



## *Dear Friends of Gates of the Arctic,*

As you may know, the National Park Service is currently developing a general management plan (GMP) amendment for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, which will provide updated direction for managing the park over the next 15 to 20 years. Also, at this time, the National Park Service is conducting a study to consider which lands eligible for wilderness designation, if any, should be formally proposed for such designation.

In February and March of 2010, we held public meetings and asked for your ideas and concerns regarding stewardship of this premier wilderness area. Taking your feedback into account, the planning team has developed preliminary alternative concepts for amending the existing 1986 general management plan, including development of draft management zones. At this time, we would like to share some information about these concepts and zones, and are very interested in your thoughts about them. In addition, we are taking this opportunity to provide updates on associated planning efforts for wilderness, as well as for wild and scenic rivers in Gates of the Arctic.

After looking over the information in this newsletter, particularly the preliminary management zones and alternative concepts, you will have a variety of options for sending us your comments: you can return the enclosed comment form or mail a letter to the park; submit your comments electronically via the internet or e-mail; or if you live in the area, you can

provide your comments at one of the open houses we will conduct later this fall (please see the 'How to Be Involved' section of this newsletter for more details).

The planning team will review all comments submitted; however, comments received by November 15, 2010 will be most helpful for this phase of planning. Following this review, we will refine the preliminary concepts into full alternatives for amending the existing general management plan, and develop a range of alternatives for potential wilderness designation. We will then complete the required environmental analysis, at which time additional opportunities will be provided for public involvement (a timeline for the remainder of the planning process is provided later in this newsletter).

I appreciate your interest regarding management of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and look forward to your continued involvement in this important planning process.

Sincerely,



Greg Dudgeon,  
Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve



## FOUNDATION STATEMENT

The National Park Service presented the foundation statement for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve—a formal description of the park’s core mission which serves as the foundation for planning and management—as part of the initial scoping process in early 2010. The foundation includes the park purpose statement, which identifies why Congress and the president established the park, and is based on the enabling legislation of the park:

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

In addition, Section 201 of ANILCA states that the park shall be managed for the following purposes, among others:

- To maintain the wild and undeveloped character of the area, including opportunities for visitors to experience solitude, and the natural environmental integrity and scenic beauty of the mountains, forelands, rivers, lakes, and other natural features.

- To provide continued opportunities, including reasonable access, for mountain climbing, mountaineering, and other wilderness recreational activities.
- To protect habitat for and the populations of fish and wildlife, including, but not limited to, caribou, grizzly bears, Dall sheep, moose, wolves, and raptorial birds.
- Subsistence uses by local residents shall be permitted in the park, where such uses are traditional, in accordance with the provisions of title VIII.

The foundation statement also identifies park significance (what is most important about the park’s natural and cultural resources and values); fundamental resources and values (the resources and values that are so fundamental, the existence of the park itself could be jeopardized if these resources become degraded); primary interpretive themes (key stories or concepts that will help visitors understand and appreciate the purpose and significance of the park); and special mandates and administrative commitments (legal requirements and administrative commitments that apply to the park). For more details regarding the Gates of the Arctic foundation statement, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gaar> and follow the foundation statement links.

## The Qualities of Wilderness Character

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve contains more than 8,000,000 acres of designated and eligible wilderness. Per the Wilderness Act and NPS *Management Policies 2006*, the National Park Service is mandated to protect the four qualities of wilderness as identified in the Wilderness Act:

- undeveloped (i.e., wilderness retains its primeval character and influence, and is essentially without permanent improvement or modern human occupation),
- untrammeled (i.e., wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation),
- offering opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation,
- retaining natural conditions (i.e., wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization).



## PUBLIC SCOPING SUMMARY



With the release of a newsletter in February 2010, the National Park Service began seeking public input into the Gates of the Arctic general management plan amendment. During this initial 30-day scoping period, the Park Service conducted public meetings in February, March, and April of 2010. Approximately 50 people attended meetings in the villages of Allakaket, Alatna, Anaktuvuk Pass, Wiseman, Kobuk, Bettles, Shungnak, Nuiqsut, and Barrow; 29 people attended meetings in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Members of the public were asked to comment by writing letters, submitting comment cards to the park, sending an email, entering comments into the NPS Planning website, or speaking to park staff during the public meetings. Over 40 separate entries were received, about half of which were from residents, agencies, and organizations based in Alaska (three comments also came from out of state residents, and the rest did not identify where they lived). These entries were analyzed and the substantive issues were summarized.

Many comments suggested the National Park Service consider different approaches to determining the appropriate levels of visitor access to and use of the park. Some advocated the Park

Service find ways to maintain current use patterns and levels. Others advocated for increased access and visitation to give all people a chance to experience the park, and to help support local economies. Similarly, some comments indicated the Park Service should reach out more aggressively to educate visitors and locals, while others indicated the Park Service should consider how much information/orientation future visitors will be given, as it could affect future patterns of use and access.

Concerns were expressed about maintaining the wild nature of the park, including opportunities for solitude; the types of research that should occur in designated wilderness areas; and the potential for designating additional land as wilderness. Suggestions were made to limit development in and around the park and to consider the effects of visitor use (including recreational hunting), as well as oil and gas operations, on resources such as big game populations. Recommendations were also made to eliminate guided hunts and to establish zones where motorized vehicle access or commercial services would be prohibited.



## ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

During the spring and summer, our interdisciplinary planning team considered the public feedback received during initial scoping, and began developing draft preliminary alternative concepts for managing Gates of the Arctic. As part of this process, we identified management zones for the park, which generally identify how different areas could be managed to achieve resource preservation, provide for recreational access and use, and serve operational purposes. Once identified, management zones were then applied to various areas of the park according to guidelines offered by each alternative management concept. Ultimately, the preliminary alternative concepts will be further defined by their approach to particular topics related to managing Gates of the Arctic.

The alternative concepts must all be consistent with the various laws, regulations, and policies that guide management of this park unit, including the recently completed foundation statement. In addition, all alternatives for management of Gates of the Arctic would protect the four qualities of wilderness character as required by the Wilderness Act: undeveloped, untrammeled, offering opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation, and retaining natural conditions.

These preliminary alternative concepts, draft management zones, and specific topics are described further in this newsletter; we are now seeking your feedback on these. Following public comment, the planning team will refine the preliminary alternative concepts, including management zoning

and the approach to specific topics. We will then share the outcome as part of the draft general management plan, which is anticipated to be ready for review in the fall of 2011. As part of this process, each alternative will be evaluated against the park's existing conditions. Eventually, an NPS preferred alternative will be identified. That preferred alternative may be very similar to one of the preliminary alternatives, it may incorporate elements from several preliminary alternatives, or it may grow out of an entirely new concept.

### What this Plan Will Not Address

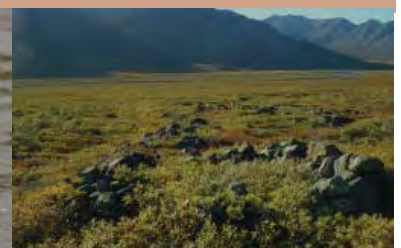
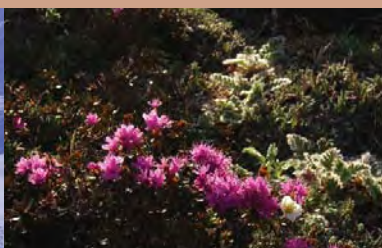
Topics addressed in previous planning processes will not be considered by this general management plan amendment, and therefore will continue to be managed as they have been. These include, but are not necessary limited to, the following:

- subsistence management, which is covered in the *Subsistence Management Plan* that was prepared in cooperation with the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
- issues related to the federal park and wilderness lands that were exchanged with native regional and village corporations at Anaktuvuk Pass per the 1992 *Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement on All-Terrain Vehicles for Subsistence Use in Gates of the Arctic* and its associated *Record of Decision*

## DRAFT MANAGEMENT ZONES

The planning team has identified five management zones for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The zones differ in how visitor use and experience, as well as administrative infrastructure, facilities, and transportation would be managed in different areas of the park. Details of these management zones are provided in the table on pages 6 and 7. The enclosed maps also show how the zones were

applied in varying configurations and locations based on the preliminary alternative concepts developed this spring and summer. Because these zones were developed as a result of this general management plan amendment, they are not applied to preliminary alternative concept 1, which is a continuation of current management.





## PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS

Three alternative concepts have been developed by the interdisciplinary planning team. An additional no-action alternative (alternative 1) represents the continuation of current management. The no-action alternative is required by law to provide a baseline against which the other alternatives can be compared. Alternative 2 would place an emphasis on maximizing the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation at Gates of the Arctic. Alternative 3 would offer a broad range of wilderness recreational experiences. Alternative 4 would focus on offering educational opportunities and stewardship activities. See the table on page 8 for more information about each of the preliminary alternative concepts.

During the alternatives development process, the planning team also identified specific topics that may be managed in the same manner across all alternatives, regardless of concept. These topics include, but may not be limited to, land protection, sustainability, and partnerships

In addition, the planning team identified other topics related to commercial services, backcountry visitor facilities, and administrative and scientific activities which are likely to vary based on the management concept. These topics include the following:

### Commercial Services

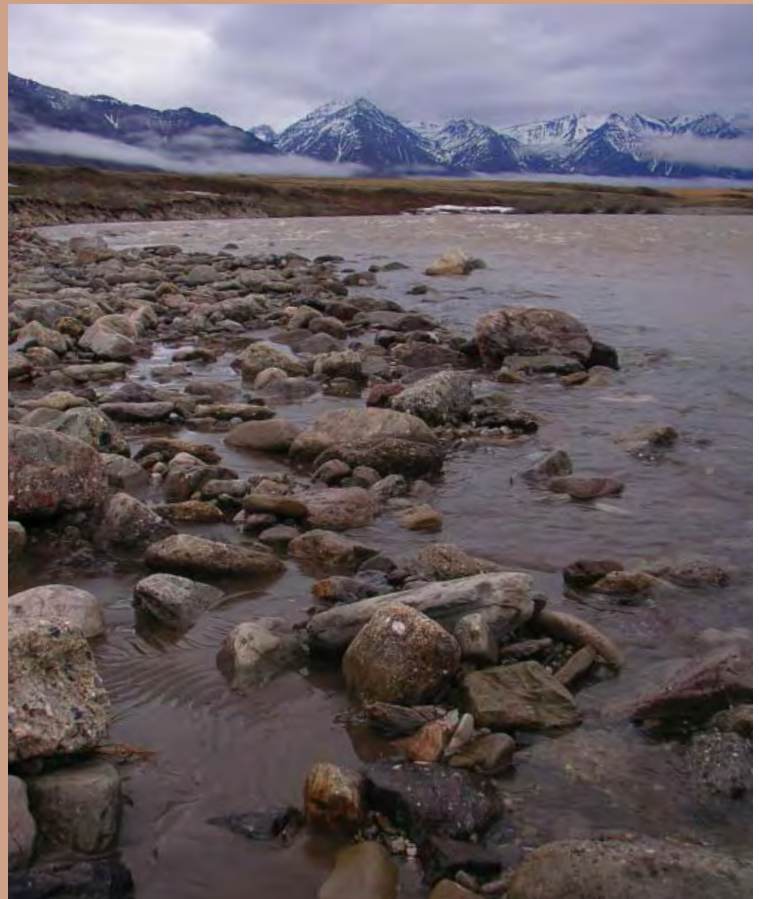
- commercial aircraft operations (including transporters)
- guided recreational activities (sport hunting, fishing, float trips)
- other miscellaneous uses (e.g., commercial filming)

### Backcountry Visitor Facilities

- cabins
- campsites
- trails
- access points
- information facilities

### Administrative and Scientific Activities

- transportation and access
- research (NPS and non-NPS) and resource management
- visitor protection
- interpretation
- facilities (including those outside the park)
- partnerships
- climate change response
- adaptive management



## USER CAPACITY

General management plans for national park units are required to address user capacity. The National Park Service defines user capacity as the type and level of use that can be accommodated while sustaining the quality of park resources and visitor opportunities consistent with the purposes of the park.

User capacity management is typically aimed at preventing unnecessary damage to resources, diminished visitor enjoyment, displacement of visitors, expensive repairs arising from use of an area, etc. Determining user capacity does not necessarily

involve identifying a “magic number” for visitor use, nor does it necessarily imply use limits. Instead, to help guide user capacity management and prevent unnecessary impacts, the planning team will develop indicators (a measureable variable that can be used to track changes in resource and social conditions related to human activity so that existing conditions can be compared to desired conditions) and standards (the minimum acceptable condition for an indicator). These indicators and standards will ultimately be presented for review and comment as part of the draft environmental impact statement.

## DRAFT MANAGEMENT ZONE DESCRIPTIONS

DRAFT MANAGEMENT ZONE DESCRIPTIONS				
General Description	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
	Visitors use this zone as a gateway between the modern, developed world and the park's backcountry. There will be higher numbers of visitors and activities compared to other zones. This zone is where groups meet before embarking on a wilderness journey and where others may end their trip and prepare to leave the backcountry. In those areas not designated wilderness, some impacts from visitors may be tolerated in order to ensure access. New permanent and temporary structures may be allowed, and existing ones would be evaluated for continued use. Administrative transportation and access would occur on a regular basis.	This zone is used by a wide range of recreational and subsistence users. They may occasionally encounter other visitors in this zone, especially at the most popular spots at peak times of the year. The physical environment generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, some exceptions may be made to ensure resources are protected and visitor experience goals are maintained. New permanent and temporary structures may be allowed, and existing ones would be evaluated for continued use. Administrative transportation and access would be reduced compared to zone 1.	Remote and often times difficult to access, it may take significant planning and effort to get into this zone. This zone is visited by both recreational and subsistence users and it offers opportunities for high levels of solitude, challenge, adventure, and discovery. The physical environment is largely modified by contemporary humans. Limited permanent and temporary structures may be allowed, and existing ones would be evaluated for removal. Administrative transportation and access would be reduced compared to zone 2.	This zone requires that visitors be completely self-reliant, and that they are ready to be immersed in an environment that fully embodies the four qualities of wilderness character. This zone provides a powerful sense of solitude and offers the epitome of the challenges and joys of the remote, undeveloped, untrammeled, and virtually untouched backcountry. Naturally functioning ecosystems are the norm. New permanent and temporary structures, and removal of existing ones, would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Administrative transportation and access would be reduced compared to zone 3.
Visitor Use and Experience Prescriptions	<b>Social Conditions</b> Encounter rate: Visitors can expect to encounter other parties. They generally encounter 5 or fewer parties per trip.  Group Size (visitors and staff): Guided: 10 or less; 10 or less also recommended for unguided groups.  Challenge: Requires moderate self-reliance, advance planning or time commitment.  Visitors, when camping, should expect to see or hear other parties, especially during peak use times.  Visitors may encounter staff.	<b>Social Conditions</b> Encounter Rates: Visitors occasionally encounter other parties. They generally encounter 3 or fewer parties per trip.  Group Size (visitors and staff): Guided: 10 or less; 10 or less also recommended for unguided groups.  Challenge: Moderate degree of self-reliance, advance planning and time commitment.  During some peak use periods and/or at popular sites, camping visitors may see or hear other parties.  Visitors may occasionally encounter staff.	<b>Social Conditions</b> Encounter Rates: Visitors are unlikely to encounter other parties. Visitors generally encounter 2 or fewer parties per trip.  Group Size (visitors and staff): Guided: 10 or less; 10 or less also recommended for unguided groups.  Challenge: High degree of self-reliance, advance planning, and time commitment.  Visitors, when camping, should not expect to see of hear other parties.  Visitors unlikely to encounter staff.	<b>Social Conditions</b> Encounter Rates: Visitors very rarely encounter other parties.  Group Size (visitors and staff): Guided: 10 or less; 10 or less also recommended for unguided groups.  Challenge: Extremely high degree of self-reliance, advance planning, and time commitment.  Visitors, when camping, should not expect to see or hear other parties.  Visitors very rarely encounter staff.

Zone 1					Zone 2					Zone 3					Zone 4					Zone 5					
Visitor Use and Experience Prescriptions (continued)	<b>Soundscape Conditions</b> Natural sounds usually predominate; however, human voices and noises from mechanized/ motorized vehicles (including aircraft), may be commonly heard during high use periods.					<b>Soundscape Conditions</b> Natural sounds predominate. Human voices and noises from motorized/mechanized vehicles (including aircraft) may be heard occasionally, but are usually faint.					<b>Soundscape Conditions</b> Natural sounds predominate. Human voices and noises from motorized/mechanized vehicles (including aircraft), may be heard occasionally, but are usually faint.					<b>Soundscape Conditions</b> Natural sounds predominate. Human voices and noises from motorized/mechanized vehicles (including aircraft) are almost never heard and are usually faint.					<b>Soundscape Conditions</b> Natural sounds predominate. Human voices and noises from motorized/mechanized vehicles (including aircraft) are almost never heard and are usually faint.				
	<b>Recreational Improvements</b> Limited recreational improvements are allowed to ensure visitor safety and resource protection, including such facilities as designated trails and campsites.  There may be some scattered campsites and/or unofficial trails.					<b>Recreational Improvements</b> Limited recreational improvements may be allowed to ensure visitor safety and resource protection.  There may be some scattered campsites and/or unofficial trails.					<b>Recreational Improvements</b> Limited seasonal recreational improvements are allowed.  A few discernible campsites and/or unofficial trails may occur.					<b>Recreational Improvements</b> No recreational improvements are allowed.					<b>Recreational Improvements</b> No recreational improvements are allowed.				
	New permanent structures are allowed.					New permanent structures are allowed in nonwilderness areas.					Limited new permanent structures or facilities are allowed in nonwilderness areas.					New permanent or temporary structures or facilities would be evaluated using a wilderness minimum requirement-minimum tool analysis.					New permanent or temporary structures or facilities would be evaluated using a wilderness minimum requirement-minimum tool analysis.				
Administrative Infrastructure, Facilities, and Transportation/ Access	Temporary structures or facilities are limited to the minimum required for the protection of resources, research and monitoring, and public health and safety.					Temporary structures or facilities are limited to the minimum required for the protection of resources, research and monitoring, and public health and safety.					Temporary structures or facilities may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.					Existing nonhistoric structures and facilities will be evaluated for removal.					Existing nonhistoric structures and facilities will be evaluated for removal.				
	Treatment of existing structures and facilities is determined on a case-by-case basis.					Treatment of existing structures and facilities is determined on a case-by-case.					Existing nonhistoric structures and facilities will be evaluated for removal.					Existing nonhistoric structures and facilities will be evaluated for removal.					Existing nonhistoric structures and facilities will be evaluated for removal.				
	Regular administrative use of snow-machines, motorboats, and aircraft.					Somewhat limited administrative use of snowmachines, motorboats, and aircraft.					Limited administrative use of snow machines, motorboats, and aircraft.					Very limited administrative use of snowmachines, motorboats, and aircraft.					Very limited administrative use of snowmachines, motorboats, and airplanes.				

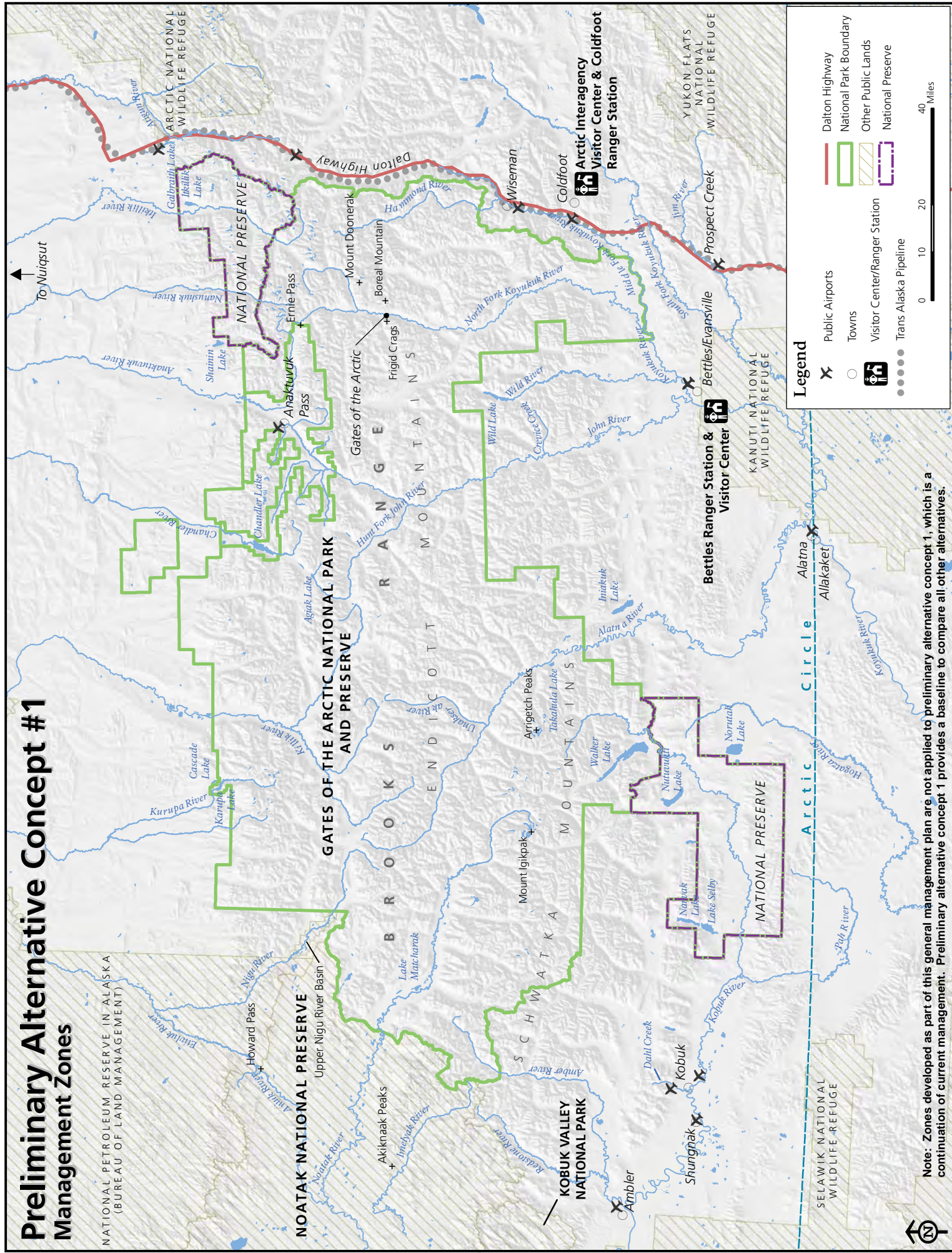
## PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT DESCRIPTIONS

	Preliminary Alternative Concept #1	Preliminary Alternative Concept #2	Preliminary Alternative Concept #3	Preliminary Alternative Concept #4
Overall Vision	This concept primarily reflects current conditions (a “snapshot in time”) at Gates of the Arctic, and provides a baseline against which to compare the other management concepts.	The Park Service would continue to provide opportunities for people to experience the remoteness and vastness of the park, with an emphasis on self-reliance and maximizing outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.	Opportunities to experience the remoteness and vastness would occur under this alternative, but there would be an emphasis on providing a broader range of wilderness recreational experiences in Gates of the Arctic when compared to preliminary alternative concept #2.	Opportunities for people to experience the remoteness and vastness of the park would still occur, with an emphasis on inspiring active stewardship and creating advocates for the park and wilderness areas through an array of educational and science-based opportunities.
Concept Description	Under this concept, the National Park Service would continue the present management direction for Gates of the Arctic, guided by the 1986 general management plan. Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation would still occur for self-reliant visitors. Visitor services and park management and operations would occur at similar levels as today, including field activities (e.g., scientific activities, monitoring, and ranger operations), education, and interpretive programs. The Park Service would respond as necessary to protect park resources and values on a case-by-case basis. New services and facilities would be limited to those identified in the 1986 plan.	To fulfill the intent of maximizing outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, visitor services and park operations and management would be conducted in a focused manner that minimizes the imprint of modern humans. As part of this, there would be no new or very limited new infrastructure and facilities.	Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation would still occur for self-reliant visitors, but there would be more opportunities for those with less experience or less time. The park would seek opportunities to partner with neighboring land management agencies to provide gateways to the park’s wilderness in areas along the Dalton Highway corridor. Where appropriate, limited new infrastructure and facilities could be developed to enhance visitor opportunities. Visitor services and park management and operations, including field activities, education, and interpretive programs would occur at levels similar to those that occur today.	In addition to providing outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, this concept would also seek to better foster visitors’ understanding of and appreciation for the variety of park resources and wilderness in general. This could involve public participation in some field activities and the identification of areas with intrinsic qualities that make them well-suited for education outreach and stewardship building (e.g., Walker Lake). Where appropriate, limited new infrastructure and facilities could be developed to enhance these opportunities. Visitor services and park management and operations, including field activities, education, and interpretive programs would likely increase.
Outcomes	This concept could have implications for park resources (natural and cultural), as well as the untrammeled and undeveloped wilderness qualities in some areas. Administrative access would not change, nor would education and interpretation programs.	This concept would help protect the untrammeled and undeveloped nature of Gates of the Arctic, it would cause changes to administrative access to the park and the pace at which field activities (e.g., scientific activities, monitoring, and ranger operations) could be conducted. A slower pace of such activities could have implications for park resources (natural and cultural), as well as visitor education and interpretation, by slowing the rate at which information is gathered.	Providing a broader range of visitor opportunities, including the potential for limited new infrastructure and facilities to enhance visitor opportunities, could have implications for park resources (natural and cultural), as well as the untrammeled and undeveloped wilderness qualities in some areas. Administrative access in many areas, as well as education and interpretation programs, would occur at levels similar to current conditions.	This concept could have some positive implications for park resources (natural and cultural) by increasing field activities, education, and interpretive programs, but could also affect the untrammeled and undeveloped wilderness qualities in some areas as a result of the potential for limited new infrastructure or facilities.



# Preliminary Alternative Concept #1

## Management Zones



Note: Zones developed as part of this general management plan are not applied to preliminary alternative concept 1, which is a continuation of current management. Preliminary alternative concept 1 provides a baseline to compare all other alternatives.



# Preliminary Alternative Concept #2 Management Zones

NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA  
(BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT)

NOATAK NATIONAL PRESERVE

GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK  
AND PRESERVE

KOBUK VALLEY  
NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PRESERVE

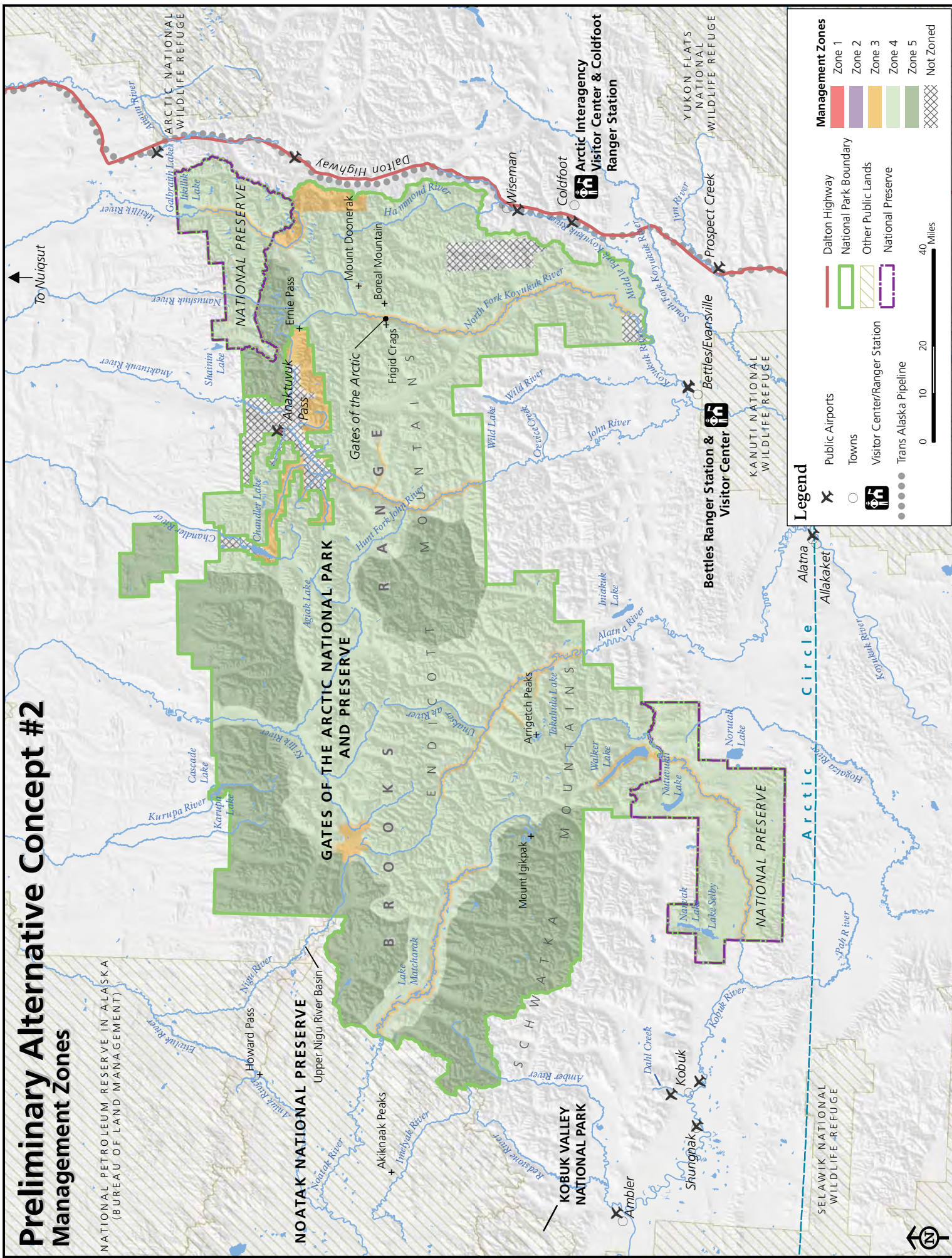
SELAWIK NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE

Legend

✈	Public Airports	—	Dalton Highway
○	Towns	—	National Park Boundary
🏠	Visitor Center/Ranger Station	—	Other Public Lands
●●●●●	Trans Alaska Pipeline	—	National Preserve

<b>Management Zones</b>	
■	Zone 1
■	Zone 2
■	Zone 3
■	Zone 4
■	Zone 5
■	Not Zoned





[illegible]



# Preliminary Alternative Concept #4 Management Zones

This map illustrates the proposed management zones for the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The map includes the following features:

- Management Zones:** Five zones are identified, each with a unique color and pattern:
  - Zone 1: Red solid fill
  - Zone 2: Purple solid fill
  - Zone 3: Orange solid fill
  - Zone 4: Green solid fill
  - Zone 5: Dark green solid fill
  - Not Zoned: White fill with a cross-hatch pattern
- Legend:** Symbols for Dalton Highway, National Park Boundary, Other Public Lands, National Preserve, Public Airports, Towns, Visitor Center/Ranger Station, and Trans Alaska Pipeline.
- Geographical Features:** The map shows the Arctic Circle, Dalton Highway, and various rivers and lakes including the Yukon, Koyukuk, and Kuskokwim.
- Other Landmarks:** The map also shows the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, Kobuk National Park, and the Noatak National Preserve.



## PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES AND WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

As noted previously, all alternatives for management of Gates of the Arctic must protect the four qualities of wilderness character. However, the emphasis on each quality within the different preliminary alternate concepts varies. As a result, we have developed the following table to provide a preliminary assessment of which quality or qualities would be emphasized.

**X** = Quality would be emphasized

x = Quality would be preserved but not emphasized

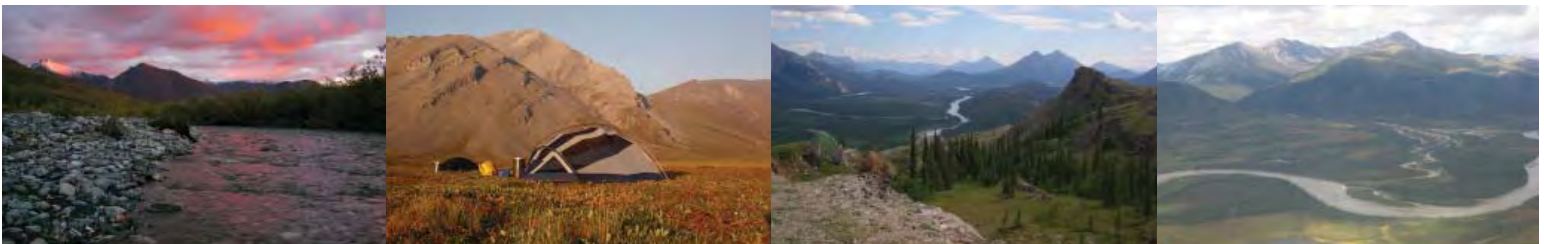


Preliminary Alternative Concept	Undeveloped	Untrammeled	Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation	Natural Conditions
Preliminary Alternative Concept #1	x	x	<b>X</b>	x
Preliminary Alternative Concept #2	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	x
Preliminary Alternative Concept #3	x	x	<b>X</b>	x
Preliminary Alternative Concept #4	x	x	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

## WILDERNESS STUDY

In 1980, with the passage of ANILCA, approximately 7,000,000 acres of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve were designated as wilderness. A subsequent review appended to the original 1986 general management plan for the park identified another approximately 1,000,000 acres as eligible wilderness (i.e., lands that have been through the Park Service's initial screening assessment and have met the minimum criteria for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system). The eligible wilderness includes both preserve areas except where there are subsurface rights and subject to a potential Kobuk unit right-of-way per ANILCA Section 201(4)(b)-(e).

At this time the National Park Service is conducting a study to consider which of these eligible lands should be proposed for wilderness designation. We will be developing possible wilderness configurations for the preserves, and we will be seeking your input on them as part of the study and environmental impact analysis associated with this general management plan amendment. We will then evaluate the various configurations to understand their benefits and impacts. Ultimately, wilderness studies typically result in a recommendation to Congress to designate none, some, or all of the eligible wilderness as part of the national wilderness preservation system. Based on the wilderness study included with this amendment to the *General Management Plan for Gates of the Arctic*, the National Park Service will prepare a proposal for review by the director of the National Park Service.



## WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES EVALUATION

Six rivers within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are designated components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system by ANILCA 601: the Alatna, John, Upper Kobuk, Noatak, North Fork of the Koyukuk, and Tinayguk. These rivers are administered as wild rivers pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as amended (16 USC 1274(a)).

The proposed management planning for these rivers will be integrated into the broader parkwide general management plan. Currently, the park and planning team is in the process of reaffirming the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs – those qualities that, when combined with the rivers' water quality and free-flowing condition, warranted designation).



## HOW TO BE INVOLVED

***Your ideas and concerns on the preliminary alternative concepts for managing the park are welcomed and encouraged!***

Comments can be sent by mail, shared at a public meeting, or submitted electronically (email address listed below). Please consider the questions listed on the enclosed comment form in addition to any other thoughts and ideas. Receiving your input before November 15, 2010 will allow us to learn from you before we continue to refine the general management plan amendment alternatives. Thank you.

### Share your comments electronically

Complete the electronic version of the comment form on the web at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gaar> (click on "General Management Plan - Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve" and then click on "Open for Public Comment").

### Share your comments at a public meeting

You can provide your comments (verbally or in writing) at one of the upcoming public meetings. We invite you to attend one of the meetings to talk with the planning team firsthand about your ideas, comments, and questions. The schedule of upcoming public meetings is on the back page.

### Mail your comment form or letters

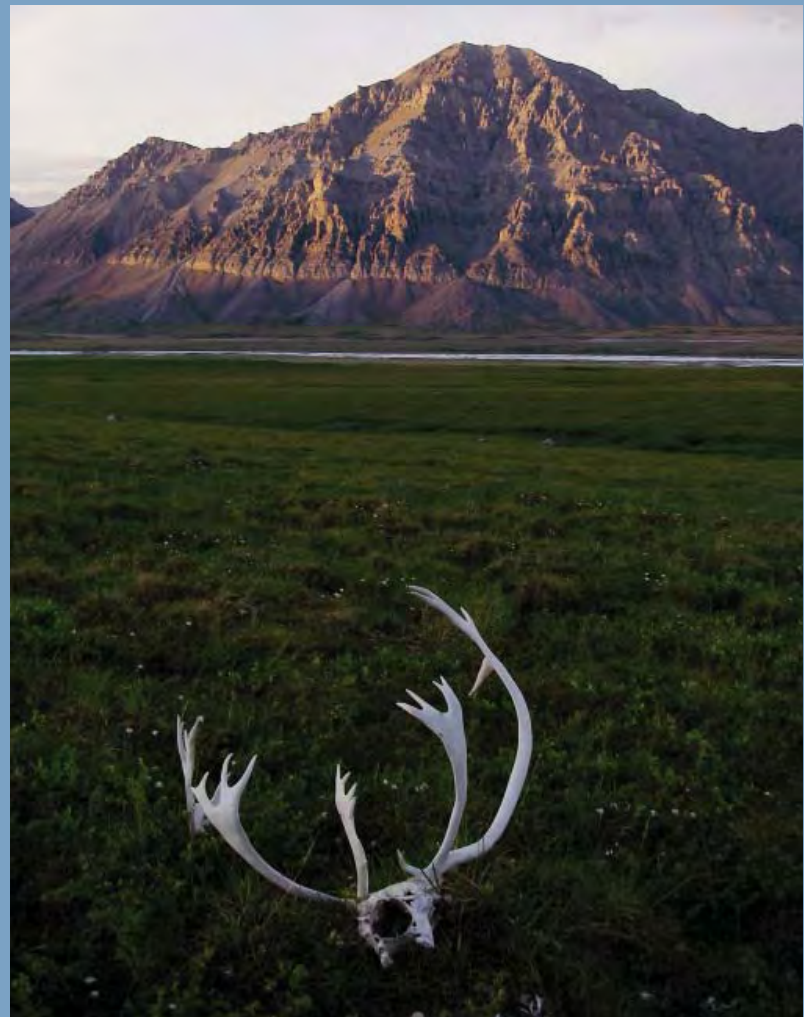
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve – GMP Amendment

Fairbanks Administrative Center, 4175 Geist Road

Fairbanks, AK 99709

### Email your input

[Gaar\\_Planning@nps.gov](mailto:Gaar_Planning@nps.gov)





PLANNING TIMETABLE			
Planning Activity		Dates	Public Involvement Opportunities
<b>STEP 1</b>	<b>Set the stage for planning:</b> develop foundation document, determine issues and concerns, and conduct initial public scoping.	Fall 2009 to Spring 2010	89 people attended several meetings in the vicinity of the park, in Fairbanks, and Anchorage to learn about the planning process, and offer their ideas about what the plan should address.
<b>STEP 2 (WE ARE HERE)</b>	<b>Develop Alternative Management Concepts:</b> Identify a range of alternatives for the park's future and consider their effects, including identification and mapping of management zones.	Spring to Fall 2010	Public meetings will be held in October 2010 to help refine management alternatives. Provide comments on the management zones, management concepts, and specific topics described in this newsletter.
<b>STEP 3</b>	<b>Develop Preliminary Alternatives:</b> Develop the management concepts into full preliminary alternatives. Consider different aspects of the preliminary alternatives before selecting or crafting a preferred alternative.	Winter 2010/2011	Final Alternatives Newsletter
<b>STEP 4</b>	<b>Prepare Draft General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement:</b> Prepare draft plan describing the management alternatives and impacts; distribute to the public.	Winter 2011 to Fall 2011	Provide written comments on the draft document. Attend public meetings and provide comments.
<b>STEP 5</b>	<b>Revise and Prepare Final General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement:</b> Analyze comments, prepare responses to comments, revise draft document, distribute to the public.	Winter 2012 to Summer 2012	30-day no-action period.
<b>STEP 6</b>	<b>Implement the approved plan:</b> Prepare and issue Record of Decision and implement the plan as funding allows.	Fall 2012	Stay involved throughout implementation of the approved plan. Let the park know what you think.



GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE  
GMP AMENDMENT  
FAIRBANKS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
4175 GEIST ROAD  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709-9990

FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
PERMIT NO. G-83

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300



## *You're Invited to a Public Meeting!*

This fall, the park planning team will host meetings with the public to hear about their ideas related to the preliminary alternative concepts, including management zoning. Meetings will be held in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska. In addition, park staff will visit some of the local villages that surround the park to discuss ideas and concerns of local residents.

### **FAIRBANKS**

October 20, 2010  
4:00-7:00 PM

Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center  
101 Dunkel Street  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
Telephone: 907.459.3700  
Website: <http://www.morristhompsoncenter.org/>

### **ANCHORAGE**

October 26, 2010  
4:00-8:00 PM

Campbell Creek Science Center  
5600 Science Center Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507-2599

Telephone: (907) 267-1247

Website: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sciencecenter.html>

### **LOCAL VISITS, DATES TO BE DETERMINED:**

Allakaket, Alaska  
Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska  
Bettles, Alaska  
Coldfoot, Alaska

*Thank you for your interest in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve!*