



Proposed Action

Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Plan

General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment

May 2016



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Glossary of terms

Above-ground installations – physical developments that extend above the ground surface; examples include weather stations and bear boxes.

Backcountry – remote, inaccessible areas that share many characteristics with wilderness, but are not designated as wilderness. These areas are not accessible within one day of travel from the road system using non-motorized or non-mechanized means of travel. Management prescriptions for these areas will be different than those prescribed for designated wilderness.

Frontcountry – areas that are generally more developed and accessible within one day of travel from the road system. These areas are not included in this plan.

Indicator – specific, measurable variables that are indicative of condition.

Management actions – what will be implemented, generally in phases, after a standard is exceeded, based on monitoring.

Monumentation – installations that are flush with the ground surface or sub-surface; they are typically used for scientific research.

Off Road Vehicle – any motor vehicle, including all-terrain vehicles, designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, wetland, or other natural terrain, except snowmachines or snowmobiles.

Standard – the minimum acceptable condition for change in indicators, which serve as triggers for management action when exceeded. All standards are made in reference to baseline conditions, unless otherwise indicated.

Topic areas – these are driven by issues in the park and include three broad categories: modern human use, administrative activities (includes permitted research activities), and motorized use.

List of Acronyms

ANCSA – Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

ANILCA – Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act

CUA – Commercial Use Authorization

EA – Environmental Assessment

FEIS – Final Environmental Impact Statement

GMP – General Management Plan

MRDG – Minimum Requirements Decision Guide

NPS – National Park Service

ORV – Off road vehicle

PEPC – Planning, Environment and Public Comment website

RWCA – Right of way certificate of access

WRST – Wrangell- St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Introduction

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve (WRST) is in the process of preparing a Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment (hereafter referred to as ‘the plan’). The purpose of the plan is to guide the stewardship of backcountry and wilderness character and resources in WRST within the legal framework of the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), and National Park Service (NPS) policy and regulations.

This Proposed Action addresses the stewardship of 9.4 million acres of wilderness, as well as 1.7 million acres of backcountry (Figure 1).

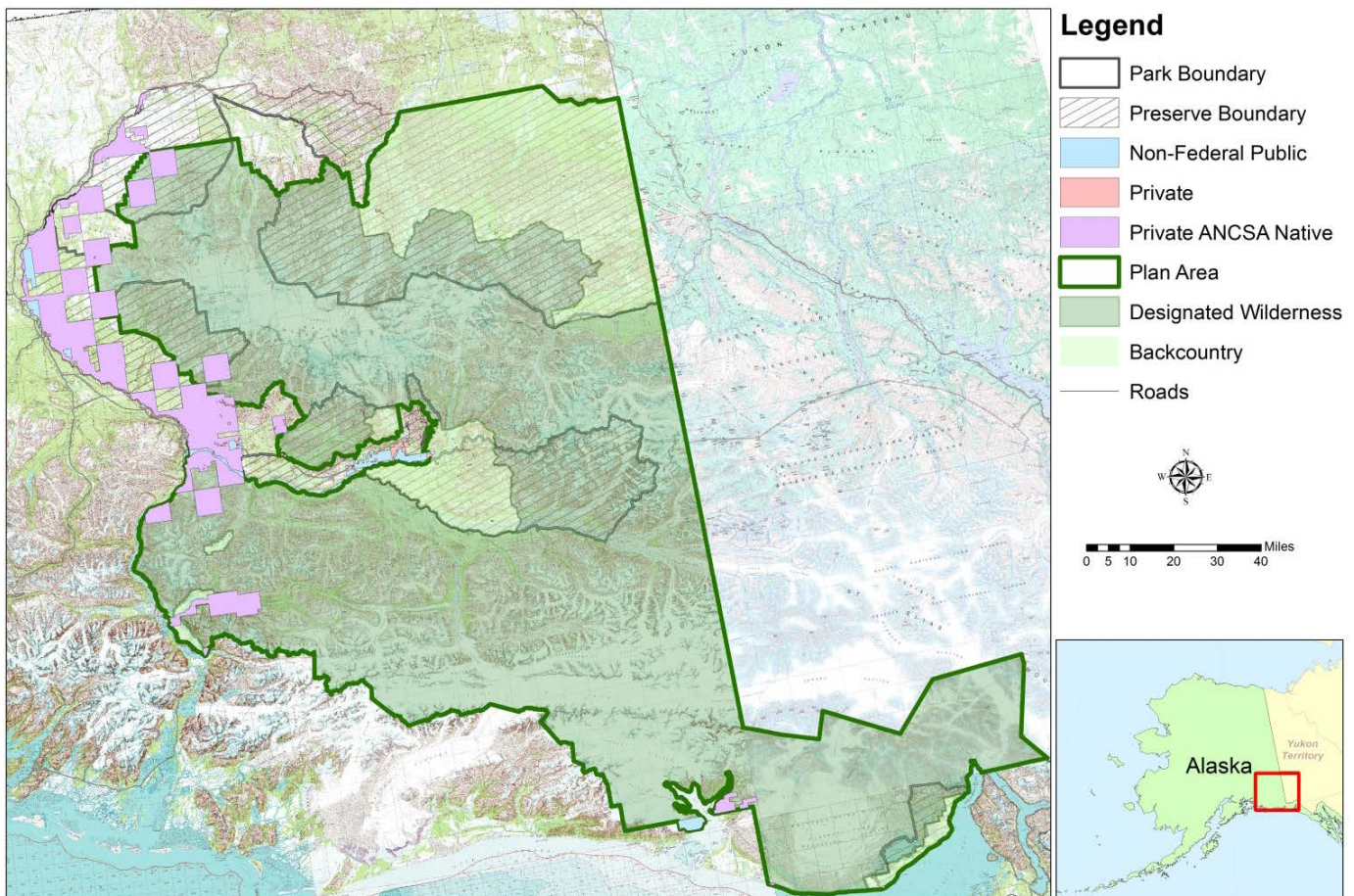


Figure 1. Plan area.

This Proposed Action outlines the initial NPS proposal for what the plan will include and how it will address the management and planning needs of the park’s backcountry and wilderness. This document is not a final decision of what the plan will do. Rather, the purpose of releasing this Proposed Action is to generate public comments, which will be used to revise the Proposed Action and to generate management alternatives to be included in the Environmental Assessment. The management actions described in this Proposed Action would not apply to private lands within the park boundaries.

To target the management needs of different areas in the park, the plan area is split into several management zones (see page 8). An online interactive map with the zone boundaries can be found at:

<http://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=236bb6a925374eb9b35c6e7bf6167555>. Please submit any comments on the zone boundaries through the PEPC website.

For each zone, this Proposed Action includes:

- desired future conditions;
- comprehensive management prescriptions;
- specific management indicators and standards to protect wilderness character and protect opportunities for high quality visitor experiences; and
- management tools to address recreational and commercial uses and provide for customary and traditional subsistence activities.

The Proposed Action tables display indicators, standards, and management actions for each zone. Management actions do not take place unless standards are exceeded, at which point actions are phased in, beginning with less restrictive management actions. There are several columns per table; content in the columns is defined as follows:

- *Topic areas*: These are driven by issues in the park and include three broad categories: modern human use, administrative activities (includes permitted research activities), and motorized use
- *Indicator*: Specific, measurable variables that are indicative of condition
- *Standards*: The minimum acceptable condition for change in indicators, which serve as triggers for management action when exceeded
- *Management actions*: What will be implemented, generally in phases, after a standard is exceeded, based on monitoring

The Proposed Action is data driven, and requires long term monitoring of backcountry and wilderness areas. Monitoring for each indicator will be completed under various different time intervals. In general, a trend will be calculated every 5 years to determine if a standard has been exceeded.

This Proposed Action was developed in response to comments received during the public scoping phase of the plan, which occurred from May to November of 2015. A detailed Public Scoping Report which summarizes public comments received, can be found on the PEPC website at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=21&projectID=44299&documentID=70318>

The Proposed Action and subsistence activities: Federally qualified local rural residents engaged in subsistence activities make up a very small proportion of the visitors (approximately 5 percent) within the area covered by this proposed action. Management actions related to “modern human use” in the following tables would be applied first to recreational and commercially supported visitors. If standards are still not met, then management actions would be applied to subsistence users.

Airstrip Maintenance and Management

There are over 200 documented airstrips and landing spots throughout the park's backcountry and wilderness. The NPS does not publicize or maintain most of the strips because they require varying degrees of pilot skill to land and take off. Maintenance and management strategies described below do not preclude private and/or commercial pilots from landing at unmaintained landing strips.

1. Airstrips listed in Tables 1 and Table 2 have been designated as necessary and important access points for public use of backcountry/wilderness and/or park administration. As such, maintenance will occur by NPS or an outside entity at a level sufficient to keep the airstrip in a condition that allows landing and take-off of the appropriate class of fixed wing aircraft under the maintenance stipulations described below.

Table 1. Designated airstrips for maintenance in wilderness:

- Amphitheatre	- Lakina River
- Black Sands	- Oldhams
- Bremner	- Samovar Hills
- Dadina River	- Sanford River 1 & 2
- Doubtful Creek	- Skolai Pass
- Fosse	- Solo Mountain
- Green Hills	- Tana Strip
- Huberts	- Tumble Creek
- Iceberg Lake	- Wolverine
- Kageet Point	

For designated airstrips in wilderness:

- The following elements of maintenance may occur (without a permit if done by an outside entity):
 - Removal of brush and small trees up to 3" in diameter using hand tools.
 - Leveling of high spots and filling in low spots, removal of rocks, using hand tools.
- Use of power equipment for maintenance will be discouraged. The following elements of maintenance may occur under permit (if proposed by an outside entity) and/or subject to the conditions of a Minimum Requirements Analysis (if proposed by NPS maintenance):
 - Use of chain saws for removal of selected trees larger than 3" in diameter.
 - Use of power tools (such as generators, gas-driven compactors, or gas-driven brush cutters).
 - Any airstrips located in wilderness other than those listed above will not be considered for maintenance by NPS or an outside entity.

Table 2. Designated airstrips for maintenance in backcountry:

- Baultoff	- Jakes Bar 1 & 2
- Bond Creek	- May Creek
- Chicken Strip	- Orange Hill
- Chisana	- Peavine
- Esker Stream	- Solo Creek
- Glacier Creek	- Tebay
- Horsfeld	

For designated airstrips in backcountry:

- The following elements of maintenance may occur (without a permit if done by an outside entity):
 - Removal of brush and small trees up to 3" in diameter using hand tools.
 - Leveling of high spots and filling in low spots, removal of rocks, using hand tools.
- The following elements of maintenance may occur, under a permit (if proposed by an outside entity):
 - Use of chainsaws for removal of selected trees larger than 3" in diameter.
 - Use of power tools (such as generators, gas-driven compactors, or gas-driven brush cutters).
 - Use of heavy equipment (such as Bobcats, excavators, or dozers) as long as overland transport is not needed (airstrip in vicinity of private inholding). Heavy equipment use must be contained to the footprint of the existing airstrip.
- Backcountry airstrips other than those listed above may be considered for maintenance by an outside entity given prior approval and under a permit.

2. Airstrips will not be replaced or relocated in backcountry or wilderness unless the following circumstances apply:
 - The airstrip provides key support to a concessions operation.
 - The airstrip facilitates reasonable and adequate access (existing or new) consistent with section 1110(b) of ANILCA.
 - The airstrip is essential for subsistence access.
3. No signage or kiosks will be present at airstrips in wilderness. Development of other infrastructure (bear storage boxes or outhouses) will be discouraged in wilderness, but could be considered at backcountry airstrips.

Cabin Maintenance and Management

There are over 150 documented cabins in the backcountry/wilderness covered by this proposal. They are in various stages of repair and disrepair. The NPS does not publicize the location of most cabins because they are not in a usable condition and/or they are protected as historic structures. However, the NPS does not prohibit the public from utilizing these structures if needed for emergency shelter. Following is a description of the NPS proposal for maintenance and management of backcountry/wilderness cabins.

Historic Cabins and Structures

1. Historic cabins and historic landscapes will be maintained in accordance with their respective Cultural Landscape Report and using the minimum tool concept. Historic landscapes in the park include:
 - Bremner Historic Landscape
 - Chisana Historic Landscape
2. Historic structures with a fire protection status of “full” or “critical” will receive the corresponding and appropriate level of protection in the event of a wildfire.
3. Cabins that are not historic or have been determined to have no historic integrity (and are not identified in the tables below) will not be maintained or replaced in the event that they are destroyed by fire or other causes.

Public Cabins

1. Cabins listed in Table 3 are located in wilderness areas of the park. They are designated for “public health & safety” and will be maintained for such purposes. These cabins will be open for general public use and available for shelter as needed, but will not be managed as public use cabins (e.g., stocked with firewood, cooking supplies, on a reservation system, etc). In the event that these cabins are destroyed by fire or other causes, they may not be re-built.

Table 3. Designated public health & safety cabins:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Amphitheatre- Dadina (Upper)- Huberts- Glacier Creek- Solo Mountain |
|---|

2. Cabins listed in Table 4 are located in backcountry areas of the park and are designated as public use cabins. These cabins will be maintained by the NPS. The level of maintenance and management as a public use cabin will vary.

Table 4. Public use cabins:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Esker Stream- Gold Run- Jakes Bar 1 & 2- May Creek- Orange Hill- Peavine 1 & 2- Too Much Johnson |
|--|

3. Cabins used by concession operators and identified as such in their concession contract may be maintained by the concessionaire under stipulations provided in the contract. In the event that a concession operation is sold or otherwise changes hands, the cabins will transfer into sole ownership by the park and will not be subject to exclusive use. When these cabins transfer to park ownership, they will not be maintained by NPS.

Subsistence Cabins and Structures

Maintenance of existing structures – Non-historic (both backcountry and wilderness): Subsistence users may maintain existing structures used in support of subsistence activities using materials and methods that blend with and are compatible with the immediate and surrounding landscape (36 CFR 13.118).

Maintenance of existing structures – Historic (both backcountry and wilderness): Subsistence users may maintain existing structures used in support of subsistence activities pending consultation with park cultural resource staff and using materials and methods that blend with and are compatible with the immediate and surrounding landscape (36 CFR 13.118).

Any additions of new structures to existing cabin sites (e.g., outhouse, shed, cache) must be approved in advance by the Superintendent and will be consistent with applicable Federal regulations and the general management plan for the park and preserve.

Construction of new cabins – Backcountry: The Park will consider requests, consistent with applicable Federal regulations. In any permit authorizing the construction of a cabin or other structure necessary to reasonably accommodate authorized subsistence uses, the Superintendent shall provide for shared use of the facility by the permittee and other local rural residents rather than for exclusive use by the permittee (36 CFR 13.168).

Construction of new cabins – Wilderness: The Park will consider requests for replacement of existing structures that no longer support subsistence uses, consistent with applicable Federal regulations.

Temporary facilities: A temporary facility or structure directly and necessarily related to the taking of subsistence resources may be constructed and used by a qualified subsistence user without a permit so long as such use is for less than thirty days and the site is returned to a natural condition. The Superintendent may establish conditions and standards governing the use or construction of these temporary facilities.

Recreational Snowmachine Use

The WRST 1986 General Management Plan (GMP) stated “airplane, snowmachine, and motorboat access for recreational activities within the designated wilderness is currently permitted where such use is already established.” WRST has allowed recreational snowmachine use, including in wilderness, since the park was established. Primary areas of known recreational snowmachine use in wilderness include the area south of Copper and Tanada Lakes; the upper end of the Nizina River; the upper end of the Chitina River and tributaries to the south of the Chitina; Chisana to Solo Creek; and scattered areas along the face of Mts. Sanford and Drum. Existing patterns of recreational snowmachine use will be determined through review of documentation, personal interviews with local public, and evaluation of the patterns of use with evolving snowmachine technology. This information will be used to identify and delineate specific areas where recreational snowmachine use occurred, has evolved, and will be permitted within designated wilderness in WRST.

For these areas in designated wilderness, WRST must manage recreational snowmachine use to minimize impacts to resources and values and wilderness character. Standards will be developed from a suite of baseline data collected from 2014-2017. Information such as sound, emissions, group size, elevation or topography, wildlife habitat, and other factors will inform potential management actions. Such management actions may include: education of recreational snowmachine users regarding avoidance of high-volume areas or weekends; designation of general point to point routes or corridors for travel; requiring use of low emissions snowmachines; requiring recreational snowmachine users to obtain permits at no cost; limited issuance of permits; and area restrictions justified for administration, safety, and other factors.

In designated wilderness outside of the areas described above, recreational snowmachine use did not occur as an established pattern in 1986, nor does it occur now. For these areas, the NPS will clarify that recreational snowmachine use is not allowed.

In non-wilderness portions of the area covered by this plan, NPS would continue to allow recreational snowmachine use to occur.

Use of snowmachines by local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses will continue to be allowed in backcountry and wilderness, consistent with 36 CFR 13.460.

Off Road Vehicle Use

Zone by zone descriptions of proposed Off Road Vehicle (ORV) management are provided in the following tables for each management zone. Generally, the following is proposed for management of ORVs in backcountry/wilderness covered by this plan:

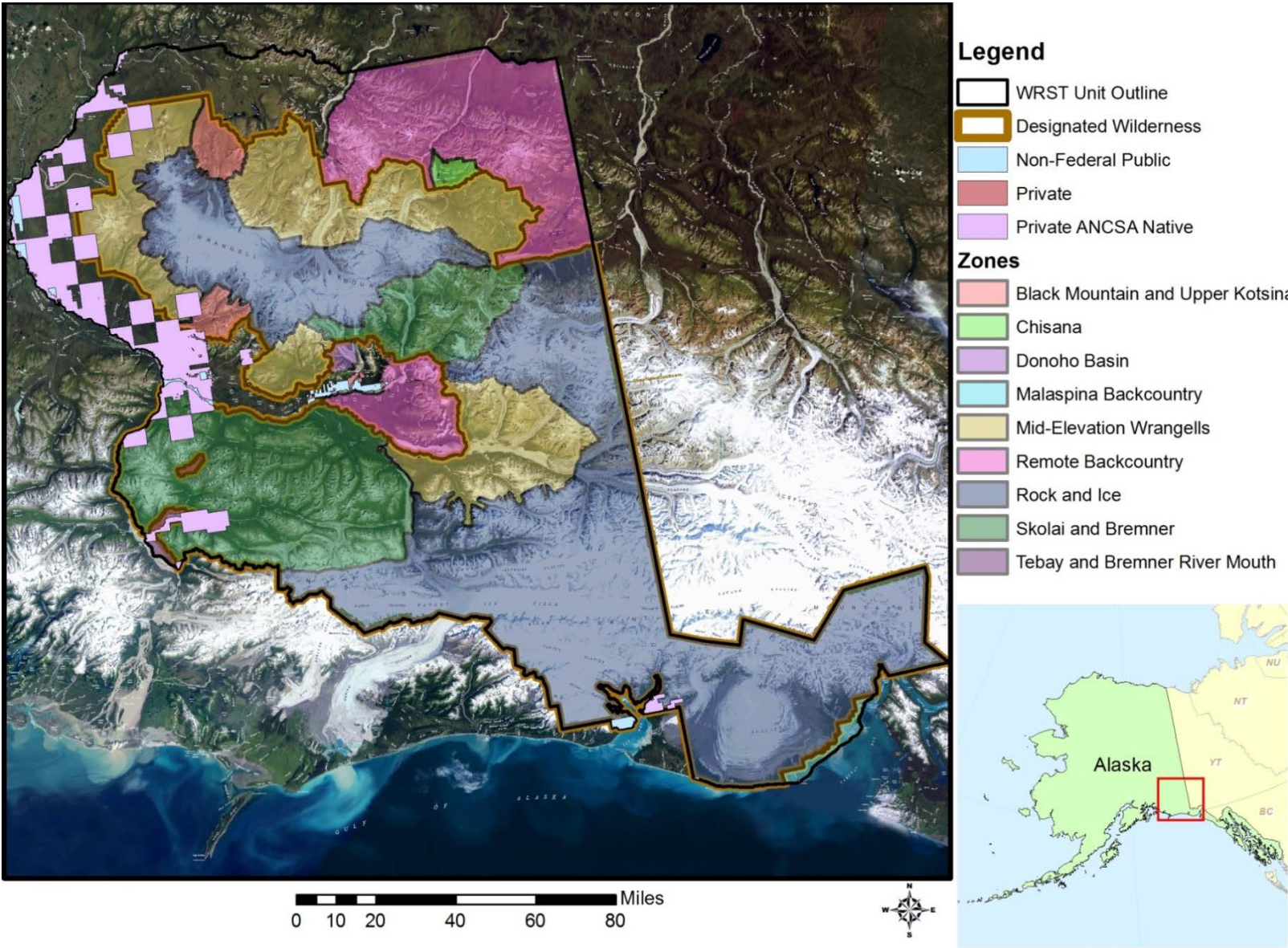
1. Recreational ORV use is prohibited in all designated wilderness and in all backcountry zones covered by this proposed action. Recreational ORV use will continue to be permitted on improved trails in frontcountry portions of the national preserve and on the Nugget Creek trail.
2. In designated wilderness in the Black Mountain area and the area south of Tanada Lake, ORV use by local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses will be consistent with the decisions made in the 2011 Nabesna ORV Management Plan: In designated wilderness in these areas, subsistence ORV users will stay on designated trails. Travel off designated trails is allowed for game retrieval.
3. In the Kotsina zone and other wilderness zones where subsistence ORV use is known to occur, existing trails necessary for reasonable subsistence ORV access will be identified and monitored. If monitoring shows increase of user-created ORV trails over baseline conditions, existing trails will be designated, with travel off designated trails prohibited, except for game retrieval.
4. For backcountry zones, subsistence ORV use off existing trails is permitted as long as the use does not result in resource impacts, as defined in the Nabesna ORV FEIS (Off-trail impacts, page 2-40, Table 2-6). ORV use in association with concessions operations will be limited and subject to conditions in the concessions contract.

ORV weight and size limits as established by the Nabesna ORV FEIS rulemaking will be applied to areas covered under this proposal. The weight limit is 1,500 lbs. GVW for wheeled ORVs and 4,000 lbs. for tracked vehicles.

Specific ORV trails are mentioned in the following tables but this is not an all-inclusive list. There are other trails in the backcountry/wilderness used by subsistence ORV users.

Planning Framework

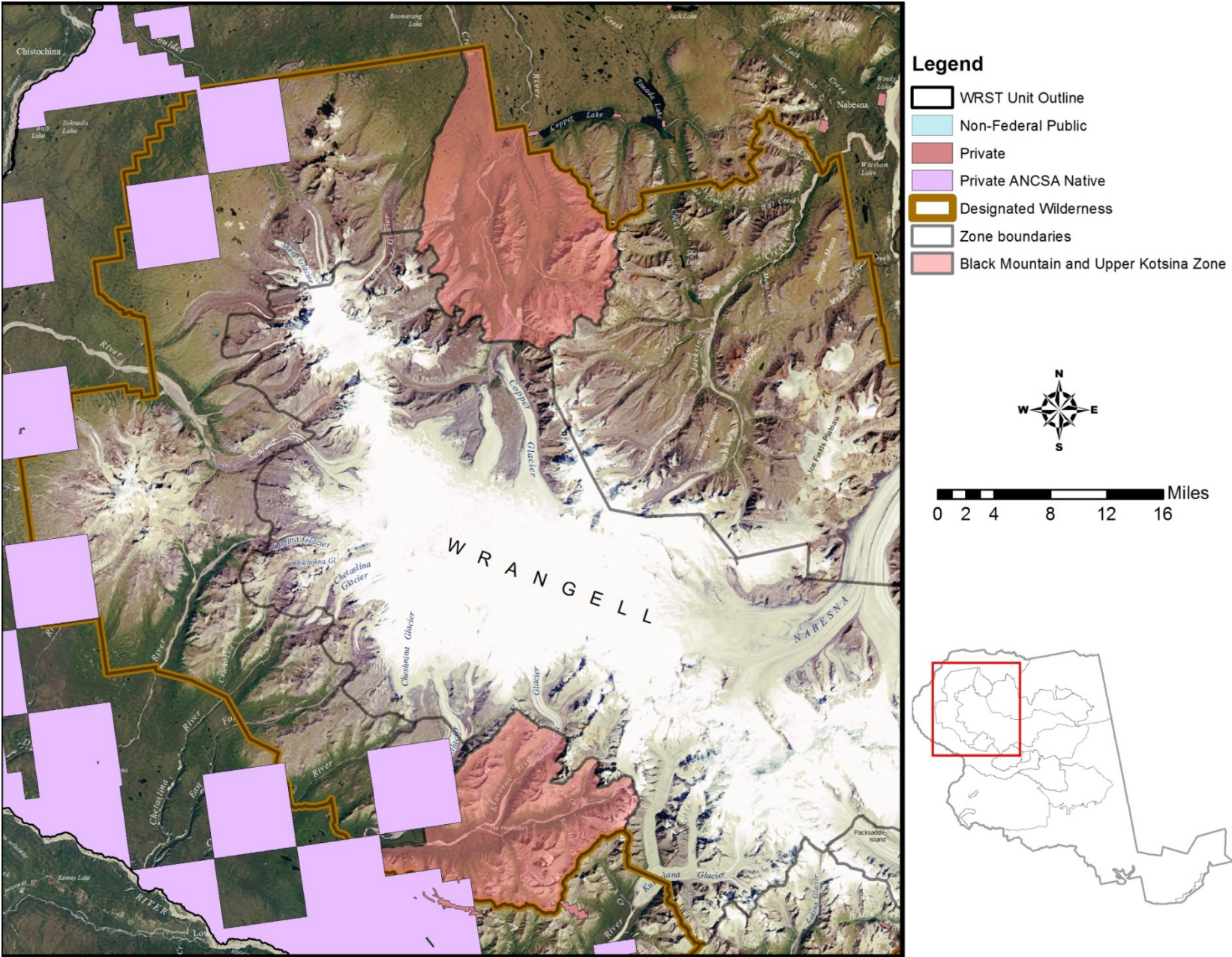
Common to All Zones



Planning Framework Table – Common to all zones

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
Invasive species	Invasive species management (plant and animal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	Existing Management Activities: Use of ecological restoration in wilderness framework (in wilderness). Continue monitoring.	
Bear-human encounters	Bear-human encounters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	Anticipated Action: No bear boxes will be installed in wilderness; education and citations of improper food storage will be used instead.	Any immediate response needs would occur irrespective of the management action outlined here.
Administrative activities	Administrative or administratively authorized trammeling activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	Existing Management Action: Use of existing evaluation frameworks for Science in Wilderness, Ecological Restoration, etc. as appropriate.	
	Fixed-wing overflights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	Anticipated Action: Implement monitoring system for administrative and administratively-authorized overflights.	
	Installations	In backcountry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None In wilderness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤10% increase in monumentation in wilderness 	Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG for all projects involving installations (permanent or temporary). Placement of new installations must be reported to designated staff member. Management Action Phase 1: Remove defunct modern installations as feasible. Not permit installations in excess of standard.	
	Motorized administrative use - includes snowmachines, ORVs, small motors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	Anticipated Action: Implement monitoring system for motorized administrative use. Implement MRDG review process. Conduct annual planning to determine what activities will/will not occur.	
Commercial filming	Commercial filming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	Existing Management Actions: Use NPS Alaska Region commercial filming framework to review proposals, including use of the wilderness section as appropriate.	
Commercial services	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various 	Anticipated Management Action: If a concession area or CUA becomes vacant, NPS will not re-fill the vacancy until all standards identified under the “modern human use” topic area for the applicable zone are met, based on monitoring and appropriate management actions.	

Black Mountain and Upper Kotsina Zone – Wilderness



Desired Conditions

Overview: The Black Mountain and Upper Kotsina Zone will be characterized by remote and wild conditions with managed access to provide for subsistence opportunities provided for in ANILCA.

Visitor experience: Outside of hunting season, opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation will exist; during hunting season, visitors will expect to encounter motorized groups and see or hear evidence of subsistence harvest of moose or Dall sheep. Visitors may see designated trails for motorized use, but any additional trails are unlikely to be observed.

Natural and untrammeled qualities: Natural processes will continue to dominate this zone with impacts on natural and cultural resources confined to designated motorized trails. Trammeling actions would only occur in rare circumstances when necessary to preserve the area's wilderness character as a whole. Hunting affects the natural quality and species therein, but is part of the cultural and historic fabric of the park and will not be considered a trammeling action.

Access: ORV use will be limited to support subsistence activities and managed to minimize impacts to wilderness character. Fixed-wing aircraft will also continue to provide access to this zone.

Undeveloped quality: Outside of motorized trails, the area will be predominantly undeveloped. Visitors may see signage at the wilderness boundary or come across ruins of historic mining infrastructure.

Inhabited quality: This zone will exemplify the inhabited quality of wilderness character. It will continue to be managed to provide reasonable access to subsistence opportunities, as will evidence of people living and subsisting within this zone.

Natural sounds: Visitors to this zone will expect to hear human-caused sounds, as motorized use will occur here year-round. Aside from motorized uses, background noise from other anthropogenic sources will be minimal, allowing natural soundscapes to predominate in the absence of motorized transport.

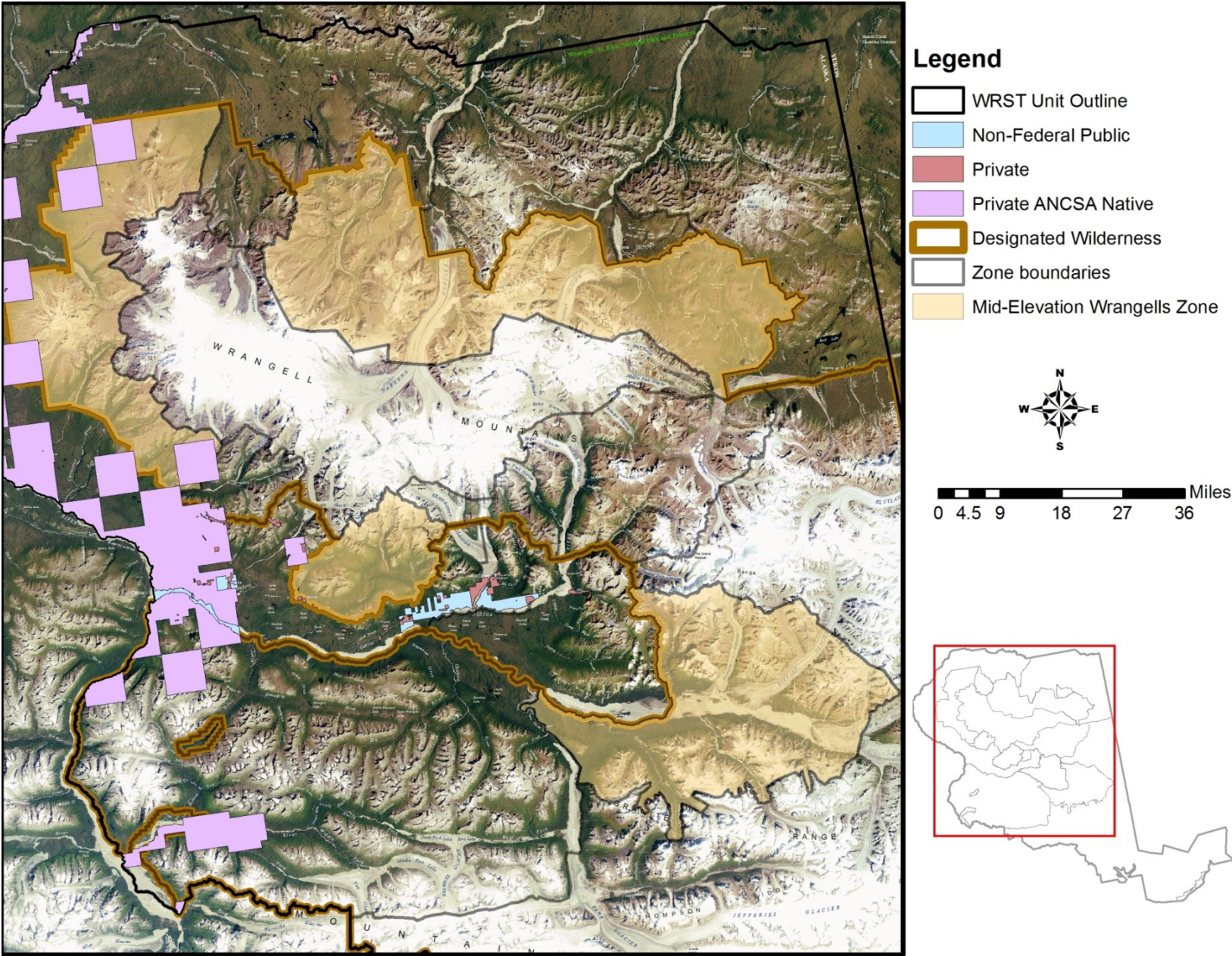
Commercial services: Air taxis will continue to provide access to this zone and guided recreational use will continue. Commercial use in this zone will remain minimal. Continuance of these services as they contribute to the fulfillment of wilderness and park purposes will be provided for.

Planning Framework Table – Black Mountain and Upper Kotsina Zone

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions
Modern human use	Campsites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤10% of sites have detectable degradation in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop a tracking/monitoring system for campsites and associated social trails. Increase availability of educational materials regarding leave no trace camping, including on park website and at visitor centers. NPS personnel will place deterrents on social trails as appropriate.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Distribute educational information regarding leave no trace camping practices to subsistence hunters and recreational visitors.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Limit group size to 12 (total individuals). Identify naturally hardened camping areas and encourage their use.</p>
	Non-motorized, visitor-created trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<p>Anticipated Action: Conduct monitoring as appropriate. No non-motorized visitor-created routes are known to exist at this time.</p>
	Group encounter rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined based on results of baseline user survey 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop and conduct visitor survey every 5 years.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Education targeted at recreational visitors to facilitate trip planning during peak use times.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require recreational visitors to check-in at Slana or Chitina ranger stations so visitors can plan accordingly.</p>
	Impacts from modern human use (includes human waste, and fire rings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No incidents of improper disposal of human waste per year 	<p>Anticipated Action: Fire rings should be dispersed by NPS personnel when encountered (except at portal campsites). Human waste should be buried and disposed of by NPS personnel when encountered. Trash should be packed out. Increase educational materials on leave no trace, including on park website, at visitor centers and at trailheads.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Make available a system for packing out human waste for optional public use. Disposal receptacles will be provided in Slana and Chitina.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require human waste to be packed out at certain locations.</p>
	Pack animal use		
Administrative use	Helicopter use – includes administrative & administratively authorized use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No increase in helicopter use (baseline TBD) 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG and other evaluation frameworks (as appropriate) to review projects. Use of park helicopter policy.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Conduct annual planning effort to determine what uses will occur. Not permit use in excess of standard (except for emergency use).</p>
	Installations – includes administrative & administratively authorized installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤3 above-ground installations 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG for all projects involving installations (permanent or temporary). Placement of new installations must be reported to designated staff member.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Remove defunct modern installations as feasible. Not permit installations in excess of standard.</p>

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions
Motorized use	ORV use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No increase in number or linear feet of ORV trails from existing baseline condition • For unimproved and designated ORV trails: See table 2-2 (page 2-21) of the 2011 Nabesna ORV FEIS 	<p>Anticipated Action: No recreational ORV use will be permitted in this zone. In Black Mountain area, subsistence ORV use is limited to designated trails, with game retrieval allowed 1/2 mile either side of designated trail. In the Kotsina area, existing trails necessary for reasonable subsistence ORV access will be identified and monitored. If monitoring shows increase of user-created ORV trails over baseline conditions, existing trails will be designated, with travel off designated trails prohibited, except for game retrieval.</p> <p>Monitoring of unimproved designated trails in wilderness would occur consistent with the monitoring protocol for unimproved trails described in the Nabesna ORV FEIS (page 8 and 9 of the 2011 Record of Decision). These monitoring transects have already been established for designated trails in the Black Mountain area. If monitoring shows an increase in resource impacts, the following management actions would be phased in: 1) site-specific maintenance; 2) vehicle class restrictions; 3) reduction of use; and 4) trail closures.</p>

Mid-Elevation Wrangells Zone – Wilderness



Desired Conditions

Overview: The Mid-Elevation Wrangells Zone will continue to be a vast and undisturbed landscape with opportunities for recreation, subsistence uses, and sport hunting.

Visitor experience: Opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation will pervade in this zone. During hunting season however, visitors may see or hear subsistence users, and in parts of this zone, sport hunters. Visitors will likely encounter signs of horse use in the Lakina drainage and in the north-eastern part of this zone near Solo Flats, Chisana Glacier, and Jacksina Creek. In winter, visitors will expect to encounter little evidence of other human activity.

Natural and untrammelled qualities: This zone will be dominated by natural processes – where intact physical, biological, and ecological resources are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. Hunting affects the natural quality and species therein, but is part of the cultural and historic fabric of the park and will not be considered a trammeling action. Trammeling actions would only occur in rare circumstances when necessary to preserve the area's wilderness character as a whole.

Access: Motorized transport will continue to provide the primary means of access to this zone, namely by fixed-wing aircraft; motorized means of access may also include snowmachines in the winter and motorboats by subsistence users in the summer via the Chitina River. The Lakina River area will continue to be accessed by foot from Kennecott or the McCarthy Road. ORV use will be rare and limited to designated trails to access subsistence activities. In the summer, horses will frequently provide access to the Lakina River and north-eastern part of this zone; impacts associated with this use will be minimized.

Undeveloped quality: This zone will remain primarily undeveloped. Developments such as airstrips, cabins, and scientific instrumentation will continue to be present here. Visitors may see evidence of modern human use at airstrips or cabins. Inholdings as well as cabins and airstrips will affect the undeveloped quality of this zone. Existing cabins will provide for public safety purposes.

Inhabited quality: Use of this area as inhabited wilderness will continue and opportunities for subsistence use will be preserved. Evidence of historical use and mining infrastructure in this area will continue.

Natural sounds: Opportunities to experience natural soundscapes in this zone will predominate, primarily affected by fixed-wing aircraft and overflights by jets. Natural soundscapes will be most heavily impacted from human caused sources during hunting season.

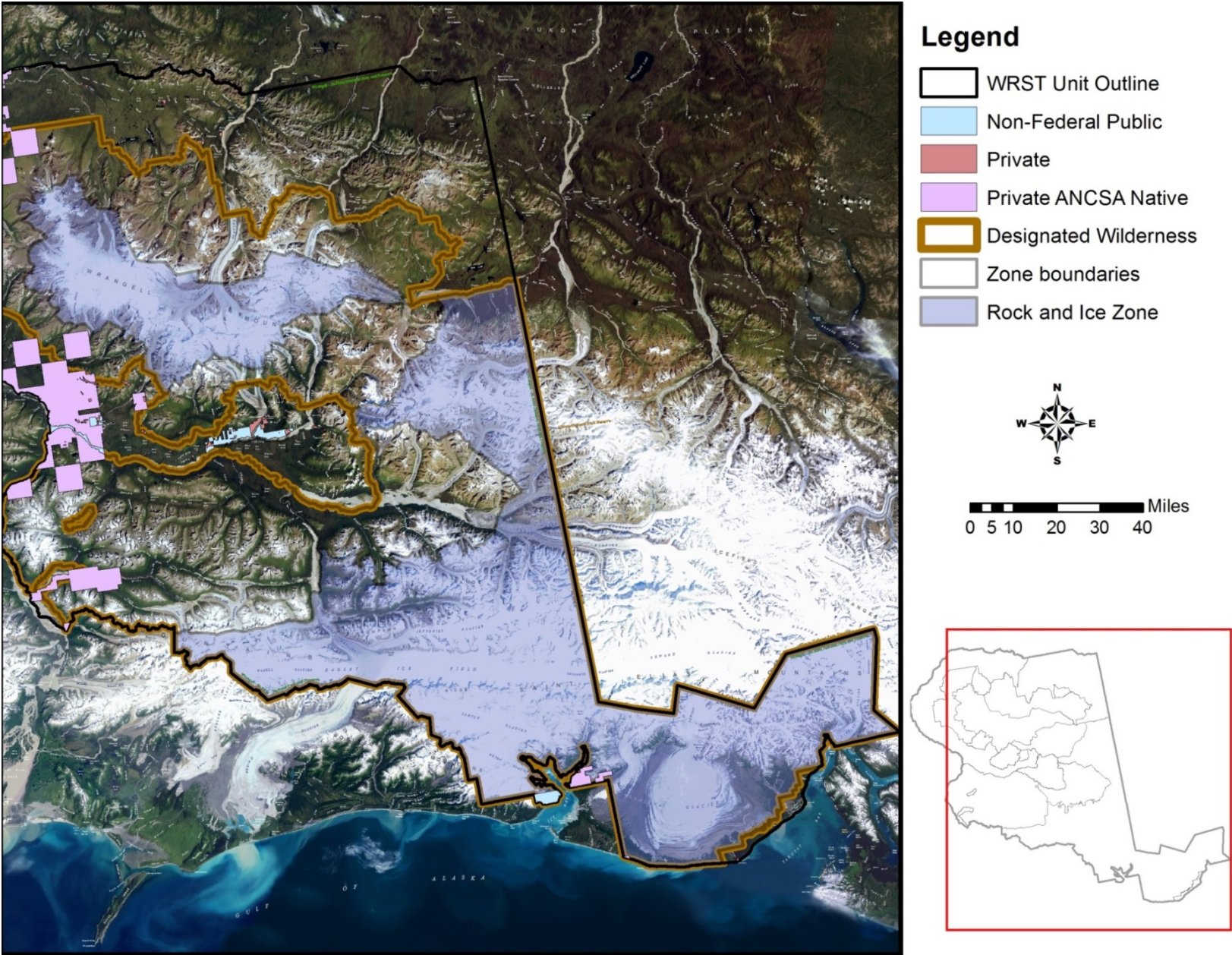
Commercial services: Air taxis will continue to provide access to this zone and guided recreational use will continue. Guided sport hunting will continue in parts of this zone that are in Preserve. Use of horses in commercial operations will be managed to minimize impacts in the Lakina River and north-eastern part of this zone. Continuance of these services as they contribute to the fulfillment of wilderness and park purposes will be provided for; commercial use will be coordinated to maintain visitor experiences. Use of Mt. Drum as a mountaineering destination will continue to provide high quality opportunities associated with that use.

Planning Framework Table – Mid- Elevation Wrangells Zone

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
Modern human use	Campsites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤10% of sites have detectable degradation in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop a tracking/monitoring system for campsites and associated social trails. Increase availability of educational materials regarding leave no trace camping, including on park website and at visitor centers. NPS personnel will place deterrents on social trails as appropriate.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings. Work with CUA holders and concessionaires to distribute educational information regarding leave no trace camping practices.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Limit group size to 12 (total individuals). Identify naturally hardened camping areas at portal areas and encourage their use.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Limit group size to 8 (total individuals). Limit length of stay at any one site to 7 days.</p>	
	Non-motorized, visitor-created trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤10% growth in linear feet of visitor-created trails on specified routes in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Conduct monitoring on routes.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings. Work with CUA holders and concessionaires to distribute educational information.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Primitive maintenance of trails, which may include but will not be limited to: use of cairns, use of deterrents on spur trails, erosion prevention.</p>	<p>Routes to be monitored at this time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huberts Landing • Sanford to Dadina • Wrangell Plateau • Lakina River Traverse • Solo Creek to Chisana
	Group encounter rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined based on results of baseline user survey 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop and conduct visitor survey every 5 years.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Education regarding visitor experience of camping at airstrips (visitors staying at airstrips or visiting during hunting season should expect more encounters with other groups.) Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require coordination between CUA operators and concessioners (e.g., shared calendars).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Cap CUA permits and/or modify permit stipulations for CUAs and concessions. Limit commercial use of the Lakina River Traverse (McCarthy to the upper Lakina, float to the road).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 4: Require a permit to camp at specified locations.</p>	<p>Based on survey results, standards for portals may differ from other areas.</p>

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
	Impacts from modern human use (includes human waste, and fire rings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No incidents of improper disposal of human waste per year 	<p>Anticipated Action: Fire rings should be dispersed by NPS personnel when encountered (except at portal campsites). Human waste should be buried and disposed of by NPS personnel when encountered. Trash should be packed out. Increase educational materials on leave no trace, including on park website and at visitor centers.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Make available a system for packing out human waste for optional public use. Disposal receptacles will be provided in McCarthy and Chitina.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Require human waste to be packed out at certain locations.</p>	
	Pack animal use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No increase in footprint of area used for base camps and spike camps 	<p>Anticipated Action: Require stock users to obtain a permit for horse use on park lands. Implement a monitoring system. Current network of stock trails will be assessed. Brushing of horse trails by concessions operators will be permitted on request.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Conduct primitive maintenance on specified horse trails (e.g., eliminate unneeded braids and erosion control).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require use of portable electric corrals or hobbling.</p>	Monitoring and maintenance of stock trails will target the Lakina River drainage and north-eastern part of this zone; it will not apply where there is no stock use or use is not causing the standard to be exceeded.
Administrative use	Helicopter use – includes administrative & administratively authorized use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No increase in helicopter use (baseline TBD) 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG and other evaluation frameworks (as appropriate) to review projects. Use of park helicopter policy.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Conduct annual planning effort to determine what uses will occur. Not permit use in excess of standard (except for emergency use).</p>	
	Installations – includes administrative & administratively authorized installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≤8 above-ground installations 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG for all projects involving installations (permanent or temporary). Placement of new installations must be reported to designated staff member.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Remove defunct modern installations as feasible. Not permit installations in excess of standard.</p>	
Motorized use	ORV use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No increase in number or linear feet of subsistence ORV trails from existing baseline condition 	<p>Anticipated Action: No recreational ORV use will be permitted in this zone. Existing trails necessary for reasonable subsistence ORV access will be identified and monitored. If monitoring shows increase of user-created ORV trails over baseline conditions, existing trails will be designated, with travel off designated trails prohibited, except for game retrieval.</p>	

Rock and Ice Zone – Wilderness



Desired Conditions

Overview: The Rock and Ice Zone will be a remote bastion of harsh and wild landscapes with minimal human activity. Along the Malaspina forelands, opportunities for recreation, subsistence uses, and sport hunting will be found.

Visitor experience: Opportunities for solitude will continue to be omnipresent in this zone. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation will also pervade, with the skills and experience of users limiting use more than regulations. On the Malaspina forelands, visitors may experience sights and sounds of human activity during hunting season – including evidence of subsistence and sport harvest of moose and bear. Visitors may also see evidence of human activity adjacent to this zone from sportfishing and commercial fishing in Yakutat Bay.

Natural and untrammelled qualities: Natural processes of immense size and ecological integrity will dominate this zone, where essentially no human impacts will be noticeable. Trammeling actions are not anticipated and would only occur when necessary to preserve the area's wilderness character as a whole. Hunting affects the natural quality and species therein, but is part of the cultural and historic fabric of the park and will not be considered a trammeling action.

Access: Access to these areas will be minimal year-round. Fixed-wing aircraft will be the predominant means of access, typically landing on snow and ice. ORV use on the Malaspina forelands will be limited to support subsistence activities and managed to minimize impacts to wilderness character.

Undeveloped quality: This zone will be the epitome of undeveloped wilderness with few permanent structures or installations. Cabins and developed airstrips will continue to be largely absent from this zone. The role of this zone for scientific research will continue and instrumentation will be the only evidence of this use.

Inhabited quality: Opportunities for subsistence use will be preserved. Evidence of historical and ongoing traditional use can be seen along the Malaspina forelands and that area will continue to be managed to provide reasonable access for subsistence opportunities.

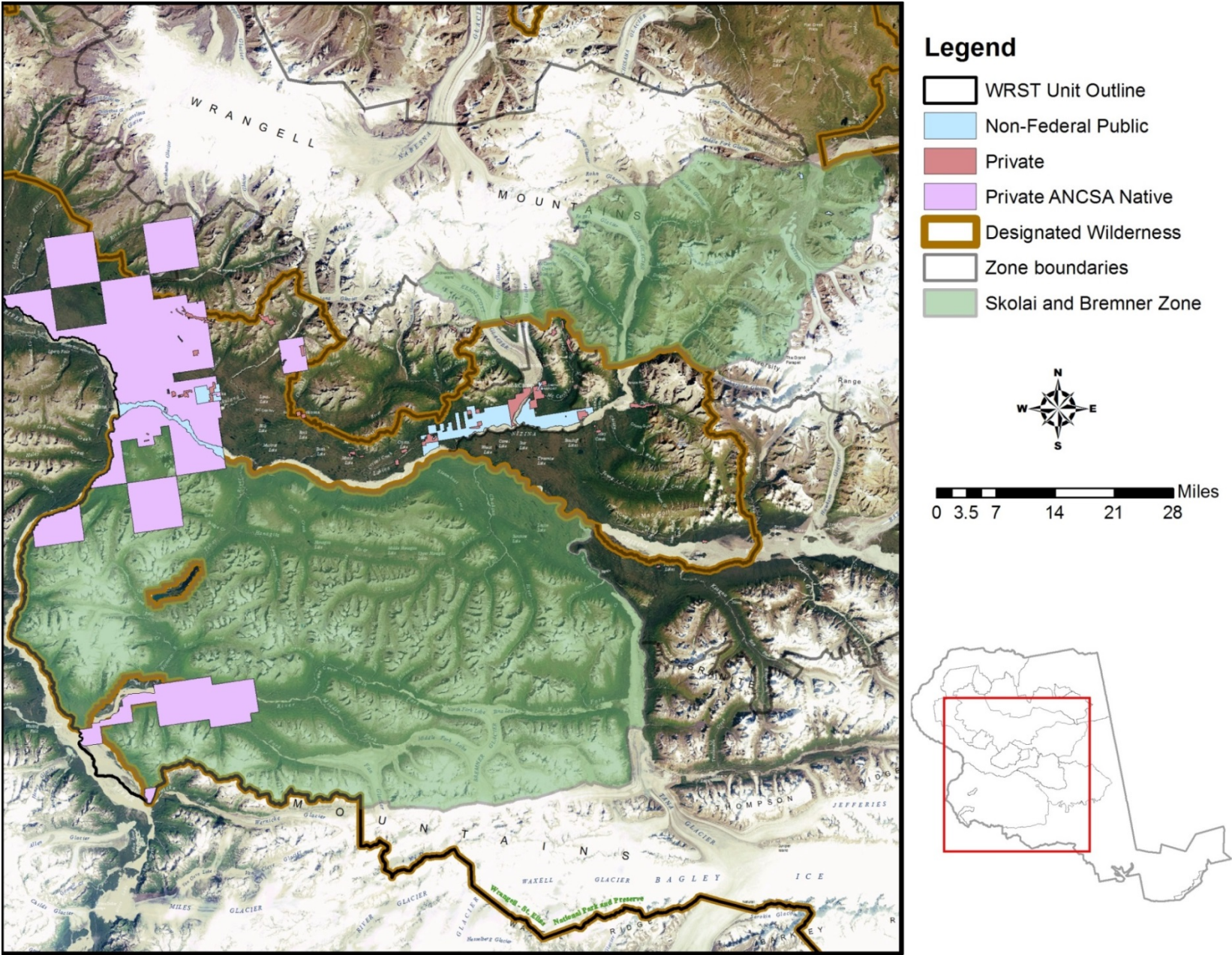
Natural sounds: Natural soundscapes will dominate this zone; intrusions by human caused sources will be extremely limited. Natural soundscapes on the Malaspina forelands will be most heavily impacted from anthropogenic sources during hunting season.

Commercial services: Commercial use in this zone is minimal and will continue to be managed to minimize use. Continuance of these services as they contribute to the fulfillment of wilderness and park purposes will be provided for; commercial use will be coordinated to maintain visitor experiences. Use of this zone for mountaineering will continue to provide high quality opportunities. Air taxis will continue to provide the primary means of access to this zone and guided recreational use will continue. Guided sport hunting use will continue in parts of this zone that are in Preserve.

Planning Framework Table – Rock and Ice Zone

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions
Modern human use	Campsites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detectable degradation in sites assessed in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop a tracking/monitoring system for campsites and associated social trails. Increase availability of educational materials regarding leave no trace camping, including on park website and at visitor centers. NPS personnel will place deterrents on social trails as appropriate.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings. Work with CUA holders to distribute educational information regarding leave no trace camping practices.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Limit group size to 12 (total individuals).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Limit group size to 8 (total individuals). Limit length of stay at any one site to 7 days.</p>
	Non-motorized, visitor-created trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<p>Anticipated Action: Conduct monitoring as appropriate. No visitor-created trails are known to exist at this time.</p>
	Group encounter rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined based on results of baseline user survey 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop and conduct visitor survey every 5 years.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require coordination between CUA operators (e.g., shared calendars).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Require a permit for mountaineering (based on a specific mountain). Cap CUA permits and/or modify CUA permit stipulations.</p>
	Impacts from modern human use (includes human waste, and fire rings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No incidents of improper disposal of human waste per year 	<p>Anticipated Action: Increase educational materials on leave no trace, including on park website and at visitor centers.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Make available a system for packing out human waste for optional public use. Disposal receptacles will be provided in McCarthy and Chitina.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Require human waste to be packed out at certain locations.</p>
	Pack animal use		
Administrative use	Helicopter use – includes administrative & administratively authorized use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No increase in helicopter use (baseline TBD) 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG and other evaluation frameworks (as appropriate) to review projects. Use of park helicopter policy.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Conduct annual planning effort to determine what uses will occur. Not permit use in excess of standard (except for emergency use).</p>
	Installations – includes administrative & administratively authorized installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No increase in above-ground installations 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG for all projects involving installations (permanent or temporary). Placement of new installations must be reported to designated staff member.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Remove defunct modern installations as feasible. Not permit installations in excess of standard.</p>
Motorized use	ORV use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-trail standards identified on page 40 (table 2-6) of the Nabesna ORV FEIS 	<p>Anticipated Action: No recreational ORV use permitted. No ORV use is known to occur in support of subsistence activities. If ORV use patterns are identified in support of subsistence activities, trails will be monitored to ensure that off-trail standards identified in the Nabesna ORV FEIS (Table 2-6, page 40) are not exceeded.</p>

Skolai and Bremner Zone – Wilderness



Desired Conditions

Overview: The Skolai and Bremner Zone will be characterized by rugged and remote wilderness managed to maintain visitor experiences.

Visitor experience: In the summer, visitors will expect see other people and evidence of their activity in certain areas that serve as portals for access. But beyond these portals, visitors will expect outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Opportunities for solitude will likewise pervade, but evidence of past visitor activity may be seen on some popular routes.

Natural and untrammelled qualities: Natural processes will continue to dominate this zone, and trammeling actions will only occur in rare circumstances and when necessary to preserve the area's wilderness character as a whole.

Access: With relatively few airstrips in this zone, access will be primarily provided by fixed-wing aircraft to portal areas. Motorized uses, including helicopter use, will be limited with the aim of preserving recreational opportunities.

Undeveloped quality: The undeveloped nature of this zone will dominate, as few cabins, airstrips, or scientific instrumentation are present. Specified cabins will be preserved for public health and safety purposes. Consideration of any additional developments will be scrutinized to prevent impacts to remote and primitive visitor experiences.

Inhabited quality: Evidence of the area's inhabited past and historical use will continue to be preserved, including the Bremner historic mining district.

Natural sounds: At portal areas, natural soundscapes will be substantially affected by human caused sounds from aircraft and human activity. Away from these areas however, opportunities to experience natural soundscapes pervade.

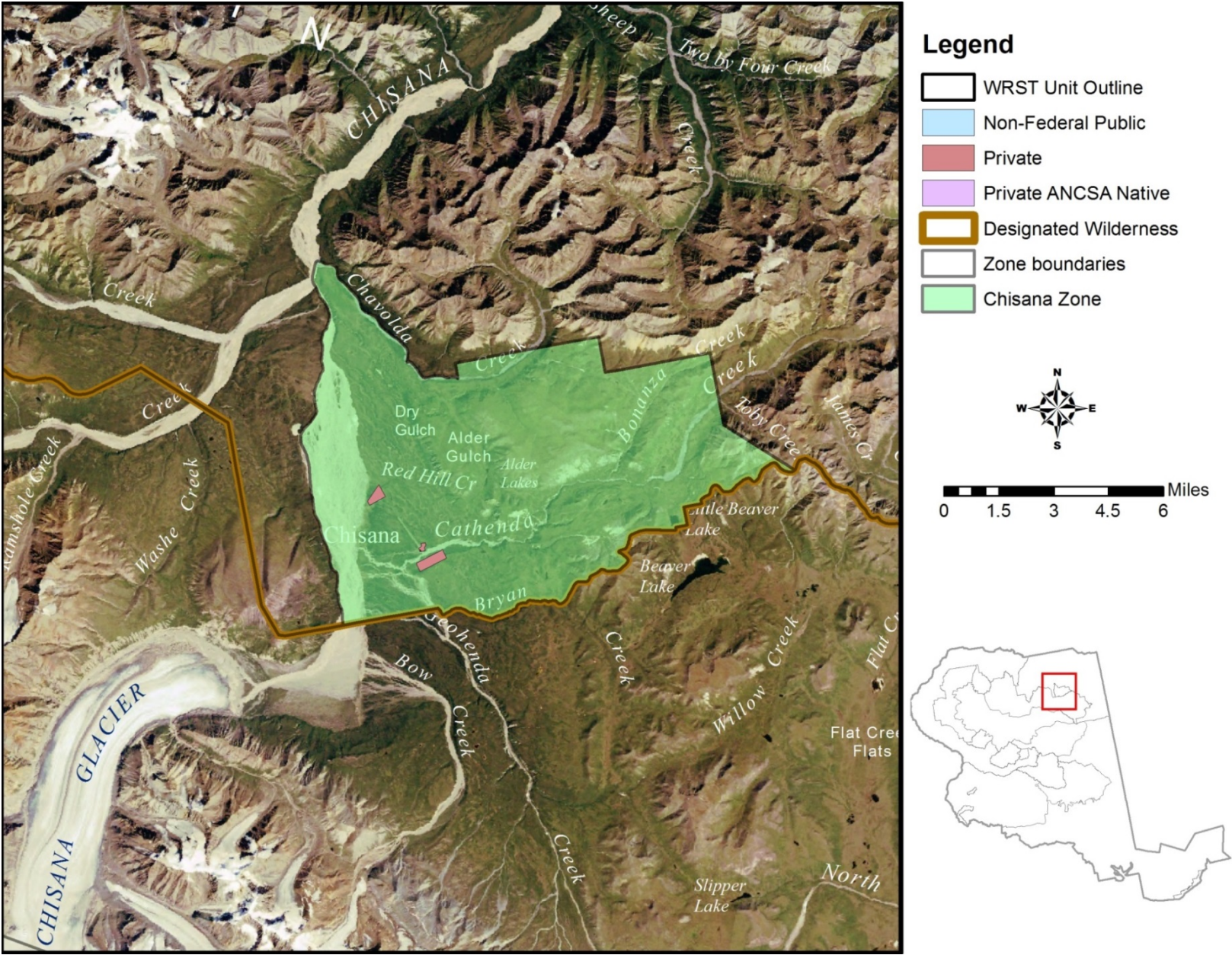
Commercial services: Air taxis will continue to provide access to this zone and guided recreational use will continue. Continuance of these services as they contribute to the fulfillment of wilderness and park purposes will be provided for; commercial use will be coordinated to maintain visitor experiences.

Planning Framework Table – Skolai and Bremner Zone

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
Modern human use	Campsites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤10% of sites have detectable degradation in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop a tracking/monitoring system for campsites and associated social trails. Increase availability of educational materials regarding leave no trace camping, including on park website and at visitor centers. NPS personnel will place deterrents on social trails as appropriate.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings. Work with CUA holders to distribute educational information regarding leave no trace camping practices.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Limit group size to 12 (total individuals). Identify naturally hardened camping areas at portal areas and encourage their use.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Limit group size to 8 (total individuals). Limit length of stay at any one site to 7 days.</p>	
	Non-motorized, visitor-created trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤10% growth in linear feet of visitor-created trails on specified routes in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Conduct monitoring on routes.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings. Work with CUA holders to distribute educational information.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Primitive maintenance of trails, which may include but will not be limited to: use of cairns, use of deterrents on spur trails, erosion prevention.</p>	<p>Routes to be monitored at this time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iceberg to Bremner • Bremner to Tebay • Allie's Valley to Bremner • Skolai to Wolverine • Skolai to Glacier Creek • Skolai to Nizina
	Group encounter rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined based on results of baseline user survey 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop and conduct visitor survey every 5 years.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Education regarding visitor experience of camping at airstrips (visitors staying at airstrips should expect more encounters with other groups). Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require coordination between CUA operators (e.g., shared calendars).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Cap CUA permits and/or modify CUA permit stipulations.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 4: Require a permit to camp at specified locations.</p>	<p>Based on survey results, standards for portals may differ from other areas.</p>

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
	Impacts from modern human use (includes human waste, and fire rings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No incidents of improper disposal of human waste per year 	<p>Anticipated Action: Fire rings should be dispersed by NPS personnel when encountered (except at portal campsites). Human waste should be buried and disposed of by NPS personnel when encountered. Trash should be packed out. Increase educational materials on leave no trace, including on park website and at visitor centers.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Make available a system for packing out human waste for optional public use. Disposal receptacles will be provided in McCarthy and Chitina.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Require human waste to be packed out at certain locations.</p>	
	Pack animal use			N/A
Administrative use	Helicopter use – includes administrative & administratively authorized use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No increase in helicopter use (baseline TBD) 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG and other evaluation frameworks (as appropriate) to review projects. Use of park helicopter policy.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Conduct annual planning effort to determine what uses will occur. Not permit use in excess of standard (except for emergency use).</p>	
	Installations – includes administrative & administratively authorized installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≤6 above-ground installations 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG for all projects involving installations (permanent or temporary). Placement of new installations must be reported to designated staff member.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Remove defunct modern installations as feasible. Not permit installations in excess of standard.</p>	
Motorized use	ORV use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-trail standards identified on page 40 (table 2-6) of the Nabesna ORV FEIS 	<p>Anticipated Action: No recreational ORV use will be permitted. No ORV use is known to occur in support of subsistence activities. If ORV use patterns are identified in support of subsistence activities, trails will be monitored to ensure that off-trail standards identified in the Nabesna ORV FEIS (Table 2-6, page 40) are not exceeded.</p>	

Chisana Zone – Backcountry



Desired Conditions

Overview: The Chisana Zone will continue to be moderately developed with private inholdings, mining claims, and historic cabins. This zone will be managed to preserve diverse visitor experiences, acknowledging that this zone is outside of designated wilderness and was determined to be “ineligible” for designation as wilderness in the 1986 GMP.

Visitor experience: Opportunities for solitude will be present in this zone, but visitors should expect to see other users. Ample opportunities for unconfined recreation will be present in this zone, and visitors will find trails that support horseback and motorized use. Visitors can expect to see recreational users beginning or ending their trips in this zone, as long treks occur from Chisana to Solo Creek or Horsfeld. Hunting, mining, and subsistence uses will continue to be the primary activities that occur within this zone.

Natural and untrammeled qualities: Natural processes will predominate across this zone, with impacts to natural and cultural resources confined to areas of mining at Gold Hill, motorized routes, cabins, private property, and impacts associated with horse use. Hunting affects the natural quality and species therein, but is part of the cultural and historic fabric of the park and will not be considered a trammeling action. Trammeling actions would only occur in circumstances when necessary to preserve the area’s wilderness character as a whole.

Access: The Chisana airstrip will continue to allow aviation and other fuel to be available in Chisana and at Gold Hill, affirming the role of Chisana as a local hub for fixed-wing aircraft, snowmachines, and helicopters. ORV use will typically be associated with inholdings, access to mining claims, and subsistence activities; recreational ORV use will be minimized. Administrative access and use will be sensitive to hunting season and visitor experiences in this zone.

Undeveloped quality: Historic mining infrastructure and associated trails are common here. Development and use of private inholdings in this zone will continue. Public use cabins will support recreation and other uses.

Inhabited quality: Chisana and the nearby areas have a long history of people on the land. Humans and cultures will continue to live in and make a living from the landscape, including native peoples and miners. The tradition of these uses will continue and the zone will to be managed to support these uses, recognizing the extent of habitation that exists.

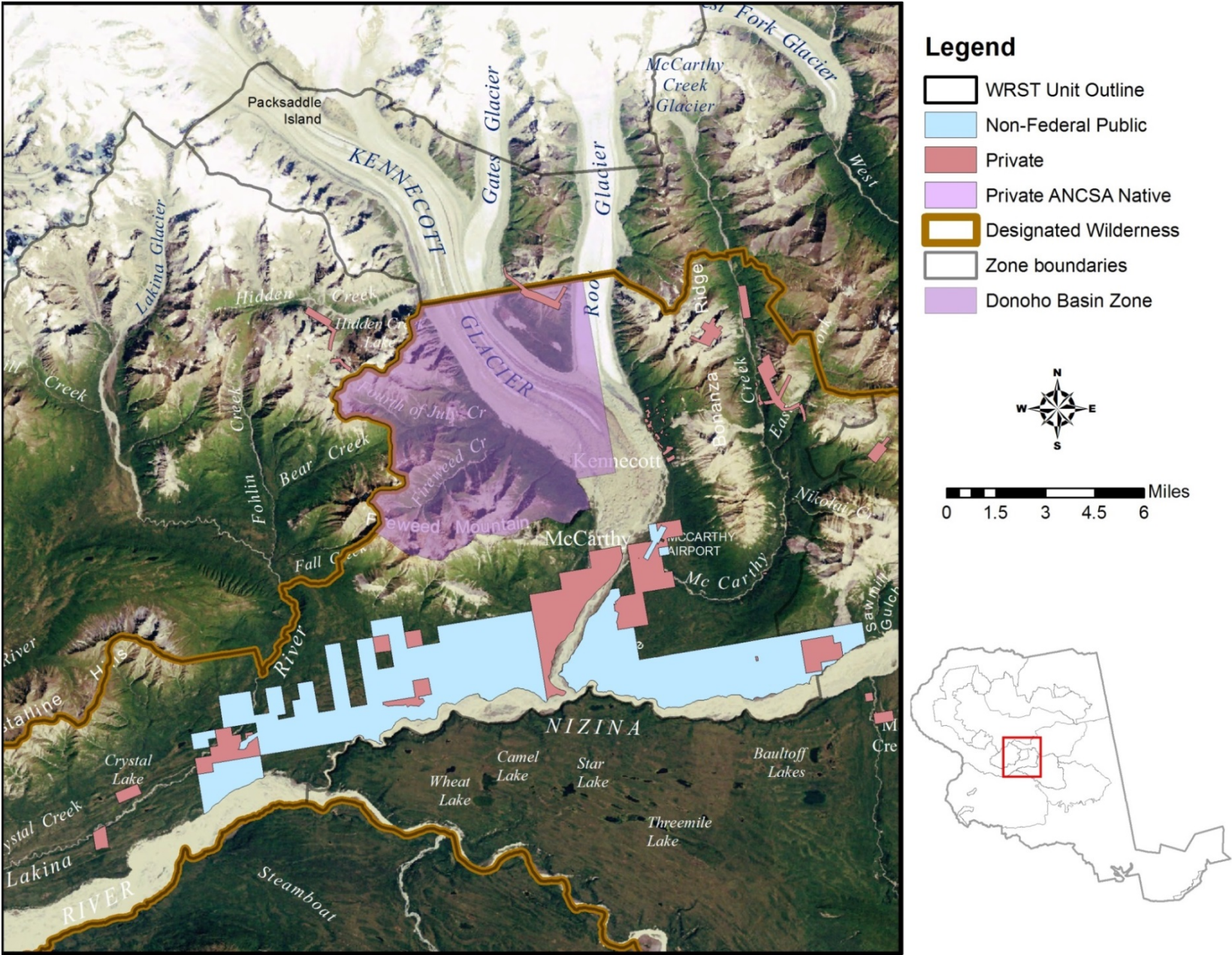
Natural sounds: Visitors to this zone will expect to hear human caused sounds, as motorized use will occur here year-round. Aircraft, sounds from other motorized transport, and mining activities will continue to influence soundscapes. Natural soundscapes will be most heavily impacted from anthropogenic sources during hunting season.

Commercial services: Air taxis will continue to provide access to this zone and guided sport hunting use will continue. Guided recreational use will be minimal, but will continue. Use of horses in commercial operations will be managed to minimize impacts. Continuance of these services as they contribute to the fulfillment of backcountry and park purposes will be provided for; commercial use will be coordinated to maintain visitor experiences.

Planning Framework Table – Chisana Zone

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions
Modern human use	Campsites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤20% of sites have detectable degradation in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop a tracking/monitoring system for campsites and associated social trails. Increase availability of educational materials regarding leave no trace camping, including on park website and at visitor centers. NPS personnel will place deterrents on social trails as appropriate.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings. Work with CUA and concession holders to distribute educational information regarding leave no trace camping practices.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Limit group size to 12 (total individuals). Identify naturally hardened camping areas at portal areas and encourage their use.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Limit group size to 8 (total individuals). Limit length of stay at any one site to 7 days.</p>
	Non-motorized, visitor-created trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<p>Anticipated Action: Conduct monitoring on routes as appropriate. Conduct primitive maintenance of trails, which may include but will not be limited to: use of cairns, use of deterrents on spur trails, erosion prevention.</p>
	Group encounter rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop and conduct visitor survey every 5 years.</p>
	Impacts from modern human use (includes human waste, and fire rings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No incidents of improper disposal of human waste per year 	<p>Anticipated Action: Fire rings should be dispersed by NPS personnel when encountered (except at portal campsites). Human waste should be buried and disposed of by NPS personnel when encountered. Trash should be packed out. Increase educational materials on leave no trace, including on park website and at visitor centers.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Make available a system for packing out human waste for optional public use. Disposal receptacles will be provided in Slana and McCarthy.</p>
	Pack animal use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No increase in footprint of area used for base camps and spike camps 	<p>Anticipated Action: Require stock users to obtain a permit for horse use on park lands. Implement a monitoring system. Current network of stock trails will be assessed.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Conduct primitive maintenance on specified horse trails (e.g., eliminate unneeded braids and erosion control).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require use of portable electric corrals or hobbling.</p>
Administrative use	Helicopter use – includes administrative & administratively authorized use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of park helicopter policy.</p>
	Installations – includes administrative & administratively authorized installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤8 above-ground installations 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG for all projects involving installations (permanent or temporary). Placement of new installations must be reported to designated staff member.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Remove defunct modern installations as feasible. Not permit installations in excess of standard.</p>
Motorized use	ORV use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Nabesna ORV FEIS, page 2-40, Table 2-6 	<p>Anticipated Action: No recreational ORV use is permitted in this zone. Subsistence ORV use is permitted on existing trails. Subsistence ORV use off existing trails is permitted as long as the use does not result in resource impacts, as defined in the Nabesna ORV FEIS (page 2-40, Table 2-6). ORV use in association with mining at Gold Hill is permitted through Mining Plans of Operations and associated RWCAs.</p>

Donoho Basin Zone – Backcountry



Desired Conditions

Overview: The Donoho Basin Zone will be characterized by walk-in overnight camping experiences provided in relative proximity to historical and modern day activity.

Visitor experience: In the summer, visitors will encounter other users in this zone and will see evidence of their activity, including social trails and campsites. This zone will provide opportunities for primitive recreation, but will present comparatively more restrictions on visitor behavior than other zones. Opportunities for solitude will exist, but will be comparatively fewer than in other zones.

Natural and untrammelled qualities: Natural processes dominate this area, and trammeling actions will only occur when necessary to preserve the area's wilderness character as a whole.

Access: Access to this zone will be by foot, with visitors typically coming directly from Kennecott. Other means of motorized access, including helicopter use, will be very limited with the aim of preserving recreational opportunities.

Undeveloped quality: The zone will provide a mostly undeveloped experience, but visitors should expect to see some developments aimed to minimize resource impacts, including bear boxes and signs. Additional improvements may be developed to preserve visitor experiences and limit impacts to natural resources.

Inhabited quality: Use of this area as inhabited wilderness will continue and opportunities for subsistence use will be preserved.

Natural sounds: Sounds of human activity from outside this zone will affect the experiences within it. Aircraft coming into and departing from the McCarthy airport will continue to affect natural soundscapes in this zone.

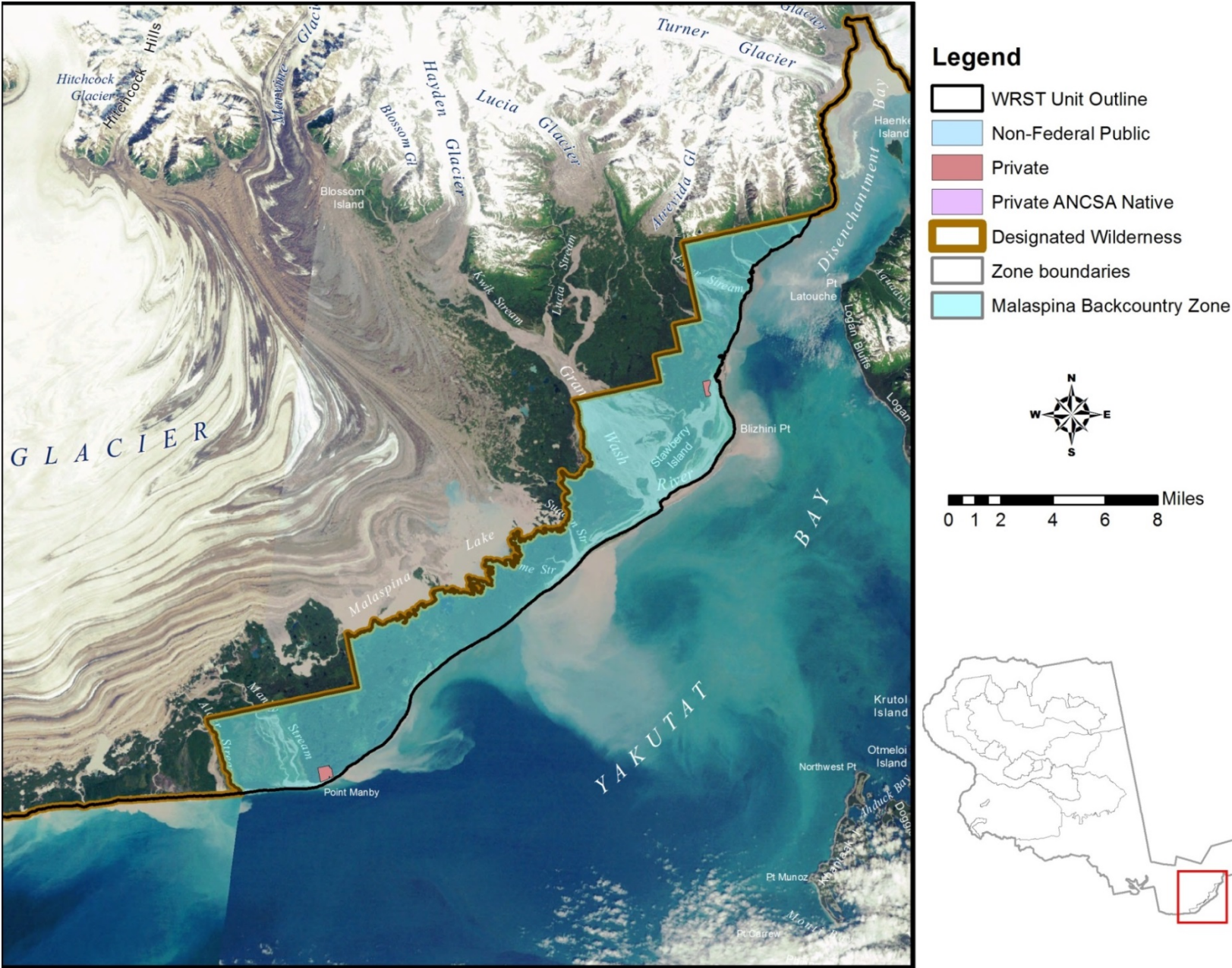
Commercial services: Continuance of commercial services as they contribute to the fulfillment of wilderness and park purposes will be provided for; commercial use will be coordinated to maintain visitor experiences.

Planning Framework Table – Donoho Basin Zone

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
Modern human use	Campsites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤20% of sites have detectable degradation in a 5-year period 	<p>Existing Management Strategies: <i>Superintendent's Compendium states</i> - From May 15 through September 15, unguided groups may not exceed 12 individuals. All groups (guided or unguided) of 8 or more individuals must register to camp at Donoho Basin. <i>CUA stipulations state</i> - Guided groups are limited to no more than 12 clients. A minimum ratio of one guide per six clients must be maintained. Exemptions to this limit for commercially guided groups will not be considered.</p> <p>Anticipated Action: Develop a tracking/monitoring system for campsites and associated social trails.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Require free registration with the NPS for all overnight trips (private and commercial trips). Require coordination between CUA operators (e.g., shared calendars).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Identify additional naturally-hardened camping areas (upper basin only). Establish quota for all overnight trips (would break down guided and private trips).</p>	
	Non-motorized, visitor-created trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No growth in linear feet of visitor-created trails on specified routes in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Conduct monitoring on routes. Assess current trails. Identify (and implement) means to keep visitors on one main route. Use deterrents on social trails.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Additional primitive hardening of route.</p>	<p>Routes to be monitored at this time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donoho trail
	Group encounter rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined based on results of baseline user survey 	<p>Existing Management Action: <i>Compendium states</i> - From May 15 through September 15, the minimum camp distance between associated groups in Donoho Basin is ½ mile. All groups (guided or unguided) of 8 or more individuals must register to camp.</p> <p>Anticipated Action: Develop and conduct visitor survey every 5 years.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Cap CUA permits. Require coordination between CUAs (e.g., shared calendars).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Establish quota for all overnight trips (would break down between guided and private trips).</p>	

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
	Impacts from modern human use (includes human waste, and fire rings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No incidents of improper disposal of human waste per year 	<p>Anticipated Action: Fire rings should be dispersed by NPS personnel when encountered (except at portal campsites). Human waste should be buried and disposed of by NPS personnel when encountered. Trash should be packed out.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Make available a system for packing out human waste for optional public use. Disposal receptacles will be provided in Kennecott, McCarthy and Chitina.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Require human waste to be packed out at certain locations.</p>	
	Pack animal use			N/A
Administrative use	Helicopter use – includes administrative & administratively authorized use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	Existing Management Actions: Use of park helicopter policy.	
	Installations – includes administrative & administratively authorized installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≤8 above-ground installations 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG for all projects involving installations (permanent or temporary). Placement of new installations must be reported to designated staff member.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Remove defunct modern installations as feasible. Not permit installations in excess of standard.</p>	
Motorized use	ORV use			N/A

Malaspina Backcountry Zone – Backcountry



Desired Conditions

Overview: The Malaspina Backcountry Zone will be characterized as a remote landscape that provides opportunities for recreation, subsistence uses, and sport hunting.

Visitor experience: Outside of hunting season, opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation will be prevalent, though visitors may see evidence of past human activity. During hunting season, visitors may experience sights and sounds of human activity – including evidence of subsistence and sport harvest of moose and bear. Sights and sounds of sportfishing and commercial fishing may also be observed at other times of the year.

Natural and untrammelled qualities: Natural processes will dominate here, and trammeling actions will only occur in rare circumstances when necessary to preserve the area's wilderness character as a whole. Hunting affects the natural quality and species therein, but is part of the cultural and historic fabric of the park and will not be considered a trammeling action.

Access: Fixed-wing aircraft will continue to serve as the primary method of access. ORV use will be limited to support subsistence activities and managed to minimize impacts to wilderness character.

Undeveloped quality: Cabins, airstrips, and scientific uses will continue in this zone. Public use cabins will support recreation and other uses.

Inhabited quality: Evidence of historical and ongoing traditional use can be seen in this area. This zone will continue to be managed to provide reasonable access for subsistence opportunities.

Natural sounds: Opportunities to experience natural soundscapes in this zone will predominate, primarily affected by overflights by fixed-wing aircraft and jets. Natural soundscapes will be most heavily impacted from human caused sources during hunting season.

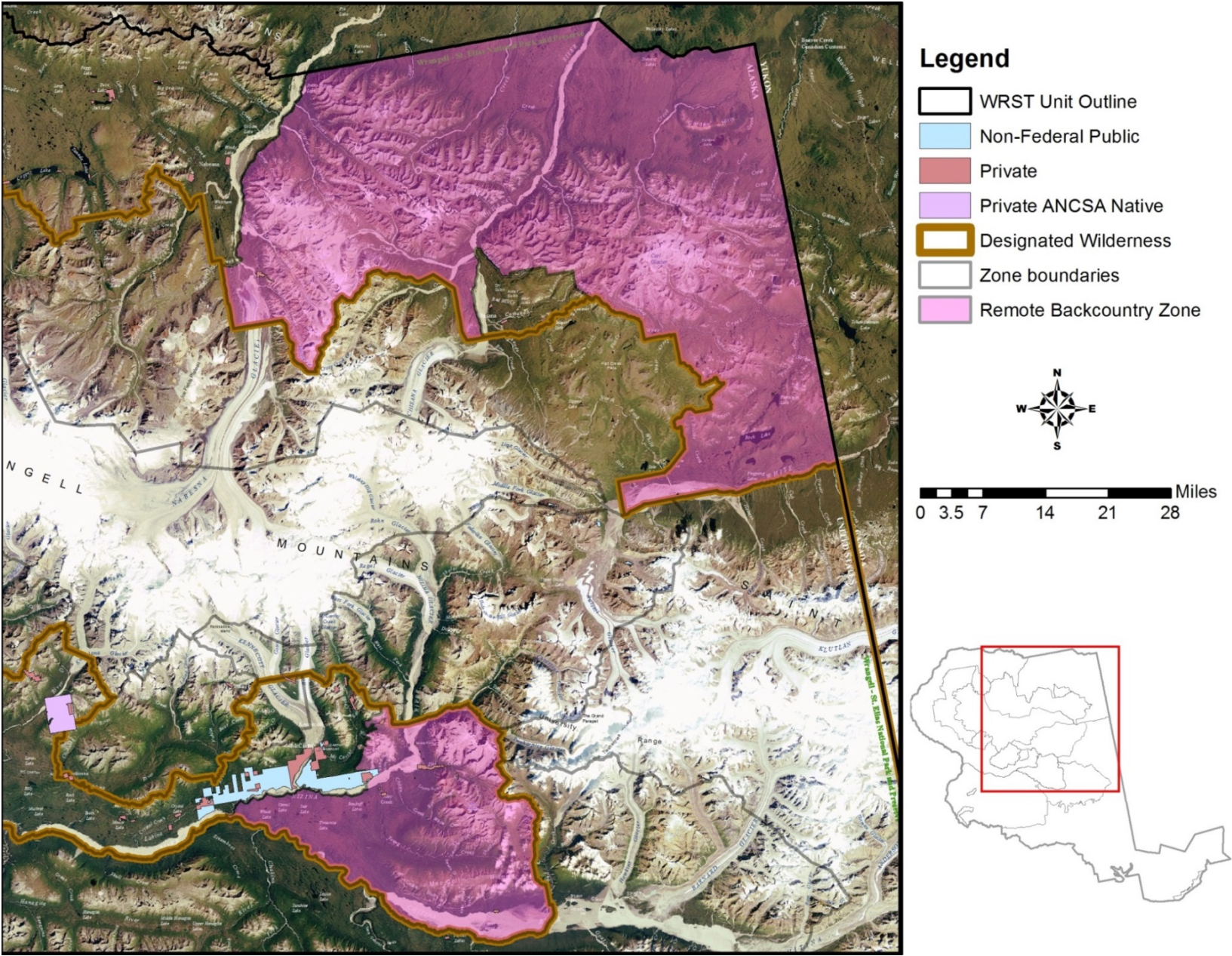
Commercial services: Air taxis will continue to provide the primary means of access to this zone. Guided sport hunting use and guided recreational use will continue. Continuance of these services as they contribute to the fulfillment of wilderness and park purposes will be provided for; commercial use will be coordinated to maintain visitor experiences.

Planning Framework Table – Malaspina Backcountry Zone

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions
Modern human use	Campsites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤20% of sites have detectable degradation in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop a tracking/monitoring system for campsites and associated social trails. Increase availability of educational materials regarding leave no trace camping for coastal environments, including on park website and at visitor centers. NPS personnel will place deterrents on social trails as appropriate.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings. Work with CUA holders and concessionaires to distribute educational information regarding leave no trace camping practices.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Limit group size to 12 (total individuals). Identify naturally hardened camping areas at portal areas and encourage their use.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Limit group size to 8 (total individuals). Limit length of stay at any one site to 7 days.</p>
	Non-motorized, visitor-created trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<p>Anticipated Action: Conduct monitoring as appropriate. No visitor-created trails are known to exist at this time.</p>
	Group encounter rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined based on results of baseline user survey 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop and conduct visitor survey every 5 years.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Education regarding visitor experience of camping at airstrips (visitors staying at airstrips should expect more encounters with other groups). Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require coordination between CUA operators and concessioners (e.g., shared calendars).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Cap CUA permits and/or modify CUA permit and/or concession contract stipulations.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 4: Require a permit to camp at specified locations.</p>
	Impacts from modern human use (includes human waste, and fire rings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No incidents of improper disposal of human waste per year 	<p>Anticipated Action: Fire rings should be dispersed by NPS personnel when encountered (except at portal campsites). Increase educational materials on leave no trace for coastal environments, including on park website and at visitor centers.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Make available a system for packing out human waste for optional public use. Disposal receptacles will be provided in Yakutat.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Require human waste to be packed out at certain locations.</p>
	Pack animal use		
Administrative use	Helicopter use – includes administrative & administratively authorized use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of park helicopter policy.</p> <p>Anticipated Action: Conduct annual planning effort to determine what uses will occur. Not permit use in excess of standard (except for emergency use).</p>

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions
	Installations – includes administrative & administratively authorized installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤3 above-ground installations 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Placement of new installations must be reported to designated staff member.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Remove defunct modern installations as feasible. Not permit installations in excess of standard.</p>
Motorized use	ORV use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Nabesna ORV FEIS, page 2-40, Table 2-6 	<p>Anticipated Action: Recreational ORV use is prohibited. If subsistence ORV use patterns are identified, trails will be monitored to ensure that off-trail standards identified in the Nabesna ORV FEIS (Table 2-6, page 40) are not exceeded.</p>

Remote Backcountry Zone – Backcountry



Desired Conditions

Overview: The Remote Backcountry Zone is characterized by remote environments that provide opportunities for diverse visitor experiences, including recreation, sport hunting, and subsistence uses. This zone is not designated as wilderness.

Visitor experience: Outside of hunting season, opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation will be widespread, though visitors may see evidence of past human activities, particularly near May Creek and Dan Creek which have an extensive history of occupation. During hunting season, visitors will expect to encounter others and experience sights and sounds of human activity – including evidence of subsistence and sport harvest of Dall sheep and other big game animals. Visitors will likely encounter signs of horse use in the Nutzotin Mountains. In winter, visitors should expect to encounter some evidence of other human activity.

Natural and untrammeled qualities: Natural processes will predominate across this zone, with impacts to natural and cultural resources generally confined to cabins and private property. Impacts associated with horse use may be seen in the northern part of this zone. Hunting affects the natural quality and species therein, but is part of the cultural and historic fabric of the park and will not be considered a trammeling action. Trammeling actions would only occur in circumstances when necessary to preserve the area's wilderness character as a whole.

Access: Visitors will primarily arrive in this zone via fixed-wing aircraft. In the summer, horses will frequently provide access to the northern part of this zone; impacts associated with this use will be minimized. ORV use for subsistence purposes will be minimal and typically associated with inholdings.

Undeveloped quality: Cabins, maintained airstrips, and infrastructure related to scientific study, public use, and administrative use will continue in this zone. Public use cabins will continue to support recreation and other uses.

Inhabited quality: Evidence of historic and prehistoric use is an important resource that will contribute to the wilderness character of this zone. Ongoing use for traditional and subsistence purposes will be preserved.

Natural sounds: Natural soundscapes will be present across most of this zone, though near May Creek and Dan Creek visitors will expect to hear human caused sounds. These motorized uses will continue occur here year-round, including aircraft, sounds from other motorized transport, mining activities, and snowmachines in winter months. Natural soundscapes will be most heavily impacted from human caused sources during hunting season. In winter months, visitors may hear snowmachines.

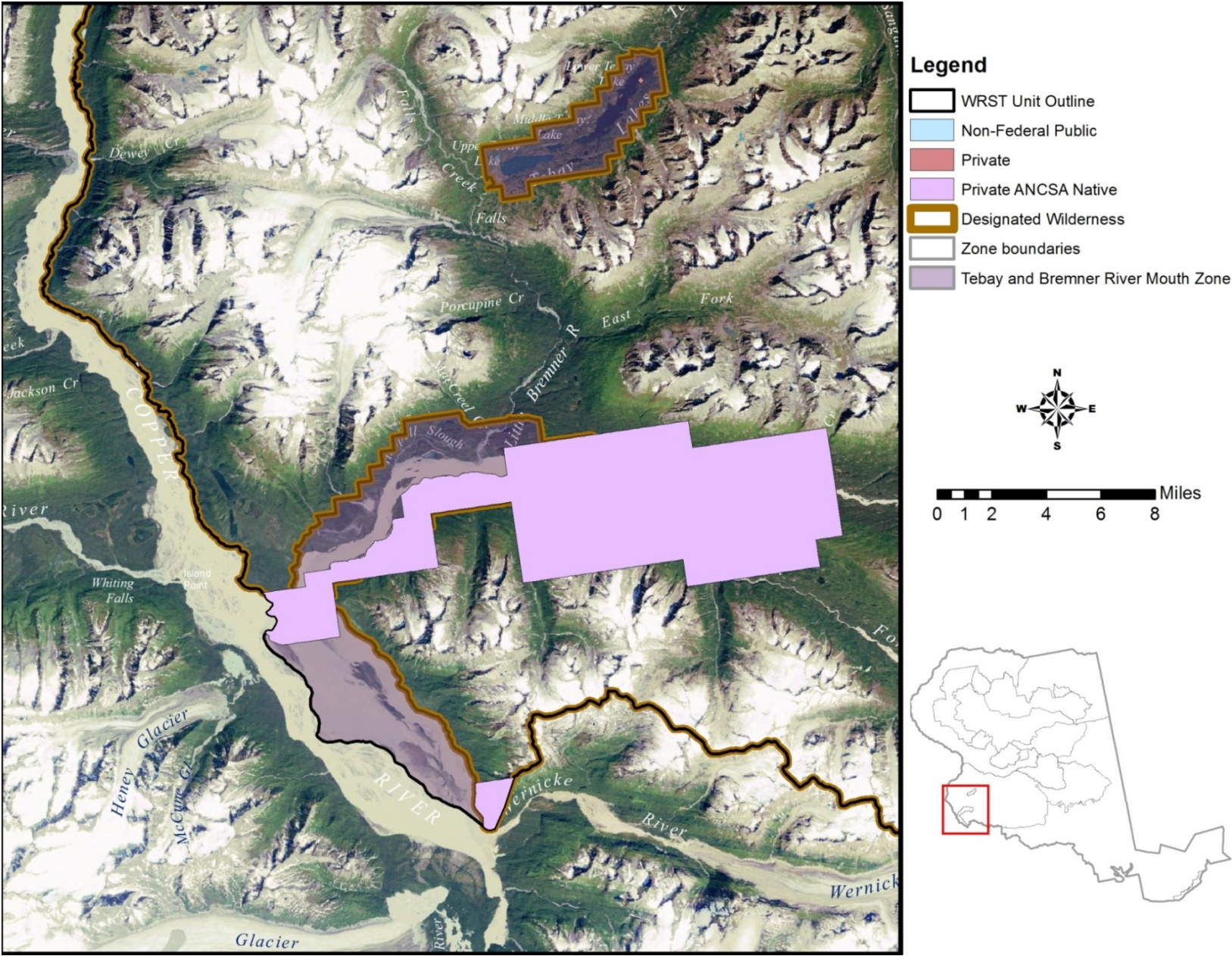
Commercial services: Air taxis will continue to provide access to this zone. Guided sport hunting use and guided recreational use will continue. Use of horses in commercial operations will be managed to minimize impacts. Continuance of these services as they contribute to the fulfillment of wilderness and park purposes will be provided for; commercial use will be coordinated to maintain visitor experiences.

Planning Framework Table – Remote Backcountry Zone

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
Modern human use	Campsites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤20% of sites have detectable degradation in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop a tracking/monitoring system for campsites and associated social trails. Increase availability of educational materials regarding leave no trace camping, including on park website and at visitor centers. NPS personnel will place deterrents on social trails as appropriate.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings. Work with CUA and concession holders to distribute educational information regarding leave no trace camping practices.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Limit group size to 12 (total individuals). Identify naturally hardened camping areas at portal areas and encourage their use.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Limit group size to 8 (total individuals). Limit length of stay at any one site to 7 days.</p>	
	Non-motorized, visitor-created trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤20% growth in linear feet of visitor-created trails on specified routes in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Conduct monitoring on routes.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings. Work with CUA and concession holders to distribute educational information.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Primitive maintenance of trails, which may include but will not be limited to: use of cairns, use of deterrents on spur trails, erosion prevention.</p>	<p>Routes to be monitored at this time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chisana to Baultoff • Baultoff to Horsfeld • Chisana to Nabesna • Canyon Creek to Dan Creek • Nikolai to McCarthy
	Group encounter rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined based on results of baseline user survey 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop and conduct visitor survey every 5 years.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Education regarding visitor experience of camping at airstrips (visitors staying at airstrips should expect more encounters with other groups). Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require coordination between CUA operators and concessioners (e.g., shared calendars).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Cap CUA permits and/or modify CUA permit and/or concession contract stipulations.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 4: Require a permit to camp at specified locations.</p>	

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
	Impacts from modern human use (includes human waste, and fire rings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No incidents of improper disposal of human waste per year 	<p>Anticipated Action: Fire rings should be dispersed by NPS personnel when encountered (except at portal campsites). Human waste should be buried and disposed of by NPS personnel when encountered. Trash should be packed out. Increase educational materials on leave no trace, including on park website and at visitor centers.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA and concession meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Make available a system for packing out human waste for optional public use. Disposal receptacles will be provided in McCarthy, Chitina, and Slana.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Require human waste to be packed out at certain locations.</p>	
	Pack animal use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No increase in footprint of area used for base camps and spike camps 	<p>Anticipated Action: Require stock users to obtain a permit for horse use on park lands. Implement a monitoring system. Current network of stock trails will be assessed.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Conduct primitive maintenance on specified horse trails (e.g., eliminate unneeded braids and erosion control).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require use of portable electric corrals or hobbling.</p>	Monitoring and maintenance of stock trails will target the north-east part of this zone; it will not apply where there is no stock use or use is not causing the standard to be exceeded.
Administrative use	Helicopter use – includes administrative & administratively authorized use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG and other evaluation frameworks (as appropriate) to review projects. Use of park helicopter policy.</p> <p>Anticipated Action: Conduct annual planning effort to determine what uses will occur.</p>	
	Installations – includes administrative & administratively authorized installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≤12 above-ground installations 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG for all projects involving installations (permanent or temporary). Placement of new installations must be reported to designated staff member.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Remove defunct modern installations as feasible. Not permit installations in excess of standard.</p>	
Motorized use	ORV use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Nabesna ORV FEIS, page 2-40, Table 2-6 	<p>Anticipated Action: No recreational ORV use will be permitted in this zone. Subsistence ORV use is permitted on existing trails. Subsistence ORV use off existing trails is permitted as long as the use does not result in resource impacts, as defined in the Nabesna ORV FEIS (Off-trail impacts, page 2-40, Table 2-6). ORV use in association with concessions operations will be limited and subject to conditions in the concessions contract.</p>	

Tebay Lakes and Bremner River Mouth Zone – Backcountry



Desired Conditions

Overview: The Tebay Lakes and Bremner River Mouth Zone will continue to be a remote landscape that provides for traditional and recreational uses of the area.

Visitor experience: Opportunities for solitude will dominate here year-round, as will opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Visitors will expect to see or hear minimal other users in this zone.

Natural and untrammeled qualities: Natural processes will unfold here free from human intervention. At Tebay Lakes, visitors may see evidence of human activity, including sportfishing, campsite impacts, and social trails. Trammeling actions are not anticipated and would only occur in rare circumstances and when necessary to preserve the area's wilderness character as a whole.

Access: Access will be primarily provided by fixed-wing aircraft.

Undeveloped quality: This zone will remain essentially undeveloped and generally without permanent improvements on the landscape, though an inholding with developments (including an airstrip and lodge) is present at Upper Tebay Lake. No public use cabins will be present here and the development of infrastructure will only be considered as needed to fulfill the purposes of the area.

Inhabited quality: Use of this area as inhabited wilderness will continue and opportunities for subsistence use will be preserved.

Natural sounds: Opportunities to experience natural soundscapes in this zone will predominate, primarily affected by overflights by fixed-wing aircraft and jets.

Commercial services: Commercial use to the Bremner River Mouth is minimal and will continue to be managed to minimize use. At Tebay Lakes, air taxis will continue to provide access to this zone and guided recreational use will continue. Continuance of these services as they contribute to the fulfillment of wilderness and park purposes will be provided for; commercial use will be coordinated to maintain visitor experiences.

Planning Framework Table – Tebay Lakes and Bremner River Mouth Zone

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
Modern human use	Campsites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤20% of sites have detectable degradation in a 5-year period 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop a tracking/monitoring system for campsites and associated social trails. Increase availability of educational materials regarding leave no trace camping, including on park website and at visitor centers. NPS personnel will place deterrents on social trails as appropriate.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings. Work with CUA holders to distribute educational information regarding leave no trace camping practices.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Limit group size to 12 (total individuals). Identify naturally hardened camping areas in the Tebay Lakes area and encourage their use.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Limit group size to 8 (total individuals). Limit length of stay at any one site to 7 days.</p>	Guided river trips currently have a group size limit of 15; this group size limit will not change with progressive management actions.
	Non-motorized, visitor-created trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤20% of trail length has detectable degradation 	<p>Anticipated Action: Identify routes for monitoring and conduct monitoring.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Increase educational materials, including on park website and at visitor centers. Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings. Identify portage trails to keep users on a single track.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Conduct primitive maintenance of trails as appropriate, which may include but will not be limited to: use of cairns, use of deterrents on spur trails, erosion prevention.</p>	
	Group encounter rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined based on results of baseline user survey 	<p>Anticipated Action: Develop and conduct visitor survey every 5 years.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Education regarding visitor experience of camping at airstrips (visitors staying at airstrips should expect more encounters with other groups). Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Require coordination between CUA operators (e.g., shared calendars).</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Cap CUA permits and/or modify CUA permit stipulations.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 4: Require a permit to camp at specified locations.</p>	
	Impacts from modern human use (includes human waste, and fire rings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No incidents of improper disposal of human waste per year 	<p>Anticipated Action: Fire rings should be dispersed by NPS personnel when encountered (except at portal campsites). Human waste should be buried and disposed of by NPS personnel when encountered. Trash should be packed out. Increase educational materials on leave no trace, including on park website and at visitor centers.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Discuss concerns and possible solutions at annual CUA meetings.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 2: Make available a system for packing out human waste for optional public use. Disposal receptacles will be provided in McCarthy and Chitina.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 3: Require human waste to be packed out at certain locations.</p>	
	Pack animal use			N/A

Topic areas	Indicator	Standard	Management Actions	Notes
Administrative use	Helicopter use – includes administrative & administratively authorized use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No increase in helicopter use (baseline TBD) 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG and other evaluation frameworks (as appropriate) to review projects. Use of park helicopter policy.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Conduct annual planning effort to determine what uses will occur. Not permit use in excess of standard (except for emergency use).</p>	
	Installations – includes administrative & administratively authorized installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤3 above-ground installations 	<p>Existing Management Actions: Use of MRDG for all projects involving installations (permanent or temporary). Placement of new installations must be reported to designated staff member.</p> <p>Management Action Phase 1: Remove defunct modern installations as feasible. Not permit installations in excess of standard.</p>	
Motorized use	ORV use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Nabesna ORV FEIS, page 2-40, Table 2-6 	<p>Anticipated Action: No recreational ORV use permitted. No use of ORVs for subsistence purposes is currently known. If it does occur, Subsistence ORV use would be permitted on existing trails. Subsistence ORV use off existing trails would be permitted as long as the use does not result in resource impacts, as defined in the Nabesna ORV FEIS (Off Trail Indicators and Standards table, page 2-40, Table 2-6).</p>	

Future Steps in the Planning Process

Draft Environmental Assessment

Based on the comments received on the Proposed Action, a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) will be developed. The Draft EA will synthesize the management alternatives into a comprehensive document that analyzes the impact topics, environmental effects, and identifies an NPS preferred alternative. Public comments on the Draft EA will be solicited.

Final EA and Plan

Based on the comments received on the Draft EA, a Final EA will be released, accompanied by a Finding of No Significant Impact statement. The Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Plan will consist of a short document describing elements of the selected alternative and how they will be implemented.

Opportunities for Public Participation

Staying Up to Date

The plan email list is the best way to make sure you are kept up-to-date about the planning process and opportunities for public participation. If you have attended a public meeting, submitted comments, or have been interviewed, you were automatically added to the mailing list and will receive future correspondence. If you want to verify that you are on the mailing list or wish to receive updates via mail, please contact us at the information provided in the “Submitting Comments” section below.

All public involvement opportunities will be publicized through press releases, radio public service announcements, and in project newsletters.

Submitting Comments

Please submit your comments on the Proposed Action no later than July 30, 2016. You can submit comments via email, regular mail, or on the internet at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=44299>

Written comments may be mailed to:

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
ATTN: Bruce Rogers
P.O. Box 439
Copper Center, Alaska 99573

Comments may be emailed to:

Bruce_Rogers@nps.gov

For more information about the plan or planning process, please contact Bruce Rogers, project manager, at 907-822-7276.