



Community Newsletter

Spring 2022



Wildflowers at Bremner/Jake Frank

Dear neighbors & community members,

This has been a challenging year in which we lost community members, friends, and family, both locally and nationally. This includes world-renowned entomologist, naturalist, and author, E.O. Wilson who died on December 26, 2021 at age 92. We honored his life on Earth Day with park social media posts, sharing an interview I had with him in person in 2014 for a video series on National Parks. See more about E.O. Wilson on the last page of the newsletter.

One of his more memorable quotes is, “You are capable of more than you know. Choose a goal that seems right for you and strive to be the best, however hard the path. Aim high. Behave honorably. Prepare to be alone at times, and to endure failure. Persist!” Persist seems to be a helpful theme for this year’s newsletter.

As we emerge from Covid-19, we look forward to a return to more “normal” activities and services. For example, visitor centers will be open and staff will be working on park infrastructure and conducting cultural and scientific research. We look forward to seeing and reconnecting with you!

Despite Covid challenges, we have been busy this past year. The recently printed, User’s Guide to Sport Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing and the online “Hunting, Fishing, and Backcountry Planning Map” are new tools for people who harvest fish and wildlife in Wrangell-St. Elias. Also new this year is a park brochure for the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark and a new generator and solar panel array in Kennecott. Read on for more information about these and other initiatives.

Finally, thanks to those who have signed up for the Locals Listserv – you are 400 strong and growing. The Listserv enables us to get news directly to you, including as significant events emerge or new projects are initiated. Subscription information is below if you’re not already subscribed.

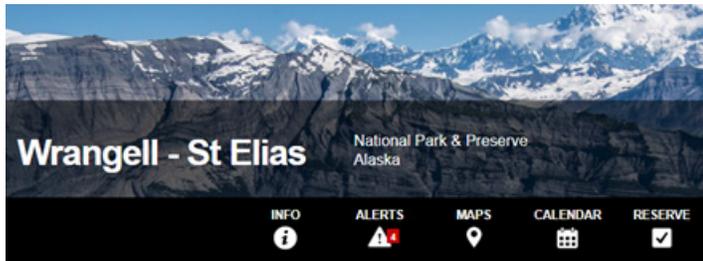
We hope for both you and for local communities that 2022 brings an opportunity for us to not only persist, but also to thrive. Stay well and see you soon.

Warm regards, Ben.
Park Superintendent

Public Affairs

Interested in knowing what's going on in the park? Follow us on our social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Posts vary from safety messages to cultural heritage highlights. The [WRST website](#) (www.nps.gov/wrst/index.htm) also has up-to-date information about hunting, fishing, trip planning, ORV use, research in the park, and more!

Local audiences can also take advantage of the opportunity to join the "Locals Listserv" by requesting a subscription via email at wrst_public_affairs@nps.gov. Put "Locals Listserv" in the subject line and include your name, email address, and if you have an organizational or business affiliation. Using GovDelivery, the Listserv includes news releases, research project descriptions, and biannual park newsletters (like this one!). Members can unsubscribe at any time. There are currently over 400 Listserv members.



[NPS.gov](#) / [Park Home](#) / [Learn About the Park](#) / [Science & Research](#) / [Research in the Park](#)

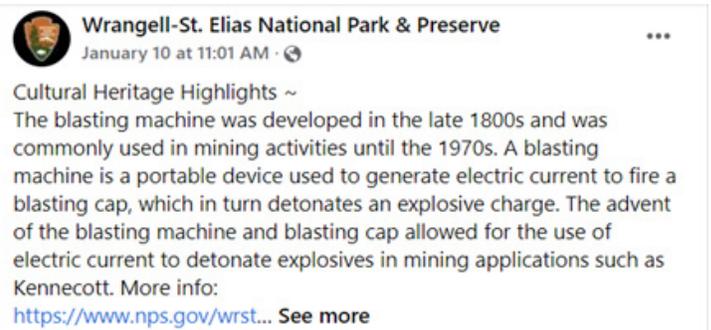
Research In The Park

Saltwater Intrusion in Proglacial Lakes at Malaspina Glacier, Southeast Alaska: Introducing the World's Newest Tidewater Glacier

Anna C Thompson¹, Michael Loso¹, Tahzay Jones², Martin Truffer³, Jack Holt^{4,5}, Victor Devaux-Chupin³, Brandon Tober⁴, Michael Christoffersen⁵, Tyler Kuehn⁴, Natalie Wagner⁴, Mark A Fahnestock³ and Christopher F Larsen³
2022



Research in the Park webpage



Cultural Heritage Highlight on Facebook

The new National Park Service (NPS) mobile app (go.nps.gov/app) is available for visitors to national parks across the country. Created by park rangers with visitors in mind, the NPS App gives the public up-to-date information about all 423 national parks (including Wrangell-St. Elias) in one easy-to-use app.

Visitors can download the NPS App in the iOS App Store and Google Play Store to plan a trip, find interactive maps, discover tours ahead of time, find things to do and places to visit. Once you download the app, you can use it in remote areas where internet service is limited or nonexistent.

For more information about public affairs in the park, contact Carrie Wittmer, Public Affairs Officer, carrie_wittmer@nps.gov or 907-822-7255.



Subsistence Fishing and Hunting Permits

Park staff will issue federal subsistence fishing and hunting permits to federally qualified subsistence users for the 2022 season. Fishing permits for the Upper Copper River are generally available starting in mid- to late May, depending on Visitor Center and Ranger Station opening dates. Hunting permits will be available beginning in late July. Call 907-822-7250 for current information on permits. For general information about subsistence in Wrangell-St. Elias, see the Wrangell- St. Elias Subsistence User Guide at: <https://www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/management/subsistence.htm>. Specific questions can be submitted to this email address: WRST_subsistence@nps.gov.

Copper River Sockeye Salmon Research Projects, 2022-2025

Recent low returns of Copper River (CR) sockeye salmon have raised concerns among Federal subsistence users and others about the status and management of CR sockeye salmon stocks. Given these concerns, and recognizing the complex ecology of CR sockeye, since 2018 Wrangell-St. Elias (WRST) staff have worked with several collaborators to develop proposals for high-priority research projects that focus on these issues. Three proposals developed in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Prince William Sound Science Center, and the Native Village of Eyak have been selected to receive National Park Service (NPS) funding in years 2022-2025 and are described briefly below.

1. Evaluate Genetic Analysis of Copper River Sockeye Salmon Stocks for In-Season Decision Making

The overall goals of this 3-year (2022-2024) project are to evaluate (1) the use of in-season genetic analysis as a tool for estimating the stock composition of sockeye salmon harvests in Copper River (CR) fisheries, and (2) the potential for in-season stock composition estimates to inform future real-time fisheries management decisions designed to ensure long-term health and sustainability of CR salmon stocks and associated fisheries. In-season stock composition information has the potential to aid fishery managers in minimizing the risk of fishery management decisions to small and/or sensitive stocks while maximizing sustainable harvest of abundant stocks. This research project was designed and will be implemented by ADF&G collaborators from the Gene Conservation Laboratory, Division of Commercial Fisheries, and Division of Sport Fish. The Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC) will contribute to project implementation by assisting ADF&G with the collection of samples from fisheries in the Chitina and Glennallen subdistricts.

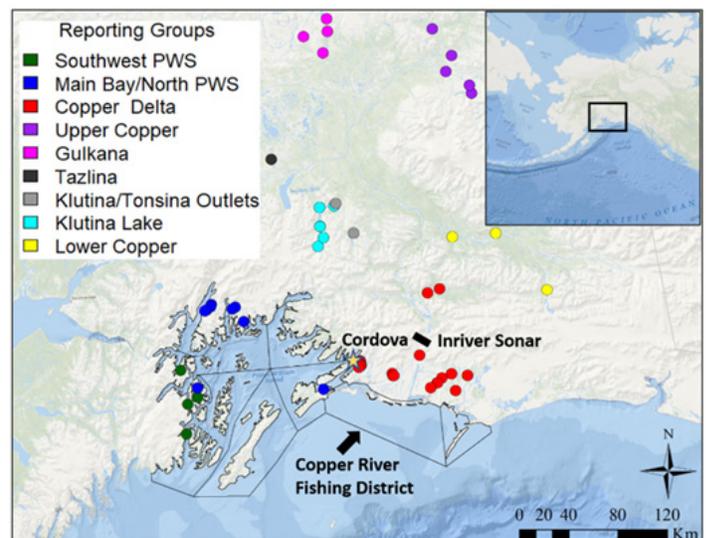


Figure 1. Prince William Sound and the Copper River watershed located in southcentral Alaska. Points indicate sockeye salmon populations in the genetic baseline and associated stock reporting groups. (Figure courtesy of Kyle Shedd and Stormy Haught, ADF&G.)

Analysis and Reporting

In years 2022 through 2024, ADF&G will analyze and report the stock composition of commercial fishery harvests based on the relative abundance of sockeye salmon from 10 genetic stock reporting groups (e.g., Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). Stock composition of the commercial harvest will be analyzed by week for the first 10 weeks of the fishery, with the final 5 weeks analyzed as a single time period. Stock composition of harvests from in-river subsistence and personal use fisheries will be reported for seven genetic stock reporting groups in three monthly composition estimates. In 2022, all samples will be analyzed postseason so that managers have a full season of stock composition estimates to provide context for interpreting in-season estimates in 2023 and 2024. For in-season analyses in 2023-2024, stock composition estimates will be reported to ADF&G and WRST fisheries managers approximately five days after samples are collected from the commercial harvest and approximately seven days after samples are collected from the in-river personal use and subsistence harvest.

Copper River Commercial Fishery

Sockeye Salmon Stock Composition Summary

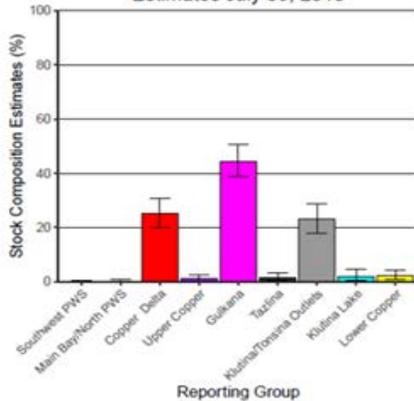
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July 09, 2018

The following describes genetic stock composition estimates for sockeye salmon from the Copper River commercial fishery for July 09, 2018. A total of 189 fish were sampled and 189 were analyzed (186 had adequate data to include in this analysis).

Reporting Group	Stock Composition Estimate (%)	Lower 90% CI (%)	Upper 90% CI (%)
Southwest PWS	0.1	0.0	0.5
Main Bay/North PWS	0.1	0.0	0.7
Copper Delta	25.3	20.1	30.8
Upper Copper	1.2	0.2	2.7
Gulkana	44.5	38.7	50.5
Tazlina	1.6	0.4	3.4
Khatina/Tonina Outlets	22.9	17.8	28.5
Khatina Lake	2.0	0.4	4.6
Lower Copper	2.2	0.8	4.3

Genetic Stock Composition Estimates July 09, 2018



2018 Inseason Summary

Weekly summary of genetic stock composition point estimates (%). See previous releases for credibility intervals associated with each weekly estimate.

Statistical Week	Southwest PWS	Main Bay North PWS	Copper Delta	Upper Delta	Gulkana	Tazlina	Khatina and Tonina Outlets	Khatina Lake	Lower Copper
26	0.1	0.2	18.5	2.0	38.8	1.6	33.0	5.1	0.9
27	0.0	0.1	21.5	0.6	55.1	3.2	15.7	0.4	3.4
28	0.1	0.1	25.3	1.2	44.5	1.6	22.9	2.0	2.2
29									
30									
31									

Comparison of Weekly Stock Composition Estimates

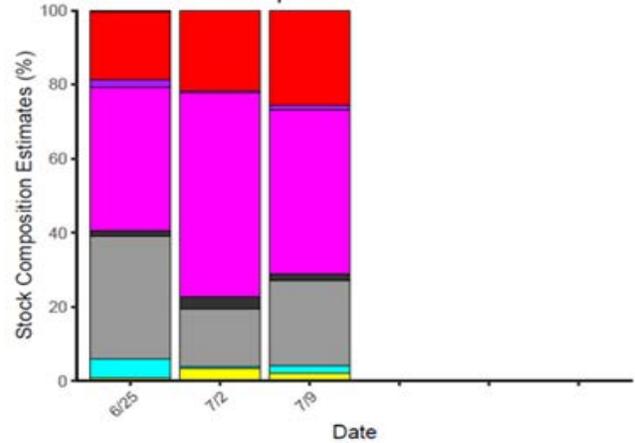


Figure 2. In-season genetic stock composition estimates as reported to ADF&G fisheries managers in 2018. On the left are the stock composition results from samples collected from the commercial harvest on 7/9/2018, while on the right are the results from three separate sampling dates to illustrate differences in stock composition over the course of the season. (Figure courtesy of Kyle Shedd and Stormy Haight, ADF&G.)

Interpretive Component. In addition to the research and management components, this project includes an interpretive component involving educational outreach to local communities and subsistence users about the collaborative application of scientific information to inform management decision making.

2. Examine Health Metrics of Copper River Sockeye Stocks to Inform Management Decision Making.

Building upon the stock composition project (above) and other ongoing research conducted by project collaborators, this 3-year project (2023-2025) will characterize the health and energetic status of genetically determined sockeye salmon stocks (based on genetic stock reporting groups, Fig. 1) to develop a better understanding of escapement quality. Aspects of escapement quality include body size and energy content (important factors that affect migratory success), sex ratio, and the appropriate distribution of spawners among different stocks in the watershed. Differential survival of CR sockeye salmon stocks due to changes in body size, energy content, physiological quality, migration difficulty, and harvest pressure may leave some stocks more vulnerable to environmental changes than others, potentially increasing mortality risk. A better understanding of health metrics that correlate with stock-specific vulnerability and mortality risk can help fishery managers mitigate these issues by adjusting gear size, run timing closures, or harvest limits to ensure all stocks achieve sustainable escapement levels, while also providing adequate harvest opportunities. Collaborators include the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC), ADF&G, and WRST. AITRC again will contribute to project implementation by assisting ADF&G, PWSSC, and UAF with sample collection. This project also includes an interpretive component that builds upon the educational outreach associated with the stock genetics project.

3. Describing and Modeling Factors Affecting Migratory Success of Copper River Sockeye Salmon

This 2-year project (2022-2023) aims to develop a better understanding of how environmental changes in the Gulf of Alaska and the Copper River watershed may impact spawning migration success by sockeye salmon under future ecological scenarios. Researchers will integrate prior and ongoing radio-telemetry data on Copper River sockeye spawning migration with several long-term ADF&G data sets to develop forecasting models for sockeye that will incorporate new information from a recently available hydrological model developed by the U.S. Geological Survey. Collaborators include PWSSC, UAF, ADF&G, the Native Village of Eyak, and WRST.

Tracing Mercury in Lake Trout Food Webs

As part of a collaborative project between NPS and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the WRST Fisheries Program plans to assist with field activities in support of a study tracing Mercury (Hg) in Lake Trout food webs. However, this project was postponed in 2021 due to Covid-19 safety guidelines. This study was prompted by findings of elevated Hg levels in muscle tissue of Lake Trout residing in certain lakes of Alaska parks. Field sampling on this project is tentatively scheduled to begin June 2022.

Contaminated Site Management

The NPS continues to plan for implementation of cleanup activities at the Nabesna Mine Site and the Kennecott Mines and Mill Town Site pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). In conjunction with these planning efforts, in May 2021 Wrangell-St. Elias established web pages for the Nabesna and Kennecott projects. Each web page provides links to a Community Involvement Plan, the project Administrative Record, and other project-related information. In 2022, the NPS plans to conduct field investigations at the Kennecott Site.

Nabesna Mine Site Environmental Investigation Project

<https://www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/management/nabesna-mine-site-environmental-investigation-project.htm>

Kennecott Mines and Mill Town Site Environmental Investigation Project

<https://www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/management/kennecott-mines-and-mill-town-site-environmental-investigation-project.htm>

Strategic Planning

Park staff and collaborators from the NPS Alaska Region, the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program, the NPS Climate Change Response Program, and the U.S. Geological Survey have initiated a project to develop a Resource Stewardship Strategy for the park. Preparatory work was initiated in 2020 and most of the project is to be conducted in 2021 and 2022, with completion expected early in 2023. A Resource Stewardship Strategy is a long-range dynamic planning tool for a national park unit to set specific goals and track progress in achieving its desired natural, cultural, and subsistence resource conditions. As part of the planning portfolio, the Resource Stewardship Strategy serves as a bridge between the park unit's foundation document, other plans, and everyday management of its natural and cultural resources.

During summer 2021 and continuing through early 2022, park staff and collaborators worked with the NPS Climate Change Response Program to evaluate implications of alternative future climate scenarios on key park resources, including subsistence resources. The purpose of this scenario planning exercise is to consider the resource implications of a full range of plausible future climate conditions rather than focusing on one single scenario that is considered most likely. This type of planning approach explicitly acknowledges uncertainty and provides a foundation for adaptation.

For more information about the application of climate change scenarios to park planning, see the following link – <https://escholarship.org/content/qt76p7m8rz/qt76p7m8rz.pdf>

For more information, contact: Mark Miller, Team Lead for Research Stewardship and Science, memiller@nps.gov.



Copper River near Copper Center, March 2022/Mike Townsend

Interpretation and Education

Visitor Services are available this summer at the following locations:

Copper Center Visitor Center

opens May 13th; last day September 18th; 7 days/week; 9am - 5pm; Theater and Exhibit Hall open; ranger services*; Alaska Geographic sales; (907) 822-7250.

Kennecott Visitor Services

opens May 27th; last day September 11th; 7 days/week; 9am - 11:30am, 2pm-5pm; exhibits open; ranger services*; Alaska Geographic sales; Crown of the Continent and Kennecott Mill Film shown in the General Store/Warehouse; (907) 205-7106.

Slana Ranger Station

opens May 23rd; last day September 24th; 7 days/week; 9am - 5pm; ranger services*; Alaska Geographic sales; (907) 822-7401.

Chitina Ranger Station

opens May 27th; last day September 5th; 6 days/week (Wed - Mon); 9am - 5pm; ranger services*, Alaska Geographic sales; (907) 823-2205.

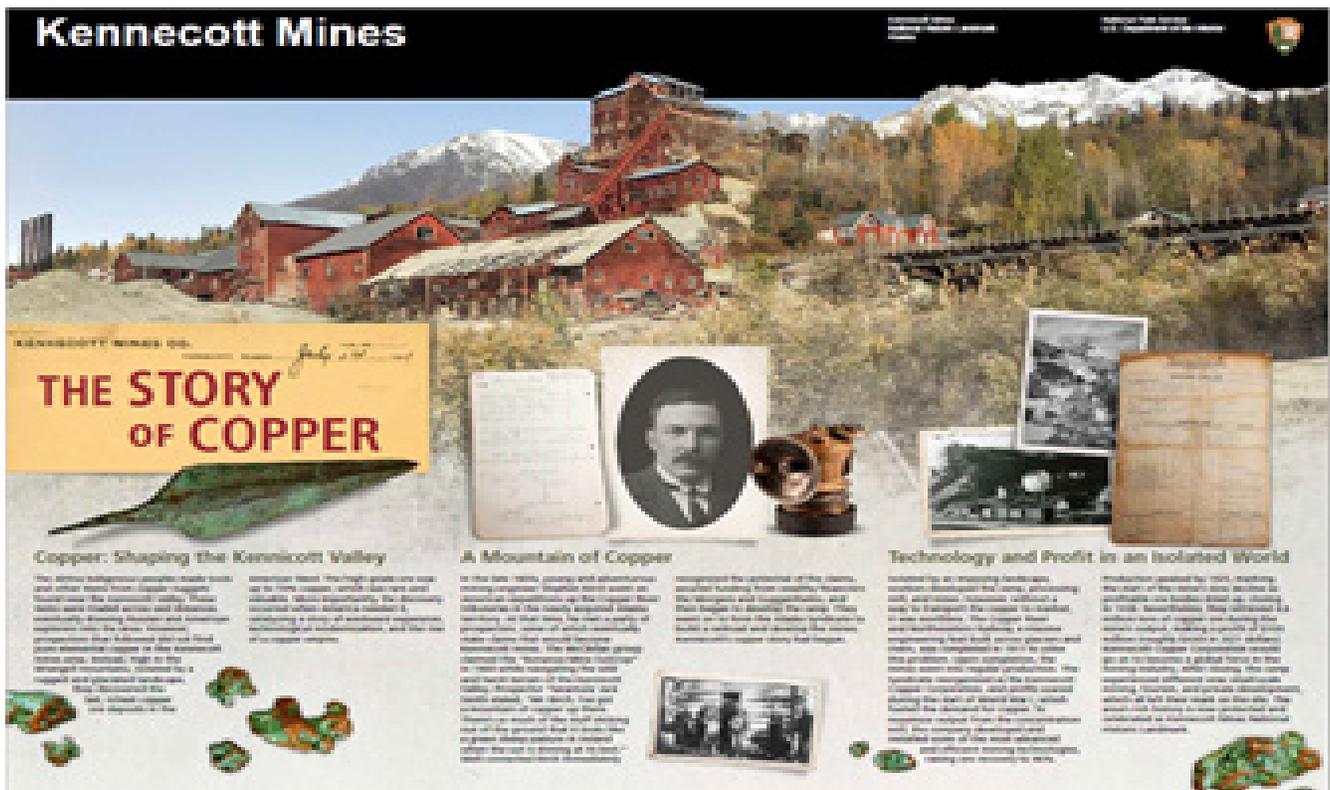


Ranger at the Copper Center Visitor Center service window

*Ranger services offered at each location are subject to change depending on current Covid conditions. Go to www.nps.gov/aboutus/news/public-health-update.htm to stay up to date on COVID protocols in National Parks.

Interpretive programs may be available at some locations; inquire at specific destinations. A limited amount of bear resistant food containers will be available for backcountry trips. Visitors may borrow them from Visitor Centers and Ranger Stations; reach out to a ranger during business hours for availability.

Coming soon! Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark brochure (unigrid style):



Interpretation and Education continued



Pioneers of Alaska volunteers helped install new waysides at the Kennecott Cemetery

Learn more about the Kennecott Cemetery at <https://www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/historyculture/kennecott-cemetery.htm>

Youth Activities

A National Parks Foundation grant continues to support experimentation and development of virtual and hybrid education programs this year for resident zone communities. Earth Discovery Day and Chosen Frozen will be offered this Spring, but modified to fit with school Covid procedures. Hybrid and/or virtual programs will compliment cross-country skiing and hiking activities for those programs.

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program will host up to 8 youth engaged in visitor services and trail projects this summer. YCC participants learn about the NPS and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve; gain valuable professional skills; and have fun working with NPS employees. More info about Wrangell's YCC program: <https://www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/management/ycc.htm>.

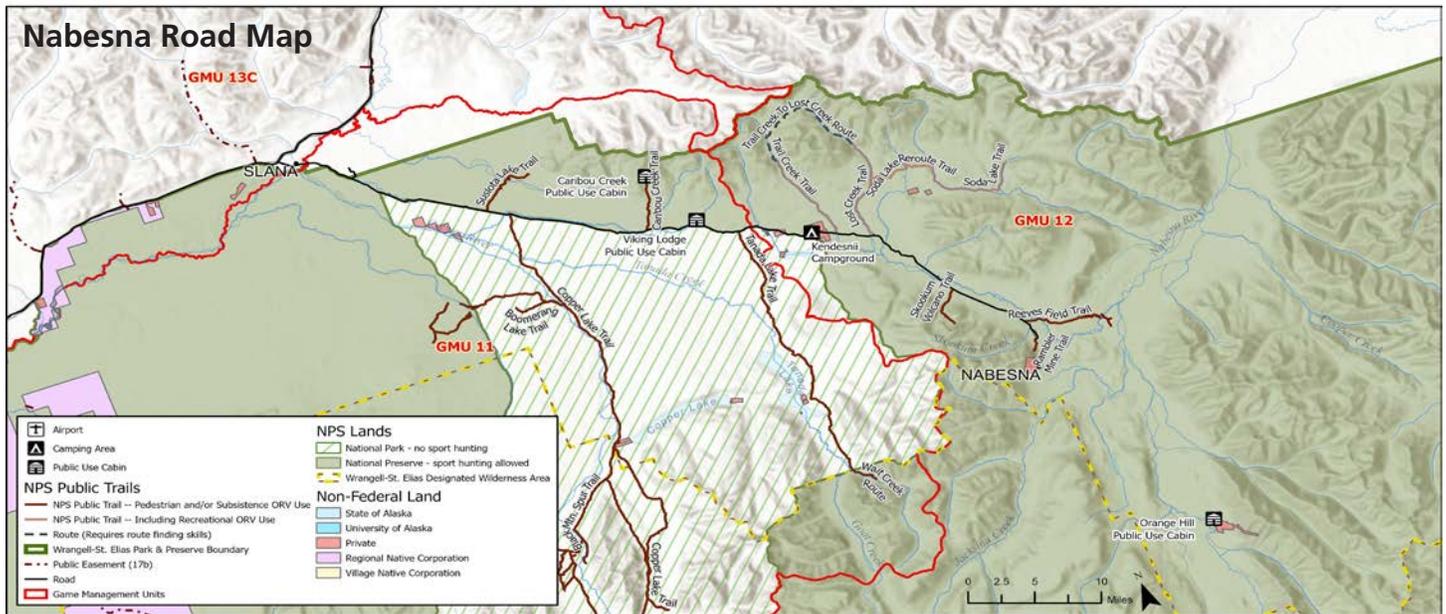


2021 Youth Conservation Corps participants riding bicycles to an activity in the community

For more information, contact Carrie Wittmer, Team Lead for Interpretation and Education, carrie_wittmer@nps.gov or 907-822-7255.

Nabesna Road Strategic Transportation Study

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST), the Federal Highway Administration, and Alaska Department of Transportation have entered into an agreement to take a comprehensive look at access on and along the Nabesna Road. The study will re-visit the 2011 Nabesna Off Road Vehicle Management Plan and examine maintenance needs for the road and local trails. Additionally, we will be investigating potential gravel resources for maintenance and construction needs.



Gulkana To Copper River Access Study

In partnership with Ahtna Inc., State of Alaska, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Bureau of Land Management, Wrangell-St. Elias NPP (WRST) entered into an agreement to evaluate public access easement options to the Copper River near Glennallen. Specifically, we will be looking at 17(b) easements EIN 23 and EIN 23a that are located to the north of the Gulkana airport. Study elements include examination of potential routes and construction techniques for the access road and a one-acre parking area and boat launch. We hope to have a final report from Federal Highways that will be used for Ahtna, Inc. to apply for design and construction funding.

Abandoned Mine Lands Hazardous Site Reconnaissance

WRST will be visiting structures associated with mines to evaluate hazards and conditions. Sites may be accessed via helicopter.



Nabesna Mine and White Mountain



Workers taking samples at Nabesna Mine site

For more information contact: Chief of Lands and Planning, Joshua Scott, 822-7243 joshua_scott@nps.gov

New Hunting and Fishing Resources

Wrangell-St. Elias has two new resources for people who harvest fish and wildlife in the Park and Preserve.

An online mapping tool allows federally qualified subsistence users, people harvesting fish and wildlife under State of Alaska regulations, and other park visitors to create georeferenced PDF (Portable Document Format) maps of areas of interest within Wrangell-St. Elias. These maps are designed for use on a GPS-enabled mobile device, such as a smart phone, and can be displayed on any PDF reader. When viewed in an installed mobile map application, each map is designed so that the user's location can be displayed on-screen in real time. The maps show things such as land status (park, preserve, wilderness, non-NPS lands), roads, trails, game management unit boundaries, and hunt area boundaries. This tool is accessible through the map page of the park website: <https://www.nps.gov/wrst/planyourvisit/maps.htm>.

Hunting, Fishing, and Backcountry Planning Map Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve

NPS Public Trail

- NPS Public Trail – Pedestrian and/or Subsistence ORV Use
- NPS Public Trail – Including Recreational ORV Use
- Route (Requires route finding skills)

Road

Wrangell-St. Elias Designated Wilderness Area

Wrangell-St. Elias Park & Preserve Boundary

Public Easement (17b)

Game Management Units

Non-NPS Lands

- Custom
- Private
- Alaska Native Village Corporation
- Alaska Native Corporation Lands (Patented or)

About This Map

Welcome to the Hunting, Fishing, and Backcountry Planning Map for Wrangell-St. Elias Park and Preserve, which includes information about land status (park, preserve, wilderness, non-NPS lands), trails, GMU boundaries, and key hunt area boundaries. You can zoom into areas of interest, turn on and off layers relevant to your trip, and download customized georeferenced PDF (Portable Document Format) maps that can be printed, displayed on a PDF reader, or uploaded to a GPS-enabled mobile device, such as a smart phone.

Hunters and trappers using the park and preserve should be familiar with the park and preserve boundaries and regulations concerning the use of these areas. Bag and possession limits vary by species and by area. Always check current hunting regulations, which are available at park visitor centers or on the [State of Alaska website](#) or the [Federal Subsistence Program website](#).

How to use this map:

Finding your area of interest

There are several ways to navigate within the map to find your area of interest.

- If you are using a desktop computer, you can use the roller on your mouse to zoom in and out, and you can left-click and drag the map to pan around.

Users Guide to Hunting, Trapping and Fishing in Wrangell-St. Elias provides important information for people interested in harvesting fish and wildlife in Wrangell-St. Elias under State of Alaska regulations. It focuses on information that hunters, trappers, and fishers need to know about harvesting resources in Wrangell-St. Elias that might be different from other locations. Topics addressed include land status; eligibility and requirements for use of a hunting guide; license, salvage, and sealing requirements; trapping; fishing; food storage requirements and other bear safety recommendations; backcountry safety; and respecting private property. Also provided are the answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) and who to contact for more information.

It is available both in print and on the park's website: <https://www.nps.gov/wrst/planyourvisit/hunting-and-fishing.htm>.

If you would like to request a printed copy for yourself or a supply of copies for your business or office, contact the park via email at wrst_info@nps.gov.

Wrangell-St. Elias
National Park and Preserve, Alaska

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

User's Guide to Sport Hunting, Trapping and Fishing

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, the largest park in the country, was established to maintain the natural scenic beauty of the diverse geologic, glacial-, and riparian-dominated landscapes; to protect the attendant wildlife populations and their habitats; to ensure continued access for a wide range of wilderness-based recreation; and to provide continued opportunities for subsistence use.

Wrangell-St. Elias is home to many fish and wildlife species and contains one of the largest concentrations of Dall sheep in North America – healthy populations of sheep are found along rocky ridges and mountainsides. Moose are often seen near willow bogs and lakes. Other species of large mammals include mountain goats, caribou, wolves, and two small herds of introduced bison. Black bears and brown bears (grizzlies) are found throughout the park and preserve, and small mammals include lynx, wolverine, beaver, marten, fox, porcupine, coyotes, marmots, river otters, ground squirrels, pikas, and voles.

The United States Congress established Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve along with other conservation units in Alaska in 1980 when it passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, commonly known as ANILCA. In addition to subsistence harvests by local rural residents, it provided the opportunity for hunting and trapping in the national preserve and fishing in both the national park and the national preserve under State of Alaska regulations.

Alaska national preserves offer an opportunity to hunt in some of the wildest places in our country. The National Park Service (NPS) supports the opportunity to hunt by protecting wildlife and their habitats. All harvest activities must be consistent with federal laws and NPS regulations intended to maintain natural ecological processes and naturally functioning ecosystems. In some cases, this means that people hunting and trapping in the preserve and fishing in park and preserve must follow NPS regulations as well as those established by the State of Alaska.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1-2 Introduction
- 2 Land Status
- 3 Park Map
- 4 Hunting
- 5-6 Know What to Salvage
- 7 Sealing of Hides & Skulls
- 7 Guided Sport Hunting
- 7 Trapping
- 8 FAQs - Hunting
- 9 Private Property
- 10-11 Nabesna & McCarthy Rd Maps
- 12 Fishing
- 13 FAQs - Fishing
- 14 Access
- 15 FAQs - Access
- 16 Food Storage
- 17 Bear Safety
- 18-19 Backcountry Safety
- 20 More Information & Contacts

Kennecott Mines NHL and Malaspina NNL



Kennecott Operations Plan

The Kennecott Operations Plan (KOP) is the primary planning document for management of the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark (NHL). The plan directs us, once every five years, to initiate a review and seek full community input in advance of adopting any revisions. Changes have occurred and management issues have arisen in Kennecott that should be included and addressed in an updated management plan. We began the public engagement process for the review and revision in 2018 and we plan to continue seeking public comments. We will be engaging with the community on several topics addressed within the KOP, including but not limited to: visitor use patterns, motorized access, the Architectural Control Committee, and parking. Stay tuned for public meeting announcements that will be scheduled during 2022.

For more information contact: Alaska Regional Planning Portfolio Manager, Sarah Conlin, sarah_conlin@nps.gov.

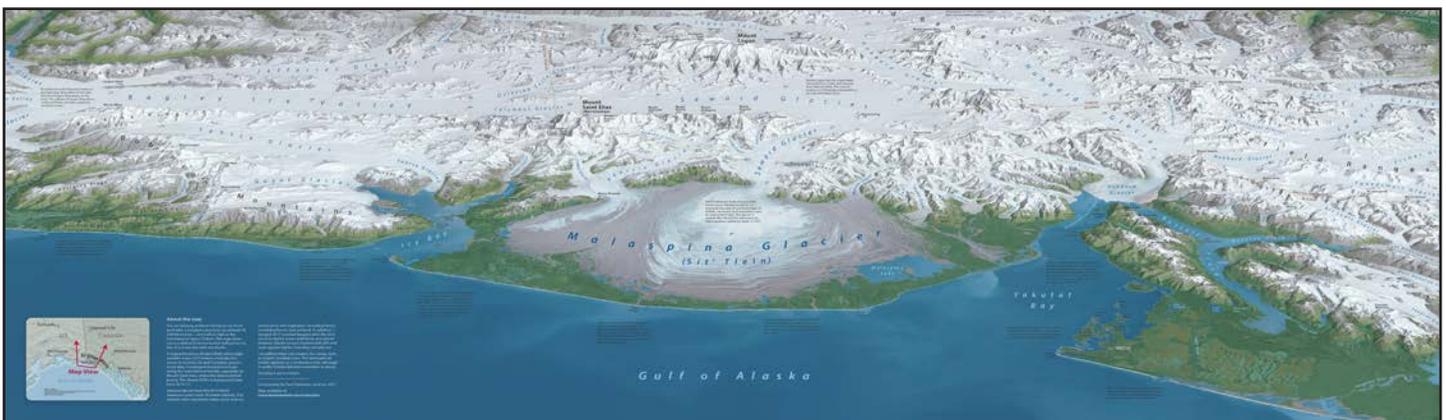
In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the National Natural Landmarks (NNL) Program, we are featuring the largest piedmont glacier in North America, Malaspina Glacier.

Check out the recent research and video on our park partner website, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE):

www.wise-edu.org/science-lecture-series.html

Malaspina relief map, Tom Patterson 2021

More info: <http://shadedrelief.com/malaspina/>



Visitor Resource Protection

VRP staff on a search and rescue mission near Jacksina Creek



Visitor and Resource Protection rangers provide emergency medical response, search and rescue, public use management, and law enforcement services. We emphasize education of regulations and their enforcement, while also relaying information about practices that protect visitor safety and public resources.

Wrangell-St. Elias relies on volunteer support for some emergency service functions such as search and rescue and emergency medical services. A special thank you to all the community members that have volunteered time and energy to help us accomplish our visitor and resource protection roles. You are valuable partners in the work we do -- thank you!

In addition to our normal operations, the Visitor and Resource Protection team is working on the following projects in 2022. In the South District, we will be expanding presence in the Yakutat area and placing an emphasis on enhancing our backcountry presence in general. In the Kennecott District, we will be installing a new radio repeater to enhance radio coverage in the Kennecott Valley, patrolling trails, and training with volunteers on emergency response.

In the North District, we are working on signs to provide visitors with information on recreational opportunities. We will also be patrolling trails, helping visitors along the Nabesna Road, and later in the season, conducting hunting patrols.

Parkwide, our rangers will be conducting patrols and collecting data on backcountry resource conditions. They will also be conducting preventative search and rescue activities by talking with visitors about ways to stay safe in the backcountry and assisting visitors with backcountry trip planning. Our team will also be improving the Gulkana and Kennecott Incident Command Posts to make them more functional for search and rescue operations. We are excited for another summer season and hope to see you out in the park!



Alaska parks are different. Plan, prepare, and know before you go! Are you planning a remote drop off by aircraft? Get to know the weather, pilot, plane, and trip plan closely.

Even for the most experienced, crossing any river in Alaska requires skill, condition assessment, and composure. Cold, swift, and remote. Alaska rivers demand respect.

Trips in Alaska National Parks require research, planning, and flexibility. Be prepared for last minute changes in weather conditions, or routes to be more strenuous and take longer than expected. Being prepared with tested and appropriate gear for any trip in Alaska can significantly reduce the probability of having a serious safety event.

Animals in Alaska are wild. Give them the respect and space they need and avoid surprising them.

Glacier travel involves hazardous terrain. Be safe and go with an experienced guide!



What's a solar panel's favorite song? *Here Comes the Sun!*

We're hoping to soak up the sun and go green with our new solar array that will be completed this summer in Kennecott.

Why are solar panels always so optimistic? *Because they keep their sunny side up!*

We're very optimistic about our new solar panel installation. Last fall our Maintenance staff prepped the site by putting in cement footers. This spring we will install the supports, panels, and the power system to get it up and running! We're so excited to be going **GREEN!**

Wrangell-St Elias created a Green Team to tackle recycling in the park and reduce the park's carbon footprint. We developed a Recycling Plan with different phases to be implemented over several years. Some examples of project successes are:

Installing water filling stations at the Visitor Center near Headquarters in Copper Center and the Slana Ranger Station.

Installing LED lighting to replace fluorescent lights in many of the facilities throughout the park.

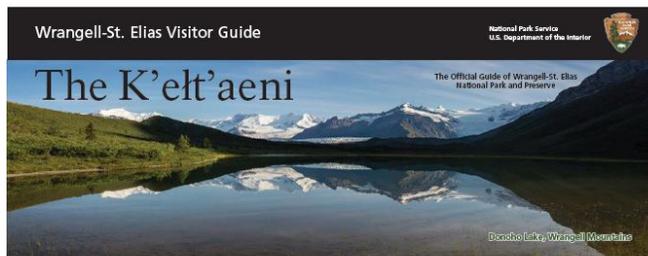
Installing a solar array and generator system in Kennecott.



Digital Media

The K'elt'aeni park trip-planning visitor guide - new Spring 2022 edition is available online and at visitor centers.

www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/news/park-newspaper-the-k-elt-aeni.htm



The National Park Service App is the official app for all 426 national parks. The App includes interactive maps, saved data for offline use when in a remote area with no internet service, accessibility, self-guided tours, things to do, where to stay, shareable digital postcards, passport stamp locations, points of interest and operating hours and seasons. Download the official NPS mobile app before your next visit or take a virtual tour of the park.



Apple



Android

The National Park Service was established on August 25, 1916 "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife... and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Authorized by Congress in 1980, Wrangell-St. Elias preserves some of the largest rivers, glaciers, mountains, and wilderness in America.

The name of the park newspaper, K'elt'aeni (kel-TAH-nee), is an Ahna word for the Wrangell volcano that means "The one that controls the weather."

Superintendent Ben Bobowski

Mailing Address PO Box 439 Mile 106.8 Richardson Hwy, Copper Center, AK 99573

Visitor Centers & Ranger Stations: Copper Center, Kenecott, Slana, Chitina, Yakutat

E-mail wrst_info@nps.gov

Park Phone 907-822-5234

Park Website www.nps.gov/wrst

Like us on Facebook [facebook.com/WrangellStEliasNPP](https://www.facebook.com/WrangellStEliasNPP)

Tweet us on Twitter twitter.com/WrangellSENP5

Follow us on Instagram [instagram.com/wrangellstnps](https://www.instagram.com/wrangellstnps)

Find park images on Flickr [flickr.com/photos/wrst](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wrst)

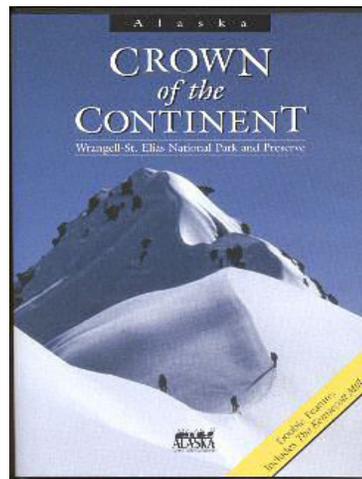
View videos on YouTube [youtube.com/user/WrangellNPS](https://www.youtube.com/user/WrangellNPS)

Youth and people of all ages can become a Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve Junior Ranger. Go online for the Junior Ranger Activity Book. Complete the required sections, state the official pledge and mail the book in to earn your own badge and certificate. Visit the park website at nps.gov/wrst/learn/kidsouth



The Park film, **Crown of the Continent** has a new narration, available online and shown at some of the visitor centers.

www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/photosmultimedia/park-film-crown-of-the-continent



Some Website page improvements include:

Employment which includes Local Hire job opportunities.

www.nps.gov/wrst/getinvolved/employment.htm

Backcountry Safety which includes weather, appropriate gear, river crossing and wildlife.

www.nps.gov/wrst/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm

Aviation Safety - Get to know the weather, pilot, plane, and trip plan closely.

www.nps.gov/wrst/planyourvisit/aviation-safety.htm

Haiku poems from park staff:

The light is back now;
No more lovely long night's sleep.

'Til Fall, sweet darkness.

-Carrie Wittmer

Another haiku?

That's impossible to do;

Too much wild in WRST!

-Diane Ellsworth

The winter faded

Snow piles are now sloppy

Sunny transitions

-Desiree Ramirez

Too much snow you say?

Not enough for me; hope to

Mush another day!

-Diane Ellsworth

Warm days are near us

Dark winter gives a last goodbye

Ice melts and hearts warm

-Jay Heidelberg

Friends family nature

Engage them tenaciously

It always pays off

-Hank Colletto

Bureaucracy – Blah!

That's not what we are about.

Sincere Service - Yes!

-Ben Bobowski

Awaken to spring

There is solace in the light

Hear the tender sigh

-Jan Maslen



Bear tracks along the route to Skolai Pass

Social Media

Featured in celebration of **Earth Day** on April 22nd, 2022 and in honor of the American entomologist and author, E.O. Wilson, check out the interview by Wrangell-St Elias Superintendent Ben Bobowski and other videos at:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/e-o-wilson-biodiversity.htm>

<https://www.nps.gov/nature/eowilson.htm>

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Apr 22 at 11:00am

Wrangell-St Elias features an amazing array of biodiversity, which supports a variety of unique flora and fauna, including the Swallowtail Butterfly! Featured in celebration of Earth Day and in honor of the American entomologist and author, E.O. Wilson, check out Wrangell-St Elias Superintendent Ben Bobowski's interview with him (as well as other videos) at:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/e-o-wilson-biodiversity.htm>

<https://www.nps.gov/nature/eowilson.htm>

Photo: NPS/K.Pfister/Swallowtail Butterfly

Flickr [flickr.com/photos/wrst](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wrst)

collection of 350 photos of the park.

YouTube [youtube.com/user/WrangellNPS](https://www.youtube.com/user/WrangellNPS)

collection of 14 videos of the park.

NP Gallery [npgallery.nps.gov](https://www.npgallery.nps.gov)

collection of 805 images and park documents.



Park website

www.nps.gov/wrst

