



Winter Patrols in Yukon-Charley Rivers



Photo by Gary Youngblood

Ranger Thompson checks a trapper cabin used by a subsistence user.

Monitoring Winter use in the Preserve

Winter patrols in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve in 2013 monitored trapping and subsistence activities. Rangers cut firewood, made minor repairs to cabins, stocked cabins with basic supplies, checked trap lines, and contacted visitors. Most patrols last 10 days and rangers are in the field from late January through the end of March. Conditions range from temperatures as low as -50°F up to the high 30s. Length of day during the patrol period ranges from $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours in January to over 12 hours in March.



All in a Day's (or Several Days) Work



Photo by Gary Youngblood

Subsistence harvest in the fall is stored deep into winter to provide a source of food for dog teams used in trapping and travel along the Yukon River. Here a drying rack is checked as a Ranger patrol travels along the Yukon.



Photo by Gary Youngblood

Martin set checked along a trap line on the Nation River. In this area Martin traps must be sprung by the last day of February.



Photo by Gary Youngblood

Stocking Public Use Cabins and making repairs is an ongoing patrol function. In low or flat light conditions night travel is safer as it is easier to see the jumble ice on the river.



Photo by Gary Youngblood

Jumble ice is a major hazard to travel on the Yukon River. In flat light conditions it is difficult to see and presents a hazard to travel. Rangers pass on information about conditions to visitors to aid in their decisions regarding travel routes.

For more information on Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve's backcountry patrols, contact Chief Ranger Gary Youngblood at (907) 455-0616, or email him at Gary_Youngblood@nps.gov.

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

