

## 5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

To initiate this EA process, notice of the project was published on the Denali National Park and Preserve webpage and on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. Scoping letters were distributed to about 60 agencies, organizations, and individuals. Three public scoping meetings also were held:

|                   |                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| November 28, 2005 | Cantwell, Alaska  | 5 members of the public attending |
| December 15, 2005 | Cantwell, Alaska  | 8 members of the public attending |
| January 17, 2006  | Anchorage, Alaska | 2 members of the public attending |

In addition to these public scoping meetings, a scoping meeting was held in Anchorage, Alaska, with members of three environmental organizations at their request. In the scoping letters and at the meetings, the NPS discussed the project purpose and need, presented an initial list of management options for comment, solicited the ideas and opinions of the public, and discussed the project EA schedule.

Subsequent to public scoping, the NPS developed a range of preliminary management alternatives. These alternatives were presented to the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission for discussion during their bi-annual meeting on February 10, 2006. The SRC approved Alternative 2 in concept and with modifications. The Alternative 2 that is analyzed in this EA reflects the SRC's modifications.

The preliminary alternatives were presented to the public in a newsletter that was distributed to about 75 agencies, organizations, and individuals for a 30-day public comment period. The newsletter also was posted on the Denali National Park and Preserve webpage and on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. Two public meetings were held to discuss the newsletter and solicit public comment:

|               |                   |                                   |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| April 4, 2006 | Cantwell, Alaska  | 6 members of the public attending |
| April 5, 2006 | Anchorage, Alaska | 2 members of the public attending |

In addition, the NPS met with three representatives of the State of Alaska on April 13, 2006. Discussion during this meeting revolved around specifics of the alternatives and suggestions for modifications.

During the scoping process and in response to the preliminary alternatives newsletter, multiple issues and ideas were brought up by the public. Comments on possible management strategies ranged from suggestions that subsistence ORV use be unlimited to recommendations that various restrictions be imposed to better protect sensitive resources. Several issues were highlighted as needing attention in the EA, including comprehensive descriptions of the existing conditions along the proposed routes and trails; what kind of monitoring strategies would be implemented to track potential resource impacts; how the plan would coordinate with the Backcountry Management Plan standards established for the area; enforcement provisions needed to implement the plan; and the need for the NPS to stipulate how it would deal with funding shortfalls when monitoring and implementing this plan.

An internal draft of the EA was distributed for review to the NPS Alaska Leadership Council, as well as to the State of Alaska. Review comments were collected and the EA was revised for public review.

### **5.1 LIST OF EA PREPARERS**

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