

**National Park Service****Revised Draft Development Concept Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the South Side, Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska**

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service is preparing a revised draft development concept plan (DCP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the south side of Denali National Park and Preserve. Major issues for the south side include the scale and locations of visitor centers, trails, and other visitor support facilities. The State of Alaska, the Denali Borough and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough will be cooperating agencies on this DCP/EIS.

This cooperative planning effort will build on earlier planning for the region, including a draft DCP/EIS issued in 1993. All comments received on the 1993 draft will be considered in developing the revised DCP/EIS.

The Denali task force formed in 1994, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, provided recommendations through the National Park System Advisory Board, regarding visitor facilities and services in and near Denali National Park and Preserve, including the south side. Two of its fundamental conclusions are that an array of visitor facilities and services is needed to serve different users and that no single facility site can meet all objectives or serve all users. The task force's recommendations were accepted by the National Park System Advisory Board in December 1994, and its recommendations for south Denali form the basis of a new proposed action in the revised draft DCP/EIS. The new proposed action includes interpretive pullouts along the George Parks Highway, trail and campground improvements in Denali State Park, visitor facilities in the Talkeetna and Byers Lake areas, an upgrade and extension of the Petersville Road, and a new visitor center at the end of the Petersville Road upgrade in the western end of Denali State Park overlooking the Tokositna Glacier. Up to five campsites would be established at Chelatna Lake, along with up to two public use cabins and a hiking trail. Up to four public use cabins would be constructed on state park land in the Tokositna area.

In addition to the proposed action, two other action alternatives and a non-action alternative will be evaluated. The focus of both of the action alternatives is to provide visitor facilities and services within easy access from the George Parks Highway. In one

alternative a visitor center would be located at either the central or southern development nodes of Denali State Park, with short hiking/interpretive trails established near the visitor center and at some wayside exhibits along the George Parks Highway. An expansion of the campground at Byers Lake State Park is also included in this alternative. No public use cabins are included in this alternative. In the other action alternative a visitor center would be located at the northern node of the state park, with short hiking/interpretive trails established near the visitor center only. No campgrounds would be constructed under this alternative; however, as for all of the action alternatives, construction of full-service campgrounds on private lands would be encouraged. No public use cabins are included in this alternative.

Development nodes are defined in the 1989 Alaska State Parks Master Plan.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.), and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR Part 1500.

Interested groups, organizations, individuals, and government agencies are invited to comment on the plan at any time. The draft DCP/EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in February 1996. Public meetings likely will be scheduled in March 1996 after release of the draft DCP/EIS. The final EIS is expected to be released in July 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Steven P. Martin, Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 9, Denali, Alaska 99755. Telephone: (907) 683-2294. FAX: (907) 683-9612.

Dated: October 11, 1995.

Robert D. Barbee,

*Field Director, Alaska Field Office.*

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**Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission; Meetings**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Subsistence Resource Commission meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Superintendent of Gates of the Arctic National Park and the Chairperson of the Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic National Park announce a forthcoming meeting of the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission.

The following agenda items will be discussed:

- (1) Call to order.
- (2) Roll call.
- (3) Approval of summary of minutes.
- (4) Review agenda.
- (5) Superintendent's introductions and review of the SRC's function and purpose.
- (6) Superintendent's management/research reports.
- (7) Public and agency comments.
- (8) Old business:
  - a. Correspondence.
  - b. Federal Subsistence Program update.
  - c. Regions 6 and 10 boundary adjustments.
  - d. NPS firearms/trapping regulation clarification.
  - e. Review of Hunting Plan Recommendation #11.
- (9) New business:
  - a. Combining of the Administration Offices for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.
  - b. Federal assumption of fisheries management.
  - c. Proposed 1996-97 subsistence hunting regulations.
  - d. Hunting plan work session.
- (10) Set time and place of next SRC meeting.
- (11) Adjournment.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Tuesday through Thursday, November 7-9, 1995. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday and begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12 noon on Thursday.

**LOCATION:** The meeting will be held at Sophie's Station in Fairbanks, Alaska.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Dave Mills, Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park, P.O. Box 74680, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707. Phone (907) 456-0281.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Subsistence Resource Commissions are authorized under Title VIII, Section 808, of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Pub. L. 96-487, and operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committees Act.

Paul R. Anderson,

*Acting Field Director.*

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**Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement****Public Meeting and Request for Public Comments; Correction**

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Interior.