



## General Management Plan Amendment/Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment



### *Dear Friends and Interested Parties:*

*The National Park Service is finalizing the Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) for the General Management Plan Amendment/Wilderness Stewardship Plan/Environmental Assessment (plan/EA). This plan/EA, shared with the public in January of 2015, will direct management of park resources, wilderness character, visitor uses, and facilities for the next 15 to 20 years. It also provides guidance for stewardship of park wilderness and backcountry recreation.*

*The NPS preferred alternative would continue the current management approach. There would continue to be a strong focus on protecting wilderness character, including maintaining opportunities for solitude and self-reliance, and the park's wild and undeveloped qualities.*

*There should be no substantial changes to the plan/EA in the FONSI. We expect the FONSI to be signed by the director of the Alaska Region in the coming weeks.*

*Greg Dudgeon*

*Superintendent  
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve*

### Overview of the Plan's Public Release

In January of 2015, the National Park Service (NPS) released the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve General Management Plan/Wilderness Stewardship Strategy/Environmental Assessment (plan/EA) for a 60 day public review and comment period.

The plan/EA evaluated three alternatives for managing the park, a no-action alternative, and two action alternatives. Alternative A, the no-action alternative, consists of a continuation of existing park management and serves as a basis for comparison of the other alternatives. Alternative B, the NPS preferred alternative, generally reflects current management conditions but applies current NPS planning standards through the use of zoning and indicators and standards for wilderness character to guide management. Alternative C applies current NPS planning standards to guide management, but would also foster increased visitor understanding of park resources through increased education opportunities.

The plan/EA was available for public review from January 12, 2015 to March 13, 2015.

A total of 74 written correspondences were received in the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site, of which 40 were form letters. Most of the correspondences were from private citizens. Organizations providing comments included the State of Alaska, National Parks Conservation Association, Sierra Club Alaska Chapter, Alaska Miners Association, Resource Development Council for Alaska, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority.

Public meetings on the draft plan/EA were held in Anchorage on February 17, 2015, in Fairbanks on February 19, and at Anaktuvuk Pass on February 25, 2015. A total of 10 people attended the Anchorage meeting, 11 individuals attended the Fairbanks meeting (which was also a public hearing per ANILCA), and three individuals came to the Anaktuvuk Pass meeting.

The NPS has considered this input from the public and is in the process of completing a decision document (the FONSI) to finish the planning process. There are no significant changes to the plan/EA anticipated.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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The purpose of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is to preserve the vast, wild, undeveloped character and environmental integrity of Alaska's central Brooks Range and to provide opportunities for wilderness recreation and traditional subsistence uses.

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve  
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Project Website  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=30266>

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

## Project Timeline

This GMPA/WSP/EA will update the 1986 General Mangement Plan. The planning process for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is expected to be completed in the winter of 2016. There will be an environmental assessment (EA) completed in conjunction with the plan to ensure that the National Park Service is in full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Park Foundation Statement Completed	Spring 2009
Defined Purpose, Need, Impact Topics	Spring 2010
Alternatives Workshop	Summer 2010
Public Rewiev of Proposed Alternatives	Spring and Summer 2011
Public Review of the GMPA/WSP/ EA	Winter 2015
Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) Finalized	Spring 2016