

Village meetings to be held on the National Park Service plans

Should sled dog races be allowed in the wilderness at Gates of the Arctic? What steps should NPS take to keep bears and people apart at Katmai National Park and Preserve? These are the types of issues addressed in the plans. Plans for the Denali National Park and Preserve are scheduled for April 15.

The Gates of the Arctic Draft General Management Plan focuses on managing America's premiere wilderness area to retain its pristine qualities as more and more visitors are drawn to the park. The Katmai plan focuses on increasing use. Visitation at Katmai grew by 80 percent during 1983-1984.

Thirty or so meetings at all villages begin April 29th.

The U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service has released plans for the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and the Denali National Park and Preserve. Five other National Park plans will be ready for distribution by mid-April.

The National Park Service has scheduled public meetings to be held in Anchorage, Fairbanks and affected villages to hear and comment on the plans. The first of these village meetings will be held April 29 in two regions. Meetings will be held in Kivalina, April 29, and Noatak, April 30, to discuss the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, the Noatak National Preserve and Kobuk Valley National Park.

There will also be hearings April 29 in King Salmon and

April 30 in Naknek on the Katmai National Park and Preserve. Meeting dates for villages near other national parks, preserves and monuments will be released by mid-month. Of particular interest to villagers will be the proposals for fish and game resource management, cultural resources, and visitor services and facilities.

Villagers will have a chance to raise their concerns about subsistence hunting and fishing, access to park lands for other uses such as obtaining edible plants, firewood or for travel from one area to another.

Plans for the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Noatak National Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve will be released by mid-April.

Copies of the draft general management plans are available at individual park headquarters; at the National Park Service Regional Office, 2525 Gambell St., Anchorage, AK, 99503-2892; and at the Interior Department's Alaska Resource Library in the Anchorage Federal Building.

There will be public meetings on the draft plans beginning in late April. Meetings will be held in Anchorage, Fairbanks and in communities near each park, preserve and monument. For further information about the public meeting schedule people may call either park headquarters or the Division of Planning at the Park Service Regional Office in Anchorage at 271-4366.