

Alaska Region

Dale Taylor, wildlife research biologist with the ARO, and Paul Haertel, Assoc. Reg. Dir. for Resources, were on the team of American and Soviet specialists who visited the Chukotskiy Peninsula in the USSR, the Seward Peninsula, and other regions in Alaska to investigate the feasibility of an international park. People in both countries expressed "overwhelming" support for the concept.

The team was part of Working Group 02.04-20 "Conservation and Management of Natural and Cul-

tural Heritage" under the Joint Soviet-American Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection. The team was led by Denis Galvin, WASO, Chief of Planning, and included Rich Giamberdine, Denver Service Center. Superintendents and staffs at Bering Land Bridge, Northwest Areas, Gates of the Arctic, and Denali were integral parts of the visit on the American side.

Dr. Yuri Chernov, leader of the Soviet arctic MAB project, and Dr. Nada Matveyeva were escorted to Noatak National Preserve and Biosphere Reserve by Taylor and Kate Roney, NW Alaska Areas resource management specialist. The Soviet visit is a continuing step in pairing Noatak with a Biosphere Reserve in the USSR.

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Al Lovaas spoke on "Monitoring for Global Change – A National Park Service Perspective" at the September Arctic Science Conference on Global Change in Fairbanks. Al and Ted Birkedal participated in a conference workshop, "Long-term Data Sets Assessing Regional or Global Change." Dale Taylor, originally scheduled to give the natural resource presentations, was "exiled to Siberia" at the time.

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Sara Wesser, biologist and most recent addition to the ARO Natural Resource Division staff, recently completed requirements for the M.S. degree at U/AK Fairbanks. Her thesis, "Controls Over Species Distribution across a Forest-Steppe Transition in Interior Alaska: A Correlative Model and Experimental Tests," applies directly to species present at Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

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Taylor and Lee Anne Ayres, biologist with NWAA, presented posters at the American Society of Mammology meeting in Fairbanks. Taylor's poster was on monitoring road traffic impacts on wildlife in Denali NP; Ayres' poster dealt with inventory of small mammals in Noatak River Basin, NW Alaska.

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Regional Wildlife Biologist Layne Adams presented a poster on "Comparisons of Bear and Wolf Predation on Caribou Calves, Denali NP and Preserve, and co-authored with Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game biologists a paper titled "Influences of Body Weight on Early Puberty, Pregnancy, and Reproductive Histories in Alaskan Caribou" at an international workshop in St. Johns, Newfoundland.