and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes by local residents, subject to reasonable regulations."

Title XI Transportation and Utility Systems In and Across, and Access Into, Conservation System Units

Section 1110 provides for special access and access to inholdings. Of particular interest to this plan are the provisions for special access – including motorized access – across public lands that are not generally allowed in national parks or wilderness areas outside of Alaska. Subsection (a) reads in part:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law, the Secretary shall permit … the use of snowmachines (during periods of adequate snow cover, or frozen river conditions in the case of wild and scenic rivers), motorboats, airplanes, and non-motorized surface transportation methods for traditional activities (where such activities are permitted by this Act or other law) and for travel to and from villages and homesites. Such use shall be subject to reasonable regulations by the Secretary to protect the natural and other values of the conservation system units … and shall not be prohibited unless, after notice and hearing in the vicinity of the affected unit or area, the Secretary finds such uses would be detrimental to the resource values of the unit or area.

Title XIII Administrative Provisions

Section 1306 provides for the establishment of visitor facilities and administrative sites within conservation system units if compatible with the purposes for which the unit is established, expanded or designated, or other provisions of the act. It also allows for construction of such facilities outside the boundaries of the unit, with a preference for locating such sites and facilities on Native lands in the vicinity.

Section 1307(a) provides for persons who were adequately providing visitor services in areas incorporated into conservation system units as of January 1, 1979 to continue doing so, assuming such services are compatible with the purposes of the area and the service is adequately provided. Section 1307(b) provides preference for visitor service contracts to most affected Native Corporations and to local residents, except for sport fishing and hunting guiding activities.

Section 1310 allows for the establishment of navigation facilities or facilities for weather, climate, and fisheries research and monitoring.

Section 1313 of ANILCA addresses the purpose of national preserves created by the act. A National Preserve in Alaska shall be administered and managed as a unit of the National Park System in the same manner as a national park except as otherwise provided in this Act and except that the taking of fish and wildlife for sport purposes and subsistence uses, and trapping shall be allowed in a national preserve under applicable State and Federal law and regulation.

Section 1316 authorizes the continuation and new establishment of temporary campsites, tent platforms, shelters, and other temporary facilities and equipment that are directly and necessarily related to the taking of fish and wildlife where those activities are allowed. The secretary may deny such use if it is determined that the use would be detrimental to the purposes for which the conservation system unit was established, including the wilderness character of any wilderness area within a unit.

Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek, Yukon Territory, Canada, Alaska and British Columbia, Canada World Heritage Site

Located on the border between Alaska and Canada, the Wrangell-St. Elias and Glacier Bay National Parks, together with the Canadian protected areas Kluane and Tatshenshini-Alsek, contain a huge chain of glaciers, comprising the first bi-national entry on the World Heritage List.

This World Heritage Site was inscribed in 1979 as a Natural site, under Criteria N (ii), (iii) and (iv) of the 2002 version of the "Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention."

Kennecott National Historic Landmark

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States.

The Kennecott Mines was designated a National Historic Landmark on June 23, 1986. Its Statement of Significance reads:

A vestige of an early 20th-century copper mining camp, Kennecott represents the mining techniques of the era. The mines here were among the nation's largest and contained the last of the great high-grade copper ore deposits of the American West. The world's first ammonia-leaching plant for extracting concentrations of ore from low-grade ores was designed and first successfully used on a commercial scale here. The camp is little changed since its 1938 closing.

Participants

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Alaska

Meg Jensen, Superintendent
Vicki Snitzler, Chief of Planning
Will Tipton, Chief of Maintenance
Eric Veach, Chief of Resources
Smitty Parratt, Chief of Interpretation
Marshall Neeck, Chief Ranger
Ann Crow, Chief of Administration
Michele Jesperson, Cultural Specialist
Geoff Bleakley, Compliance Specialist/Historian
Barbara Cellarius, Cultural Anthropologist/Subsistence Specialist
Danny Rosenkrans, Geologist/Land Specialist
Mason Reid, Wildlife Biologist

National Park Service –Alaska Regional Office

Victor Knox, Deputy Regional Director
Joan Darnell, Team Manager, Environmental Planning and Compliance
Heather Rice, Environmental Protection Specialist
Zach Babb, Planner

National Park Service – Denver Service Center

Stephan Nofield, Community Planner

Appendix A – Legislation

Appendix A includes selected excerpts from ANILCA that are most relevant for the day to day management of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Climbers cross one of many glacier ice bridges found in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

An Act

To provide for the designation and conservation of certain public lands in the State Dec. 2, 1980 of Alaska, including the designation of units of the National Park, National [H.R. 39] Wildlife Refuge, National Forest, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Wilderness Preservation Systems, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act".

* * * * * * *

TITLE I—PURPOSES, DEFINITIONS, AND MAPS

PURPOSES

SEC. 101. (a) In order to preserve for the benefit, use, education, and inspiration of present and future generations certain lands and waters in the State of Alaska that contain nationally significant natural, scenic, historic, archeological, geological, scientific, wilderness, cultural, recreational, and wildlife values, the units described in the following titles are hereby established.

(b) It is the intent of Congress in this Act to preserve unrivaled scenic and geological values associated with natural landscapes; to provide for the maintenance of sound populations of, and habitat for, wildlife species of inestimable value to the citizens of Alaska and the Nation, including those species dependent on vast relatively undeveloped areas; to preserve in their natural state extensiveunaltered arctic tundra, boreal forest, and coastal rainforest ecosystems; to protect the resources related to subsistence needs; to protect and preserve historic and archeological sites, rivers, and lands, and to preserve wilderness resource values and related recreational opportunities including but not limited to hiking, canoeing, fishing, and sport hunting, within large arctic and subarctic wildlands and on freeflowing rivers; and to maintain opportunities for scientific research and undisturbed ecosystems.

(c) It is further the intent and purpose of this Act consistent with management of fish and wildlife in accordance with recognized scientific principles and the purposes for which each conservation system unit is established, designated, or expanded by or pursuant to this Act, to provide the opportunity for rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to continue to do so.

* * * * * * *

TITLE II—NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW AREAS

SEC. 201. The following areas are hereby established as units of the National Park System and shall be administered by the Secretary under the laws governing the administration of such lands and under the provisions of this Act:

(9) Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park, containing approximately eight million one hundred and forty seven thousand acres of public lands, and Wrangell-Saint Elias National Preserve, containing approximately four million one hundred and seventy-one thousand acres of public lands, as generally depicted on map numbered WRST-90,007, and dated August 1980. The park and preserve shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To maintain unimpaired the scenic beauty and quality of high mountain peaks, foothills, glacial systems, lakes, and streams, valleys, and coastal landscapes in their natural state, to protect habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including but not limited to caribou, brown/grizzly bears, Dall sheep, moose, wolves, trumpeter swans and other waterfowl, and marine mammals; and to provide continued opportunities, including

reasonable access for mountain climbing, mountaineering, and other wilderness recreational activities. Subsistence uses by local residents shall be permitted in the park, where such uses are traditional, in accordance with the provisions of title VIII.

* * * * * * *

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 203. Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the lands, waters, and interests therein added to existing areas or established by the foregoing sections of this title as new areas of the National Park System, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and, as appropriate, under section 1313 and the other applicable provisions of this Act: Provided, however, That hunting shall be permitted in areas designated as national preserves under the provisions of this Act. Subsistence uses by local residents shall be allowed in national preserves and, where specifically permitted by this Act, in national monuments and parks.

* * * * * * *

TITLE VII—NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS WITHIN NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

SEC. 701. In accordance with subsection 3(c) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 892), the public lands within the boundaries depicted as "Proposed Wilderness" on the maps referred to in sections 201 and 202 of this Act are hereby designated as wilderness, with the nomenclature and approximate acreage as indicated below:

(8) Wrangell-Saint Elias Wilderness of approximately eight million seven hundred thousand acres.

* * * * * * *

TITLE VIII—SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT AND USE FINDINGS

SEC. 801. The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska, including both Natives and non-Natives, on the public lands and by Alaska Natives on Native lands is essential to Native physical, economic, traditional, and cultural existence and to non-Native physical, economic, traditional, and social existence;

(2) the situation in Alaska is unique in that, in most cases, no practical alternative means are available to replace the food supplies and other items gathered from fish and wildlife which supply rural residents dependent on subsistence uses;

(3) continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses of resources on public and other lands in Alaska is threatened by the increasing population of Alaska, with resultant pressure on subsistence resources, by sudden decline in the populations of some wildlife species which are crucial subsistence resources, by increased accessibility of remote areas containing subsistence resources, and by taking of fish and wildlife in a manner inconsistent with recognized principles of fish and wildlife management;

(4) in order to fulfill the policies and purposes of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and as a matter of equity, it is necessary for the Congress to invoke its constitutional authority over Native affairs and its constitutional authority under the property clause and the commerce clause to protect and provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses on the public lands by Native and non-Native rural residents; and

(5) the national interest in the proper regulation, protection, and conservation of fish and wildlife on the public lands in Alaska and the continuation of the opportunity for a subsistence way of life by residents of rural Alaska require that an administrative structure be established for the purpose of enabling rural residents who have personal knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have a meaningful role in the management of fish and wildlife and of subsistence uses on the public lands in Alaska.

* * * * * * *

POLICY

SEC. 802. It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress that—

(1) consistent with sound management principles, and the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife, the utilization of the public lands in Alaska is to cause the least adverse impact possible on rural residents who depend upon subsistence uses of the resources of such lands, consistent with management of fish and wildlife in accordance with recognized scientific principles and the purposes for each unit established, designated, or expanded by or pursuant to titles II through VII of this Act, the purpose of this title is to provide the opportunity for rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to do so;

(2) nonwasteful subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and other renewable resources shall be the priority consumptive uses of all such resources on the public lands of Alaska when it is necessary to restrict taking in order to assure the continued viability of a fish or wildlife population or the continuation of subsistence uses of such population, the taking of such population for nonwasteful subsistence uses shall be given preference on the public lands over other consumptive uses; and

(3) except as otherwise provided by this Act or other Federal laws, Federal land managing agencies, in managing subsistence activities on the public lands and in protecting the continued viability of all wild renewable resources in Alaska, shall cooperate with adjacent landowners and land managers, including Native Corporations, appropriate State and Federal agencies, and other nations.

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DEFINITIONS

SEC. 803. As used in this Act, the term "subsistence uses" means the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade. For the purposes of this section, the term—

(1) "family" means all persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, or any person living within the household on a permanent basis; and

(2) "barter" means the exchange of fish or wildlife or their parts, taken for subsistence uses—

(A) for other fish or game or their parts; or

(B) for other food or for nonedible items other than money if the exchange is of a limited and noncommercial nature.

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PREFERENCE FOR SUBSISTENCE USES

SEC. 804. Except as otherwise provided in this Act and other Federal laws, the taking on public lands of fish and wildlife for nonwasteful subsistence uses shall be accorded priority over the taking on such lands of fish and wildlife for other purposes. Whenever it is necessary to restrict the taking of populations of fish and wildlife on such lands for subsistence uses in order to protect the continued viability of such populations, or to continue such uses, such priority shall be implemented through appropriate limitations based on the application of the following criteria:

(1) customary and direct dependence upon the populations as the mainstay of livelihood;

(2) local residency; and

(3) the availability of alternative resources.

* * * * * * *

PARK AND PARK MONUMENT SUBSISTENCE RESOURCE COMMISSIONS

SEC. 808. (a) Within one year from the date of enactment of this Act the Secretary and the Governor shall each appoint three members to a subsistence resources commission for each national park or park monument within which subsistence uses are permitted by this Act. The regional advisory council established pursuant to section 805 which has jurisdiction within the area in which the park or park monument is located shall appoint three members to the commission each of whom is a member of either the regional advisory council or a local advisory committee within the region and also engages in subsistence uses within the park or park monument. Within eighteen months from the date of enactment of this Act, each commission shall devise and recommend to the Secretary and the Governor a program for subsistence hunting within the park or park monument. Such program shall be prepared using technical information and other pertinent data assembled or produced by necessary field studies or investigations conducted jointly or separately by the technical and administrative personnel of the State and the Department of the Interior, information submitted by, and after consultation with the appropriate local advisory committees and regional advisory councils, and any testimony received in a public hearing or hearings held by the commission prior to preparation of the plan at a convenient location or locations in the vicinity of the park or park monument. Each year thereafter, the commission, after consultation with the appropriate local committees and regional councils, considering all relevant data and holding one or more additional hearings in the vicinity of the park or park monument, shall make recommendations to the Secretary and the Governor for any changes in the program or its implementation which the commission deems necessary.

(b)The Secretary shall promptly implement the program and recommendations submitted to him by each commission unless he finds in writing that such program or recommendations violates recognized principles of wildlife conservation, threatens the conservation of healthy populations of wildlife in the park or park monument, is contrary to the purposes for which the park or park monument is established, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs of local residents. Upon notification by the Governor, the Secretary shall take no action on a submission of a commission for sixty days during which period he shall consider any proposed changes in the program or recommendations submitted by the commission which the Governor provides him.

(c) Pending the implementation of a program under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall permit subsistence uses by local residents in accordance with the provisions of this title and other applicable Federal and State law.

* * * * * * *

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

SEC. 809. The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements or otherwise cooperate with other Federal agencies, the State, Native Corporations, other appropriate persons and organizations, and, acting through the Secretary of State, other nations to effectuate the purposes and policies of this title.

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SUBSISTENCE AND LAND USE DECISIONS

SEC. 810. (a) In determining whether to withdraw, reserve, lease, or otherwise permit the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands under any provision of law authorizing such actions, the head of the Federal agency having primary jurisdiction over such lands or his designee shall evaluate the effect of such use, occupancy, or disposition on subsistence uses and needs, the availability of other lands for the purposes sought to be achieved, and other alternatives which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes. No such withdrawal, reservation, lease, permit, or other use, occupancy or disposition of such lands which would significantly restrict subsistence uses shall be effected until the head of such Federal agency—

(1) gives notice to the appropriate State agency and the appropriate local committees and regional councils established pursuant to section 805;

(2) gives notice of, and holds, a hearing in the vicinity of the area involved; and

(3) determines that (A) such a significant restriction of subsistence uses is necessary, consistent with sound management principles for the utilization of the public lands,
(B) the proposed activity will involve the minimal amount of public lands necessary to accomplish the purposes of such use, occupancy, or other disposition, and (C) reasonable steps will be taken to minimize adverse impacts upon subsistence uses and resources resulting from such actions.

(b) If the Secretary is required to prepare an environmental impact statement pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, he shall provide the notice and hearing and include the findings required by subsection (a) as part of such environmental impact statement.

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ACCESS

SEC. 811. (a) The Secretary shall ensure that rural residents engaged in subsistence uses shall have reasonable access to subsistence resources on the public lands.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law, the Secretary shall permit on the public lands appropriate use for subsistence purposes of snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes by local residents, subject to reasonable regulation.

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RESEARCH

SEC. 812. The Secretary, in cooperation with the State and other appropriate Federal agencies, shall undertake research on fish and wildlife and subsistence uses on the public lands; seek data from, consult with and make use of, the special knowledge of local residents engaged in subsistence uses; and make the results of such research available to the State, the local and regional councils established by the Secretary or State pursuant to section 805, and other appropriate persons and organizations.

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LIMITATIONS, SAVINGS CLAUSES

SEC. 815. Nothing in this title shall be construed as—

(1) granting any property right in any fish or wildlife or other resource of the public lands or as permitting the level of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within a conservation system unit to be inconsistent with the conservation of healthy populations, and within a national park or monument to be inconsistent with the conservation of natural and healthy populations, of fish and wildlife.

(3)authorizing a restriction on the taking of fish and wildlife for nonsubsistence uses on the public lands (other than national parks and park monuments) unless necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife, for the reasons set forth in section 816, to continue subsistence uses of such populations, or pursuant to other applicable law;

Aid in Fish Restoration Act (64 Stat. 430;16 U.S.C. 777777K), or any amendments to any one or more of such Acts.

* * * * * * *

CLOSURE TO SUBSISTENCE USES

SEC. 816. (b) Except as specifically provided otherwise by this section, nothing in this title is intended to enlarge or diminish the authority of the Secretary to designate areas where, and establish periods when, no taking of fish and wildlife shall be permitted on the public lands for reasons of public safety, administration, or to assure the continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife population. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law, the Secretary, after consultation with the

State and adequate notice and public hearing, may temporarily close any public lands (including those within any conservation system unit), or any portion thereof, to subsistence uses of a particular fish or wildlife population only if necessary for reasons of public safety, administration, or to assure the continued viability of such population. If the Secretary determines that an emergency situation exists and that extraordinary measures must be taken for public safety or to assure the continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife population, the Secretary may immediately close the public lands, or any portion thereof, to the subsistence uses of such population and shall publish the reasons justifying the closure in the Federal Register. Such emergency closure shall be effective when made, shall not extend for a period exceeding sixty days, and may not subsequently be extended unless the Secretary affirmatively establishes, after notice and public hearing, that such closure should be extended.

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ALASKA MINERAL RESOURCE ASSESSENT PROGRAM

SEC. 1010. (a) MINERAL ASSESSMENTS.—The Secretary shall, to the full extent of his authority, assess the oil, gas, and other mineral potential on all public lands in the State of Alaska in order to expand the data base with respect to the mineral potential of such lands. The mineral assessment program may include, but shall not be limited to, techniques such as side-looking radar imagery and, on public lands other than such lands within the national park system, core and test drilling for geologic information, notwithstanding any restriction on such drilling under the Wilderness Act. For purposes of this Act, core and test drilling means the extraction by drilling of subsurface geologic samples in order to assess the metalliferous or other mineral values of geologic terrain, but shall not be construed as including exploratory drilling of oil and gas test wells. To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall consult and exchange information with the State of Alaska regarding the responsibilities of the Secretary under this section and similar programs undertaken by the State. In order to carry out mineral assessments authorized under this or any other law, including but not limited to the National Uranium Resource Evaluation program, the Secretary shall allow for access by air for assessment activities permitted in this subsection to all public lands involved in such study. He shall consult with the Secretary of Energy and heads of other Federal agencies carrying out such programs, to determine such reasonable requirements as may be necessary to protect the resources of such area, including fish and wildlife. Such requirements may provide that access will not occur during nesting, calving, spawning or such other times as fish and wildlife in the specific area may be especially vulnerable to such activities. The Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts with public or private entities to carry out all or any portion of the mineral assessment program. This section shall not apply to the lands described in section 1001 of this Act.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Activities carried out in conservation system units under subsection (a) shall be subject to regulations promulgated by the Secretary. Such regulations shall ensure that such activities are carried out in an environmentally sound manner—

(1)which does not result in lasting environmental impacts which appreciably alter the natural character of the units or biological or ecological systems in the units; and

(2)which is compatible with the purposes for which such units are established.

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SPECIAL ACCESS AND ACCESS TO INHOLDINGS

SEC. 1110. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law, the Secretary shall permit, on conservation system units national recreation areas, and national conservation areas, and those public lands designated as wilderness study, the use of snowmachines (during periods of adequate snow cover, or frozen river conditions in the case of wild and scenic rivers), motorboats, airplanes, and nonmotorized surface transportation methods for traditional activities (where such activities are permitted by this Act or other law) and for travel to and from villages and homesites. Such use shall be subject to reasonable regulations by the Secretary to protect the natural and other values of the conservation system units, national recreation areas, and national conservation areas, and shall not be prohibited unless, after notice and hearing in the vicinity of the affected unit or area, the Secretary finds that such use would be detrimental to the resource values of the unit or area. Nothing in this section

shall be construed as prohibiting the use of other methods of transportation for such travel and activities on conservation system lands where such use is permitted by this Act or other law.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act or other law, in any case in which State owned or privately owned land, including subsurface rights of such owners underlying public lands, or a valid mining claim or other valid occupancy is within or is effectively surrounded by one or more conservation system units, national recreation areas, national conservation areas, or those public lands designated as wilderness study, the State or private owner or occupier shall be given by the Secretary such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate and feasible access for economic and other purposes to the concerned land by such State or private owner or occupier and their successors in interest. Such rights shall be subject to reasonable regulations issued by the Secretary to protect the natural and other values of such lands.

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TEMPORARY ACCESS

SEC. 1111. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law the Secretary shall authorize and permit temporary access by the State or a private landowner to or across any conservation system unit, national recreation area, national conservation area, the National Petroleum Reserve— Alaska or those public lands designated as wilderness study or managed to maintain the wilderness character or potential thereof, in order to permit the State or private landowner access to its land for purposes of survey, geophysical, exploratory, or other temporary uses thereof whenever he determines such access will not result in permanent harm to the resources of such unit, area, Reserve or lands.

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TITLE XIII—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

MANAGEMENT PLANS

SEC. 1301. (a) Within five years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and transmit to the appropriate Committees of the Congress a conservation and management plan for each of the units of the National Park System established or to which additions are made by this Act.

(b) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Each plan for a unit established, redesignated, or expanded by title II shall identify management practices which will carry out the policies of this Act and will accomplish the purposes for which the concerned National Park System unit was established or expanded and shall include at least the following:

(1) Maps indicating areas of particular importance as to wilderness, natural, historical, wildlife, cultural, archeological, paleontological, geological, recreational, and similar resources and also indicating the areas into which such unit will be divided for administrative purposes.

(2) A description of the programs and methods that will be employed to manage fish and wildlife resources and habitats, cultural, geological, recreational, and wilderness resources, and how each conservation system unit will contribute to overall resources management goals of that region. Such programs should include research, protection, restoration, development, and interpretation as appropriate.

(3) A description of any areas of potential or proposed development, indicating types of visitor services and facilities to be provided, the estimated costs of such services and facilities, and whether or not such services and facilities could and should be provided outside the boundaries of such unit.

(4) A plan for access to, and circulation within, such unit, indicating the type and location of transportation routes and facilities, if any.

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NAVIGATION AIDS AND OTHER FACILITIES

SEC. 1310. (a) EXISTING FACILITIES.—Within conservation system units established or expanded by this Act, reasonable access to, and operation and maintenance of, existing air and water navigation aids, communications sites and related facilities and existing facilities for weather, climate, and fisheries research and monitoring shall be permitted in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable to units of such systems, as appropriate. Reasonable access to and operation and maintenance of facilities for national defense purposes and related air and water navigation aids within or adjacent to such areas shall continue in accordance with the laws and regulations governing such facilities notwithstanding any other provision of this Act. Nothing in the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to prohibit such access, operation and maintenance within wilderness areas designated by this Act.

(b) NEW FACILITIES.—The establishment, operation, and maintenance within any conservation system unit of new air and water navigation aids and related facilities, facilities for national defense purposes, and related air and water navigation aids, and facilities for weather, climate, and fisheries research and monitoring shall be permitted but only (1) after consultation with the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, by the head of the Federal department or agency undertaking such establishment, operation, or maintenance, and (2) in accordance with such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed in order to minimize the adverse effects of such activities within such unit.

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ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL PRESERVES

SEC. 1313. A National Preserve in Alaska shall be administered and managed as a unit of the National Park System in the same manner as a national park except as otherwise provided in this Act and except that the taking of fish and wildlife for sport purposes and subsistence uses, and trapping shall be allowed in a national preserve under applicable State and Federal law and regulation. Consistent with the provisions of section 816, within national preserves the Secretary may designate zones where and periods when no hunting, fishing, trapping, or entry may be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, floral and faunal protection, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulations prescribing such restrictions relating to hunting, fishing, or trapping shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State agency having responsibility over hunting, fishing, and trapping activities.

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TAKING OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

SEC. 1314. (a) Nothing in this Act is intended to enlarge or diminish the responsibility and authority of the State of Alaska for management of fish and wildlife on the public lands except as may be provided in title VIII of this Act, or to amend the Alaska constitution.

(b) Except as specifically provided otherwise by this Act, nothing in this Act is intended to enlarge or diminish the responsibility and authority of the Secretary over the management of the public lands.

(c) The taking of fish and wildlife in all conservation system units, and in national conservation areas, national recreation areas, and national forests, shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other applicable State and Federal law. Those areas designated as national parks or national park system monuments in the State shall be closed to the taking of fish and wildlife, except that—

(1) notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary shall administer those units of the National Park System, and those additions to existing units, established by this Act and which permit subsistence uses, to provide an opportunity for the continuance of such uses by local rural residents; and

(2) fishing shall be permitted by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other applicable State and Federal law.

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WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

SEC. 1315. (a) APPLICATION ONLY TO ALASKA.—The provisions of this section are enacted in recognition of the unique conditions in Alaska. Nothing in this section shall be construed to expand, diminish; or modify the provisions of the Wilderness Act or the application or interpretation of such provisions with respect to lands outside of Alaska.

(c) EXISTING CABINS.—Previously existing public use cabins within wilderness designated by this Act, may be permitted to continue and may be maintained or replaced subject to such restrictions as the Secretary deems necessary to preserve the wilderness character of the area.

(d) NEW CABINS.—Within wilderness areas designated by this Act, the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture as appropriate, is authorized to construct and maintain a limited number of new public use cabins and shelters if such cabins and shelters are necessary for the protection of the public health and safety. All such cabins or shelters shall be constructed of materials which blend and are compatible with the immediate and surrounding wilderness landscape. The Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, shall notify the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of his intention to remove an existing or construct a new public use cabin or shelter.

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ALLOWED USES

SEC. 1316. (a) On all public lands where the taking of fish and wildlife is permitted in accordance with the provisions of this Act or other applicable State and Federal law the Secretary shall permit, subject to reasonable regulation to insure compatibility, the continuance of existing uses, and the future establishment, and use, of temporary campsites, tent platforms, shelters, and other temporary facilities and equipment directly and necessarily related to such activities. Such facilities and equipment shall be constructed, used, and maintained in a manner consistent with the protection of the area in which they are located. All new facilities shall be constructed of materials which blend with, and are compatible with, the immediately surrounding landscape. Upon termination of such activities and uses (but not upon regular or seasonal cessation), such structures or facilities shall, upon written request, be removed from the area by the permittee.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the Secretary may determine, after adequate notice, that the establishment and use of such new facilities or equipment would constitute a significant expansion of existing facilities or uses which would be detrimental to the purposes for which the affected conservation system unit was established, including the wilderness character of any wilderness area within such unit, and may thereupon deny such proposed use or establishment.

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Appendix B – Legislative History

Appendix B includes legislation that, while superseded by ANILCA, offers contextual background information regarding the establishment of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

A remote airstrip provides access at Skolai Pass.

Proclamation 4625

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

An area of southeastern Alaska adjacent to the International Boundary with Canada contains a variety of landforms, including high mountain peaks and steep canyons, with associated geological, ecological, biological, and historical phenomena of great importance.

The area includes the greatest assemblage of mountain peaks over 14,500 feet in elevation found in the Nation, the Nation's second highest mountain (Mount St. Elias, at 18,008 feet), several inactive and one active volcano (Mount Wrangell), and an active glacial complex, including some of the largest and longest glaciers in the Nation. The high mountain peaks and glaciers offer an excellent opportunity for glaciological studies. The Malaspina Glacier is listed on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks.

Thermal features in the area include the mud cones and hot springs on the western base of Mount Drum. More complete undeveloped river systems exist here than in any other land area in the Nation, with more than 1,000 miles of powerfully running, silt-laden rivers.

Biologically unique subspecies of flora and fauna have developed in the Bremner and Chitina River Valleys. As a result of their isolation by virtue of ice fields and the Copper River, these areas are virtually ecological islands in which development of subspecies is largely unaffected by interchange with outside plant and animal species.

Wildlife populations include the largest population of wild mountain sheep in North America, moose, mountain goat, and a non-migratory population of caribou. The area is the only part of Alaska where four of the five identifiable forms of bear occur, including the interior grizzly, the coastal brown bear, the black bear, and the rare, blue-color phase of the black bear called glacier bear. Along the coast of the Gulf of Alaska bald eagles and a large and varied shorebird population occur.

Cultural development within the area is of interest to archeologists and historians. Three major culture areas converge here, each with distinctive cultural patterns: the North Athapascans, the Pacific Eskimo, and the Chugach. Mining history is evidenced by the Kennecott Copper works, a National Historic Landmark.

The land withdrawn and reserved by this Proclamation for the protection of the geological, archeological, biological, and other phenomena enumerated above supports now, as it has in the past, a unique subsistence culture of the local residents. The continued existence of this culture, which depends on subsistence bunting, and its availability for study, enhances the historic and scientific values of the natural objects protected herein because of the ongoing inter. action of the subsistence culture with those objects. Accordingly, the opportunity for local residents to engage in subsistence hunting is a value to be protected and will continue under the administration of the monument.

Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

Now, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), do proclaim that there are hereby set apart and reserved as the Wrangell-St. Elias National Monument all lands, including submerged lands, and waters owned or controlled by the United States within the boundaries of the area depicted as the Wrangell-St. Elias National Monument on the map numbered WRST-90,007 attached to and forming a part of this Proclamation. The area reserved consists of approximately 10,950,000 acres, and is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected. Lands, including submerged lands, and waters within these boundaries not owned by the United States shall be reserved as a part of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States.

All lands, including submerged lands, and all waters within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from entry, location, selection, sale or other disposition under the public land laws, other than exchange. There is also reserved all water necessary to the proper care and management of those objects protected by this monument and for the proper administration of the monument in accordance with applicable laws.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights, including, but not limited to, valid selections under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and under or confirmed in the Alaska Statehood Act (48 U.S.C. Note preceding Section 21).

Nothing in this Proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation or appropriation, including any withdrawal under Section 17 (d) (1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1616(d) (1)); however, the national monument shall be the dominant reservation. Nothing in this Proclamation is intended to modify or revoke the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding dated September 1, 1972, entered into between the State of Alaska and the United States as part of the negotiated settlement of Alaska v. Morton, Civil No. A-48-72 (D. Alaska, Complaint filed April 10, 1972).

The Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate such regulations as are appropriate, including regulation of the opportunity to engage in a subsistence lifestyle by local residents. The Secretary may close the national monument, or any portion thereof, to subsistence uses of a particular fish, wildlife or plant population if necessary for reasons of public safety, administration, or to ensure the natural stability or continued viability of such population.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and third.

JIMMY CARTER