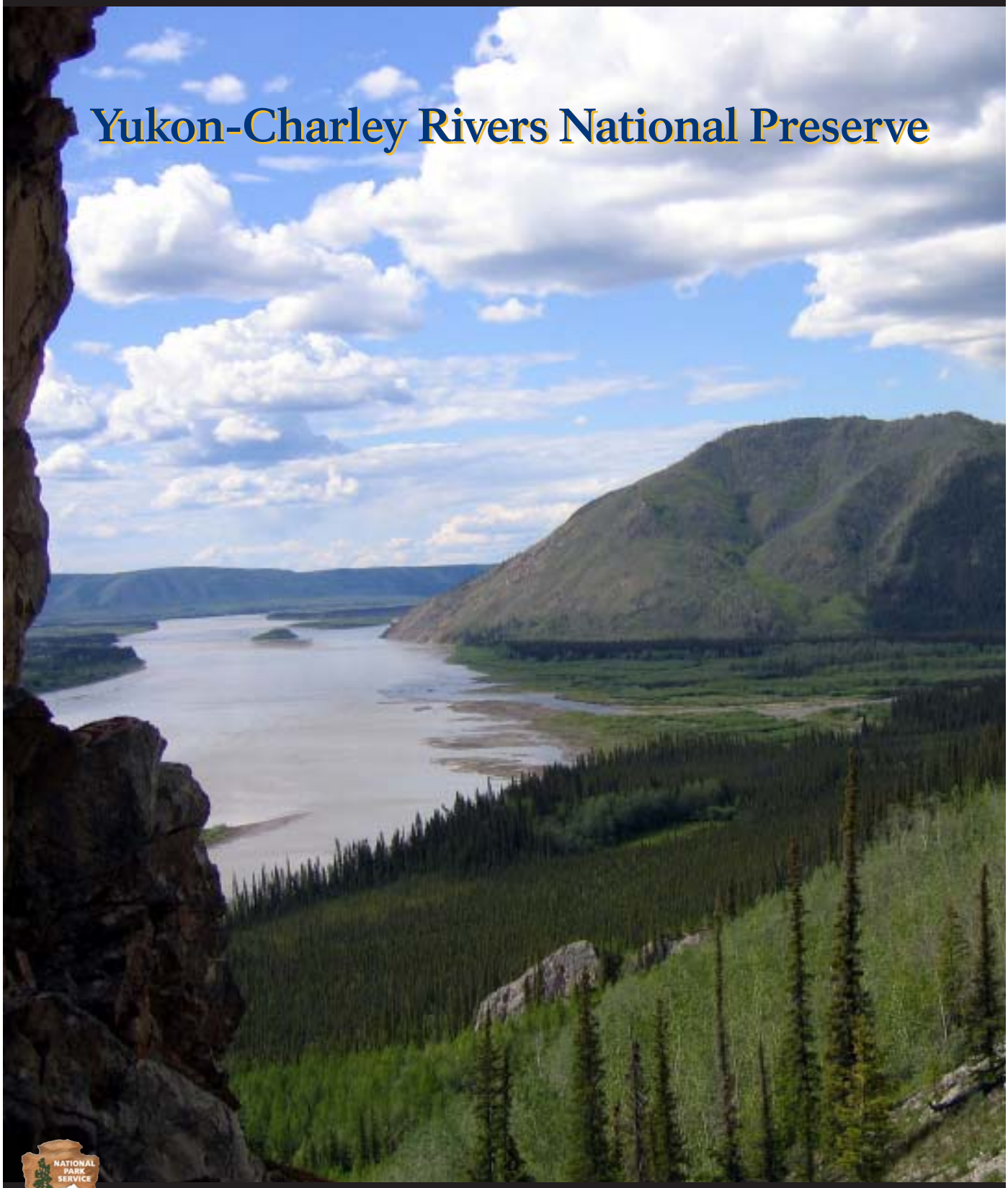
Annual Report 2008



Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

National Park Service
Department of the Interior

There's a land where the mountains are nameless, And the rivers all run
God knows where; There are lives that are erring and aimless,
And deaths that just hang by a hair;
There are hardships that nobody reckons;
There's a land - oh, it beckons and beckons,
And I want to go back - and I will.

Robert Service, from The Spell of the Yukon

Table of Contents

Purpose and Significance of Yukon-CharleyRivers National Preserve....4
Map of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve....5
Message from the Superintendent....6
Performance and Results Section....7-25
Preserve Resources....7-20
Public Enjoyment and Visitor Experience....21-25
FY 2008 Financial Summary....26
Preserve Organization....27

For more information, contact us:

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Pres.
4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

(907)457-5752
www.nps.gov/yuch

Staff Contributors
Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent
Monica Cross, Acting Chief of Administration
Jeff Rasic, Archaeologist
Chris Ciancibelli, Archaeologist
John Burch, Wildlife Biologist
Melanie Flamme, Wildlife Biologist
Maggie MacCluskie, CAKN I&M coordinator
James Savage, Asst. Fire Mgt. Officer
Jennifer Allen, Regional Fire Ecologist
Dave Krupa, Subsistence & Ethnography Mgr.
Pat Sanders, Interpretive Ranger
Carl Stapler, Interpretive Ranger

Editing, Design & Layout
Donna DiFolco, Cartographic Technician

Photos
by the National Park Service,
unless noted otherwise

Cover: The Yukon River as seen from a cave near the mouth of the Nation River (entering the Yukon from the right).

Printed on
Recycled Paper

Purpose and Significance

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve protects 115 miles of the 1,800-mile Yukon River and the entire Charley River basin. Rustic cabins and historic sites are reminders of the importance of the Yukon River during the 1898 gold rush. Paleontological and archeological sites add much to our knowledge of the environment thousands of years ago. Peregrine falcons nest in high bluffs overlooking the river, while rolling hills that make up the Preserve are home to an abundant array of wildlife. The Charley, a 100-mile wild river, is considered to be one of the most spectacular rivers in Alaska.

Purpose of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

- Maintain environmental integrity of entire Charley River basin, including streams, lakes, and other natural features, in undeveloped natural condition for public benefit and scientific study;
- Protect habitat for and populations of fish and wildlife, including but not limited to peregrine falcons and other raptorial birds, caribou, moose, Dall sheep, grizzly bears, and wolves;
- And in a manner consistent with foregoing, protect and interpret historical sites and events associated with the Yukon River gold rush, and geological and paleontological history, and cultural prehistory of area; and
- Protect, conserve, and interpret natural and cultural resources of the Preserve while allowing for appropriate human uses in a manner that provides for similar opportunities for future use and enjoyment.

Significance of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

- An internationally significant assemblage of diverse geological and paleontological resources—unusually complete—provide at least a 600-million-year record stretching nearly back to the Precambrian era.
- The area between Nation, Kandik, and Yukon rivers is postulated to be a portion of the North American plate that has escaped deformation from geological forces, remaining geologically and paleontologically intact. Some of the oldest known microfossils have been found in this area.
- The entire Charley River watershed is protected in its undeveloped natural condition.
- The Preserve hosts one of the highest density populations of nesting American peregrine falcons in the United States.
- Portions of the Han and Kutchin Athabaskan traditional homelands lie within the Preserve.
- Sites preserving activities and events of regional significance associated with the gold rush era are present and exemplified by bucket dredges, mail trails, trapper's cabins, boats, roadhouses, water ditches, and machinery.
- The Yukon River is the largest natural, free-flowing river in the National Park System.
- Large areas within the Preserve may represent an unglaciated refugium for endemic floral and faunal communities.

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve lies in eastern interior Alaska, bordering Yukon Territory, Canada. The Taylor Highway will take visitors as far as Eagle, where the Preserve's field office and Visitor Center are located. Travellers into the Preserve typically float the Yukon River or charter a flight into the upper Charley River. We encourage visitors to file a travel plan in Eagle prior to their trip.

Within the Preserve, NPS staff maintain facilities including a public use cabin at Coal Creek Camp, which also serves as a base for many resource projects. At Slaven's Roadhouse on the Yukon, visitors may enjoy learning about the area's rich mining history.

Yukon-Charley Rivers lies in eastern interior Alaska, bordering Yukon Territory.

Message from the Superintendent

"Change is inevitable – except from a vending machine."

I used that quote as a high school teacher years ago with students studying American history. As I think back on 2008, the word "change" is as relevant for the staff of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve as it was for those young learners in my classroom. We've experienced a number of changes over the past 12 months, not for the sake of change itself, but to build on previous successes and the "lessons learned" from the work of many to protect and to share the Preserve with people from the world over.

A significant change took place in the fall of 2007 when superintendent Dave Mills relocated to Anchorage to help lead the Subsistence program for the National Park Service in Alaska. Dave had led Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve since 1996. During his tenure a number of significant developments took place, including remediation of the historic mining area at Coal Creek where rehabilitated facilities now serve as a solar-powered scientific field camp. The American Peregrine Falcon, an endangered species when Dave arrived in Fairbanks, now flourishes; populations are healthy and the birds' future is bright. Non-native plants--formerly unidentified--are documented now as part of a long-term monitoring program. Dave's support of gateway communities and the continuation of customary and traditional activities led to the Preserve's partnering in efforts to ensure the recovery of the Fortymile Caribou Herd.

Shortly after my arrival, we began recruitment and hiring for new positions including that of Subsistence Coordinator, Chief of Interpretation, Chief Ranger, and Facility Manager. As a part of the reorganization, Ranger Pat Sanders in Eagle was promoted and took on the additional responsibilities of community liaison. A new operations model was implemented that brought the program managers from the Preserve and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve together in Fairbanks. At the same time we began integrating the staffs from both park units and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in ways that take better advantage of the leadership and field skills found throughout our ranks.

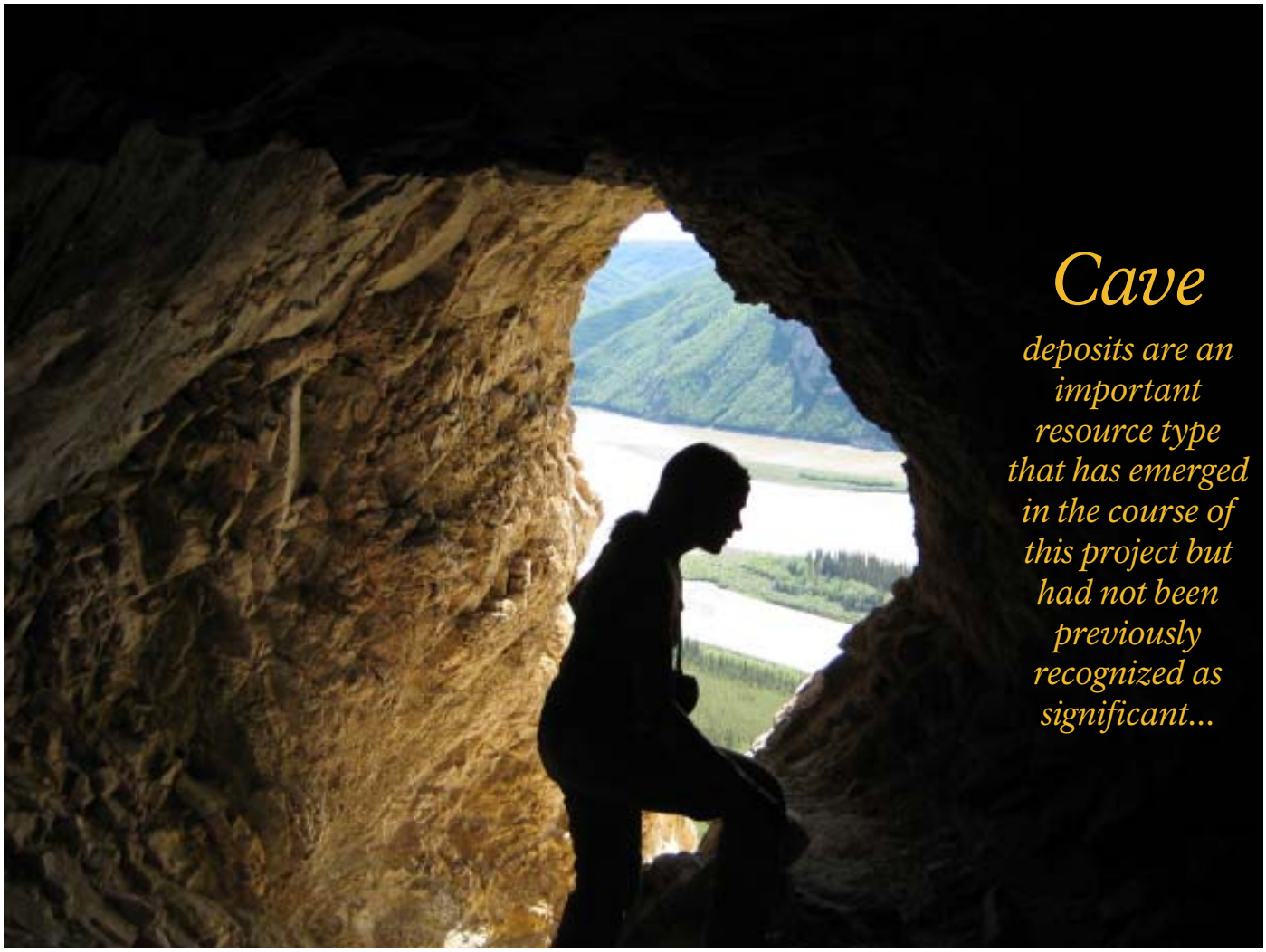
While there were many changes made in our organization last year, the overarching goal of the staff remained what it has been since the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act became law and established Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve in 1980: to preserve and protect these 2.5 million acres for the enjoyment and appreciation of this and future generations. We see our park neighbors and stakeholders--many of whom have cultural ties and family traditions with the land--as our partners in achieving this mission. By working together, we can ensure that, in spite of changes the future may hold, "Yukon-Charley" will remain one of the natural and cultural wonders of our nation.

Greg Dudgeon,
Superintendent

Preserve Resources

Natural and cultural resources and associated values at Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.

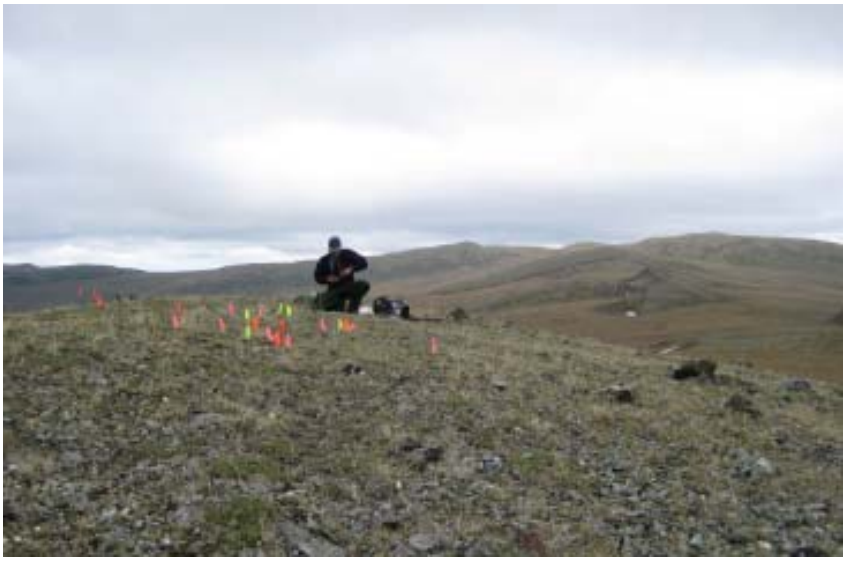
Annual Goal Ia8: By September 30, 2008, 205 (47% of 432) of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve's archaeological sites are in good condition.
GOAL EXCEEDED



Archaeological Inventory of Yukon-Charley Rivers

By Jeff Rasic

This was the third of a 4-year project that began in 2006 and is scheduled to continue through FY2009. In FY2008, we shifted our inventory surveys from the Yukon River corridor to upland areas of the Preserve that had previously received very little survey effort over the last three decades since the Preserve was created.



Newly identified archaeological sites in upland areas of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve consisted primarily of surface scatters of stone tools and flaking debris.

Archaeologists identified 47 new archaeological sites and conducted 71 site condition assessments. Newly identified archaeological sites consisted primarily of surface scatters of stone tools and flaking debris. Sites in general were found to be in stable condition, and only occasional, minor impacts from general weathering and natural processes were noted.

Cave deposits are an important resource type that has emerged in the course of this project but had not been previously recognized as significant. Archeologists located and documented about two dozen caves in the Preserve, and while none so far have revealed definitive cultural materials, a few show excellent contexts for the preservation of significant cultural deposits, with fantastic preservation of very old (>24,000 BP) faunal remains and undisturbed stratigraphic layers. The evaluation of cave deposits will continue in FY2009. One alarming fact that came to our attention in the course of our cave examination is that the oldest and best preserved cave deposit we have so far identified was damaged by unauthorized excavations. This is one of the rare cases in which we observed acute site impacts in the Preserve and adds a sense of urgency to our efforts at assessing this resource.

The prehistoric use of obsidian is another interesting thread that runs through the archeological story at Yukon-Charley. The Preserve is roughly equidistant from a number of obsidian sources in mainland Alaska and Yukon Territory, which makes it a great place for examining lithic raw material transport within Eastern Beringia. A concerted and systematic effort to collect and geochemically characterize all the obsidian we encounter has yielded interesting results. The data from our obsidian analyses contributes to an Alaska-wide data clearinghouse that we created in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Alaska Museum.

Recent reports, professional presentations and public presentations related to the project include seven national and regional professional meeting presentations, and one public presentation.

Annual Goal Ib0: By September 30, 2008, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve's ethnographic and historic programs will continue to be effective.
GOAL ACHIEVED

Ethnographic Overview

By David Krupa

In partnership with University of Alaska Fairbanks' Alaska Native Studies Program, we are embarking on a 3-year project to produce a cultural overview of peoples associated with Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. In 2008, a work plan was developed to collate and summarize relevant historical and contemporary information and source material into a publishable overview of the rich and diverse history and culture of the communities and people affiliated with the Preserve.

In July 2008, project staff from UAF and NPS visited the communities of Circle and Central to introduce the project and consult with potential project contributors and participants. The overview will interest the public and will help Preserve managers better understand the local history and culture of Preserve communities.

A cultural overview of peoples associated with Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve... will interest the public and will help Preserve managers better understand the local history and culture of Preserve communities.

Dennis Carroll of Circle, Alaska, puts the finishing touches on his fish wheel. Carroll is one of several subsistence users in and around Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve who rely on the Yukon's supply of salmon for a large portion of their living.

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 Ia2B: By September 30, 2008, 3 populations (30% of 10) of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve's species of management concern are managed to desired condition.
GOAL ACHIEVED

Wolf Population Monitoring

By John Burch

Wolf populations have been monitored in Yukon-Charley Rivers from 1993 to present. Beginning in October 2005, the project was incorporated into Central Alaska Network vital signs monitoring program.

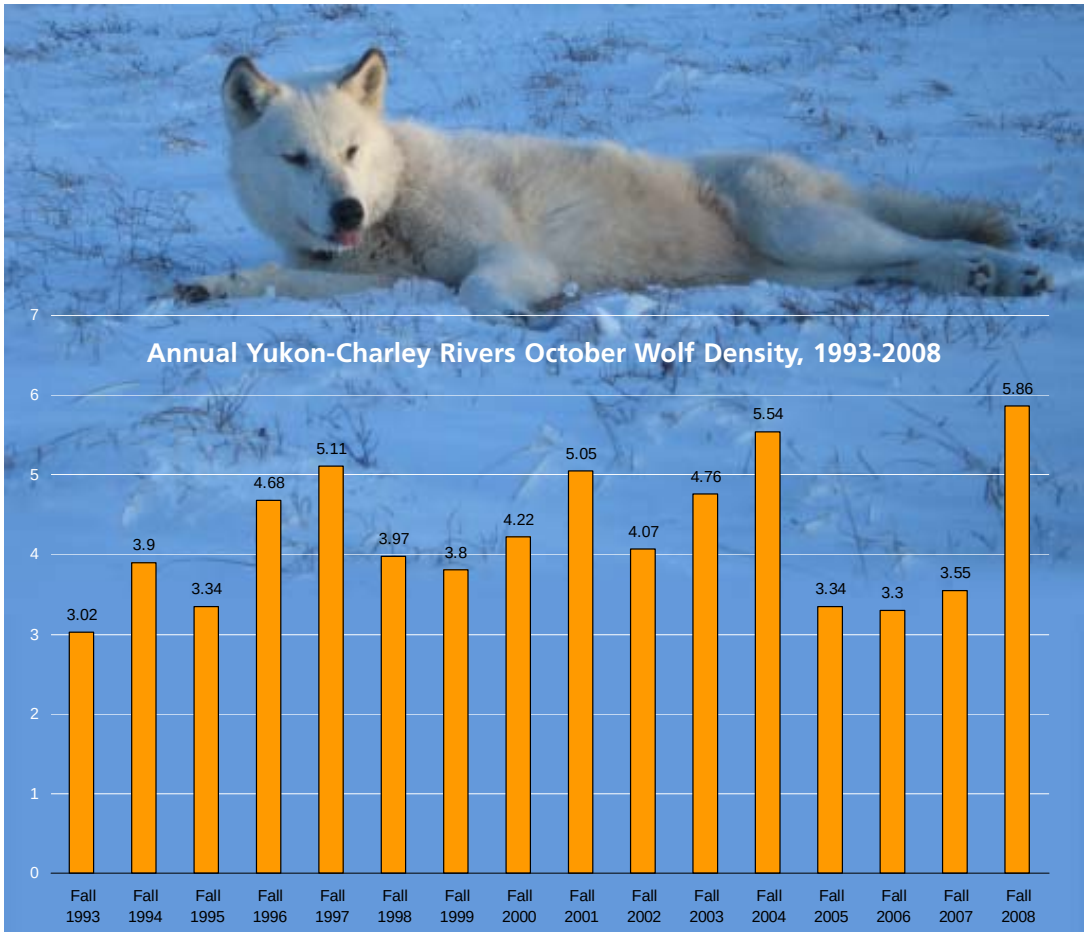
Wolves throughout the greater Yukon-Charley Rivers area are targeted for monitoring of abundance and distribution. During the winter of 2007-2008, 14 more wolves in 9 packs were captured and collared. We had fair to good snow conditions for searching for uncollared packs in 3 areas in February 2008, but no targeted uncollared packs were found. Furthermore, no old tracks were seen in these areas, indicating that wolf packs may not exist in areas where they once did (at least for winter 07-08). At least 3 areas where packs once lived remain without collared wolves and we hope to find and capture wolves from these packs next winter (2008-2009). Light snowfall and poor snow conditions throughout most of the previous winter (2006-2007) severely hampered finding any uncollared packs.

Fall 2006 wolf density was 3.5 wolves/1000km^2 (or about 33 wolves in the Preserve). In the spring of 2007, wolf density was down to 1.6 wolves/1000km^2 (or about 16 wolves in the Preserve). That was the lowest density ever measured since the project began in 1993. Over the past winter, however, density figures indicated a slight rebound in the Preserve's wolf population, with the fall 2007 estimate at 3.84 wolves/1000 km^2 and the spring 2008 estimate at 2.68 wolves/1000 km^2.

The mean pack size in fall 2007 was 5.8 wolves/pack. Average litter size was 3.9 pups/pack. At least 5 wolves were trapped within Yukon-Charley Rivers in winter 2006-2007. No harvest data is yet available for 2007-2008.

Accomplishments

- ✧ Measured population low in April 2008 of 2.68 wolves/1000km^2 (or 4.0 mean pack size, or about 25 wolves in the Preserve).
- ✧ Measured both Fall and Spring wolf density estimates for Biological Year 0708 (Fall 2007 = 3.84 wolves/1000 km^2, Spring 2008 = 2.68 wolves / 1000km^2)
- ✧ Calculated pup production and survival to Fall (Mean litter size Fall 2007 = 3.9).
- ✧ Captured and collared 9 wolves in 8 packs despite extremely poor snow and weather conditions.



The number of wolves per 1,000 square kilometers each fall since 1993 in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. In the photo, a recently captured wolf recovers from sedative drugs.

Aerial Hunting Threatens Yukon-Charley Wolves

By John Burch

Wolf management in the area of Yukon-Charley Rivers and the entire Fortymile region has been controversial and turbulent for many decades. Beginning September 1, 2006, the area subjected to aerial wolf control was greatly expanded to surround the entire Preserve south of the Yukon River. During the winter of 2007 – 2008, only 27 wolves were shot via the control program throughout the entire control area (none from Preserve packs) as aerial hunters were hampered by poor snow and flying conditions for most the winter. If this coming winter has better snow conditions, we can expect many more wolves to be shot from airplanes, including wolves from Preserve packs, as State aerial wolf control has the potential to reduce the Preserve's wolf population by 80% or more.

Due to our wolf monitoring program, we know all wolf packs living in the Preserve routinely travel out side Preserve boundaries into wolf control areas. Information gathered by this study and the Central Alaska Network will be instrumental in allowing NPS managers to make informed, science-based decisions regarding wolves and wolf management in the Preserve.

Wolf Genetics

By Melanie Flamme

NPS and U.S. Geological Survey are collaborating to assess baseline levels of genetic variation, including sequences and microsatellites, among wolf populations in Yukon-Charley Rivers and Denali National Park and Preserve. DNA was extracted from 140 individuals. Analyses of the sequences revealed that Yukon-Charley Rivers and Denali populations are more closely related to one another than to other populations in the state. Eleven distinct haplotypes were detected overall, 2 novel haplotypes were discovered in Yukon-Charley Rivers and 1 in Denali not yet found elsewhere in the state.

Hours of lab analyses have discovered that wolf populations in Yukon-Charley Rivers and Denali National Park are more closely related to one another than to other populations in Alaska.

Peregrines Soar Four-fold since 1975

By Melanie Flamme

The population within the Upper Yukon River corridor is considered to be one of the densest populations of American Peregrine Falcons in North America

2008 marked the 33rd consecutive year of American Peregrine Falcon monitoring within YUCH along 265 kilometers of the Upper Yukon River Corridor. The population within the Upper Yukon River corridor is considered to be one of the densest populations of American Peregrine Falcons in North America and also has the longest and most complete recorded dataset for this species.

This year (along with 2004) marks the highest number of observed occupied territories by peregrine falcons in the upper Yukon River corridor. Fifty-two nesting territories were occupied by American Peregrine Falcons (50 pairs and 2 single adults), which represents greater than a 4-fold increase since 1975. Seventy-nine nestlings were produced this year and one addled egg from the Takoma Creek eyrie was collected for contaminants analysis. Also, four new territories were established on cliffs not previously used by peregrines.

Observers search the cliffs above the Yukon River for American Peregrine Falcons in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. In 2008, 52 nesting territories were occupied, and 79 nestlings were produced.

Breeding Bird Survey Reports 35 Species

By Melanie Flamme

The Eagle Breeding Bird Survey along the Taylor Highway began at sunrise on June 12, or 2:25 a.m. local time. By 7:01 a.m., 622 individual birds had been detected, comprising a total of 35 bird species.

The most commonly detected species included Swainson's Thrushes (127), Dark-eyed Juncos (107), Yellow-rumped Warblers (68), White-crowned Sparrows (45), Varied Thrushes (36) and Orange-crowned Warblers (31). Species of note detected during the route included Chipping Sparrow (7), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (5), Townsend's Warbler (5), Townsend's Solitaire (1), Say's Phoebe (1), and Western Wood-PeWee (1). One new species, the Tennessee Warbler (1), was detected on the route this year.

One hundred seven Dark-eyed Juncos were detected during the 2008 Breeding Bird Survey along the Taylor Highway near Eagle, Alaska. In this photo, newborn Juncos hungrily await their mother's return to their cryptic nest.

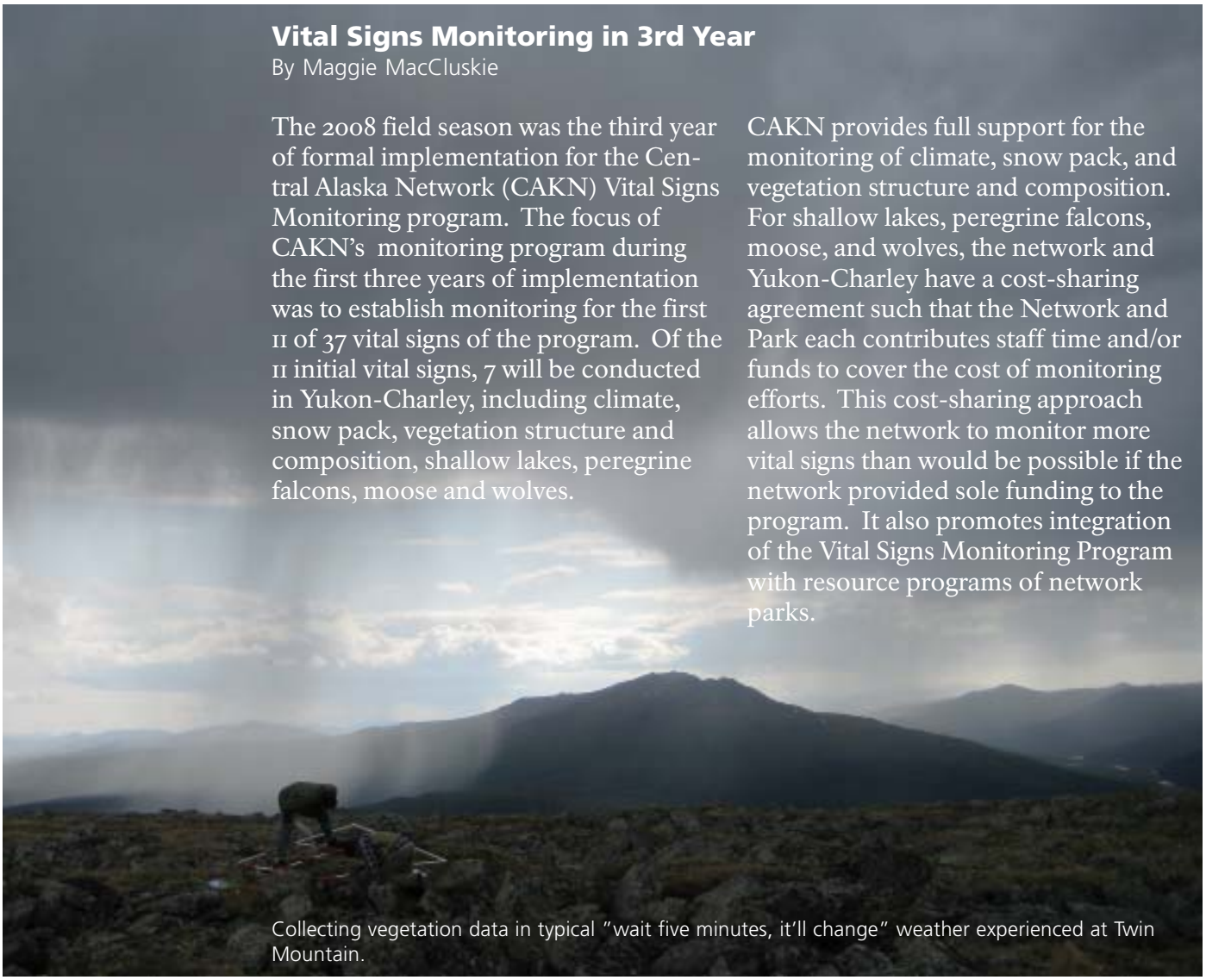
Thirty-five bird species were detected during the 2008 breeding bird survey on the Taylor Highway near Eagle, Alaska, field headquarters for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Some of the more common species in the area include the American Robin (far left), White-crowned Sparrow (center) and Violet-green Swallow.

Vital Signs Monitoring in 3rd Year

By Maggie MacCluskie

The 2008 field season was the third year of formal implementation for the Central Alaska Network (CAKN) Vital Signs Monitoring program. The focus of CAKN's monitoring program during the first three years of implementation was to establish monitoring for the first 11 of 37 vital signs of the program. Of the 11 initial vital signs, 7 will be conducted in Yukon-Charley, including climate, snow pack, vegetation structure and composition, shallow lakes, peregrine falcons, moose and wolves.

CAKN provides full support for the monitoring of climate, snow pack, and vegetation structure and composition. For shallow lakes, peregrine falcons, moose, and wolves, the network and Yukon-Charley have a cost-sharing agreement such that the Network and Park each contributes staff time and/or funds to cover the cost of monitoring efforts. This cost-sharing approach allows the network to monitor more vital signs than would be possible if the network provided sole funding to the program. It also promotes integration of the Vital Signs Monitoring Program with resource programs of network parks.



Collecting vegetation data in typical "wait five minutes, it'll change" weather experienced at Twin Mountain.

Vegetation Monitoring

By Maggie MacCluskie

The third year of vegetation monitoring was conducted in Yukon-Charley during which sampling grids at Ben Creek, Twin Mountain, and Upper Crescent were completed. The grids are 2.5 km^2 and contain 25 points spaced 500m apart. Data collected includes absolute and relative abundance of growth-form classes (e.g. trees, shrubs, herbs, lichens) abundance and composition of dominant species, distribution and abundance of discrete vegetation types, species richness, species composition, basal area of tree species, and depth of active layer.

Recording vegetation data in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

Woodchopper Fire Monitoring Plots at Coal Creek

By Jennifer Allen

In 2008, we re-measured fire effects plots from the 2004 Woodchopper fire. During a record fire year in Alaska, the 2004 Woodchopper fire burned 14,901 acres, coming within a stone's throw of NPS's summer operations base camp at Coal Creek.

We established 7 fire monitoring plots nearby. Pre-fire vegetation at 4 of the 7 plots was Black Spruce Woodland (conifer plots). The pre-fire vegetation at the remaining 3 plots was Closed Paper Birch Forest (deciduous plots). Two of the conifer plots were established ahead of the fire event. An unburned control plot was established for comparison to burned deciduous sites. Data on fire severity, as well as changes in vegetation community structure, physical site characteristics, fuel loading and herbivory are collected.

Tree seedlings are indicators what stand type may develop in the future. In deciduous stands, paper birch seedling density was 23 times greater in 4-year-old post-fire stands (47 seedlings per m^2) than in a comparable unburned stand (2 seedlings per m^2). In black spruce plots, spruce seedling density was low (< 2 seedlings per m^2) in both pre- and post-burn communities and did not significantly change from pre-fire conditions to 4 years post fire. Deciduous seedling density (paper birch and aspen) in 4-year-old conifer stands was low compared to 4-year old deciduous stands (< 2 seedling per m^2). However, even this low density represents a significant increase in deciduous seedling density since deciduous seedlings were absent in these stands prior to the 2004 fire event.

Increased deciduous seedling density in both plot types following fire is consistent with the current successional paradigm associated with boreal forests in interior Alaska. Continued monitoring of these plots will allow detection of biological and physical changes associated with post fire succession as well as provide insight into shifts in habitat use.

In deciduous stands, paper birch seedling density was 23 times greater in 4-year-old post-fire stands (47 seedlings/m^2) than in a comparable unburned stand.

The Woodchopper fire of 2004 burned within a stone's throw of the NPS field camp at Coal Creek in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Plots set up in the burned area monitor changes in vegetation community structure, among other things, following the burn.

Provide for the 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 IIb1: By September 30, 2008, 95% of visitors to Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve understand the significance of the preserve.

Yukon-Charley Featured in *The Spell of the Yukon*

By Carl Stapler

Anchorage television KTUU news photographer Scott Jensen, Anchorage Daily News Outdoors reporter Craig Medred, and KTUU news anchor Megan Baldino are accompanied by Lead Interpretive Ranger Pat Sanders, Superintendent Greg Dudgeon and Assistant Regional Director John Quinley at Slaven's Cabin on the banks of the Yukon River.

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve captured the spotlight this summer in *The Spell of the Yukon*, a 3-part series produced by an Anchorage TV news team. KTUU news featured the City of Eagle in the first segment. The crew then paddled canoes down the Yukon River to Coal Creek for Part 2 of the series. Part 3 included a visit to Slaven's Roadhouse and the Coal Creek dredge. *The Spell of the Yukon* aired on Channel 2 News June 18- 20, 2008.

Visitors Witness Yukon River Archaeology at Slaven's

By Jeff Rasic and Carl Stapler

Slaven's Roadhouse, built on the bank of the Yukon River, is located at a spot with good potential for very old archaeology, containing stratigraphic layers more than 12,000 years old. In August, a group of archeologists conducted test excavations at Slaven's Roadhouse to look for evidence of early prehistoric archaeological deposits. During the course of the project, they shared information about Yukon River archaeology with a number of visitors. Although they dug through only about 2 m of the 10-12 m thick deposit, they found evidence of a 4,000-year-old occupation.

An archaeologist sifts through excavated material at Slaven's Roadhouse on the Yukon River in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Visitors, usually boaters floating the Yukon, were able to witness and learn about archaeology in the Preserve. Evidence of a 4,000-year-old occupation was found.

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

Annual Goal IIa1A: By September 30, 2008, 92% of visitors to Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities. *GOAL EXCEEDED*

Participants in an adventure race from Chicken to Central passed through the Preserve in June. Many racers spent the night or rested at Slaven's Roadhouse along the Yukon River.

Students from Eagle Village participated in the Environmental Camp Ranger Day activities, including a visit to the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve field office headquarters in Eagle.

Boy Scout Troop 228 from South Lyon, Michigan, with guides from the North Star Council in Fairbanks, stayed here at Slaven's Roadhouse on their canoe trip from Eagle to Circle.

Annual Goals IIa2A and IIa2B: ...the number of visitor accidents/incidents... remains at 2 or fewer *(GOAL EXCEEDED)* and the number of visitor fatalities is zero *(GOAL ACHIEVED)*.

We are proud of our record of safety among, not only our visitors, but our staff as well. This year, we are grateful to report that there were no visitor accidents/incidents, nor any fatalities.

Ensure Organizational Effectiveness

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

Restructuring Park Management: A Letter From the Superintendent

By Greg Dudgeon

2008 was a year of significant change for management of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. We began by implementing many of the recommendations resulting from a comprehensive management review of park operations completed in fall 2007. Most notable was evolving the approach of directing two national park units (Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve) and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center (FAPLIC) as three distinct units with separate staffs to a single organization ("YUGA") led by one Leadership Team stationed in Fairbanks.

To accomplish this, the vacant Chief of Operations position, which had been responsible for day-to-day supervision of the Administration, Aviation, Interpretation, Maintenance, and Law Enforcement programs in Eagle, was not filled. Instead, the Chief of Operations for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Gary Youngblood, was namedChief Ranger for YUGA. Mr. Youngblood's responsibilities were realigned to that of directing the Aviation and Protection programs for both parks and efforts to relocate Gary and his wife Julia to Fairbanks to join YUGA's other program managers were initiated.

Along with naming the parks' new Chief Ranger, recruitment, selection, and placement of a Chief of Interpretation (Don Pendergrast), Subsistence Coordinator (David Krupa), Facility Manager (Arch Thompson), Park Planner and NEPA Coordinator (Jobe Chakuchin), and two Pilot-Rangers (Peter Christian and Seth McMillan) for YUGA consumed much of 2008. In the meantime, the roles and responsibilities of the parks' frontline staff in Anaktuvuk Pass, Bettles, Coldfoot, Eagle, and Fairbanks were reviewed and, where necessary, revamped to assure that visitor services and resource protection and monitoring remained effective and efficient given the new management structure.

YUGA's Mission, Vision, and Values

Given the changes and new approach to managing the park units, YUGA staff recognized the need for clear and defining language describing who we were as an organization, why we existed, and our purposes. Over time, together we developed the following Mission, Vision, and Values statements. The Leadership Team also determined what YUGA's focus areas should be for the next three-to-five years to optimize the staff's capabilities and accomplishments. To help you understand us, and as a commitment to the parks' stakeholders, I share these with you here:

Mission

Everything we do at Gates of the Arctic , Yukon-Charley Rivers, and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center is inspired by one paramount Mission:

To preserve unimpaired the Parks' natural, cultural, and historical resources; to protect their environmental integrity and processes; to uphold opportunities for traditional subsistence activities and outdoor recreation; and to provide this and future generations with a legacy of wilderness and wildlands for solitude, enjoyment, education, and inspiration.

Vision

To achieve this Mission, we have a Vision with ambitious aims:

- Parks – Safeguarding and sharing these special places in perpetuity, while learning to understand their complex ecosystems and features for the benefit of all Americans
- People – Being a place to work where people are empowered to achieve their best
- Partners – Nurturing mutually beneficial partnerships that optimize our capabilities and accomplishments
- Planet – Being responsible citizens who make a positive difference in our personal and professional lives

Values

We are guided by shared Values that we live by as an organization and as individuals:

- Leadership - "The courage to shape a better future"
- Service - "Consistently meeting peoples' needs and exceeding their expectations"
- Integrity - "Doing what is right whether anyone knows it or not"
- Accountability - "Taking responsibility for our choices and the results"
- Collaboration - "Leveraging our collective abilities and talents"
- Innovation - "To seek, imagine, create, inspire"
- Passion - "Committed in heart and mind to what we do"

YUGA's Focus Areas for Next 3 – 5 Yrs

- Improve and evolve our internal and external **communications**
- Develop mutually beneficial **partnerships** to include a **foundation**
- Implement **work force strategies** that attract, develop, empower, and reward staff
- Position YUGA's **infrastructure** for optimal effectiveness and efficiency

As before, our most important challenges and opportunities remain understanding the natural and cultural wonders found within these parks so that they will continue to be preserved and protected for the enjoyment and appreciation of future generations. In this report, you have learned about some of the notable achievements that park staff accomplished in 2008 to further our understanding of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. I thank all those who contributed to this report; I hope that what you read here will help you to have a better personal understanding and appreciation for your parklands.

Mahsi'. Thank you.

Greg Dudgeon,
Superintendent

Financial Summary

Operating Budget Base Allocation (ONPS) Expenditure Highlights

Research & Studies: $1,308,100
Cooperation and sharing expertise provide the synergy Resource Division and I&M Networks use in accomplishing resource work in the parks. Examples: Smith's Longspur project, caribou study, sheep survey, wolf study. Research and inventories of historic and prehistoric sites, such as the Matcharack Lake archaeological site, provide a wealth of information.

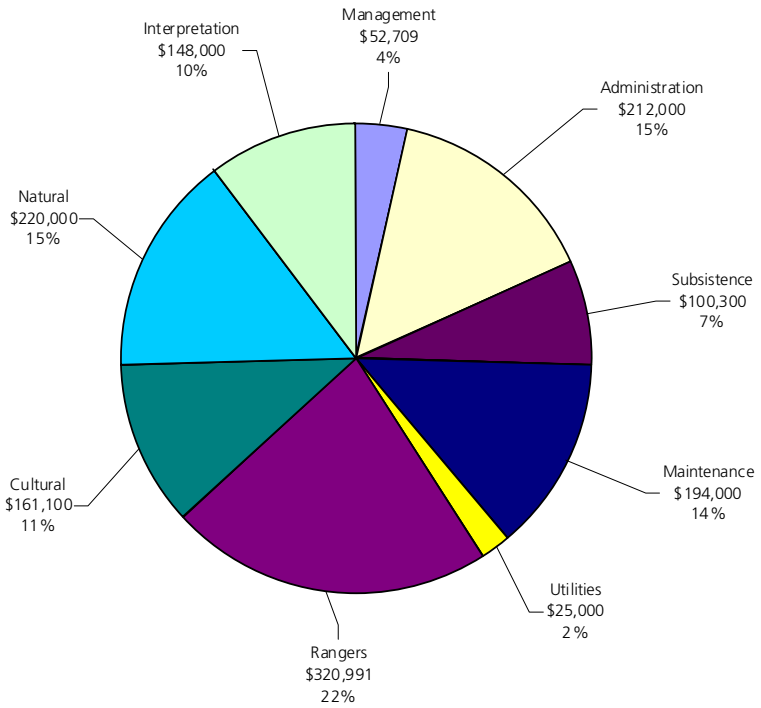
Facilities Operations & Maintenance: $567,000
We remodeled and upgraded houses, VIP cabins and outbuildings to improve energy conservation. Partnerships used limited resources for projects big and small, from septic pumping to relocating a building for a new, energy efficient generator. Also: a lube cube at Anaktuvuk Pass replaced two 55-gallon barrels for heating fuel; Maintenance and ARCN installed an air quality monitoring station in Bettles.

Resource Protection & Visitor Services: $1,656,661
Backcountry and hunting patrols assured visitor safety and resource protection. Educational outreach continues to reach local as well as students in the lower 48. NPS again provided mushers and dogs a rest at historic Slaven's cabin during the Yukon Quest as an official dog drop. Work continues on the planning and design of the 9000 ft^2 exhibit space in MTVC.

Management & Administration: $848,039
Our new workforce configuration is fostering new relationships and improved organizational effectiveness through audio visual equipment with bridge system capabilities, allowing us to connect to locations near and far. An upgraded IT system delivers improved reliability, better backups, and quicker access to data. New fencing and cage material at FAC secures equipment and supplies.

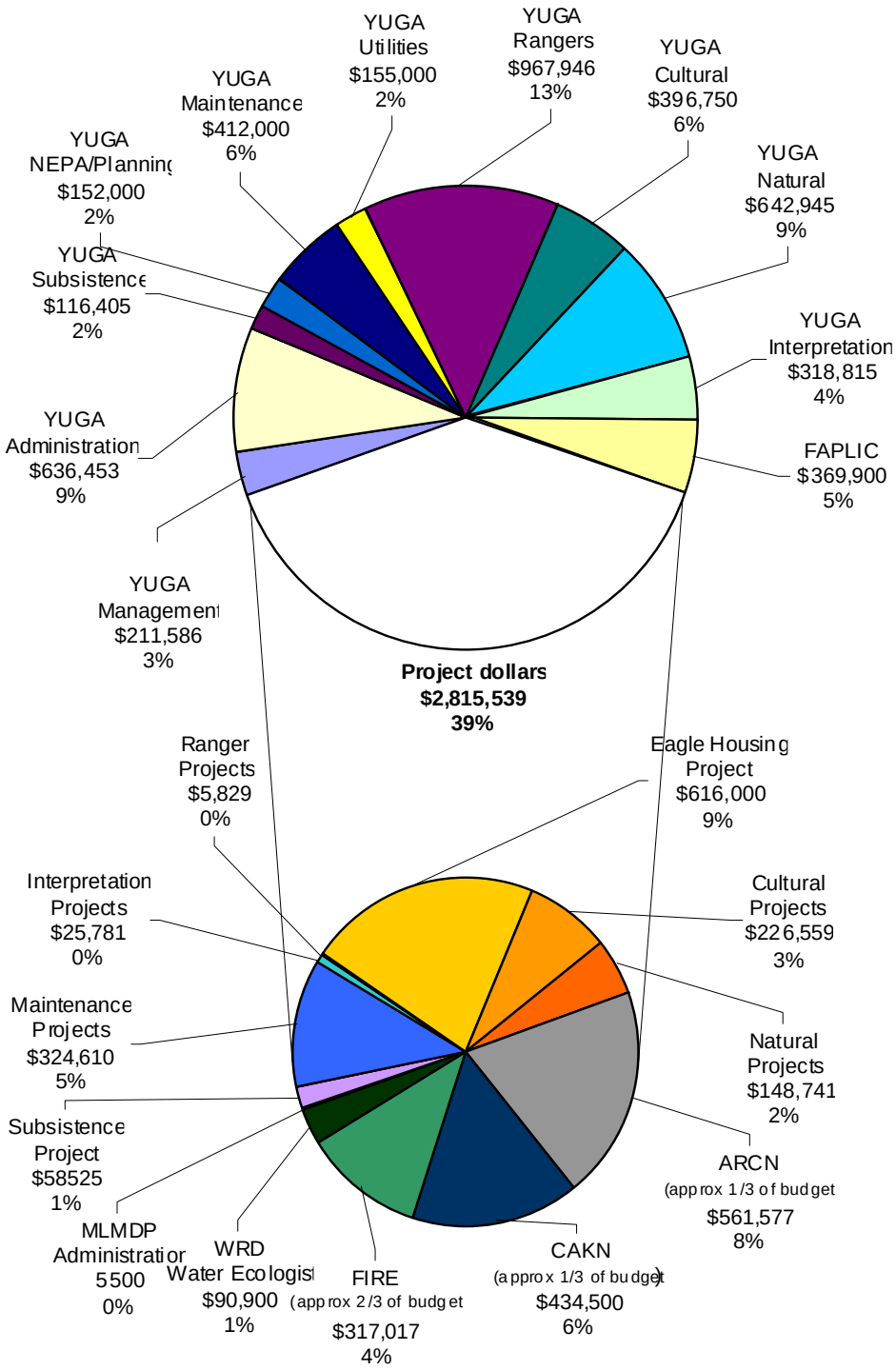
Yukon-Charley Operating Budget Base Allocations (ONPS) Expenditures

Total = $1,434,100

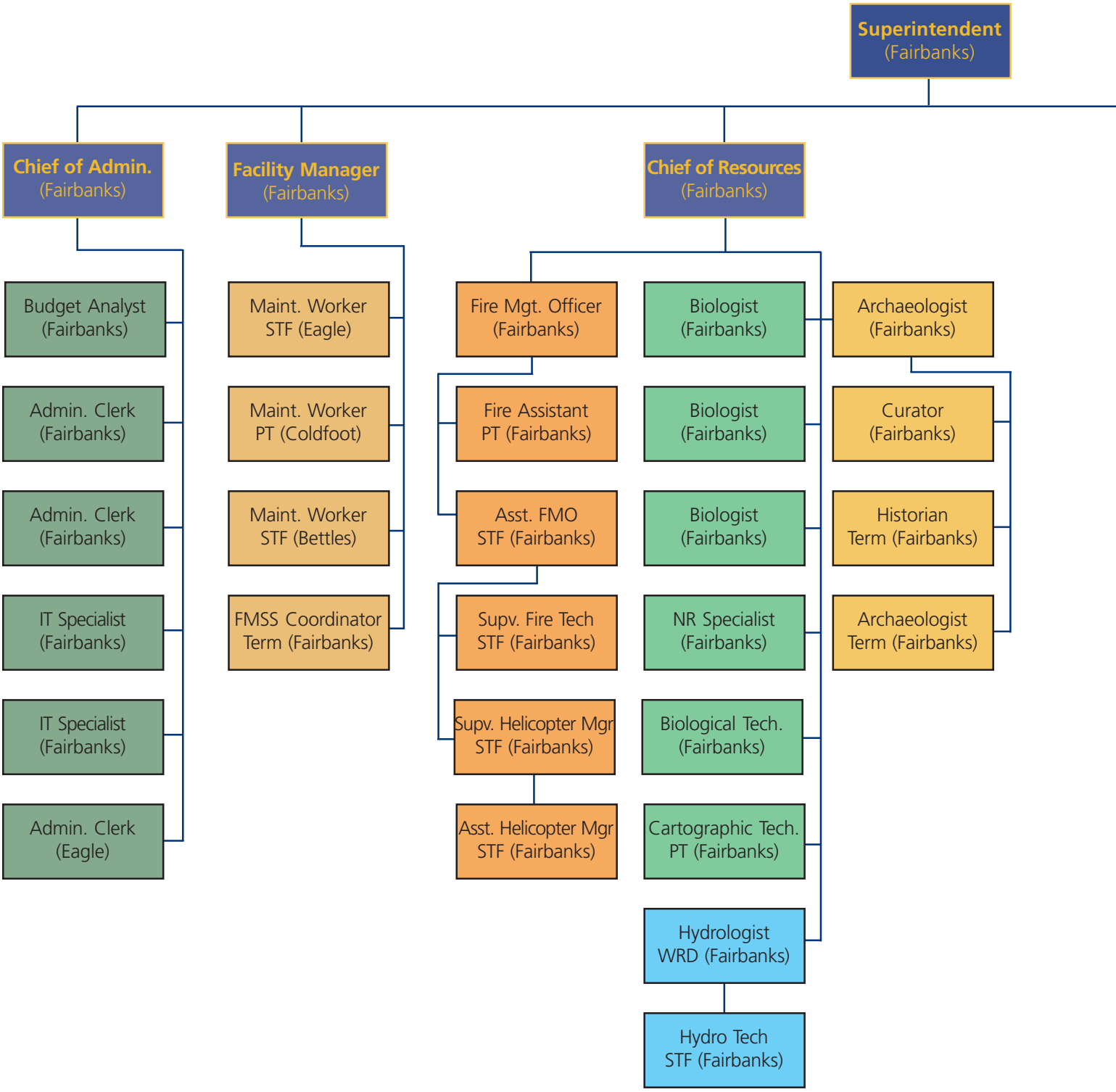


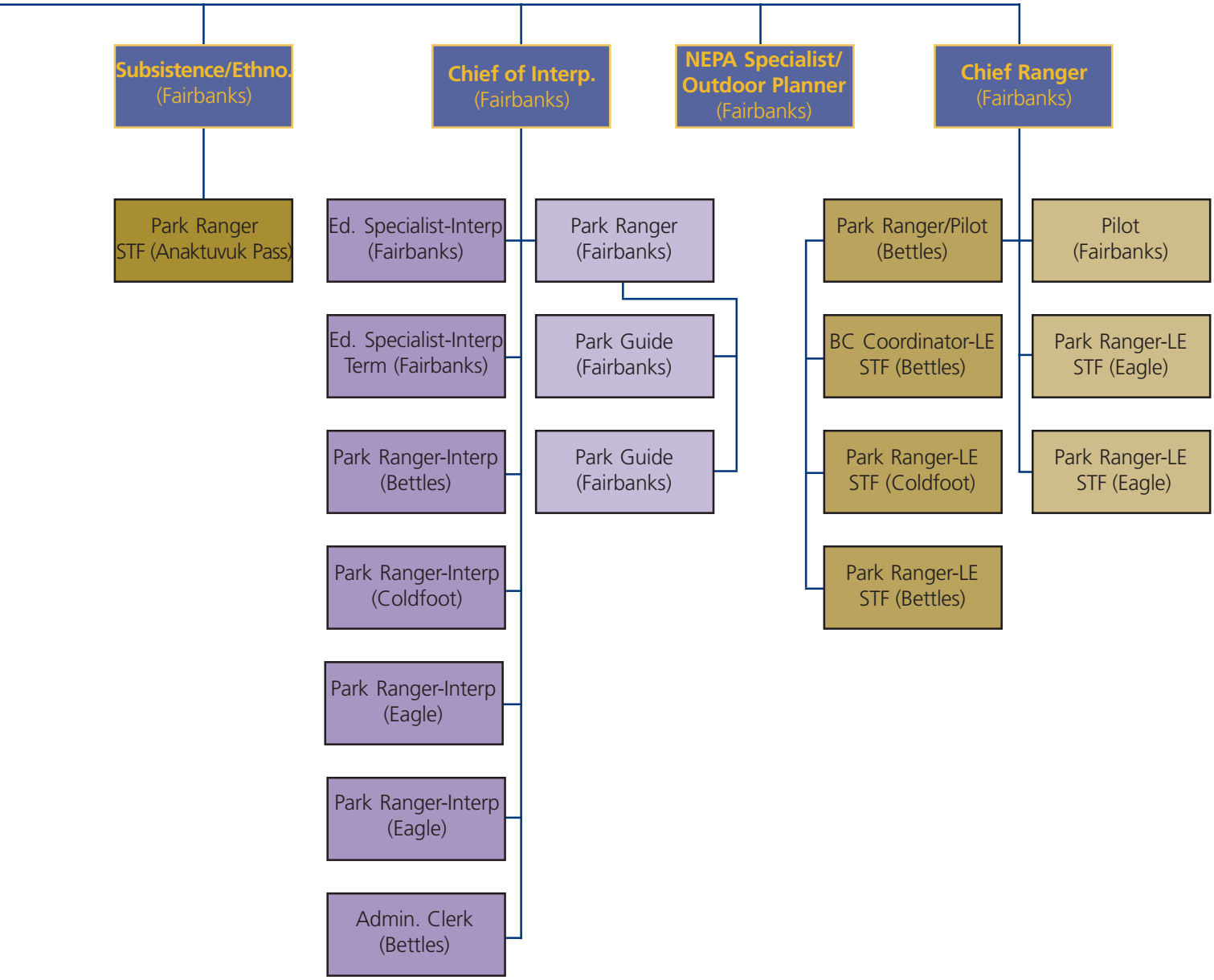
YUGA All Funding Source Budget Allocations

Total = $7,195,339



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




Subsistence/Ethno.
(Fairbanks)
Chief of Interp.
(Fairbanks)
NEPA Specialist/
Outdoor Planner
(Fairbanks)
Chief Ranger
(Fairbanks)
Park Ranger
STF (Anaktuvuk Pass)
Ed. Specialist-Interp
(Fairbanks)
Park Ranger
(Fairbanks)
Ed. Specialist-Interp
Term (Fairbanks)
Park Guide
(Fairbanks)
Park Ranger-Interp
(Bettles)
Park Guide
(Fairbanks)
Park Ranger-Interp
(Coldfoot)
Park Ranger-Interp
(Eagle)
Park Ranger-Interp
(Eagle)
Admin. Clerk
(Bettles)
Park Ranger/Pilot
(Bettles)
Pilot
(Fairbanks)
BC Coordinator-LE
STF (Bettles)
Park Ranger-LE
STF (Eagle)
Park Ranger-LE
STF (Coldfoot)
Park Ranger-LE
STF (Eagle)
Park Ranger-LE
STF (Bettles)

NPS Archaeologist Andy Tremayne holds up a broken chert projectile point he found in a caribou trail along a tributary of Copper Creek in Yukon-Charley National Preserve. The discovery took place during an ongoing archaeological inventory in the Preserve.

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

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

U.S. Department of the Interior ∗ National Park Service