

**PROPOSED CHANGES  
SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPENDIUM  
2024  
WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE**

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is seeking comment on proposed changes to the Superintendent's Compendium. A compendium is a written compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions adopted under the Superintendent's discretionary authority.

Information on how to submit comments is available at:  
<https://www.nps.gov/locations/alaska/proposed-compendiums.htm>

After review and consideration of the need for annual updates, the following changes are proposed.

**WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

**13.1902(b) Subsistence resident zone boundaries.**

The external boundaries of the Wrangell-St. Elias Resident Zone along the Glenn and Richardson Highways are described as follows:

- The western boundary of Glennallen along the Glenn Highway is Tolsona Creek, which crosses the highway at approximately Mile 173.
- The southern boundary of Tonsina is the Little Tonsina River, which crosses the Richardson Highway at approximately Mile 65.
- The northern boundary of Gakona/Gakona Junction is Mile 138 on the Richardson Highway.

The NPS is adding language to the compendium that would define the external boundaries of the resident zones for subsistence purposes.

The purpose of this proposed compendium entry is to clarify the external boundaries of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Resident Zone in three locations. The resident zone is used to establish eligibility to harvest subsistence resources in the National Park under federal regulations. The lack of clarity of a boundary has caused considerable confusion and frustration. Clarifying the boundaries in these three locations in writing will improve transparency and customer service regarding eligibility for both the public and park staff issuing permits.

Because the park's resident zone communities are largely adjacent to one another, there is no need to define the boundaries between adjacent communities. And a formal process has already defined the resident zone community boundaries along the Alaska Highway, with maps on file in the Superintendent's office and available on the park website.

This proposed compendium entry would clarify the northern boundary of Gakona on the Richardson Highway, the southern boundary of Tonsina on the Richardson Highway, and the western boundary of Glennallen on the Glenn Highway. The proposed basis of the boundaries is the Census Designated Place Boundaries used by the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2020 Census.

36 CFR 13.1902(b), although the recommendation for the Compendium is to identify a specific geographic feature, highway mile marker, or both. (Mile markers were identified by comparing the CDP maps from Alaska Department of Labor with the Alaska Department of Transportation mile markers on the 511 website.)

- The western boundary of Glennallen along the Glenn Highway would be Tolsona Creek, which crosses the highway at approximately Mile 173. (The 2020 CDP map can be seen here: [28740.pdf \(alaska.gov\)](#).)
- The southern boundary of Tonsina would be the Little Tonsina River, which crosses the Richardson Highway at approximately Mile 65. (CDP map: [78350.pdf \(alaska.gov\)](#).)
- The northern boundary of Gakona/Gakona Junction would be Mile 138 on the Richardson. (CDP map [27420.pdf \(alaska.gov\)](#).) There isn't a good geographic feature at this location, although it appears that it might be a section line.

A bit more information: Glennallen is bordered on the west by Tolsona (which is where our most recent eligibility questions have come from). Tolsona has a community association that receives funding from the state and is identified by the Alaska Department of Transportation with signs along the road as well as labels on its Alaska511 online road map. South of Tonsina and north of Gakona there are areas that are outside of census designated places, although there may be people living scattered along the roads and there is a new community (established around 2000). at Mile 46 on the Richardson heading south towards Valdez. (For a map of the Census Designated Places in the Copper River Census area: [066.pdf \(alaska.gov\)](#).)



Superintendent