

Park service announces

Plans approved for nine Alaska parks

General management plans for nine Alaskan units of the National Park System have been approved by Park Service Director William Penn Mott, Jr.

Areas covered in these plans are Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Denali National Park and Preserve, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park, Noatak National Preserve, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Approval followed a review by Bill Horn, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the service's Washington Office.



According to a Park Service spokesman, that review included consideration of comments, testimonies and recommendations by the Alaska Congressional delegation, Alaska Land Use Council and its federal co-chairman, the State of Alaska, various interest groups, organizations and individuals.

"This first generation of plans will provide a useful framework for conservation and management of these areas while leaving management options open for the future," Mott said.

Horn said his evaluation focused on ensuring the plans were consistent with the spirit and intent of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservations Act:

"I remain committed to making sure the department's management of these lands both preserves their conserva-

tion values and fulfills the promises made to the people of Alaska during the ANILCA debates."

Horn highlighted his concern that the Park Service plans recognize and protect existing rights and associated rights of access.

Among the changes incorporated as a result of his review, he said, is a section in each plan addressed to inholdings.

This section explains "access is guaranteed to non-federal land, subsurface rights, and valid mining claims."

However, that access is subject to reasonable regulations to protect the resource values of the federal lands that are crossed, Horn said.

Other revisions include:

- further explanation of provisions for recreational use of off-road vehicles;
- modification of the management approach to recreational use of snowmachines and motorboats in Gates of the Arctic;
- emphasis on future options for im-

proving visitor access and increasing recreational opportunities along the road system in Wrangell-St. Elias;

- deletion of a proposed boundary change in Wrangells that would have added the TeBay Lakes area to the unit's wilderness boundary;

- increased recognition in the Northwest park plans that the traditional use of Native allotments is compatible with the purposes of these areas;

- editorial revisions to the Denali land protection plan and the visitor use section of the Katmai plan; and,

- revisions to reflect new regulations for implementing Title XI of ANILCA.

The plans will be printed and transmitted to Congress. A notice of availability will be sent out by the Park Service Regional Office in Alaska to organizations and individuals on a mailing list developed during the planning process.

Copies will be available next month at that office, 2525 Gambell St., Anchorage 99503-2892; telephone 271-2686.