EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CHANGES
SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED COMPENDIUM
2015
WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is seeking public comment on the park's proposed 2015 Superintendent's Compendium. The attached proposed compendium is a written compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions adopted under the Superintendent's discretionary authority. Comments will be accepted by mail or e-mail between January 15 and February 15. Comments are welcome at any time in addition to this timeframe, but comments received after February 15 will be considered in future compendium revisions. All comments received are subject to public release without modification, including any personal information provided. After review and consideration of the need for annual updates, the following changes are proposed.

Free Ranging or Use of Domestic Goats, Sheep, Llamas, and Alpacas
This change would prohibit use, possession, or free ranging of domestic goats, sheep, llamas, alpacas, or any other domestic animal of the Bovidae or Camelidae Family within NPS administered areas.

The reasons for this restriction are as follows:

- Wildlife biologists have determined that there is a significant risk of disease transmission from domestic livestock other than from the Family Equidae (horses, mules, donkeys) to Alaska's Dall's sheep, mountain goat, and other ungulate populations.
- Elsewhere in North America, wild sheep populations have been severely reduced after coming in contact with domestic livestock carrying a variety of pathogens. Other wild ungulates such as mountain goats are susceptible to many of the same pathogens as wild sheep.
- Introduced pathogens, such as *Pasturella* bacteria that causes pneumonia, could spread rapidly among Dall's sheep and mountain goats because these animals are immunologically native to domestic livestock diseases.
- According to The Wildlife Society and based on recommendations by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and others; potential threats include Johne's disease (paratuberculosis), infectious keratoconjuctivitis, contagious ecthyma, parainfluenza-3, lungworms and nasal bot flies.
- Direct contact between animals is not necessary for the spread of some diseases. For example, Johne's disease bacteria shed in the feces of livestock can remain viable and infective in the soil for a year, according to research summarized by The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- Potential consequences of a single disease transmission event are uniquely high for Dall's sheep and mountain goats in Alaska; both because they have not been exposed and habitat connectivity exists throughout the State; also according to research summarized by The Wildlife Society.
- In the last few years, Dall's Sheep have experienced low productivity in several parts of the state. Alaskan wild sheep abundance is generally low.

- The State of Alaska, Board of Game, recently prohibited use of goats and sheep for hunting wild sheep and mountain goats, due concern over disease transmission.

The reasons less restrictive methods will not be effective are as follows:

- Domestic livestock are prone to free ranging when not physically restricted.
- In other Alaska NPS areas, visitors have been observed in possession of domestic goats in the vicinity of Dall's sheep habitat.
- The NPS does not have information that local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses have traditionally employed domestic livestock for transportation purposes other than horses, mules or donkeys.
- In order to protect native wildlife populations from disease transmission, a total restriction on use of domestic livestock (excluding horses, mules and donkeys) within park areas is necessary.

Local Fire Bans

The NPS proposes a change to automatically adopt state and local burn/fire bans within NPS areas unless the superintendent determines the restriction is unnecessary.

Temporary Restriction on Taking Brown Bears at Bait Stations

The NPS proposes to re-adopt temporary restrictions on the take of brown bears at bait stations in Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserves. These changes are in response to recent changes in state law. This proposal would not affect harvest under Federal Subsistence Regulations.

> A person may not take a brown bear at a bait station from April 15 through June 30 in Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserves.

<u>The reasons for this restriction are:</u>

During the 2012 Spring Board of Game (BOG) meeting, the BOG made an exception to a long standing general prohibition regarding the take of brown bears at bait stations. The BOG authorized the taking of brown bears at bait stations in Unit 12, Units 20C and 20E, and Unit 21D. When the regulation was proposed and then promulgated, the NPS identified that portions of three National Preserves were affected by these authorizations.

The public safety concerns posed by food conditioned bears are universally recognized by natural resource agencies throughout the range of the species. Food conditioned bears are more likely to be a danger to humans then those that are not food conditioned. Further, food conditioning of bears tends to increase the likelihood of a bear being killed in defense of life or property. Baiting is incongruent with best management practices and standard public educational messaging on the issue of food and bears.

The State of Alaska is the primary entity responsible for managing wildlife in accordance with State mandates. At the same time, the NPS is charged with the responsibility for assuring that the take of fish and wildlife is consistent with the fundamental purposes of the park system and those of individual park units. Federal law provides that the fundamental purpose of national park areas is

conservation of park resources and values, including the scenery, the natural and historic objects, and wild life therein, and prohibits impairment of park resources or values. Under NPS Management Policies, activities that may result in impairment include those that impact a "resource or value whose conservation is . . . key to the natural . . . integrity of the park or to provide opportunities for enjoyment of the park." (NPS Management Policies, 1.4.5) Because the impact threshold at which impairment occurs is not always readily apparent, the NPS policies require managers avoid impacts that are inconsistent with park purposes and values; diminish opportunities for current or future generations to enjoy, learn about, or be inspired by park resources or values; or unreasonably interfere with other appropriate uses.

In addition to the above, the legislated purposes of Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers include the protection of habitat for and populations of fish and wildlife. Congress directed the NPS to manage National Preserves in the same manner as National Parks with the exception that sport hunting and trapping are authorized. (ANILCA, Public Law 96-487, section 1313). In considering the management of national park areas, the National Park Service must consider the expectations laid out in the 1916 Organic Act, the 1970 General Authorities Act, and the 1978 Redwoods Amendment, as well as the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and other legislation. National park areas are closed to the taking of wildlife except as specifically authorized by Congress. Congress authorized taking of wildlife in NPS preserves for Title VIII subsistence uses, trapping, and sport purposes under state law. This is not an authorization without limit, and must be implemented in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System.

In passing ANILCA, Congress did not absolve the National Park Service from operating within the legal, regulatory, and policy framework applicable across the National Park System. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (S. Rpt. 96-413) stated "It is contrary to the National Park Service concept to manipulate habitat or populations to achieve maximum utilization of natural resources." A further statement in the Congressional Record on ANILCA provides that "[t]he standard to be met in regulating the taking of fish and wildlife and trapping is that the preeminent natural values of the Park System shall be protected in perpetuity and shall not be jeopardized by human uses. These are very special lands and this standard must be set very high[.]" The State's general hunting program applies in NPS Preserves to the extent that it is consistent with NPS laws, regulations and policies. The NPS may close or restrict the take of wildlife in the Preserves pursuant to ANILCA section 1313 and federal regulations at 36 CFR 13.40and 13.50.

Continuation of the natural processes is expected in NPS areas except as specifically authorized by Congress. The new practice of taking brown bears over bait is not consistent with this expectation in that baiting explicitly alters the natural behavior of any wildlife species coming into contact with, or finding palatable, the contents of a bait station. Behavior of carnivorous or omnivorous species is altered and their vulnerability to harvest is increased. The practical effect is increased efficiency for taking predator species and has potential to create harvest pressures on the local natural abundance, behavior, distribution, and ecological integrity of these native wildlife species. State laws or actions that seek to manipulate natural wildlife populations for human consumption, or have that practical effect, are inconsistent with Congress's authorization for taking wildlife for sport purposes and with NPS statutes, regulations, and policies.

Until recently, brown bear baiting has been prohibited since statehood. To our knowledge, brown bear baiting is not currently allowed by any other North American state, province, or country. Thus, there is little current or historic data available to predict effects of this practice.

The taking of black bears over bait is allowed on some Alaskan NPS units under both State and Federal regulations. However, the take of black bears over bait on NPS lands is a rare event. From the harvest data reported to the State of Alaska, ≤37 black bears were hunted over bait in preserves, and ≤34 of these were harvested in Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve. Of the 37, only 3 bears were harvested over bait by rural Alaska residents from NPS preserves from 1992-2010. The concerns raised for brown bears relative to food conditioning and public safety apply equally to black bears. This topic warrants consideration.

Sport hunting is allowed on NPS Preserves, but the authorizations established by the BOG are not isolated from Federal authorities applicable on NPS lands. NPS management responsibilities, established in the Organic Act and further refined in subsequent legislation, regulation, and policy, must be followed in determining which activities will and will not benefit the fundamental purpose of the National Park System. Introducing NPS Preserves to this historically illegal method of harvest has the potential to result in unacceptable impacts to the resources and values for which the park area was established to protect. This restriction recognizes that State and Federal management objectives and authorities differ. A federal restriction is necessary for NPS Preserves to remain compliant with Federal law and policy for NPS areas. The NPS remains committed to managing park resources and values in a way that avoids unnecessary interference with State management of resident wildlife resources.

A less restrictive approach was attempted but was not effective. The NPS opposed the proposals to the BOG that affected preserves, and requested that, if such regulations were adopted, NPS lands be excluded. The BOG adopted the regulation authorizing the taking of brown bears at bait stations in Units 12, 20C, 20E, and 21D without excluding NPS lands. In doing so, the BOG has made it clear that the State process will not be used to remedy management inconsistencies on NPS lands. Rather, NPS has been encouraged to use its own authorities to ensure that preserves are managed in a manner consistent with federal law, policy, regulation and non-conflicting State regulation. The NPS again requested the Board revisit this authorization in preserves in 2013 and the Board considered but rejected that request at their January 2014 meeting. In the absence of change in state law or regulation, these restrictions are necessary. The NPS has proposed a regulation to permanently address this issue.

Temporary Restriction on Taking Wolves and Coyotes May 1 through August 9

The NPS proposes to re-adopt temporary restrictions on the take of wolves and coyotes during the timeframe coyotes and wolves are denning in Alagnak Wild River and Aniakchak, Bering Land Bridge, Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Katmai, Lake Clark, Noatak, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserves. These changes are in response to recent changes in state law. The result is that wolves and coyotes will remain protected during the period when they are raising vulnerable offspring and their pelts have little trophy, economic, or subsistence value. This change makes the affected closure dates for wolves and coyotes more consistent

with Federal subsistence seasons. This proposal would not affect harvest under Federal Subsistence Regulations.

> The take of wolves or coyotes under state regulations is prohibited from May 1 through August 9 in Alagnak Wild River and Aniakchak, Bering Land Bridge, Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Katmai, Lake Clark, Noatak, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserves.
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> *This provision does not affect season start dates after August 9. For example, if the state season is September 1, taking wolves under the state regulations would be authorized on September 1. If the state season starts on August 1, then the taking of wolves is not authorized in these NPS areas until August 10.*

<u>The reasons for these restrictions are:</u>
These restrictions are based on actions taken by the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) in 2012 and 2014 as well as previous years that extended the season for taking wolves and coyotes into the summer months in several GMUs that include some NPS Preserves. These BOG actions include establishment of a year-round coyote season and extending the season for taking wolves through June in several areas.

The State of Alaska is the primary entity responsible for managing wildlife in accordance with State mandates. At the same time, the NPS is charged with the responsibility for assuring that the take of fish and wildlife is consistent with the fundamental purposes of the park system and those of individual park units. Federal law provides that the fundamental purpose of national park areas is conservation of park resources and values, including the scenery, the natural and historic objects, and wild life therein, and prohibits impairment of park resources or values. Under NPS management policies, activities that may result in impairment include those that impact a "resource or value whose conservation is . . . key to the natural . . . integrity of the park or to provide opportunities for enjoyment of the park." Because the impact threshold at which impairment occurs is not readily apparent, the NPS policies require managers avoid unacceptable impacts to park resources and values. Unacceptable impacts are those that are inconsistent with park purposes and values; diminish opportunities for current or future generations to enjoy, learn about, or be inspired by park resources or values; or unreasonably interfere with other appropriate uses.

In addition to the above, legislated purposes of the National Preserves in Alaska include the protection of habitat for and populations of fish and wildlife. Congress directed the NPS to manage national preserves in the same manner as national parks with the exception that sport hunting and trapping are authorized. (ANILCA, Public Law 96-487, section 1313). In considering the management of national park areas, the National Park Service must consider the expectations laid out in the 1916 Organic Act, the 1970 General Authorities Act, and the 1978 Redwoods Amendment, as well as the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and other legislation. National park areas are closed to the taking of wildlife except as specifically authorized by Congress. Congress authorized taking of wildlife in NPS preserves for Title VIII subsistence uses and for sport purposes. This is not an authorization without limit,

and must be implemented in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System.

In passing ANILCA, Congress did not absolve the National Park Service from operating within the legal, regulatory, and policy framework applicable across the National Park System. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (S. Rpt. 96-413) stated "It is contrary to the National Park Service concept to manipulate habitat or populations to achieve maximum utilization of natural resources." A further statement in the Congressional Record on ANILCA provides that "[t]he standard to be met in regulating the taking of fish and wildlife and trapping is that the preeminent natural values of the park system shall be protected in perpetuity and shall not be jeopardized by human uses. These are very special lands and this standard must be set very high[.]" State harvest regulations apply in NPS preserves to the extent that it is consistent with NPS laws, regulations and policies. The NPS may close or restrict the take of wildlife in preserves pursuant to ANILCA section 1313 and federal regulations at 36 CFR 13.40 and 13.50.

These season extensions have the potential to create unacceptable impacts to the preserves' purposes and values. The practice of hunting or trapping wolves and coyotes into summer has long been prohibited. Consistent with sound management principles and conservation of wildlife, practices that disturb animals when they are in a vulnerable state—in their dens, when reproducing, or very young—are usually avoided. Accordingly, these practices have generally been prohibited under federal subsistence and state regulations.

Continuation of the natural process is expected in park areas except as specifically authorized by Congress. The take of denning wolves and coyotes has potential to impact the natural integrity of a native species. The practical effect of these allowances, open to all hunters and trappers, is increased efficiency for taking predator species. This has potential to create pressures on the natural abundance, behavior, distribution, and ecological integrity of these native wildlife species. State laws or actions that seek to manipulate natural wildlife populations for human consumption, or have that practical effect, are inconsistent with Congress's authorization for taking wildlife for sport purposes as well as with NPS statutes, regulations, and policies.

The NPS recognizes and supports subsistence and sport hunting, and trapping. These activities are important heritage activities in NPS preserves in Alaska. However, introducing NPS preserves to these liberalized wolf and coyote harvest opportunities, to include pups, when pelts are of poor quality and offspring are vulnerable could create unacceptable impacts to the resources and values for which the park area was established to protect. It also has the potential to disrupt the subsistence opportunity for taking that wolf or coyote later in the year when its coat is prime in order to sell the pelt for cash.

This restriction recognizes that state and federal management objectives and authorities differ and adopts a federal restriction for NPS preserves to comply with federal law and policy in park areas. The NPS remains committed to managing park resources and values in a way that minimizes interference with state management of resident wildlife resources.

A less restrictive approach has been attempted but was not effective. The NPS opposed proposals to the BOG that affected preserves, and requested that, if such regulations were

adopted, NPS lands be excluded. The Board of Game adopted regulations without excluding NPS managed lands. In doing so, the Board of Game has made it clear that the State process will not be used to remedy management inconsistencies on NPS lands. Rather, NPS has been encouraged to use its own authorities to ensure that preserves are managed in a manner consistent with federal law, policy, regulation and non-conflicting State regulation. The NPS requested the Board revisit this authorization in preserves in 2013 and the Board considered but rejected that request at their January 2014 meeting. In the absence of change in state law or regulation, these restrictions are necessary. The NPS has proposed a regulation to permanently address this issue.

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National Park Service (NPS) regulations applicable to the protection and equitable public use of units of the National Park System grant specified authorities to a park superintendent to allow or restrict certain activities. NPS regulations are found in Titles 36 and 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and created under authority and responsibility granted the Secretary of Interior in Titles 16 and 18 of the United States Code. The following compendium comprises a listing of NPS regulations that provides the Superintendent with discretionary authority to make designations or impose public use restrictions or conditions in park areas. The applicability and scope of the compendium is articulated in 36 CFR Sections 1.2 and 13.2, and 43 CFR Section 36.1.

The larger body of NPS regulations that do not provide discretionary authority to the Superintendent is not cited in this compendium. A complete and accurate picture of regulations governing use and protection of the unit can only be gained by viewing this compendium in context with the full body of applicable regulations found in Titles 36 and 43 CFR. *Please contact Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Copper Center, Alaska at (907)* 822-7210 *for questions relating to information provided in this compendium.*

TITLE 36 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

PART 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.5 Closures and public use limits

(a)(1) Visiting hours, public use limits, closures

(i) The Commissioner's Cabin and Women's Jail Cabin at Chisana, the Operations Center and Cook Cabin at May Creek, the Freed Property research camp in Slana and, between April 1st and November 1st, the NPS employee housing areas in Copper Center, Slana, McCarthy and Kennecott are restricted to administrative use, and are not available to the general public. This public use restriction applies to the land immediately surrounding an employee housing areas, including any closely associated buildings, structures and parking areas, but excluding areas beyond. Restricted areas will be posted with signs as "Private" or "Administrative Use Only."

(ii) <u>Unmanned Aircraft</u>

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.

The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all

types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

In Park areas where use of model aircraft for hobbyist or recreational use has been previously authorized, such use may continue under a permit issued by the Superintendent.

This restriction does not affect the primary jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration over the National Airspace System.

(iii) Domestic Goats, Sheep, Llamas, and Alpacas
Use, possession, or free ranging of domestic goats, sheep, llamas, alpacas, or any other domestic animal of the Bovidae or Camelidae Family within NPS administered areas is prohibited.

See also 13.1906 for the Headquarters/Visitor Center Developed Area.

See specific sections in this document for additional information regarding visiting hours, public use limits, and closures.

(a)(2) Designated areas for specific use or activity or conditions
In order to prevent spreading White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) to bats, any person entering a cave or any part or passage of any cave, except glacier ice caves, shall

1. Ensure all gear, equipment, and clothing are not contaminated with the fungus associated with WNS by either
   a). Utilizing only gear, equipment, and clothing that has not been used to enter caves outside of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST), **or**
   b). utilizing only gear, equipment, and clothing that has been entirely disinfected in accordance with the latest approved protocols which are found at http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/caves.html. These procedures are also available at NPS visitor centers
2. Contact WRST headquarters at 907-822-5234 at least 72 hours prior to entering a cave.

See specific sections in this document for additional information regarding designated areas and conditions for engaging in certain activities.

1.6(f) Compilation of activities requiring a permit

- Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft, 1.5
- Scientific research, 1.5
- Collecting research specimens, 2.5
- Operating a power saw in developed areas, 2.12(a)(2)
- Operating a portable motor or engine in undeveloped areas, 2.12(a)(3)
- Operating a public address system, 2.12(a)(4)
- Air delivery, 2.17(a)(3)
- Noncommercial soliciting, 2.37

- Using, possessing, storing, or transporting explosives, blasting agents, or explosive materials, 2.38(a)
- Using or possessing fireworks and firecrackers, 2.38(b)
- Special events, 2.50(a)
- Demonstrations involving 26 or more persons, 2.51
- Sale and distribution of printed matter for First Amendment purposes by groups of 26 or more persons, 2.52
- Grazing, 2.60(a)(1), (2)
- Residing on federal lands, 2.61(a)
- Installing a monument or other commemorative installation, 2.62(a)
- Towing a person using a parasail, hang glider, or other airborne device, 3.12(b)
- Removing sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels, 3.14(a)
- Operating a submersible, 3.19
- Commercial notices or advertisements, 5.1
- Commercial operations, 5.3
- Commercial photography or filming, 5.5
- Construction or repair of any building, structure, facility, road, trail, or airstrip on federal lands, 5.7
- Mining operations (9.9(a)) or an approved Plan of Operations (in lieu of permit))
- Cabins on federal lands, 13.100-13.188
- Subsistence use in the Park by person who does not live within the Park boundary or a resident zone community, 13.440(a)
- Using aircraft access for subsistence activities in the Park, 13.450(a), 13.450(b)(1), 13.3002(a)(3)
- Cutting of live standing timber greater than 3 inches in diameter for non-commercial subsistence uses, 13.485(a)(1)
- Access to inholdings where access is not made by aircraft, snowmachine, motorboat or non-motorized surface transportation, 43 CFR 36.10(b)
- Salvaging, removing, possessing aircraft, 43 CFR 36.11 (f)(3)(ii)
- Helicopter landings, 43 CFR 36.11(f)(4)
- Off-road vehicle (ORV) use, 43 CFR 36.11(g)(2)
- Temporary access across federal land for survey, geophysical or exploratory work, 43 CFR 36.12(c)

PART 2. RESOURCE PROTECTION, PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION

2.1(a)(4) Designated areas for collection of dead wood on the ground for firewood

Superseded by 13.35(c)(4), 13.35(d), and 13.485(b).

2.1(a)(5) Designated areas and conditions for walking on, climbing, entering, ascending, descending, or traversing an archeological or cultural resource, monument, or statue

No designated areas or conditions.

See 13.1904 for Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark.

2.1(b) Designated trails

No restrictions on walking or hiking.

2.1(c)(1)-(3) Designated fruits, nuts, berries, and unoccupied seashells to harvest by hand and collection restrictions

Superseded by 13.35(c) and 13.485(b).

2.2(d) Established conditions and procedures for transporting lawfully taken wildlife through park areas

See also 13.40(d)(5).

2.2(e) Designated areas for wildlife viewing with artificial light

No areas designated for closure.

2.3(d)(2) Fresh waters designated as open to bait fishing with live or dead minnows or other bait fish, amphibians, nonpreserved fish eggs or fish roe

No waters are designated as open to fishing with the types of bait identified above. Other types of bait may be used in accordance with state law. Subsistence fishing by federally qualified rural residents is allowed in accordance with 36 CFR part 13 and 50 CFR part 100.

2.3(d)(8) Designated areas open for fishing from motor road bridges and public boat docks

All areas are designated as open for fishing from motor road bridges and boat docks.

2.4(a)(2)(i) Carrying, using, or possessing weapons

Individuals are authorized to possess firearms in NPS areas in accordance with applicable state and federal law. With the exception of public use cabins, possession of firearms is prohibited in Federally owned or leased buildings. The laws regarding discharge of firearms remain unchanged.

2.10(a) Camping: conditions and permits

Superseded in part by 13.25.

See also 13.1904 for conditions specific to Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark (KNHL) and the mill site within KNHL.

2.10(d) Food storage: designated areas and methods

(1) Definition: A *bear resistant container* (BRC) means an item constructed to prevent access by a bear. BRC's include—

- Items approved by the Department of Interior and Agriculture's Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee: http://www.igbconline.org/html/container.html
- Additional items listed by the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearcontainers, with the concurrence of the Superintendent;
- Items or methods approved by the Superintendent.

(2) Throughout the park, all food (except legally taken game) and beverages, food and beverage containers, garbage, harvested fish and equipment used to cook or store food must be stored in a bear resistant container (BRC) or secured—

- Within a hard sided building;
- Within lockable and hard sided section of a vehicle, vessel, or aircraft; or
- By caching a minimum of 100 feet from camp and suspending at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet horizontally from a post, tree trunk or other object on a line or branch that will not support a bear's weight.
- The Superintendent may, upon request, waive or modify food storage requirements in circumstances where compliance with these requirements is not possible, overly burdensome, and is consistent with public safety and wildlife conservation interests.

Note: This provision does not apply to:

- Clean dishes and cooking equipment that are free of food odors. We strongly recommend that these items be securely stored; but clean and odor free items are not required to be stored in secure containers.
- Food that is being transported, consumed or prepared for consumption.
- The use of bait for trapping and hunting under the provisions of state and federal law.
- Food carried by persons climbing or traveling above the firn line on snow covered terrain.

The intent of these designations is to prevent bears and other wildlife from obtaining and becoming conditioned to food and garbage, thus protecting wildlife and park visitors alike. We strongly recommend that dishes and cooking equipment be securely stored; but clean and odor free items are not required to be stored in secure containers. Ice chests and coolers, tents, dry bags or stuff sacks, plastic packing boxes (Totes, Action Packers, etc) and unmodified kayaks are not approved as BRC. The park offers, at no charge, bear resistant containers for temporary use to the public. A refundable deposit is required, and the containers can be obtained at the park's visitor center in Copper Center, AK.

2.11 Picnicking: designated areas

Superseded by 13.26.

2.13(a)(1) Fires: designated areas and conditions

State or local fire burn bans are automatically adopted under this section unless the superintendent determines the ban is not necessary in park areas.

Campfires and picnic fires are authorized in all areas of the park and preserve except:

- The Headquarters/Visitor Center Developed Area
- The mill site within the Kennecott National Historic Landmark. See 13.1904-13.1906.
- In the designated boundary of the Kendesnii Campground (*shown on the attached map)* lighting or maintaining a fire will be allowed only in designated camp fire rings.

Where fires are permitted, all trash (tin foil, burn food, glass, and cans) must be removed from the fire site after use.

2.14(a)(2) Sanitation and refuse: conditions using government receptacles

No conditions established at present. Dumping commercial, household, or industrial refuse, brought in from private or municipal property, in government receptacles is prohibited.

2.14(a)(5) Sanitation: designated areas for bathing and washing

No designated areas. Unless otherwise allowed by the Superintendent, bathing and washing of cooking utensils, food and other property at all public water outlets, fixtures, or pools is prohibited.

2.14(a)(7) Sanitation: designated areas for disposal of fish remains

There are no designated areas.

Fish remains may not be disposed of on either land or water within 200 feet of public boat docks or designated swimming beaches, or within developed areas for reasons of public health and safety.

2.14(a)(9), (b) Sanitation: disposal, carrying out of human waste

There are no other designated areas or methods. Tissue paper and sanitary items should be packed out or burned when fire hazard is low.

Disposing of human body waste within 100 feet of a water source, high water mark of a body of water, or a campsite, or within sight of a trail is prohibited.

2.15(a)(1) Areas designated as closed to pets

No designated areas. Pets must be leashed or physically restrained at all times.

2.15(a)(3) Conditions for leaving pets unattended and tied to an object

No conditions at present.

Leaving pets unattended and tied to an object is prohibited.

2.15(a)(5) Pet excrement disposal conditions

No conditions at present.

2.15(b) Conditions for using dogs in support of hunting activities

No conditions at present.

2.16 (a)-(c) Horses and pack animals

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(e).

Access for subsistence purposes under 36 CFR 13.460(a) supersedes this section.

2.17(a)(1) Aircraft operation

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(f)(1).

Use of aircraft in national parks or monuments for subsistence purposes is prohibited under 36 CFR 13.450, except in Malaspina Forelands. See section 13.1902(c) of this document.

2.17(a)(2) Aircraft operation near docks, piers, swimming beaches and other designated areas

No areas prohibited.

2.17(c)(1) Conditions for removing downed aircraft

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(f)(3)(ii).

2.18(c) Snowmobiles: designated areas for use

No areas designated for snowmachine use.

Superseded in part by 43 CFR 36.11(c).

Superseded by 36 CFR 13.460 for subsistence uses.

2.19(a) Winter activities on roads and in parking areas: designated areas

This section only applies to designated roads and parking areas open to vehicular traffic.

This section is not applicable in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

2.19(b) The towing of persons on skis, sleds, or other sliding devices by motor vehicle or snowmobile is prohibited, except in designated areas or routes

All areas of the park are open to towing.

2.20 Skating and skateboards

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(e).

2.21 Smoking

All park offices and visitor facilities are closed to smoking.

Smoking is prohibited within 100 feet of the park fuel and aviation gas storage facility.

These restrictions are intended to protect public safety from fire or explosion around fuel storage and dispensing facilities.

2.22 Property: leaving property unattended for longer than 24 hours

Superseded by 13.45.

2.35(a)(3)(i) Alcoholic beverages: areas designated as closed to consumption

No areas designated as closed.

2.38(b) Fireworks: permits, designated areas, and conditions

No areas designated for use of fireworks.

2.51 First Amendment Demonstrations

The following areas are designated for public assembly, meeting, gathering, demonstration, parade, or other public expression of views.

- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve (WRST) Headquarters/Visitor Center complex. The designated location is the area under and adjacent to the bus shelter located on the south side of the visitor parking area. This is the only area designated by the superintendent for public assembly in the headquarters/visitor complex area.
- Outside the headquarters/visitor complex area, the remainder of the park and preserve are also open to assembly.

Demonstrations involving twenty-six or more individuals must have a permit issued by the superintendent.

2.52 Designated areas for sale and distribution of printed matter for First Amendment purposes

- All areas of the park and preserve are open to distribution or sale of printed matter. Printed matter is limited to message-bearing textual printed material such as books, pamphlets, magazines, and leaflets, provided that it is not solely commercial advertising.
- Sale or distribution activity by 26 or more individuals is prohibited without a permit issued by the superintendent.

2.60(a)(3) Designated areas for grazing

Private parties may graze pack or saddle animals allowed in NPS areas for 14 days in a calendar year without a permit from the NPS. Any feed brought in must conform to the Alaska Weed Free Forage Certification Program. For more information on this certification, contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District. The Kenny Lake Soil & Water Conservation District office phone number is 822-4479. Grazing in support of commercial operations is only allowed under permit from the superintendent.

These restrictions seek to lessen the impact of extended camps on vegetation.

See also section 1.5(a)(1) of this document which prohibits certain domestic animals in NPS areas.

2.62(b) Memorialization: designation of areas for scattering ashes

All areas are open to scattering of ashes without a permit.

PART 3. BOATING AND WATER USE ACTIVITIES

3.3 Permits

No permits required at present.

3.7 Personal Flotation Devices: designated times and/or activities

No designated times or activities. PFDs must be worn in accordance with 33 CFR part 175.

3.8(a)(2) Boating, prohibited operations: designated launching areas

Within the boundaries of the Kendesnii Campground, the following is the designated vessel launch and recovery site:

Location on the west side of the designated Kendesnii Campground, at the end of the boat launch trail, an approximate 20 feet section on the Twin Lake shoreline (see Kendesnii campground map).

3.8(a)(4) Operating a vessel in excess of designated length, width, or horsepower

No designations at present.

3.8(b)(3) Operating a vessel in excess of flat wake speed in designated areas

No designated areas.

3.12(a) Water skiing: designated waters

No areas designated open.

3.14(a) Conditions for removing sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels

A permit is required from the Superintendent before sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels may be removed from waters within NPS administered areas except when the operator is able to remove or repair the vessel on site safely and without potential for damage to resources.

This requirement allows the Superintendent to establish terms and conditions for salvage operations as necessary to protect resources and provide for public safety.

3.16 Swimming and wading: areas designated as closed

All areas are open to swimming and wading.

3.17(a) Designated swimming areas and beaches

No designated areas.

3.17(c) Use or possession of flotation devices, glass containers, kites, or incompatible activities in swimming areas or beaches

No restrictions at present.

3.18(a) SCUBA and underwater diving: closures and restrictions

No closures or restrictions at present.

PART 4. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

4.10 Routes or areas designated for off-road motor vehicle use in Preserves

See also 13.40(c) regarding the Malaspina Glacier Forelands, 13.460 for subsistence access, and 43 CFR 36.11(g) for recreational access

This restriction minimizes the impacts of vehicle travel while allowing for access.

4.11(a) Load weight and size limits: permit requirements and restrictive conditions

No restrictions at present.

4.21(b)-(c) Speed limits: designation of a different speed limit

The speed limit for NPS-owned portions of easements within the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark is 10 miles per hour. Operating any vehicle in excess of this speed limit is prohibited.

4.30(a) Routes designated as open to bicycles

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(e).

4.30(d)(1) Wilderness closed to bicycle use

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(e).

4.31 Hitchhiking: designated areas

All areas are open to hitchhiking.

PART 5. COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE OPERATIONS

5.7 Construction of buildings, roads, trails, airstrips, or other facilities

Maintenance of established landing strips utilizing non-motorized hand tools is not considered construction or repair and no permit is required.

PART 13. ALASKA REGULATIONS

13.25(a) Temporary closures and restrictions to camping

Donoho Basin

As used in this section, Donoho Basin is defined as the deglaciated land found between the Kennicott and Root glaciers south of an east to west line that crosses Donoho Peak. This line is the dividing line between park and preserve and designated wilderness and non-wilderness. A map depicting the boundaries of Donoho Basin is attached.

As used in reference to Donoho Basin, guided groups are all parties operating under a commercial use authorization from the NPS.

As used in reference to Donoho Basin, unguided groups are all parties not operating under a commercial use authorization from the NPS.

As used in reference to Donoho Basin, associated groups are those lead by the 1) same company, 2) partnering companies, or 3) partnering organizations.

- From May 15 through September 15, unguided groups may not exceed 12 individuals at Donoho Basin.
- From May 15 through September 15, the minimum camp distance between associated groups in Donoho Basin is ½ mile.
- From May 15 through September 15, all groups (guided or unguided) of 8 or more individuals must register to camp at Donoho Basin. Registration can be done online, over the telephone, or in person at the NPS visitor center.

See attached determination of need.

Camping is restricted at and adjacent to the information kiosk and spur road on the north side of the McCarthy Road at mile 59. Camping is prohibited from April 15 through October 15.

The restriction is necessary because of the danger presented to the camping public by human habituated bears. The campground is located in a bear corridor and adjacent to a large soap berry patch. Bear research has confirmed that bear encounters are unavoidable and that the bears tend to be accustomed to humans and to associate humans' with food. The risk to campers from both black and brown bears is unacceptably high. Private fee campgrounds are available in the immediate area.

13.25(b) Site time limits: authorization to exceed 14 day limit at one location

No general exceptions at present.

13.25(c) Designated campgrounds: restrictions, terms, and conditions

The Kendesnii Campground is the only designated campground in the park/preserve.

Discharging a firearm May 1 through September 30 in the Kendesnii Campground is prohibited unless required for defense of life and property.

As used in this section, Kendesnii Campground is defined as the designated land beginning at approximately mile 28.3 on Nabesna Road, following an eastern direction on the Nabesna Road to mile 28.5 (at private property boundary), then south approximately 1000 feet (along private property boundary), then west 600 feet to Twin Lake and following north along the shoreline of lake, extending north from the Peninsula of the lake -at the edge of the campground, north to Nabesna Road at mile 28.3. The total acreage for Kendesnii Campground is at approximately 19 acres. Campground entrance from Nabesna Road located at N 62°31'49.37'' W 143° 15' 29.47" (DMS NAD83 Alaska Albers). This area defined is within the park. A map depicting the boundaries of Kendesnii Campground is attached.

See also 13.1904(d), 13.1906(b).

13.26 Picnicking-areas where prohibited or otherwise restricted

No restrictions at present.

13.35(d) Collection of dead standing wood: areas designated as open and conditions for collection

No designated areas at present.

13.35(f)(1) Natural features: size and quantity restrictions for collection

The collection or gathering of mushrooms for personal use is limited to two 5-gallon containers of whole, fresh mushrooms per person, per day.

13.35(f)(2) Natural features: closures or restrictions due to adverse impacts

No closures or restrictions at present.

13.40(e) Temporary closures or restrictions to the taking of fish and wildlife

1. Brown Bears

   A person may not take a brown bear at a bait station from April 15 through June 30 in Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserves.

2. Wolves and Coyotes

   The take of wolves or coyotes under state regulations is prohibited from May 1 through August 9 in Alagnak Wild River and Aniakchak, Bering Land Bridge, Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Katmai, Lake Clark, Noatak, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserves.

   This provision does not affect season start dates after August 9; the latter start date will apply. For example, if the state season is September 1, taking wolves under the state regulations would be authorized on September 1. If the state season starts on August 1, then the taking of wolves is not authorized in Preserves until August 10.

13.45(b)(1)-(6) Exceptions to unattended or abandoned property

Superintendent authorizations for exceptions for unattended or abandoned property are made on a case by case basis. Contact park headquarters for more information.

13.45(c) Designated areas where personal property may not be left unattended for any time period, limits on amounts and types, manner in which property is stored

No designated areas.

13.50(h) Facility closure and restrictions

No restrictions at present.

13.122 Established conditions for removal of cabin for which a cabin permit has been denied, expired, or revoked

No conditions established at present (may require access permit).

13.160 Designated existing cabins, shelters or temporary facilities that may be shared for subsistence uses without a permit

No designations at present.

13.166 Established conditions and standards governing the use and construction of temporary structures and facilities for subsistence purposes, published annually

No conditions or standards established at present.

13.170 Designated cabins or other structures for general public use

Reservations are required at the following public use cabins:

- Esker Stream: Reservations may be made in advance year round through the Yakutat Ranger Station (907) 784-3295.
- Caribou Creek Cabin: Reservations may be made in advance year round through the headquarters Visitor Center (907) 822-7253.
- Viking Lodge: Reservations may be made in advance year round through the headquarters Visitor Center (907) 822-7253.

Other cabins available for public use include:

- May Creek
- Jakes Bar
- Peavine 1
- Peavine 2
- Orange Hill
- Too Much Johnson
- Solo Mountain
- Chelle Lake
- Huberts Landing
- Glacier Creek

13.172 Established conditions and allocation system to manage the use of designated public use cabins

The following conditions apply to use of all public use cabins:

- Use of any single designated public cabin shall not exceed seven days in a 30-day period without authorization from the Superintendent.
- Leaving personal property at a cabin is prohibited. Emergency food rations may be left inside a cabin but must be secured within an approved Bear Resistant Container as defined by this compendium in 2.10(d).

Other than Viking Lodge, Esker Stream and Caribou Creek, cabins listed may be occupied on a first come, first serve basis.

13.188(b) Established conditions for removal of temporary facility used in excess of 14 days

Individuals must remove facility, all personal property, and return the site to its natural condition.

These conditions are intended to protect the park from impacts to vegetation and soil and to ensure that personal items are not left in the park.

13.460 Closures or restrictions to the use of snowmobiles, motorboats, dog teams, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed by local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses

The following areas are closed to ORV use except during periods of adequate snow cover. Adequate snow cover is defined snow of sufficient depth, generally 6-12 inches or more, or a combination of snow and frost depth sufficient to protect the underlying vegetation and soil.

a. The old Soda Lake Trail as shown on the attached map.
   - *This closure does not affect any ANILCA 1110(b) rights by the landowner of Lots 1 and 2 U.S. Survey 12389 and their invited guests to continue using motorized vehicles along the existing trail for access to their property at Big Grayling Lake.*

b. A trail which branches off from the Tanada Lake Trail near the outlet of Tanada Lake and continues southwest towards Copper Lake as shown on the attached map. This closure includes the area 1,000 feet either side of this trail.

c. All portions of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve south of the Bagley Ice Field and Seward Glacier, extending east to the western margin of the Hubbard Glacier.

See also 36 CFR 2.16, 2.17, 2.18, 3.6, 4.10, 4.30, 13.40(c) and 43 CFR 36.11(c)-(e).

13.485(a)(1) Permit specifications for harvesting standing timber greater than 3" diameter for subsistence purposes (house logs & firewood)

See policy statement on subsistence green wood harvest.

13.485(a)(2) Restrictions on cutting of timber less than 3" in diameter for subsistence purposes

No restrictions at present.

WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS SPECIAL REGULATIONS

13.1902(b) Aircraft access for residents of Yakutat to Malaspina Forelands

For the purposes of this exemption only, the Malaspina Forelands Area is defined as all portions of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve south of the Bagley Ice Field and Seward Glacier, extending east to the western margin of the Hubbard Glacier.

These areas are available for aircraft access under a permit issued by the Superintendent for residents of Yakutat that are Federally qualified for subsistence in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

13.1910 Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark and developed areas: closures and restrictions

Discharging a firearm on federal lands from May 1 through September 30 within the mill site as defined in 13.1904(d) is prohibited unless required for defense of life or property.

43 CFR, PART 36 TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY SYSTEMS (Access Regulations)

36.11(c) Temporary closures to the use of snowmachines for traditional activities

No closures at present.
See also 2.18.

36.11(d) Temporary closures to the use of motorboats

No closures at present.
See also 3.3, 3.6.

36.11(e) Temporary closures to the use of non-motorized surface transportation

See also 1.5, 2.16, 3.3, 3.6.

36.11(f)(1) Temporary closures to landing fixed-wing aircraft

No closures at present.

36.11(f)(3)(ii) Established procedure for salvaging and removing downed aircraft

A permit is required from the Superintendent before downed aircraft may be salvaged and removed from the park; violation of the terms and conditions of the permit is prohibited.

This requirement allows the Superintendent to establish terms and conditions for salvage operations as necessary to protect resources, provide for public safety, and minimize impacts on visitors.

36.11(g)(2) Use of off-road vehicles (ORV) on existing trails

ORVs may be operated on existing trails pursuant to a permit issued under 43 CFR 36.11(g)(2). Existing trails where ORVs may be operated are shown on a map available at park headquarters in Copper Center or the Slana Ranger Station. Pneumatic tired vehicles and tracked vehicles are authorized. Recreational ORVs may not be operated in designated wilderness. These designations and restrictions do not apply to subsistence use of ORVs traditionally used for subsistence activities.

This restriction minimizes impacts of vehicle travel in the park while allowing for access.

See also 13.40(c) regarding the Malaspina Glacier Foreland and 13.460 for subsistence access.

Superintendent — Date: 12-18-2014

Concurrence by Regional Director — Date: 12/30/2014

List of Attachments

2.10 Food storage
3.14(a) Conditions for removing sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels
13.1910 Firearms discharge in the mill site in KNHL
13.25 Camping at Donoho Basin
13.35 Collection of natural features, mushrooms
1.5 Access to Caves
13.172 Public Use Cabins
13.25(c) Campgrounds, firearms discharge closure
2.13(a)(1) Fires: designated areas and conditions (Kendesnii Campground)
3.8(a)(2) Designated vessel launch and recovery site ((Kendesnii Campground/Twin Lakes)
13.170 Designated public use cabins
13.172 Conditions for using designated public use cabins
13.460 Subsistence Access (Old Soda Lake Trail Closure to Off-Road Vehicle)
1.5 Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft with NPS areas
Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Green Log Policy
Map of area restricting discharge of firearms within Kennecott Mill Site.
Map of area closed to camping near mile 59 McCarthy Rd.
Map of trails closed to ORV traffic near Jack, Tanada, and Copper lakes.
Map of Donoho Basin
Map of Malaspina Forelands subsistence aircraft use exemption
Map of First Amendment Designated Area in the Headquarters/Visitor Center Complex
Map of Kendesnii Campground
Map of Old Soda Lake Trail

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Food Storage

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 1.5 (c) and 2.10 (d), the Superintendent of Wrangell-Elias National Park and Preserve has determined that in order to protect public safety and prevent adverse impacts to wildlife, conditions are placed on storage of food, garbage, harvested fish, and equipment used to cook or store food throughout the park.

The reasons for this restriction are as follows:

1. The intent of the regulations is to prevent wildlife from obtaining food from humans or associating humans with food.
2. Wildlife in a natural ecosystem are adapted to subsist on natural foods. Because natural processes are expected within NPS areas, wildlife should not obtain food from people.
3. A public safety and resource conservation concern exists when wildlife obtain food from people or associate humans with any form of nutritional reward. Obtaining human food may adversely affect behavior of individuals and the health of wildlife populations.
4. Both black and brown bears are common throughout parklands and are readily attracted to even small quantities of human food. They are very curious and intelligent, and will commonly open or enter containers, tents, and structures.
5. Bears are extremely susceptible to conditioning to human food sources. Once they have learned to associate a site or item (e.g. tent, kayak, boat, etc.) with acquisition of food, they may return to that source repeatedly for further food rewards.
6. It does not matter whether the material is fresh, dry, powered, canned, etc. Once a curious bear has obtained a positive food reward, it will return and / or continue to seek out further rewards in similar situations.
7. Due to the transfer of knowledge from sows to cubs and the long life span of individual bears, young bears exposed to human foods may display unnatural and unacceptable behavior for decades.
8. Bears which become conditioned to human food are likely to be killed by humans in defense of life or property inside the parklands or on adjacent lands.
9. Humans are at risk of injury or death when bears attempt to obtain food from tents, packs, vessels, or other similar areas.

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

1. Educational efforts regarding proper food storage and disposal of food and garbage have been undertaken by state and federal agencies in Alaska and in other western states for many years. These efforts have undoubtedly reduced food conditioning and wildlife/ human conflicts.
2. Recognizing that variations in the environment and recreational activities require multiple food storage options, NPS managers have undertaken the following to assist visitors and

make these conditions less onerous by making bear resistant containers (BRCs) available at NPS headquarters and field locations.

3. Despite these efforts, NPS managers repeatedly encounter situations in which food or garbage is improperly stored throughout the parklands.
4. The food storage conditions under this section allow for a wide variety of storage options, including free loans of portable BRC units, to make compliance less onerous.
5. Because the NPS also recognizes that other storage practices may be appropriate and/or deviations from this policy may be warranted in certain circumstances, the Superintendent may make exceptions on a case by case basis if compliance would be overly burdensome or impossible and would not pose an undue risk of wildlife obtaining food from humans.
6. We have considered the use of the State of Alaska regulations which prohibit intentionally or negligently feeding wildlife or leaving human food, pet food, or garbage in a manner that attracts wildlife. While NPS officers cannot enforce this state regulation directly, the NPS considered this language for the compendium. Given the NPS mandate to protect wildlife, the NPS prefers a proactive approach designed to prevent wildlife from obtaining food from humans, intentionally or unintentionally.
7. Given the lack of complete compliance with educational efforts, the flexibility in compliance options, and the effort made by park managers to provide free equipment to promote compliance, these conditions are the least restrictive required to fulfill the parklands mission of protecting wildlife and human safety.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Conditions for removing sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 1.5(c) and 3.14(a), the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is requiring a permit before sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels may be removed except when the operator is able to remove or repair the vessel on site safely and without potential for damage to resources.

The reasons for this restriction are as follows:

- This requirement allows the Superintendent to establish terms and conditions for salvage operations as necessary to protect resources, provide for public safety, and minimize impacts on visitors.

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

- How to protect resources, public safety, and minimize visitor impact when removing a disabled vessel needs to be addressed on a case by case basis since the circumstances involved in each incident is unique. A permit allows the NPS and the boater maximum flexibility to address the specific circumstances at hand when removing disabled, grounded or sunken vessels.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Firearms discharge

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 1.5 (c) and 13.1910, the Superintendent of Wrangell-Elias National Park and Preserve has determined that in order to protect public safety, discharging a firearm on federal lands within the mill site in KNHL during peak visitor season is prohibited.

The reasons for this restriction are as follows:

After review and consideration of the need for annual updates, the park is proposing one change relating to public safety.

13.73(e) Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark and developed areas: closures and restrictions

Discharging a firearm on federal lands from May 1 through September 30 within the mill site as defined in 13.1907(d) is prohibited unless required for defense of life or property.

The reasons for this restriction are as follows:

- Due to the increasing visitation numbers, the proximity of the Kennicott Glacier Lodge and other highly frequented visitor facilities, and the nature of the park reconstruction efforts at Kennecott, discharging firearms poses a serious public safety concern.

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

- The community of Kennecott is unincorporated and has no local formal government that could address the unsafe discharge of firearms within the concentrated visitor use of the Mill Site.
- Although State law prohibits hunters from shooting from or across roadways, the roadways within Kennecott are small, and the nature of use in the area would continue to place people at risk. Visitors, local residents, local workers, and NPS staff conduct most of their activities in and around the buildings and structures of the area, and not on roadways.
- The restriction will only be in place on federal lands in the mill site and only during summer months. During this time, there are higher concentrations of visitors, summer residents, and employees in this particular area which elevates safety concerns over the discharge firearms in this area.
- Any subsistence hunting activity that does not require the discharge of a firearm within this limited area would not be affected by this proposed restriction.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Temporary closures and restrictions to camping at Donoho Basin

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 13.25, the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is adopting restrictions on camping at Donoho Basin.

13.25(a) Temporary closures and restrictions to camping
Donoho Basin

As used in this section, Donoho Basin is defined as the deglaciated land found between the Kennicott and Root glaciers south of an east to west line that crosses Donoho Peak. This line is the dividing line between park and preserve and designated wilderness and non-wilderness. A map depicting the boundaries of Donoho Basin is attached.

As used in reference to Donoho Basin, guided groups are all parties operating under a commercial use authorization from the NPS.

As used in reference to Donoho Basin, unguided groups are all parties <u>not</u> operating under a commercial use authorization from the NPS.

As used in reference to Donoho Basin, associated groups are those lead by the 1) same company, 2) partnering companies, or 3) partnering organizations.

- From May 15 through September 15, unguided groups may not exceed 12 individuals at Donoho Basin.
- From May 15 through September 15, the minimum camp distance between associated groups in Donoho Basin is ½ mile.
- From May 15 through September 15, all groups (guided or unguided) of 8 or more individuals must register to camp at Donoho Basin. Registration can be done online, over the telephone, or in person at the NPS visitor center.

The reasons for this restriction are as follows:

1. In recent years, the Donoho Basin has been subjected to several emergency camping closures in response to bear/human conflicts. In 2008, a bear that had obtained food from campers in Donoho Basin had to be destroyed.
1. During 2009, park managers engaged local residents who use Donoho Basin recreationally and as commercial operators. Several local stakeholder meetings were held during the summer of 2009 to help park managers identify issues and solutions. The discussions illustrated that concerns about the Donoho Basin went beyond prevention of bear/human conflicts, including impacts to Donoho Basin's natural resources, improving visitor experience and enhancing visitor safety.
2. Donoho Basin is a popular destination in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve that campers can access by foot from Kennecott.
3. The number of available campsites for larger groups at Donoho Basin is limited.

4. The level and type of use as well as limited number of campsites at Donoho Basin would benefit from more active management to reduce user conflicts and prevent food storage problems.
5. Commercially guided groups are currently subject to group size limits and all parties are subject to food storage restrictions under 36 CFR 2.10(d).
6. In addition to limits on the number of individuals that can be in a group, the park is proposing to adopt a minimum distance of ½ mile between groups to minimize crowding, enhance visitors' experience, and reduce the number of connecting social trails between campsites.
7. Registration is proposed for all groups of 8 or more for two reasons: 1) the information that a group has registered will be available to other groups to assist them in avoiding other campers in the Donoho Basin, and 2) the contact with park staff enables the park to provide food storage containers (if the group does not already have one) and information relating to food storage, safety, park regulations, and recommended Leave No Trace camping techniques. Registration can be done online, in person, or over the telephone beginning in May.
8. These conditions are intended to be interim measures. Park managers intend to engage stakeholders following the 2010 season to discuss how these interim measures worked toward achieving park objectives and impacts to users. These compendium provisions may be adjusted accordingly. As needed, long-term management of the Donoho Basin may also be addressed in the upcoming Frontcountry Management Plan.

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

1. Until 2009, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve was one of the few Alaska national parks that did not have group size limits for guided hiking/camping groups. This resulted in many of the larger groups coming to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and specifically to Donoho Basin due to its relative accessibility. Additionally, due to its relative accessibility, larger groups have frequented Donoho Basin, which has resulted in impacts to the resource and user conflicts. To address these concerns, the park adopted a group size limit for commercially guided groups in 2009, but did not adopt limits for private groups. The NPS has determined that the concerns presented by large groups are not limited to commercial operators, but also exist for large private groups.
2. The NPS has also determined that all groups of 8 or more need to register to camp in Donoho Basin. Registration will allow these groups to get "face time" with park staff before heading up the trail. During this encounter, park staff can share information regarding larger parties already camping in Donoho Basin, food storage, leave no trace techniques, bear/human conflict avoidance, and safety as well as provide food storage containers if necessary. Contact in the field alone does not provide the same opportunity for trip planning (to avoid overcrowding) and avoidance of problems related to food storage, safety, and impact to resources.
3. The NPS has determined that ½ mile separation between larger groups will protect visitors' experiences and minimize resource impacts. This distance will prevent monopolization of limited camp locations and minimize development of social trails between associated camps.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Quantity restriction for collection of mushrooms

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 13.35, the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is adopting limits on the amount of mushrooms that may be removed from the park.

13.35(f)(1) Natural features: size and quantity restrictions for collection
The collection or gathering of mushrooms for personal use is limited to two 5-gallon containers of whole, fresh mushrooms per person, per day.

The reason for the restriction is as follows:

- In summer 2009, the Chakina fire burned approximately 60,000 acres south of McCarthy and Kennecott across the Chitina River. Because mushrooms flourish in environments recently burned and the substantial size of this fire, interest in harvesting mushrooms has increased significantly.
- Limits on the quantities of mushrooms gathered are intended to help establish an enforceable approach to prevent collection for commercial purposes.
- The <u>whole, fresh</u> wording restricts persons from cutting and drying mushrooms, thus increasing the actual number of mushrooms available for harvest by other individuals for personal use.
- The proposed restriction is consistent with Alaska State Parks and Bureau of Land Management harvest limits.

The reason less restrictive measures will not be effective are:

- Absence of a quantity limit at a time when valuable mushrooms are expected to be abundant across a large area would facilitate illegal commercial mushroom harvest, potentially impacting park resources, subsistence uses, and collection for personal use.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Access to Caves

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 1.5, the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is adopting conditions on entry to caves.

In order to prevent spreading White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) to bats, any person entering a cave or any part or passage of any cave, except glacier ice caves, shall

1. Ensure all gear, equipment, and clothing are not contaminated with the fungus associated with WNS by either
   a). Utilizing only gear, equipment, and clothing that has not been used to enter caves outside of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST), **or**
   b). utilizing only gear, equipment, and clothing that has been entirely disinfected in accordance with the latest approved protocols which are found at http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/caves.html. These procedures are also available at NPS visitor centers
2. Contact WRST headquarters at 907-822-5234 at least 72 hours prior to entering a cave.

The reasons for this proposed restriction are as follows:

- This restriction is part of a national interagency effort to limit the human-assisted spread of the fungus thought to cause WNS, a highly infectious disease that causes unprecedented mortality in several species of hibernating bats.
- WNS has killed more than a million bats in the Lower 48 and is threatening several endangered species of bats.
- WNS is actively spreading in North America, and has been documented in 14 states and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Canada. The potential for this apparently exotic disease to continue spreading to bat populations in northern latitudes is considered very high.
- Evidence suggests WNS is likely transmitted two ways.
  a. **Bat-to-bat**– Bats often congregate in groups in the winter hibernacula and come in contact with each other, providing the opportunity for many individuals to be exposed to the fungus.
  b. **Cave to Human to Bats -** Aspects of the geographic spread suggest that humans may transmit WNS from infected sites to clean sites. This kind of spread is most likely occurring from clothing and equipment that are not properly cleaned and decontaminated between sites. Scientists speculate the fungus is ingested by bats and then excreted in the bat's guano on the cave floor. The fungus can grow on many different organic materials, and appears to persist in caves year-round. Fungal spores, and/or other microscopic organisms, can easily become attached to a person's skin, hair, clothing and equipment, and it is possible that such elements could remain alive for weeks or months after leaving an underground environment. Because of the devastating effects of WNS, it is critical that people assume responsibility for combating the potential spread of WNS.

- While park managers do not have a detailed understanding of bat populations throughout the park, several factors increase the risk of infection at WRST. First, bats are found in many locations in WRST. Second, WRST has abundant cave resources, many of which have not yet been inventoried, where bats have been observed. Third, cave temperatures in WRST are ideal for WNS fungus to thrive if introduced. Fourth, it is believed there is substantial use of caves in WRST by a diverse group of cavers that also explore caves in lower 48 parks and overseas. The combination of these factors puts WRST at a high risk for human-assisted infection of WNS.
- This action will substantially reduce the risk of the human-assisted spread of WNS by ensuring equipment, gear, and clothing is not infected with the fungus *Geomyces destructans* believed to cause WNS. Preventing the transmission of this fungus to caves within WRST will meet our objective of protecting bat populations from WNS.

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

1. WNS is highly infectious disease that has a high mortality rate in bats. There are no treatment options for WNS infected bats at this time and isolating bat populations is also not possible. For these reasons, prevention of infection is essential to protect bat populations.
2. Educational efforts alone would not be effective because cavers, more than other visitors, do not tend to stop at visitor contact points or contact NPS staff. Further, some cavers may explore caves during winter months when visitor contact points operate on restricted hours and NPS staff levels are reduced. These factors create a situation where education and public contact are less effective.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Public Use Cabins

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 13.172, the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is adopting a reservation system and conditions for use of public use cabins in the park.

13.172 Established conditions and allocation system to manage the use of designated public use cabins
A reservation system and seven-day public use limit are proposed for the Viking Lodge, Caribou Creek, and Esker Stream Public Use Cabins to provide for more equitable allocation and use of facilities, and for avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities.

The reason for a reservation system and establishment of a seven day public use limit is as follows:

- An increase in visitor use numbers associated with certain public use cabins was identified.
- Visitors have monopolized certain cabins for long periods of time, not allowing for others' use of public use cabins.
- Visitation increases for some public use cabins during certain periods of the year, generally April 1 – Sept 30.
- Visitation is consistent year round for Viking Lodge, Caribou Creek cabins, due to accessibility by ATV, snow machine, and foot
- A reservation system will allow for better planning and avoidance of conflict among visitors.

The reason less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

- Visitors will continue to monopolize higher-visited public use cabins and not allow for equitable allocation and use of facility during higher-visitation periods.
- Conflict among public use cabin users will continue if no allowance is made for reservations.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Campgrounds, firearms discharge closure

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 13.25(c), the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve has determined the following restriction is necessary:

13.25(c) Designated campgrounds: restrictions, terms, and conditions

This section was modified to add a restriction on discharging a firearm at the newly established Kendesnii Campground.

The reasons for these restrictions are as follows:

- The Kendesnii Campground is the only designated campground in the park/preserve, so high visitor use is expected.
- Increased visitation occurs during the period of May through September because of hunting, fishing and berry picking activities.
- Because of the close proximity to Nabesna Road and the anticipated high visitor use in the campground during this period of time, discharging firearms poses a serious public safety concern.

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

- The language represents the least restrictive measure in that the restrictions will only be in place during the period of highest visitor use in the campground. Prohibiting the discharge of firearms will protect visitor experience and provide for public safety in a designated campground.
- Although State law prohibits hunters from shooting from or across roadways, the roadway within the Kendesnii Campground is limited, and the nature of use in the area would continue to place people at risk.
- The restriction will only be in place on federal lands in the Kendesnii Campground and only during summer months, when there are higher concentrations of visitors, summer residents, and employees in this area which elevates safety concerns over the discharge of firearms.
- Any subsistence hunting activity that does not require the discharge of a firearm within this limited area would not be affected by this restriction.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Fires: designated areas and conditions (Kendesnii Campground)

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 2.13(a)(1), the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve has determined the following restriction is necessary.

2.13(a)(1) Fires: designated areas and conditions

In the designated boundary of the Kendesnii Campground (*shown on the attached map)* lighting or maintaining a fire will be allowed only in designated camp fire rings.

The reasons for these restrictions are as follows:

- This will eliminate multiple fire rings, scarred soil and disturbed vegetative matter by directing all fires to designated camp fire rings. The Kendesnii campground opened to public use during the summer 2012. There have been multiple fire rings already found outside of these camp fire rings.
- This will contain fires to specific use areas providing for public safety.

The reasons less restrictive methods will not be effective are as follows:

- Designated fire rings in the campground will provide an increased level of protection to park resources and decrease burn damage to campground vegetation, soils and facilities.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Designated vessel launch and recovery site

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 3.8(a)(2), the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve has determined the following restriction is necessary.

3.8(a)(2) Designated vessel launch and recovery site

Within the boundaries of the Kendesnii Campground, the following is the designated vessel launch and recovery site:

Location on the west side of the designated Kendesnii Campground, at the end of the boat launch trail, an approximate 20 feet section on the Twin Lake shoreline (see Kendesnii campground map).

The reasons for this restriction are as follows:

- This designation will lessen impacts to vegetation and soils along Twin Lake shoreline and confine this to a 20 feet area, within the designated Kendesnii campground boundary.
- This will lessen the development of multiple trails in the immediate area to access the Twin Lake shoreline
- This will provide for safe use and maintenance stabilization of immediate area to access Twin Lake

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

- This designation is only in place on federal lands within the Kendesnii Campground boundary and only to access via vessel Twin Lake from the shoreline
- This site is located where there is an already established trail that leads park users from the Kendesnii Campground to the Twin Lake shoreline, historically park users have launched vessels from this site.
- Use of additional areas along the Twin Lake shoreline will cause additional impacts to vegetation and soils

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Conditions for using designated public use cabins

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 13.172, the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve has determined the following restriction is necessary.

13.172 Established conditions and allocation system to manage the use of designated public use cabins

Leaving personal property at a cabin is prohibited. Emergency food rations may be left inside a cabin but must be secured within an approved Bear Resistant Container as defined by this compendium in 2.10(d).

The reasons for these restrictions are as follows:

- These requirements allow for equitable unimpeded public use of all cabins.
- Food and other items left in the public use cabin attract wildlife and can cause harm to the public or structure. The summer 2012, food and miscellaneous items left in the Nugget Creek cabin attracted bears causing damage to the cabin and implementing a temporary closure for public safety.
- The structural integrity of the cabins will be impacted if alterations or marring of the structures occurs.

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

- This will increase level of danger or harm to the public and/or cabins if these conditions are not applied by allowing for alterations, marring of the cabin and/or leaving food and other personal items in the cabin.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Old Soda Lake Trail Closure to Off-Road Vehicle

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 13.460, the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve has determined the following restriction is necessary.

13.460 Closures or restrictions to the use of snowmobiles, motorboats, dog teams, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed by local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses

The 5.1 mile degraded section of the old Soda Lake Trail between Lost Creek and Platinum Creek is closed to off road vehicles except during periods of adequate snow cover. This closure does not affect any ANILCA 1110(b) rights by the landowner of Lots 1 and 2 U.S. Survey 12389 and their invited guests to continue using motorized vehicles along the existing trail for access to their property at Big Grayling Lake.

The reasons for this closure are as follows:

- The 2011 Nabesna Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/FEIS addresses management of Off Road Vehicle (ORVs) in the Nabesna District of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. One of the trails addressed in the FEIS is the Soda Lake trail, which includes 2.3 miles of degraded, very degraded, or extremely degraded trail conditions. These segments include mud-muck holes and trail braiding which have negatively impacted vegetation and wetlands. The Soda Lake trail also bisects private property, which has resulted in trespass issues.
- The FEIS and Record of Decision prescribe a constructed re-route that would bypass all degraded trail segments and the private property. The re-route was completed in the summer 2012. The FEIS/Record of Decision also states, "Once the re-route is completed, the old trail will be seasonally closed to all motorized uses (except those accessing private land) to allow for vegetation and soils recovery."

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

- The closure was clearly described in the preferred alternative in both the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement. The ANILCA Section 810 Analysis that was included in the Draft and Final EIS concluded that the proposed Soda Lake re-route, including the associated closure of the old trail, would result in minor improvement to subsistence access. The conclusion was reached because the constructed re-route results in improved trail conditions and thus better access than the old and degraded trail.
- This closure will minimize the impacts of vehicle travel on the Soda Lake trail, which will allow for vegetation and soils recovery.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft on NPS lands and waters administered by the NPS.

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations section 1.5, the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve has adopted the following restriction on use of unmanned aircraft in NPS areas.

1.5 Closures and public use limits

(a)(1) Visiting hours, public use limits, closures

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.

The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

In Park areas where use of model aircraft for hobbyist or recreational use has been previously authorized, such use may continue under a permit issued by the Superintendent.

This restriction does not affect the primary jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration over the National Airspace System.

The reasons for this restriction are as follows:

- The use of unmanned aircraft is a relatively new activity in NPS areas across the country, including Alaska.
- As these devices have recently become more affordable, the use of these devices is increasing at a high rate, including in NPS areas.
- The Alaska Board of Game recently adopted a prohibition on using unmanned aircraft for taking wildlife.
- This restriction is based on maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental and scenic values, protection of natural and cultural resources, implementation of management responsibilities, and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities.
- The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act set aside federal conservation system units in Alaska (including NPS units) in part to protect natural landscapes, unaltered ecosystems in their natural state, wilderness resource values and related recreational opportunities, wildlife populations and habitat, and to maintain opportunities for scientific research and undisturbed ecosystems.
- 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. The launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve will impair those park values for which the park was established by Congress in 1980.

- The NPS must take a precautionary approach in terms of conserving resources and visitor enjoyment of those resources. New recreational activities are not allowed until the NPS has determined that such use is appropriate and will not cause unacceptable impacts.
- The NPS has adopted an interim policy, applicable nationwide, that prohibits launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft in areas administered by the NPS. This compendium provision is required to implement this interim national policy.

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

- This restriction is a necessary interim measure taken to ensure park resources and visitor enjoyment of those resources are protected consistent with NPS policies while the NPS considers how to address this new use on a long-term basis.
- This closure is required to implement this interim policy are necessary to maintain public health and safety in units of the National Park System and to protect park resources and values until the NPS can determine whether specific uses of unmanned aircraft on lands and waters administered by the NPS are appropriate and will not cause unacceptable impacts on park resources and values.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
Mile 106.8 Richardson Hwy. P.O. Box 439
Copper Center, AK 99573-0439
907 822 5234 Fax 907 822 7216

January 10, 1989

MEMORANDUM

To: Park Staff

From Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias NP/P

Subject: Subsistence Green Log Policy

The preamble to 36 CFR Pert 13 dated June 17, 1981, states the following with regard to the subsistence use of timber and plant materials:

> Section 13.49(a) relaxes the general public use regulations by allowing local rural residents in park areas where subsistence uses are allowed to obtain a permit to cut standing live timber of greeter then three inches diameter at ground height for subsistence needs such as shelter or fuel. Before issuing a permit, the Superintendent must determine that the proposed cutting is compatible with the purposes for which the park area was established. Furthermore, the Superintendent will include in the permit any stipulations deemed necessary to protect the resources of the park area...

In order to implement this direction, a study of the forest resources in areas subject to timber cutting was initiated in 1986. This study concluded that in order to protect the continued viability of the slow—growth forests found within the park and preserve, limited harvesting of green logs could continue under certain conditions and would need to be closely monitored, in addition, the number of requests for green log permits has steadily increased since the establishment of the park. In order to deal with these requests in a rational and reasonable manner, the following policy and permits terms end conditions have been established:

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve to allow for the non-commercial cutting of green logs in accordance with the provisions of the Alaska Natural Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and Title 36 CFR, Part 13.49, "…the Superintendent may permit cutting in accordance with the specifications of a permit if such cutting is determined to be compatible with the purposes for which the park area was established." This policy covers the non-commercial cutting of live standing timber (green logs) for appropriate subsistence use, such as house logs or firewood greater than 3" at ground height.

Of primary concern to the National Park Service is the maintenance and protection of forest resources and other park values. Subsistence green log permits will only be issued if it can be shown that harvest will not impair or otherwise degrade the viability of the forest resource and other park values. Applicants for subsistence green log permits must meet the following conditions prior to issuance of a permit by the Park Superintendent.

STANDARD PERMIT PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS:

For subsistence house log permits, the applicant must demonstrate a significant need for green logs, and may only be used for a primary place of residence.

Applicant generally must live within the park boundary and have demonstrated a customary and traditional use of park resources.

Applicant must provide evidence of exploring reasonable alternative sources for logs such as logs from state, private or university lands, or by transporting logs which are harvested outside the park, to the building site. The Superintendent will also consider the availability of suitable downed timber from both private and public lands in determining amount of green logs to be taken from park lands.

For subsistence house log permits, the applicant must submit a rough plan/sketch, dimensions and proposed method of construction to the Superintendent before permit is considered.

For subsistence house log permits, the allowable harvest shall not exceed 120 trees (includes both live and dead trees), the amount required for a cabin of 280 sq. ft. (determined on the basis of the average size of 237 cabins identified on park/preserve lands). This amount includes a 20% allowance for

waste, unusable wood, tree size variability and miscellaneous needs.

For firewood permits, the applicant will be limited to what is reasonably needed for purposes of heating, cooking, etc. in the primary place of residence.

The Superintendent may further limit the amount of logs based on concerns for forest viability, limited annual production and potential impact on park values.

Subsistence house logs may only be used for a primary residence and may not be used for commercial purposes (sale of whole logs or sale of lumber cut from subsistence logs) or in structures used for commercial purposes (lodges, etc.).

Green logs granted for firewood use may be used only for that purpose and may not be used for house construction, saw timber or other uses unless specifically authorized on the permit.

All subsistence logs must be marked and measured by NPS staff prior to harvest.

The Superintendent will designate access routes to be used for harvesting and skidding subsistence green logs.

Subsistence green logs may not be harvested farther than one half mile from a designated access route.

Timber felling and skidding will be limited by ground conditions and season to protect resource values and is generally limited to frozen ground with a minimum of 6-12" of snow cover.

An additional subsistence house log permit will not be issued to a landowner/family for a period of 10 years after the previous permit was issued. This condition applies to any land subdivided or transferred subsequent to the issuance of the original subsistence house log permit.

An additional subsistence house log permit may be issued due to emergency or unusual and unforeseen circumstances (fire, other damage, etc.).

Subsistence firewood permits may be issued on a yearly basis.

Permits may not be issued in zones or areas where subsistence timber harvest would result in a threat to the viability of the

forest resource or which would otherwise compromise the purposes for which the park was established.

Environmental, archeological, historical, and subsistence compliance may be required prior to issuance of subsistence log permit.

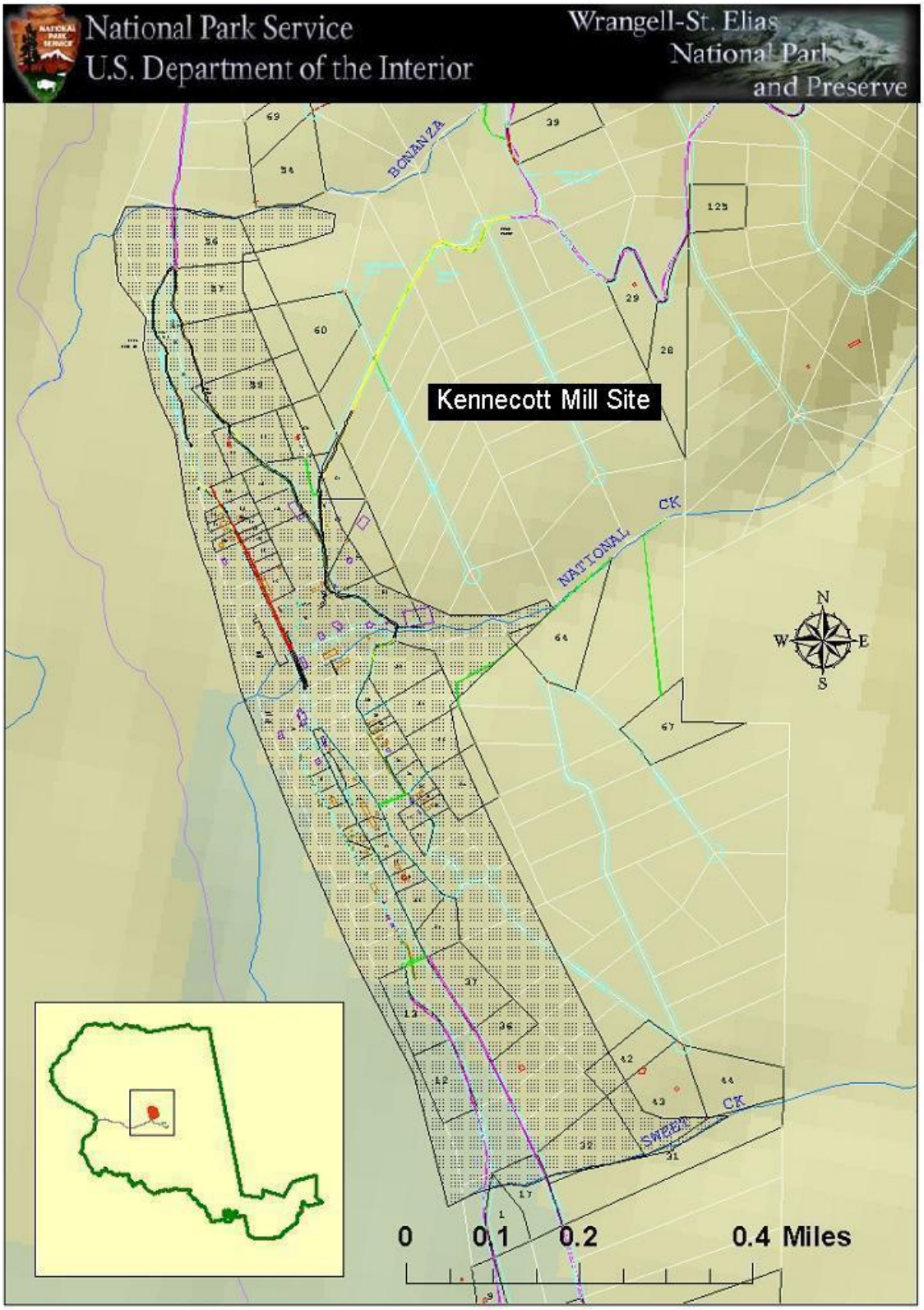
The Special Use Permit (10-114) shall be the permitting instrument and shall be completed in accordance with NPS-53.

Violation of the terms and conditions of the permit may result in an immediate revocation of the permit by the Superintendent.

Subsistence green log permits may only be issued by the Superintendent or his designee.

This policy will remain in effect until revoked in writing by the Superintendent.

Richard H. Martin


National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Wrangell-St. Elias
National Park
and Preserve
Kennecott Mill Site
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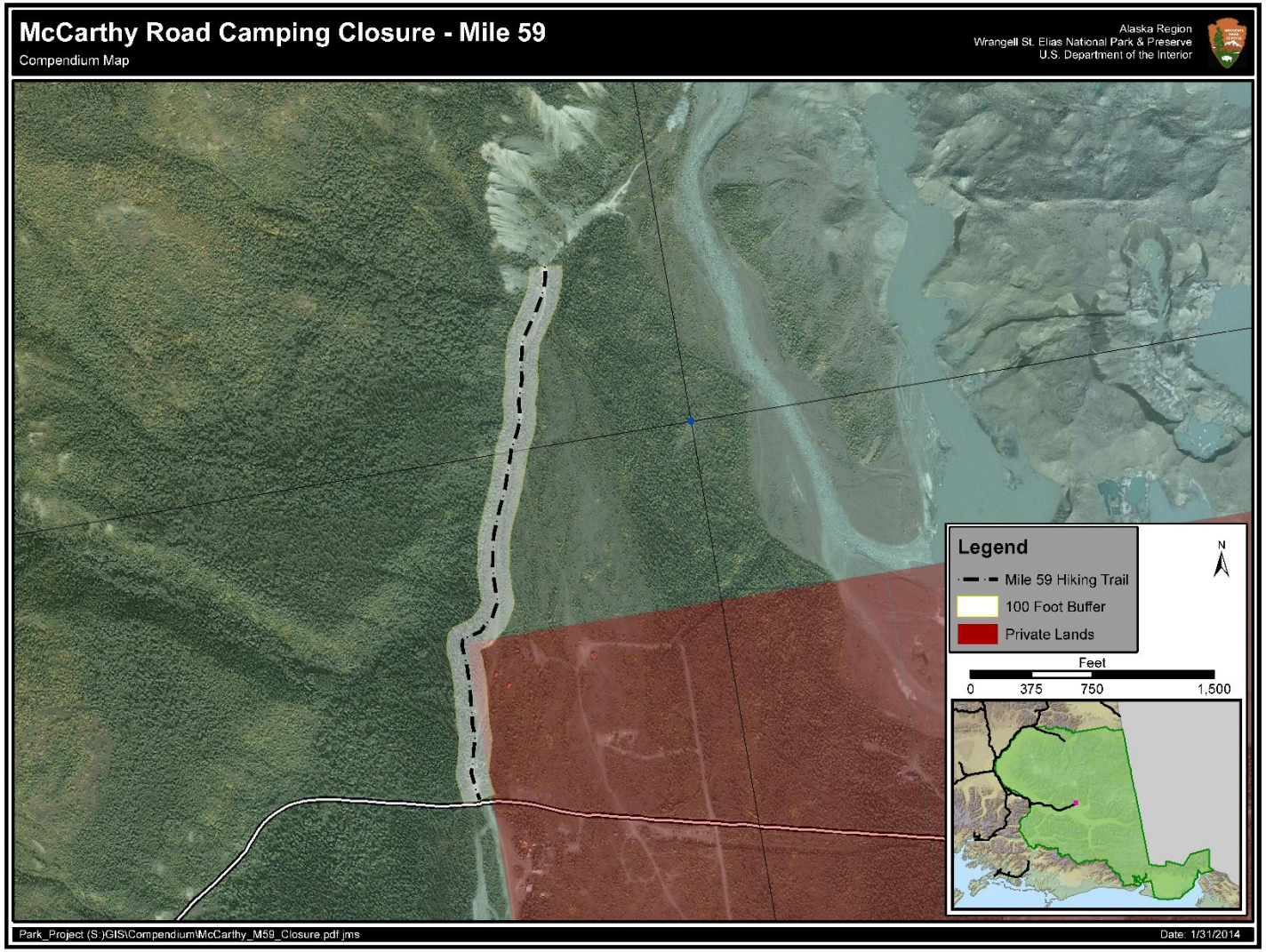
McCarthy Road Camping Closure - Mile 59
Compendium Map
Alaska Region
Wrangell St. Elias National Park & Preserve
U.S. Department of the Interior
Legend
Mile 59 Hiking Trail
100 Foot Buffer
Private Lands
N
Feet
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1,500
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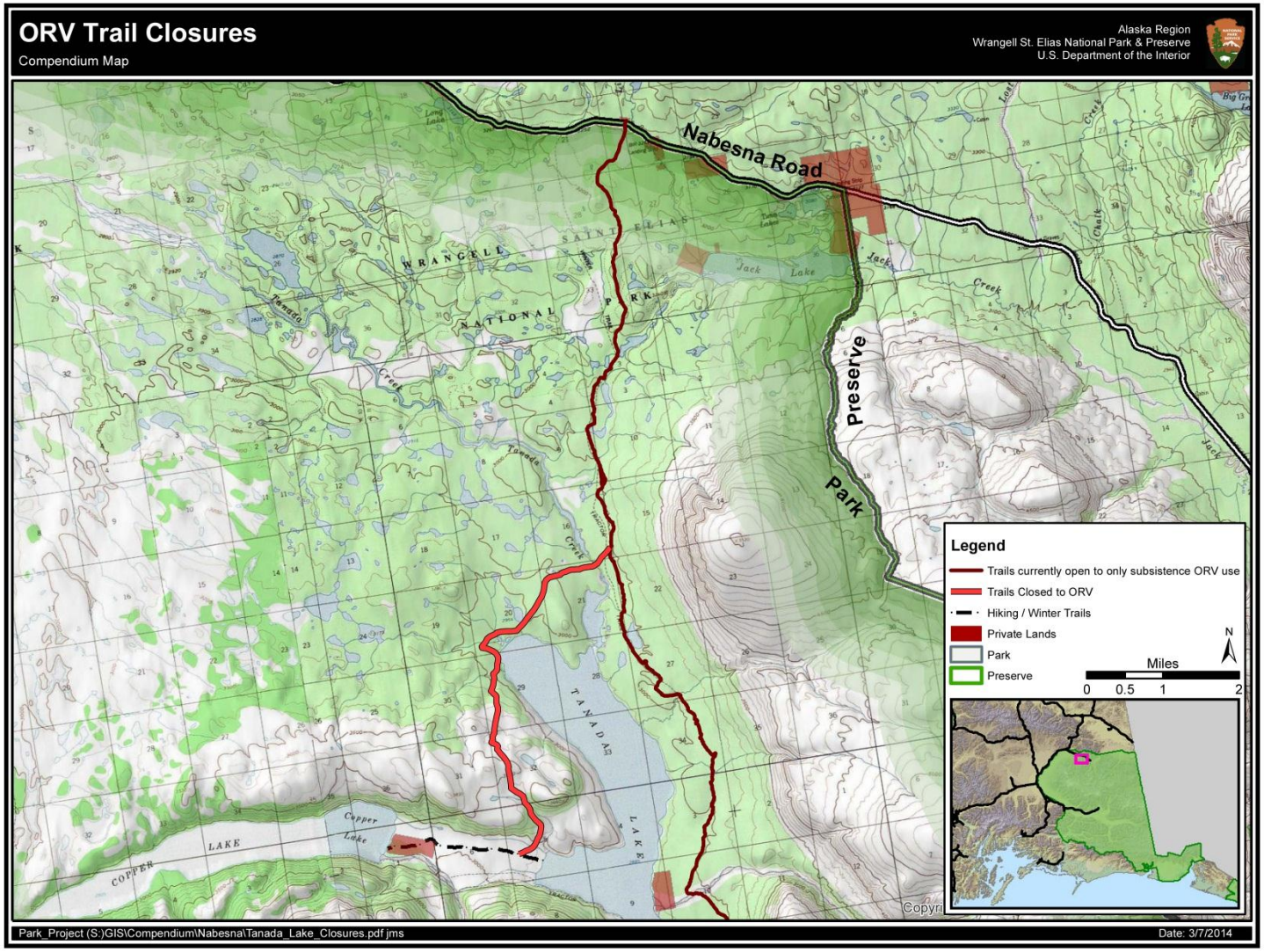
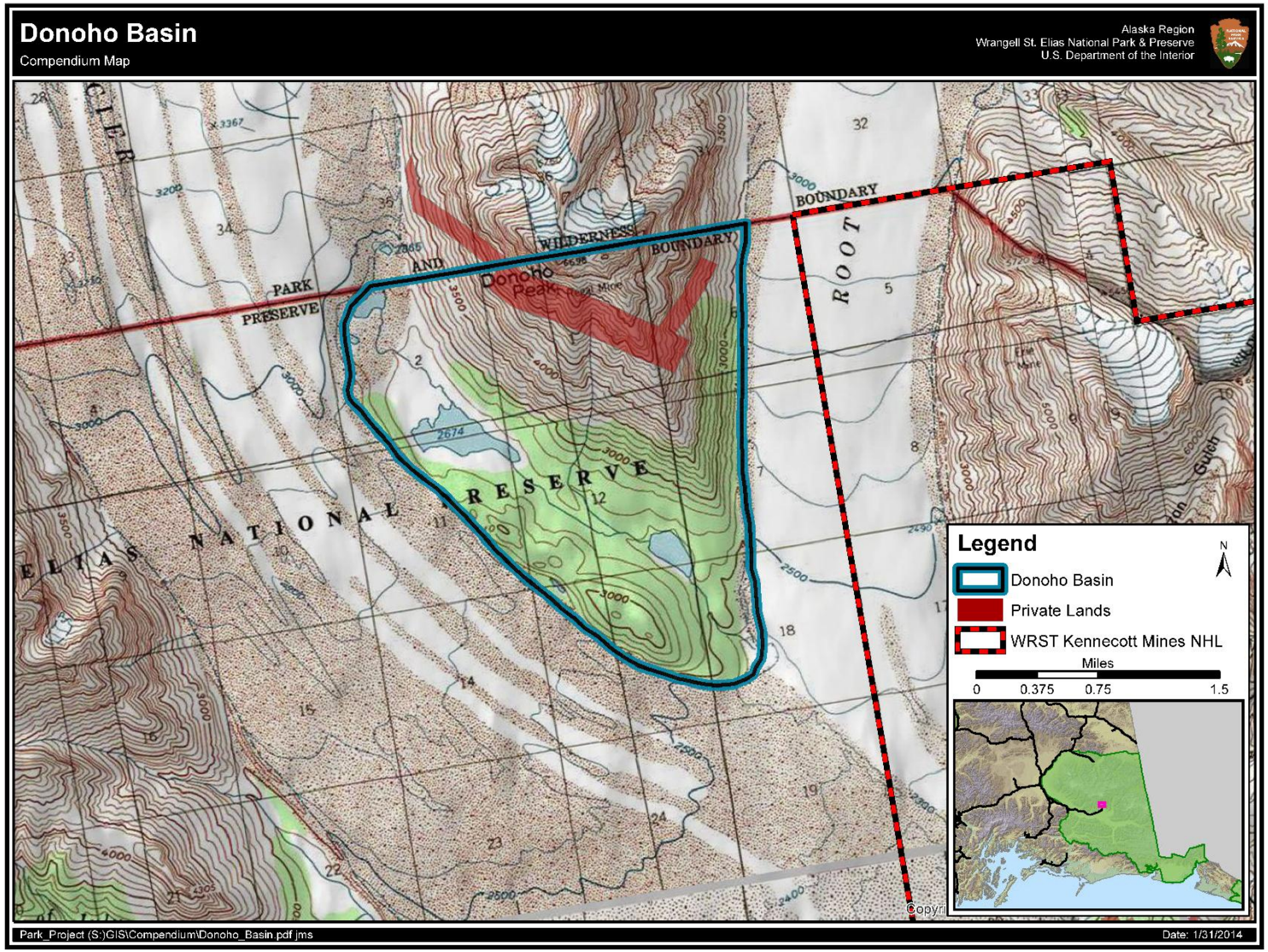
Date: 1/31/2014

ORV Trail Closures




Donoho Basin
Compendium Map
Alaska Region
Wrangell St. Elias National Park & Preserve
U.S. Department of the Interior
Legend
Donoho Basin
Private Lands
WRST Kennecott Mines NHL
Miles
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0.75
1.5
N
Donoho Peak
WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
PARK AND PRESERVE BOUNDARY
ROOT
ELIAS NATIONAL RESERVE
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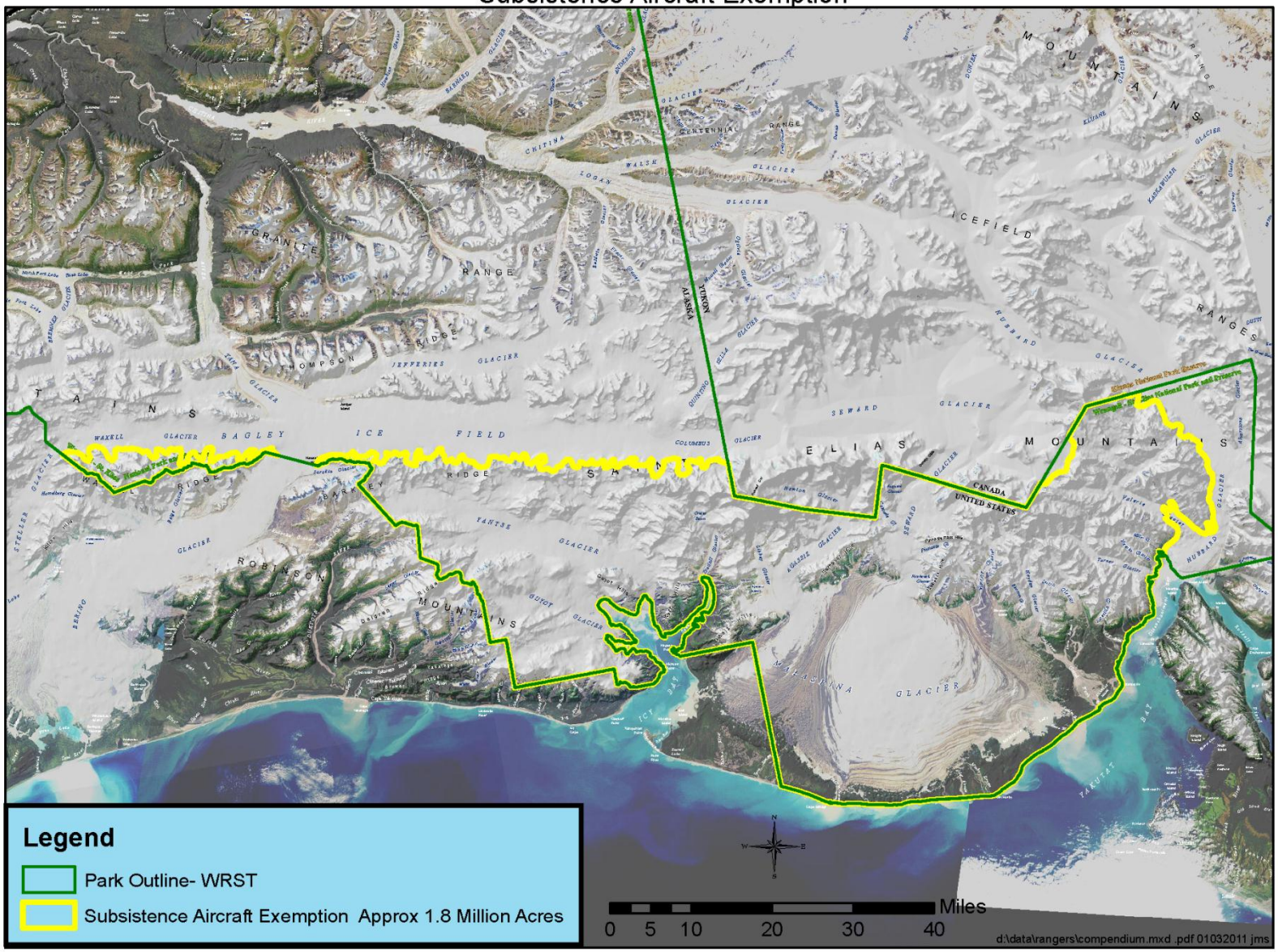
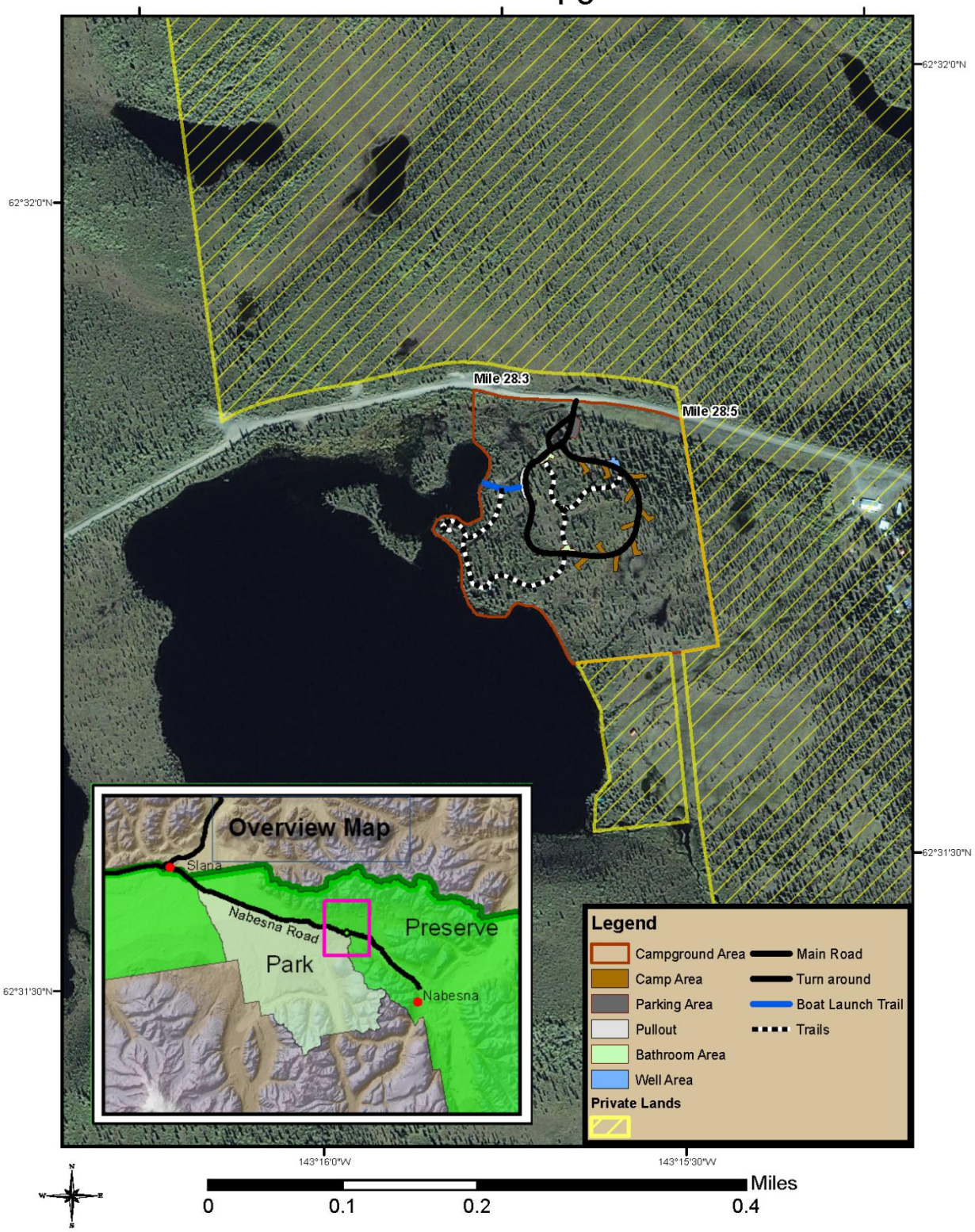
Date: 1/31/2014

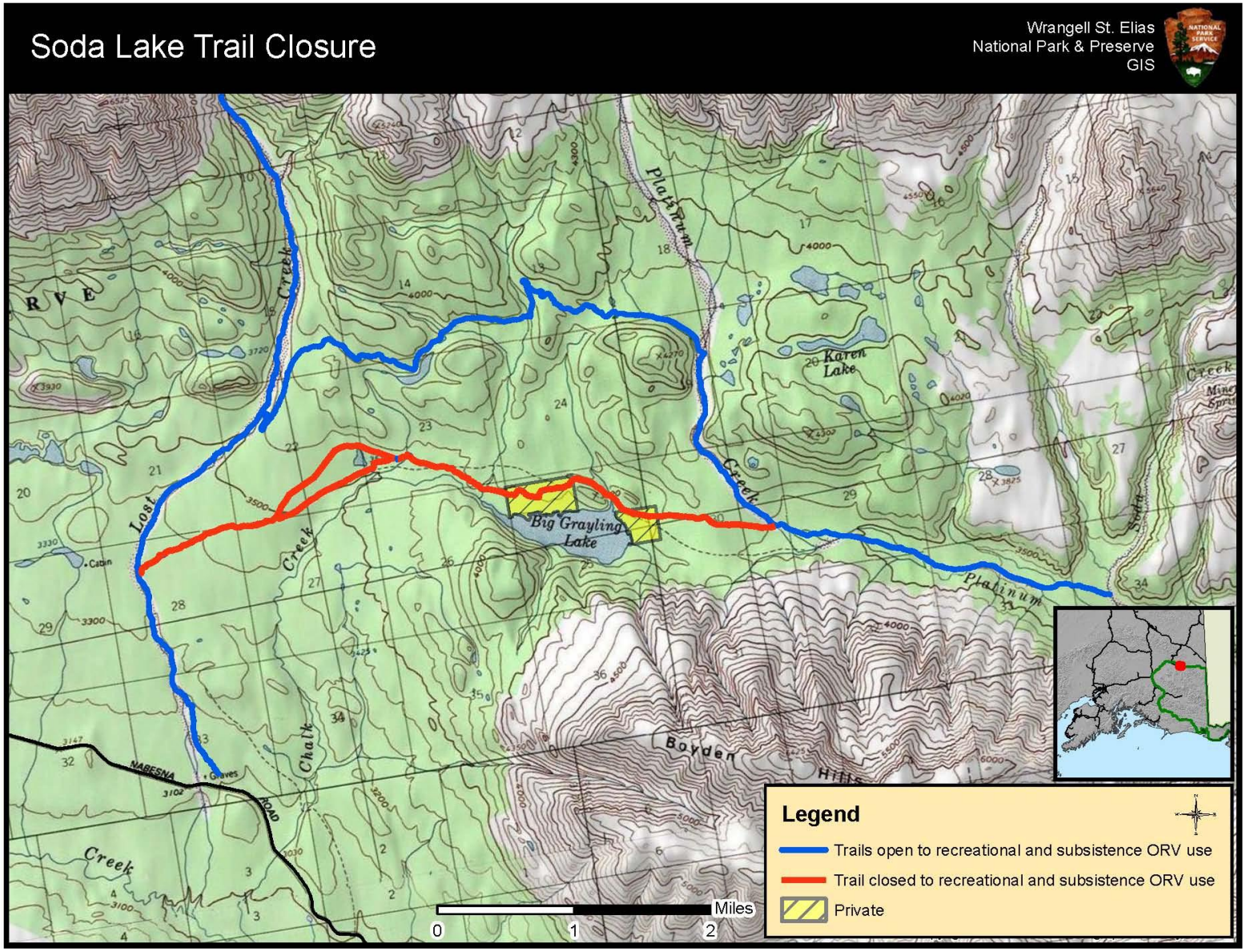
Subsistence Aircraft Exemption



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
Designated Areas for First Amendment Activities
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WRST Visitor Center
WRST Admin Building

Kendesnii Campground




Soda Lake Trail Closure
Wrangell St. Elias
National Park & Preserve
GIS
Big Grayling Lake
Karen Lake
Lost Creek
Chalk Creek
Platinum Creek
Boyden Hills
NABESNA ROAD
Legend
Trails open to recreational and subsistence ORV use
Trail closed to recreational and subsistence ORV use
Private
0
1
2
Miles