

ALASKA

After 18 years of concentrating on its cultural resources, the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Resource Management Division expanded this year to include a natural resource program. First-year efforts included conducting a native and exotic plant inventory, developing a herbarium collection, assessing a campground for limits of

acceptable change in preparation for upcoming state centennial celebrations, achieving a trail survey and assessment, creating a wildlife observation database, and developing both short-term and long-term program goals.

Initial surveys reveal a park that, although small in size by Alaskan standards (approximately 13,000 acres), is rich in biodiversity and special in geographic character. The park lies in the driest and northernmost section of southeastern Alaska, stretches from sea level to the summit of a coastal mountain, and links the moist marine climate of the southeast to the dry interior climate of the Yukon. With so much landscape and species diversity within such a compact area, we anticipate another exciting season of discovery.

• • •

The Alaska Region has completed a draft natural resource strategic action plan that will serve as a regional resource management plan and more! It should help to improve our science management capabilities by identifying region-based needs in resource management.

• • •

We are planning a resource management workshop for the end of February in or near Anchorage. The gathering will combine a work group session with an informational meeting format for discussing changes. The highlights of technical workshops will be summarized in the next *Park Science*.

• • •

Gary Vequist attended an interagency Alaska ecosystem management team meeting that might have been termed more appropriately a *design* team. This is because the team designs pub-

lic involvement approaches to ecosystem management. Ecosystems are complex and require more interdisciplinary expertise, or as we say in Alaska, "more brains per acre." This approach to ecosystem management combines not only the interdisciplinary expertise of the agencies, but also that of the public and other organizations. Past planning and decision-making processes often created adversarial relationships, because resource management decisions were made *for* the public. Using the new ecosystem management design, decisions are made along *with* the public.

• • •

Several articles of relevance to regional parks have been published during the last several months. They are: "Succession on regraded placer mine spoil in Alaska in relation to initial site characteristics," by R.V. Densmore, 1994, and published in *Arctic and Alpine Research* 26:60-69; "Stream and floodplain restoration in a riparian ecosystem disturbed by placer mining," by K.F. Karle and R.V. Densmore, 1994, and published in *Ecological Engineering* 3:121-133; "Stream and floodplain restoration in Glen Creek, Denali National Park and Preserve," by K.F. Karle and R.V. Densmore, 1994, and published in *Technical Report NPS/NRWRD/NRTR-94/17*, 33 pp; and finally, "Functional response of wolves preying on barren-ground caribou in multi-prey ecosystems," by B. Dale (NPS), L. Adams (NBS), and T. Bowyer (University of Alaska), 1994, and published in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*.