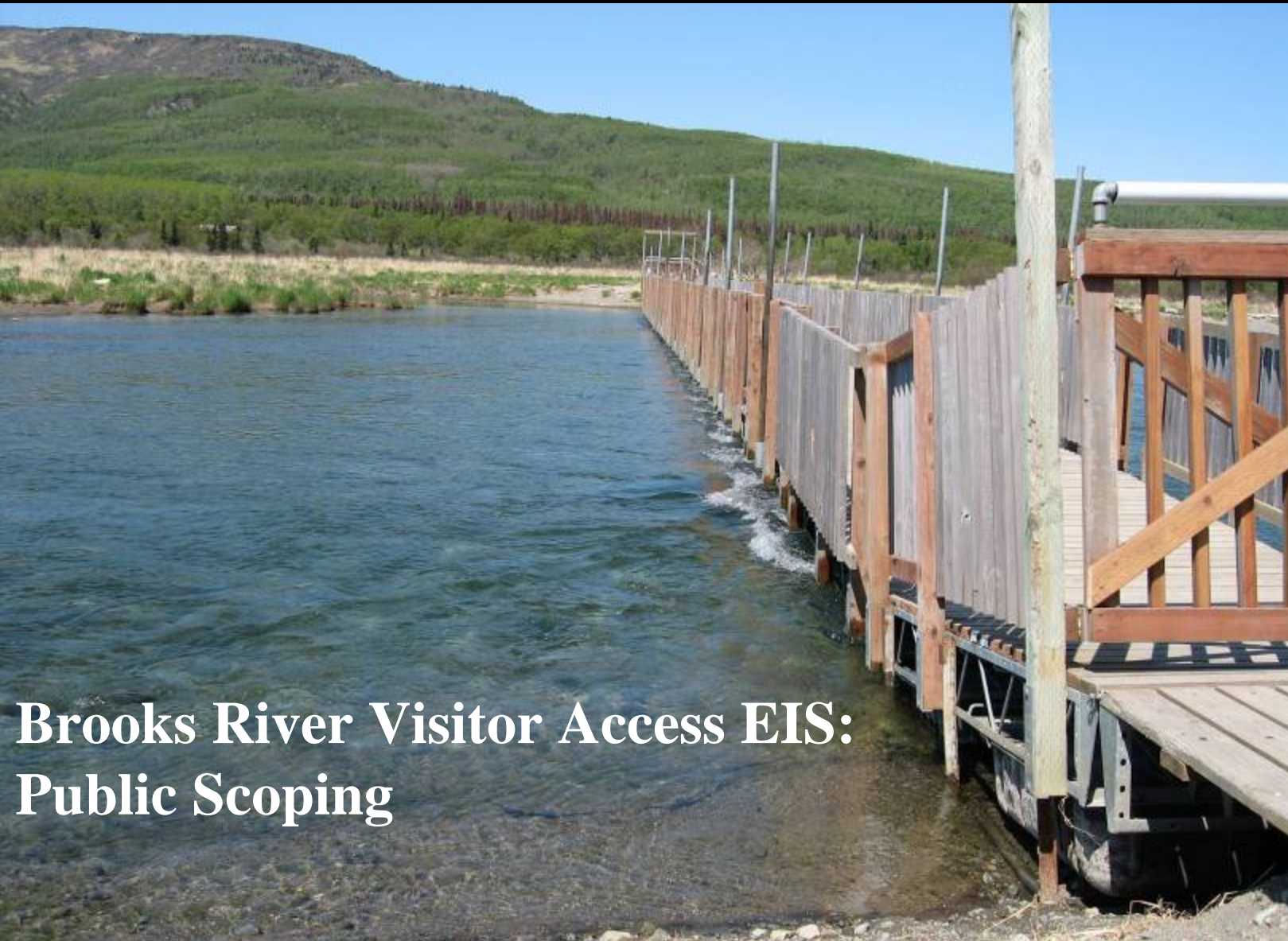


National Park Service

Katmai National Park and Preserve



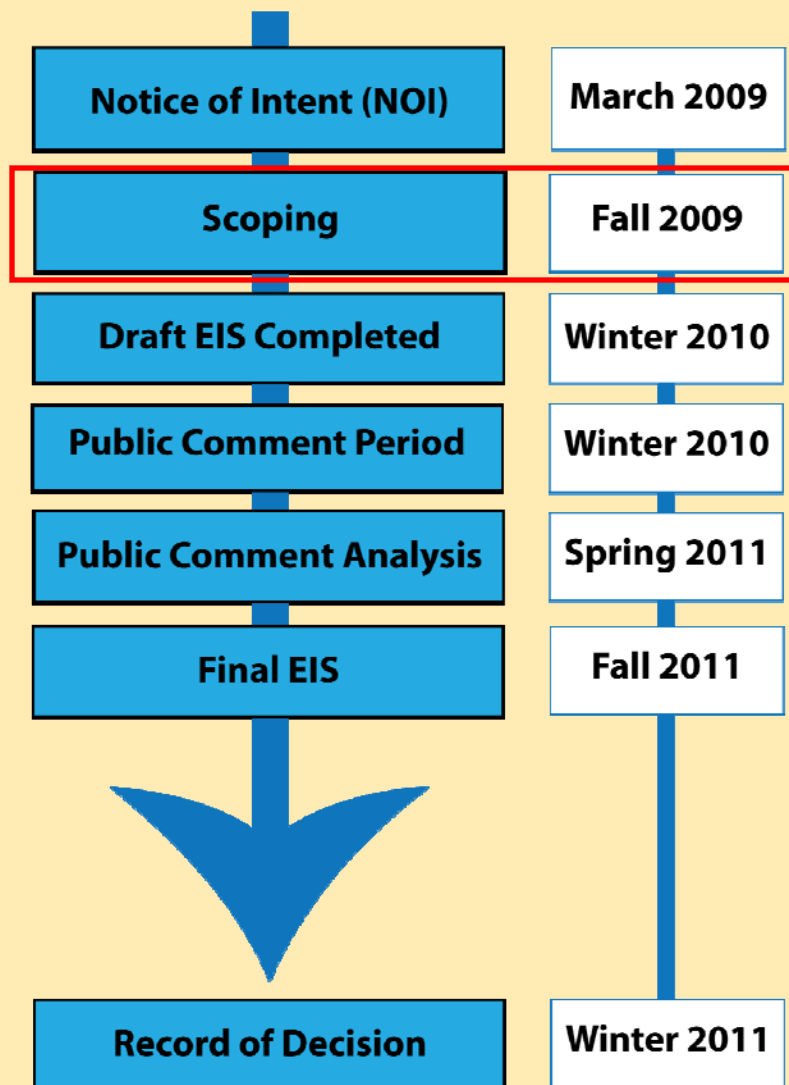
EXPERIENCE
YOUR
AMERICA



Brooks River Visitor Access EIS:
Public Scoping



The EIS Process:



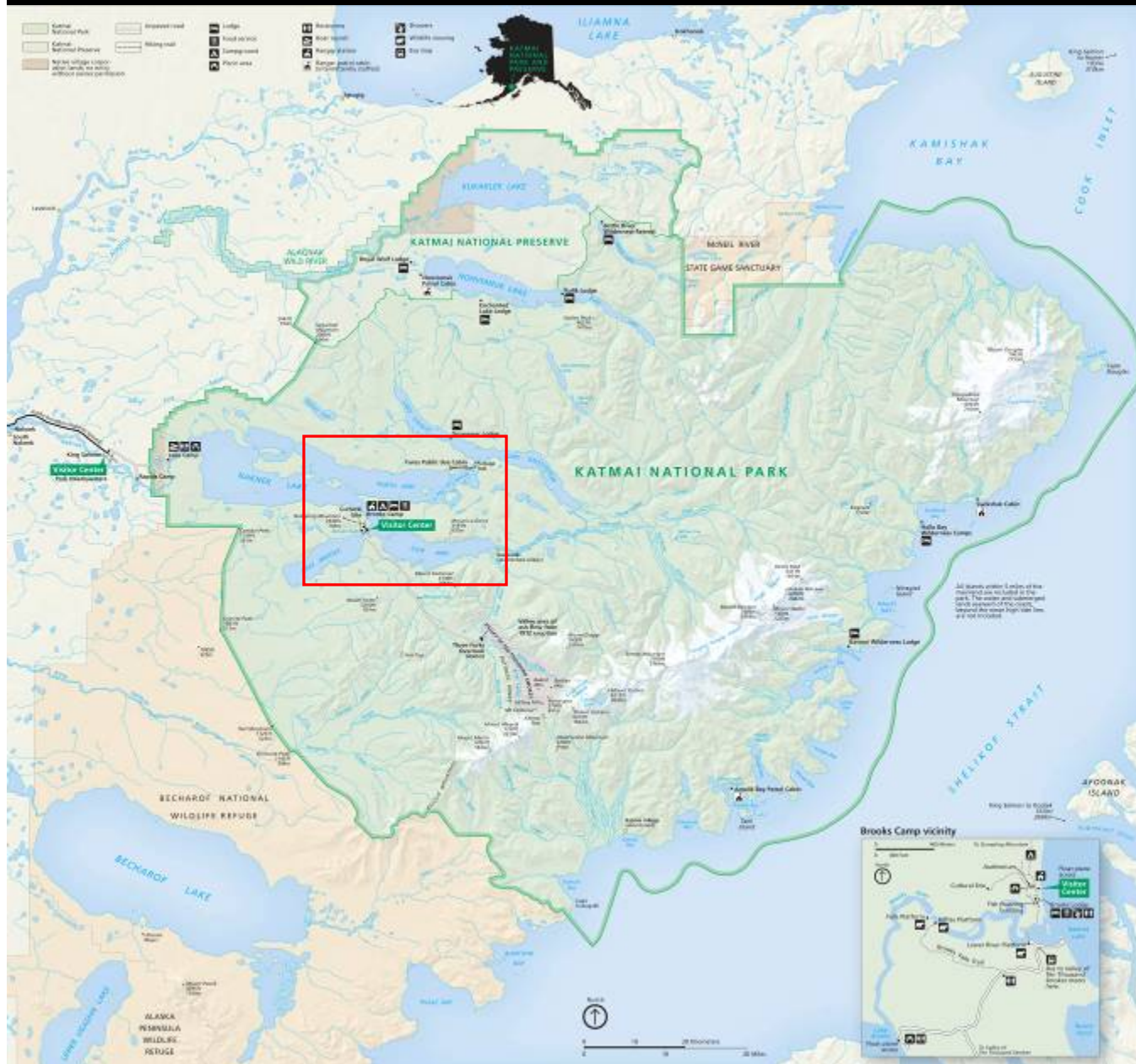
What is scoping?

A process to involve the public in identifying issues, alternatives, and potential impacts of this proposed bridge, boardwalk, and barge landing.



Introduction

Katmai National Park & Preserve



- **First designated a National Monument in 1918.**

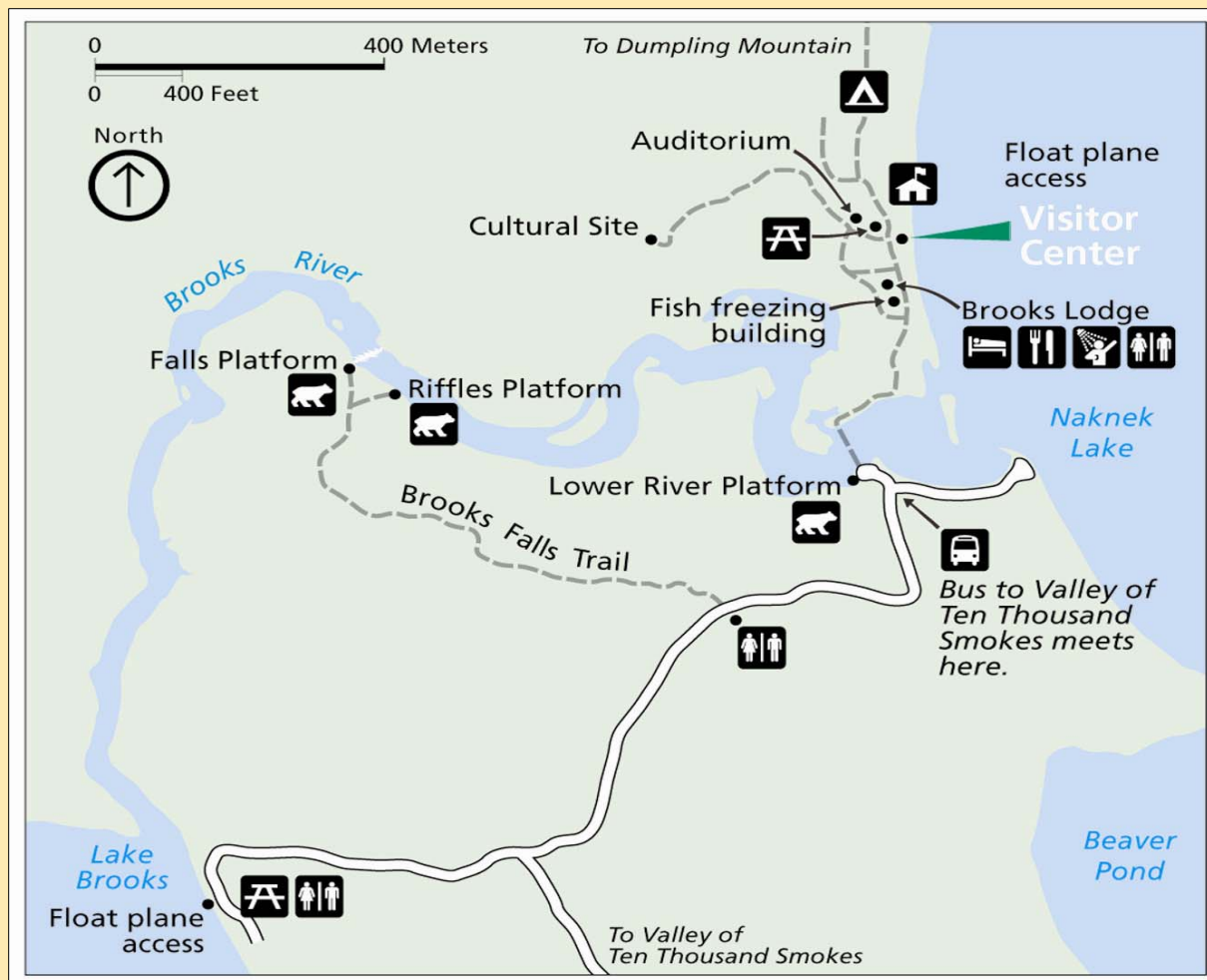
- **The park encompasses over 3.6 million acres.**

- **The park and preserve receive about 50,000 visitors per year, and bear viewing at the Brooks River and other sites is an international draw for the public.**



Brooks Camp

Katmai National Park & Preserve



- Brooks Camp is a primary contact point for visitors.
- Brooks Lodge has operated at this site since the early 1950s.
- In addition to the concessionaire operation, Brooks Camp includes considerable NPS facilities, employee housing, road access to the Valley of 10,000 Smokes, and a campground.



The purpose of Katmai National Park and Preserve is to:

protect, study, and interpret active volcanism surrounding the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, extensive coastal resources, habitats supporting a high concentration of salmon and brown bears, and an ongoing story of humans integrated with a dynamic subarctic ecosystem.

Section 202 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation (ANILCA) provides the following park purposes:

- **to protect habitats for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, high concentrations of brown/grizzly bears and their denning areas;**
- **to maintain unimpaired the water habitat for significant salmon populations;**
- **to protect scenic, geological, cultural and recreational features.**



Introduction: Park Significance

Katmai National Park & Preserve

The resources and Values
NPS has been asked to
protect:

Nearly all park significance
intersects along the Brooks
River

Sockeye Salmon Runs



Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes



Watersheds



Brown Bears



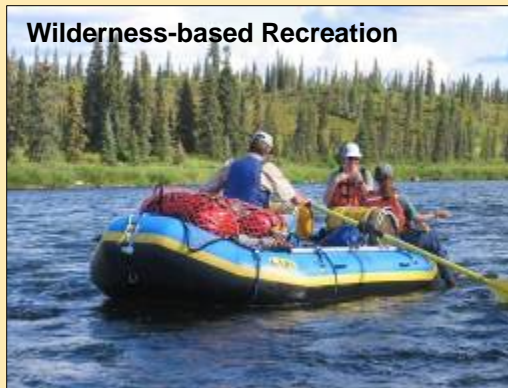
Science



Cultural Heritage



Wilderness-based Recreation



Alagnak Wild River



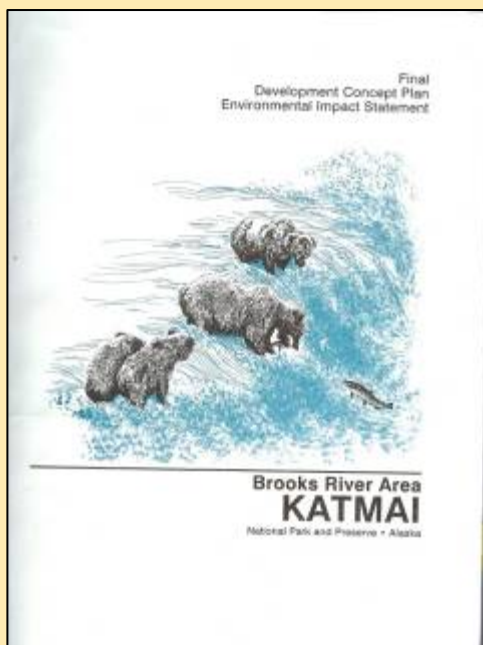


To understand where we are now, we need to know where we've been.

Brooks River Development Concept Plan (DCP) defined these objectives

- Protect natural and cultural resources.
- Improve visitor experience.
- Alternative strategies for operation and maintenance of Brooks River facilities.

1996 Official final document signed (called the Record of Decision or “ROD”)
-DCP officially became guiding document for the Brooks River area



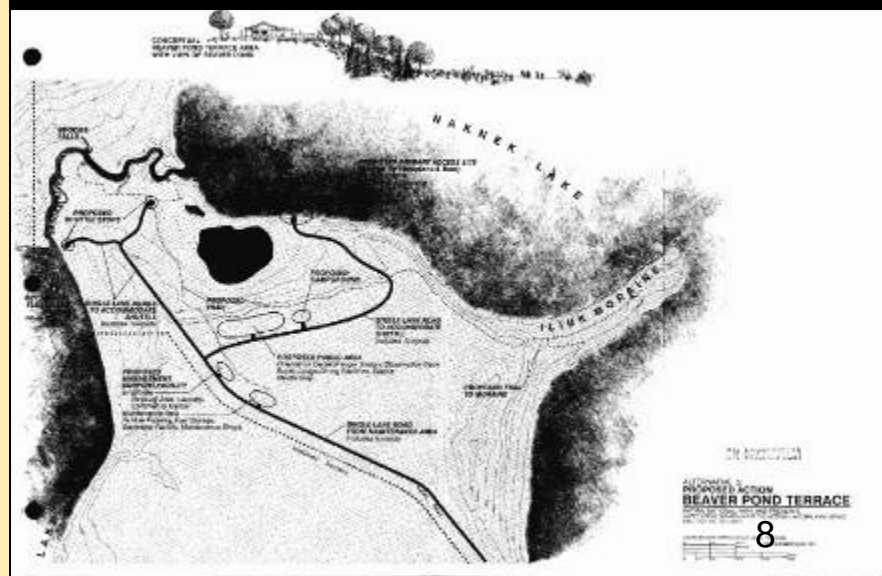


DCP Directives

Completed

- Redesign & expand Brooks Falls viewing platform—1996 & 2000
 - Falls Trail Boardwalk
 - Riffles Platform

- Move all facilities north of river to south side, making the north side a people-free zone
- Relocate maintenance facilities from Lake Brooks to the administrative site along the Valley Road
- Remove floating bridge
- Manage visitor use levels
- Add a floatplane docking area, breakwater, and access road





DCP Implementation: Phasing Strategy

5 Years

- Replace the floating bridge.
- Relocate Maintenance facilities to the south side.
- Relocate key utilities to the south side.
- Primary relocation of employee housing to the south side.

10 Years

- Relocate the campground to the south side.
- Secondary relocation of employee housing to the south side.

15 Years

- Relocate the lodge to the south side.





Purpose of the Brooks River Visitor Access EIS:

To facilitate the phased relocation of Brooks Camp to the south side of the Brooks River, and to improve visitor access and resource protection at the Brooks River area of Katmai National Park and Preserve.





Needs:

- Reduce human and bear interactions.
- Provide dependable access during the phased relocation of Brooks Camp.
- Amend 1996 DCP decision on access.
- Protect park resources.
- Improve visitor experience around the mouth of Brooks River.





Need: Reduce Human and Bear Interactions

Visitor safety needs to be improved to reduce bear/human interactions near the mouth of the Brooks River where brown bears concentrate.





Need: Dependable Access for the Phased Relocation of Facilities

Dependable pedestrian and small utility vehicle access across the Brooks River is needed to reduce delays due to bear concentrations and to provide for continued operations during the phased relocation of Brooks Camp

Rehab at the Barge Landing



Squirrel Camp Temporary Maintenance Facilities



Need: Amend 1996 DCP Access Decision

Amend the 1996 Development Concept Plan (DCP) decision on access which includes the construction of a floatplane dock, a breakwater, a 1-2 mile access road, and the implementation of a shuttle system.





Need: Protect Park Resources

Key resources in the Brooks River area need protection, including migratory salmon and trout fisheries, the Brooks River watershed, concentrations of feeding brown bears, and the Brooks River Archeological District National Historic Landmark.





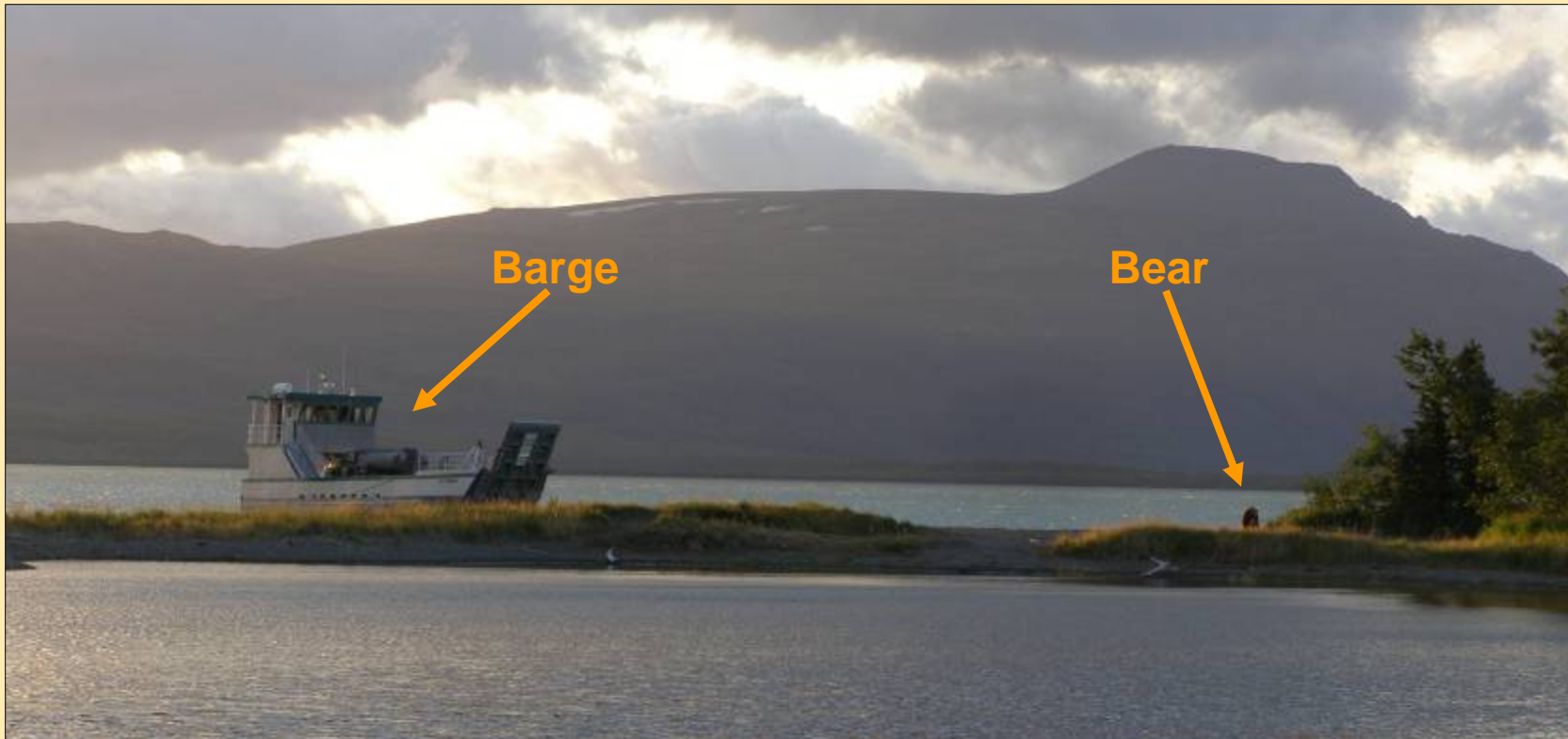
Need: Improve Visitor Experience

There are opportunities to improve visitor experience in the river mouth area where some operations, such as a barge landing site, can impact that experience.





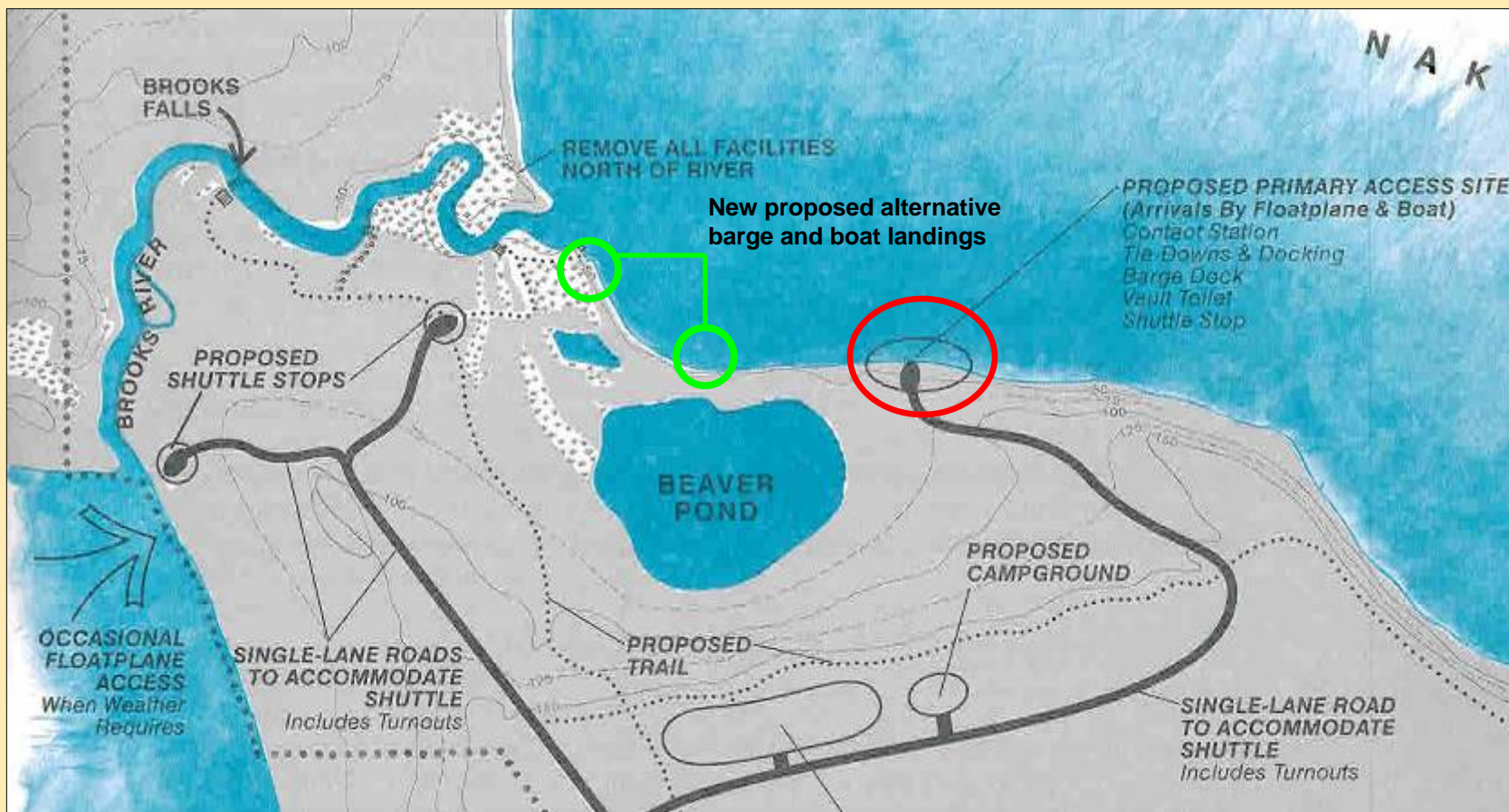
Replace the Barge and Boat Landing:



Relocate the watercraft landing site from the mouth of the river to an area less frequented by bears, and away from primary visitor use areas.



Replace the Barge and Boat Landing:



DCP: Relocate the Barge and boat Landing to the Naknek Lake shoreline immediately east of the Beaver Pond and connect it to the rest of the camp with a southern access road.



Replace the Barge and Boat Landing:

OPTIONAL ROUTES **Barge Landing / Brooks River EIS**



Katmai National Park & Preserve

Alt. "A" is close to the existing landing site.

Alt. "B" is farther east, ~700' west of the DCP proposed location.

Both alternatives would:

- Reduce impacts on bears and visitors.
- Smaller road footprint than the landing proposed in the DCP.
- Lower overall costs than the DCP alternative.
- Wetland restoration.



Brooks River Floatplane Access Design Concepts

Katmai National Park & Preserve

Amend DCP Decision:

The DCP called for a floatplane dock, a breakwater, an extended access road, and a system of shuttle vehicles. Key access points for floatplanes are proposed to be maintained at Naknek Lake and Lake Brooks.





Brooks River Bridge and Boardwalk System Alignment Concepts

Katmai National Park & Preserve

Replace the Floating Bridge and Trails:



Four different alignment concepts proposed (five including the no-action).

- All concepts will accommodate pedestrians and small utility vehicles.
- Some design concepts call for viewing areas off the bridge and boardwalk system.
- Different combinations of the alignment concept segments may be considered.



Replace the Floating Bridge and Trails:

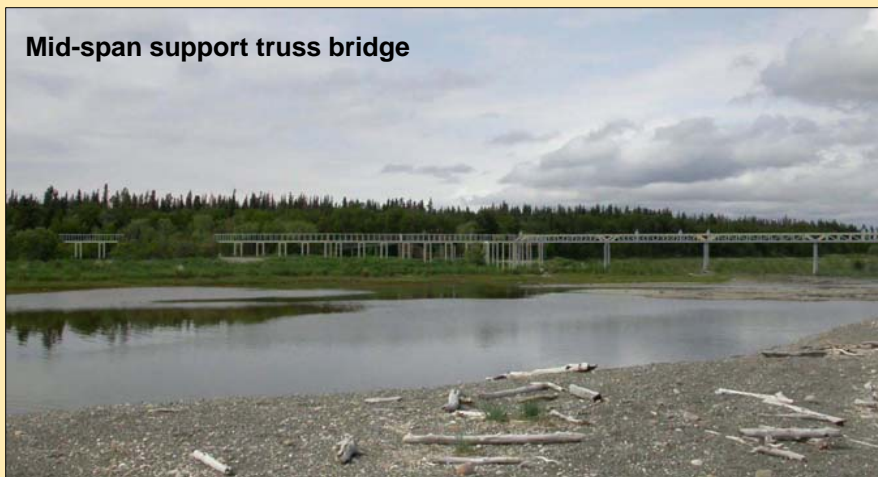
Three different bridge types are being considered. All three types could:

- provide a protected river crossing for people,
- allow bears and fish to pass underneath.

Short-span pile-supported wood frame bridge



Mid-span support truss bridge



Free-span cable-stayed (suspension) bridge





Thank you for attending. We look forward to your comments.

