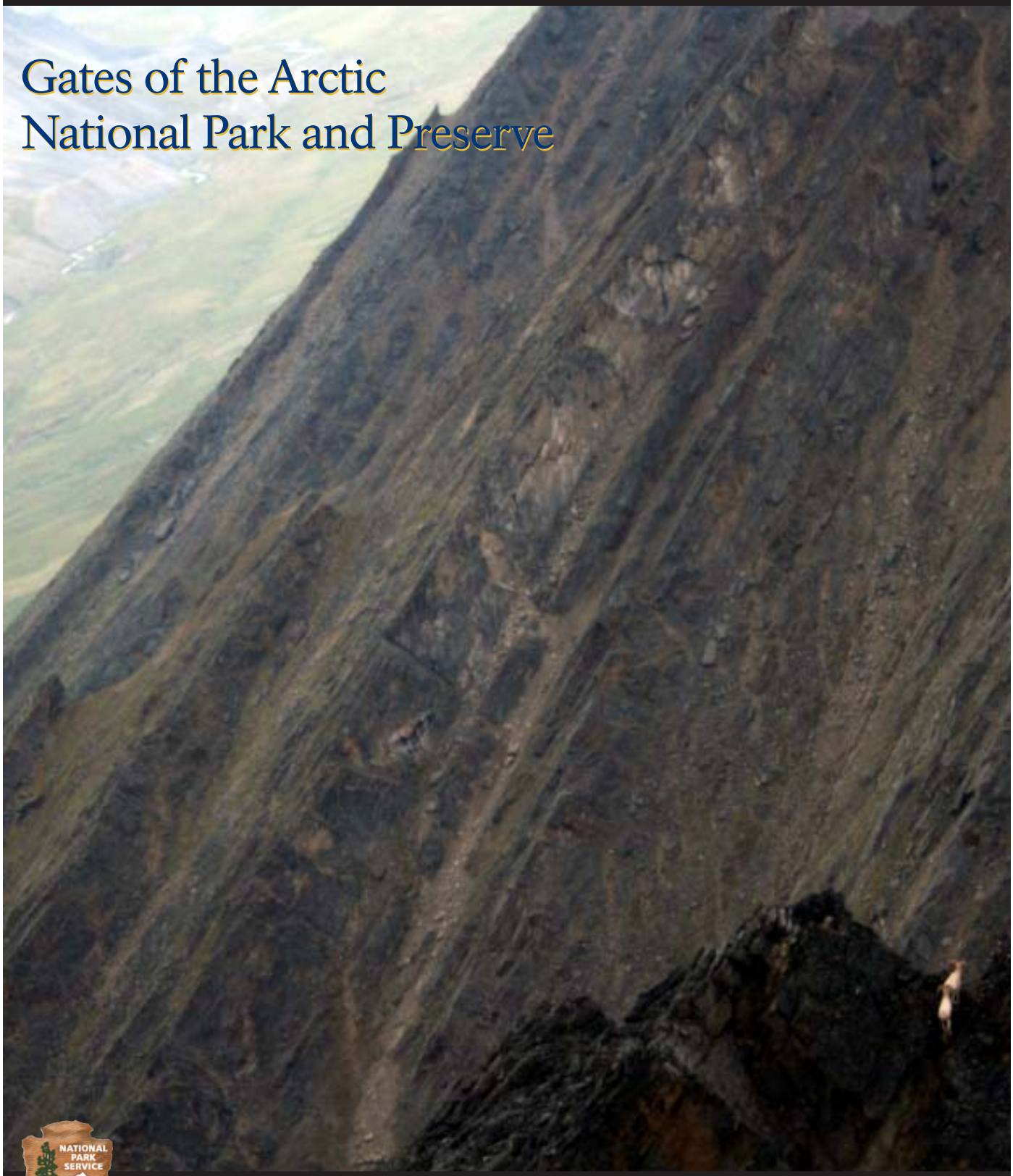
Annual Report 2008

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve



National Park Service
Department of the Interior

Once in a while you find a place on earth that becomes your very own.
A place undefined. Waiting for you to bring your color, your self.
A place untouched, unspoiled, undeveloped.
Raw, honest, and haunting.
No one, nothing is telling you how to feel or who to be.
Let the mountains have you for a day…

Sundance

Table of Contents

Purpose and Significance of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve....4

Map of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve....5

Message from the Superintendent....6

Performance and Results Section....7-19

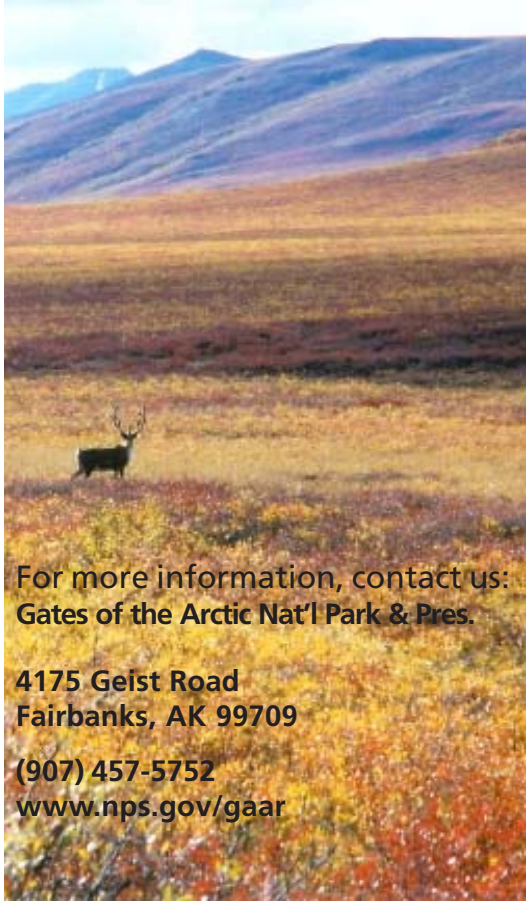
Preserve Resources....7-15

Public Enjoyment and Visitor Experience....16-17

Organizational Effectiveness....18-19

FY 2008 Financial Summary....20-21

Park and Preserve Organization....22-23



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by the National Park Service, unless noted otherwise

Cover photo: Dall's sheep keep to high ridges in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve to escape the heat and insects. The Arctic Network continues to monitor the Park's sheep population (page 14).

Printed on recycled paper.

Purpose and Significance

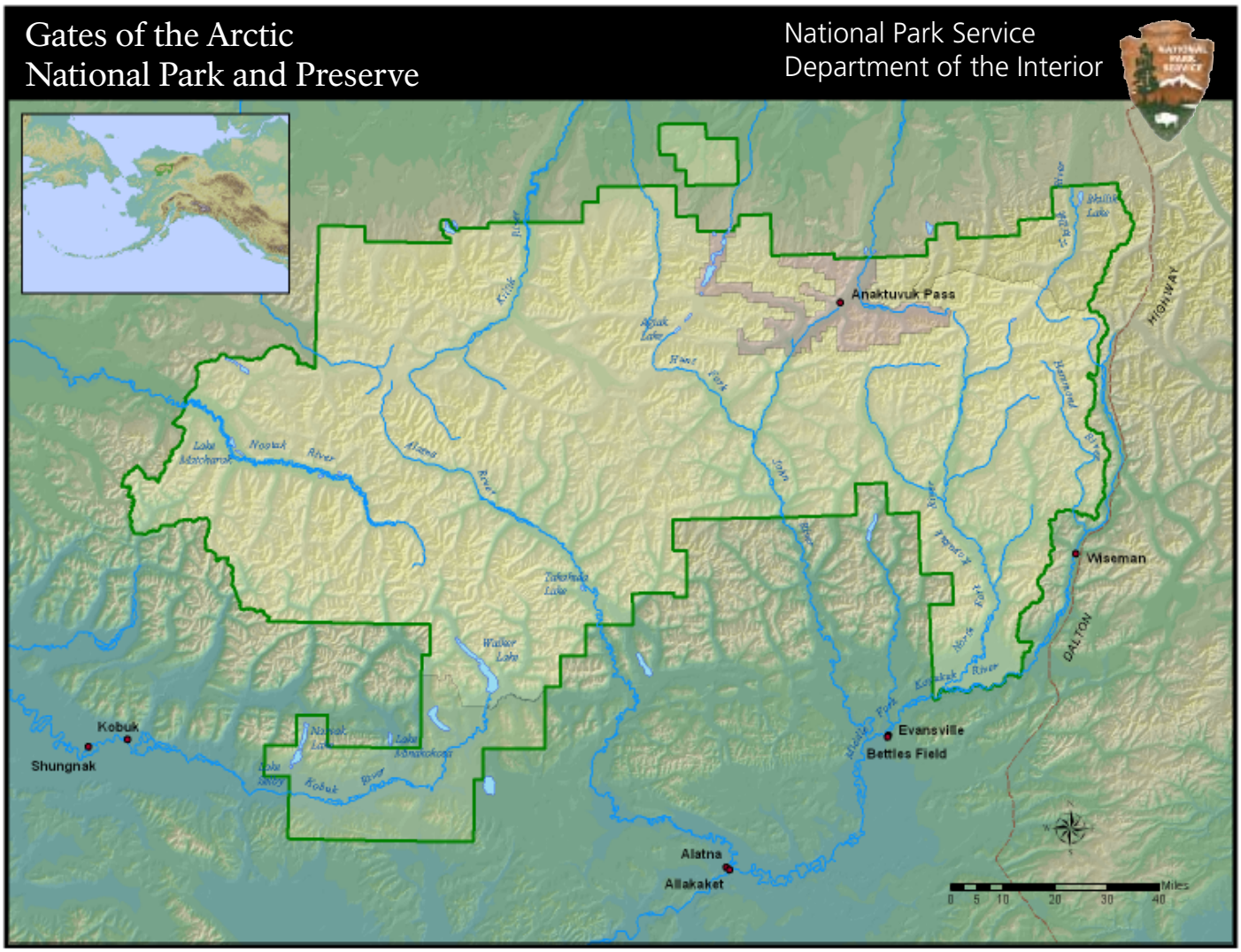
By establishing Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve in Alaska's Brooks Range, Congress reserved a vast and essentially untouched area of superlative natural beauty and exceptional scientific value – a maze of glaciated valleys and gaunt, rugged mountains covered with boreal forest and arctic tundra, cut by wild rivers and inhabited by far-ranging populations of caribou, Dall sheep, wolves, grizzly and black bears. Congress recognized that a special value of Gates of the Arctic is its wild, undeveloped character and the opportunities it affords for solitude, wilderness travel, and adventure. Gates of the Arctic encompasses several congressionally recognized elements including the national park, national preserve, wilderness, six wild rivers, and two national natural landmarks. The National Park Service is entrusted to manage this area to protect its physical resources and to maintain the intangible qualities of the wilderness and the opportunity it provides for people to learn and renew its values.

Purpose of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

- Preserve the wild and undeveloped character and natural environmental integrity—including natural processes, habitat, and biodiversity—of the central Brooks Range;
- Provide opportunities for appropriate wilderness recreational activities and solitude; and
- Allow rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to continue to do so.

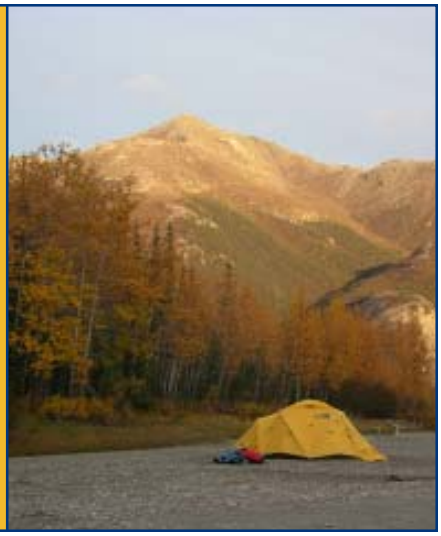
Significance of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

- Gates of the Arctic is the central component of a 40-million-acre contiguous, undeveloped protected area, one of the largest protected areas in an increasingly developed world.
- Due to its vastness and undeveloped character, Gates of the Arctic provides outstanding recreational wilderness opportunities.
- Gates of the Arctic protects the core of the traditional homelands of the Nunamiut peoples.
- The area inspired Bob Marshall, who coined the term "Gates of the Arctic," and was one of the earliest proponents of arctic preservation and one of the founders of the American wilderness system.
- Gates of the Arctic exemplifies an intact, high latitude arctic ecosystem with its corresponding natural processes, flora, and fauna.



Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve lies north of the Arctic Circle in the central Brooks Range of Alaska. Visitors to the Park typically access the area via the Dalton Highway and hike in, or by air. Commercial carriers serve Bettles and Anaktuvuk Pass, where the Park maintains field offices. Air charter operators based in Bettles fly visitors into the Park using float planes that land on many of the larger lakes and rivers.

Visitors to Gates of the Arctic are encouraged to check in at one of the Park's field offices in Bettles or Anaktuvuk Pass, or at the Visitors Center in Coldfoot prior to their trip. Park Rangers and VIPs offer orientations which brief visitors in safety issues and Leave No Trace camping techniques.



Visitors are encouraged to practice "Leave No Trace" techniques while travelling in the Park so everyone may enjoy the pleasures of pristine wilderness and personal discovery.

Message from the Superintendent

"Change is inevitable – except from a vending machine."

I recall using that quote as a high school teacher years ago with students studying American history. As I reflect back on 2008, the word "change" is as relevant for the staff of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve as it was for the young learners in my classroom. We've experienced a number of changes these past 12 months, not for the sake of change itself, but in order to build on prior successes and the "lessons learned" as we work together to protect and to share the park with people from the world over.

In the fall of 2007 we had a change in leadership. Dave Mills, who became the park's superintendent on Christmas Day, 1994, relocated to Anchorage to help lead the Subsistence program for the National Park Service in Alaska. Dave's 13 years at the helm saw a number of important accomplishments for Gates of the Arctic and its stakeholders. The three-way land exchange between NPS, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and Nunamiut Corporation is certainly one of those highlights. The land exchange evolved through lengthy negotiations and ultimately resulted in a sizeable, contiguous section of Native lands within the Park that allows the people of Anaktuvuk Pass to pursue their traditional harvest of subsistence foods.

Shortly after my arrival, the park began recruitment and hiring for new positions including that of Subsistence Coordinator, Chief of Interpretation, Chief Ranger, and Facility Manager. A new operations model was implemented that brought program managers of both Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve together in Fairbanks. At the same time, we began integrating the staffs from both parks and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in new ways to take full advantage of leadership and field skills found throughout our ranks.

While there were many changes within our organization last year, the overarching goal of the staff remained what it has been since the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act became law and established Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve in 1980: to preserve and protect these 8.5 million acres of parklands for the enjoyment and appreciation of this and future generations. We see our park neighbors and stakeholders – many of whom have cultural connections and family traditions with the land - as our partners in achieving this mission. By working together, we can ensure that, in spite of changes to come in the future, "The Gates" will remain one of the wildest and most pristine places in the world.

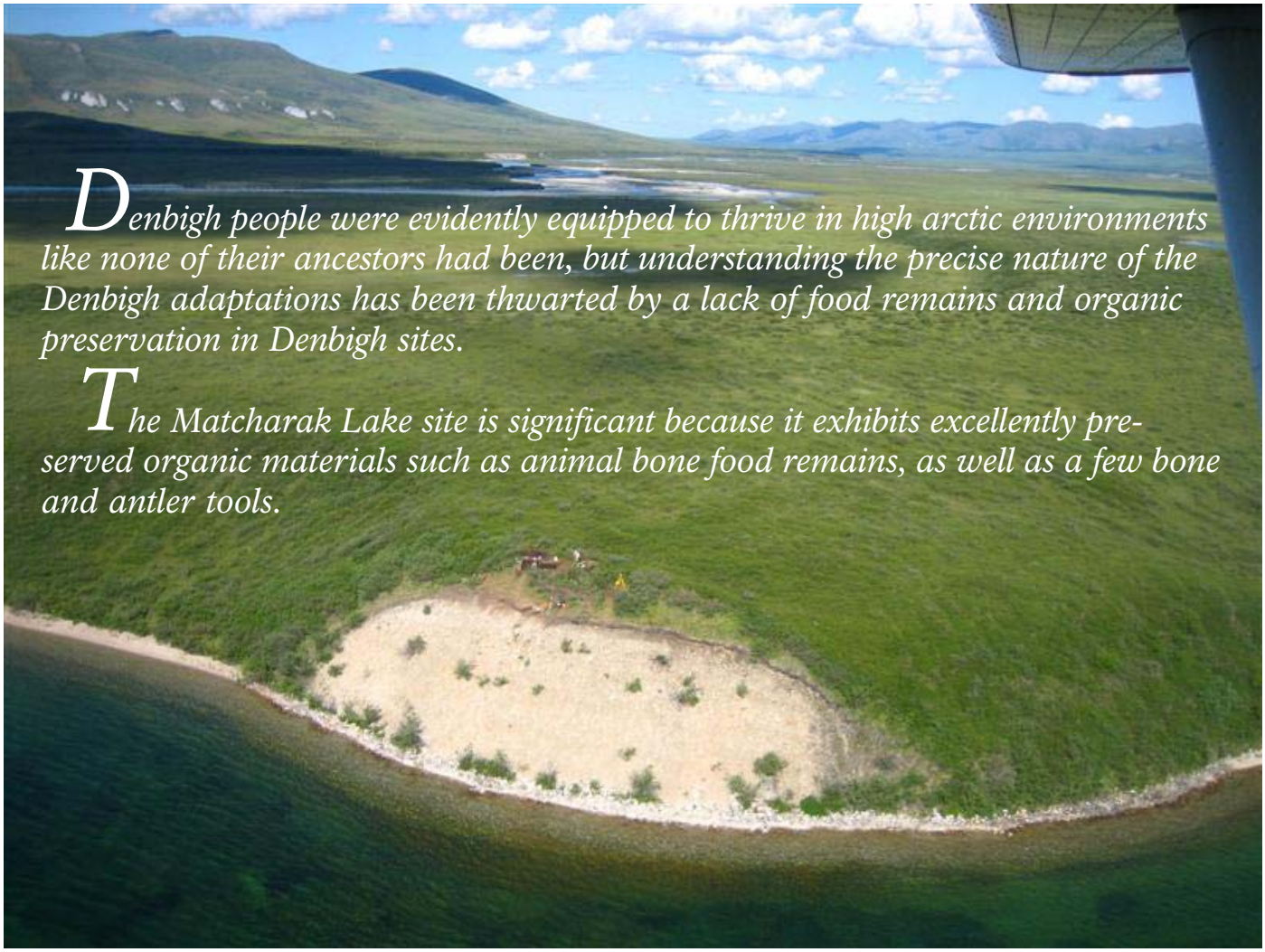
Greg Dudgeon,
Superintendent

Preserve Resources

Natural and cultural resources and associated values at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.

Annual Goal Ia8: By September 30, 2008, 923 (67% of 1,371) of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve's archeological sites are in good condition.
GOAL EXCEEDED

Paleo-Eskimo Culture at Matcharak Lake



Overlooking the Matcharak Lake archaeological site in Gates of the Arctic National Park.

Frozen Finds from the Denbigh Flint Complex

By Jeff Rasic

Preliminary analyses show that the site occupants procured caribou, sheep, fish and birds.

NPS archaeologists conducted test excavations of a Denbigh Flint complex site in the upper Noatak River basin. This site is the Alaskan manifestation of the widespread Arctic Small Tool tradition, which represents a rapid dispersal of people across the entire American Arctic and into Greenland approximately 4,200 years ago. In much of these lands, the Arctic Small Tool tradition also marks the first human settlement. Denbigh people were evidently equipped to thrive in high arctic environments like none of their ancestors had been, but understanding the precise nature of the Denbigh adaptations has been thwarted by a lack of food remains and organic preservation in Denbigh sites.

The Matcharak Lake site is significant because it exhibits excellently preserved organic materials such as animal bone food remains, as well as a few bone and antler tools. Such preservation is unprecedented within Alaska for this period and will provide key information about Denbigh subsistence and technology. Preliminary analyses show that the site occupants procured caribou, sheep, fish and birds. Organic tools include a knife handle with incised decoration, and pointed objects that may be flintworking tools. The tiny, masterfully made stone tools that are a hallmark of the Denbigh Flint complex were common at the site and include knife and projectile point blades, and tools used to groove or engrave antler.

Archaeologist Tim Williams patiently digs for bone and artifacts in the permafrost at the Matcharak Lake Denbigh Flint complex site in western Gates of the Arctic National Park.

Animal bones, like this caribou bone preserved in the permafrost at the Matcharak Lake site, will help archaeologists reconstruct the behavior of the prehistoric Denbigh people who lived here.

Annual Goal Ia6: By September 30, 2008, 72 (99% of 73) applicable preservation standards for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve's museum collections are met.
GOAL ACHIEVED

Museum Collections

By Jeff Rasic

Our biggest challenge for museum collections is cataloging the large volume of backlog items, and at the same time, keeping up with a steady flow of new museum specimens. YUGA is one of the few park centers in the region with its own curatorial facility. We curate all the natural history items generated by inventory and monitoring work as well as the park's archaeological and archival collections. In 2008, we successfully cataloged 79,016 items for Gates of the Arctic.

At left is a bifacial end blade of black chert from Matcharak Lake. Below are additional artifacts from Matcharak Lake (from left): Three views of one of the rare organic artifacts,a foreshaft or projectile point made of antler; Microblades; Detail showing grooved design on an antler tool of unknown function; A small graving tool made of gray chert, a distinctive form characteristic of Denbigh Flint Complex sites called a mitten-shaped burin.

Digital Repatriation of Cultural Knowledge

By David Krupa

We have teamed up with UAF to create a web-based portal for local community access to the material holdings, public records, photo and video collections, and newspaper and journal citations from UAF and other repositories. During 2008, efforts focused on developing the digital portal for Anaktuvuk Pass. NPS and UAF staff visited Anaktuvuk Pass to introduce the project and seek local input and involvement. Several Anaktuvuk Pass elders were invited for a fall 2008 visit Fairbanks to survey collections at NPS as well as UAF libraries, museums, and Native Studies departments.

UAF Rasmuson Library Archivist Caroline Atuk-Derrick (left) and UAF Oral History Curator William Schneider share archival materials with Anaktuvuk Pass elders Doris Hugo and Rhoda Ahgook during a Fairbanks visit in fall 2008.

The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.

Annual Goal Ia2B: By September 30, 2008, 2 populations (of 9, or 22%) of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve species of management concern have improved information for management. Desired condition not currently known but under development.
GOAL EXCEEDED

Caribou swim across the Kobuk River during their fall migration.

Winter Range Studies of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd

By Kyle Joly

The National Park Service is involved with a number of projects intent on studying the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH).

First, NPS and University of Alaska Fairbanks researchers have quantified the fire regime of northwest Alaska. Though less common than in the boreal forest, fire is relatively common in the tundra biome of northwest Alaska. Nearly 10% of the tundra in northwest Alaska has burned in the last 58 years. Tundra is more than 4 times as likely to re-burn as boreal forest due to quick vegetation regrowth. Large fire years in the tundra were associated with warm, dry summers. Results of the analysis of the fire regime within the herd's range were presented at the Beringia/Alaska Park Science conference in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Second, NPS analyzed winter range habitat selection of WACH caribou. Caribou locations, as determined from satellite collar locations, were compared to random locations. Information about vegetation type, slope, aspect, elevation, and topography were collected using GIS data. Moose and wolf density was also used in the analyses. Selection of winter range by caribou is mediated by a number of factors including habitat, predation pressure, and snow. Caribou movements decline in mid-winter where they select for open habitats that support high lichen abundance. Results of the habitat selection analysis were presented at the North American Caribou Workshop in Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada.

Third, NPS oversaw a cooperative project with Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management to collect vegetation data within the winter range of the WACH during the summer of 2008. The data will be used to compare and contrast vegetation within the WACH range in 3 ways: 1) vegetation selected by caribou vs. random locations; 2) burned vs. unburned vegetation; and 3) historic winter range vs. current winter range. NPS hopes to have the results of this study by this winter.

Lichens, such as these in the Nulato Hills region, are the preferred forage of Western Arctic Herd caribou in winter.

Fourth, a project to model the impacts of climate change on WACH range has been initiated this year. It will be another year or two before results of this project will be available.

The NPS continues to cooperate with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game on monitoring the herd and supporting the WACH Working Group.

Selection of winter range by caribou is mediated by a number of factors including habitat, predators, and snow.

Collaring Moose in the Upper Koyukuk

By Kyle Joly

In a cooperative effort with Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management, NPS continues monitoring seasonal movements, distribution, sightability values, adult survival and movement patterns in relation to climatic events (e.g. heavy snowfall) of about 50 moose in the upper Koyukuk area of Gates of the Arctic, Kanuti NWR, and the Dalton Highway Corridor. Collars were deployed in March and October, and are tracked monthly. About 10 moose have GPS collars that report locations 1-3 times a day.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Tony Hollis displays a radiocollar before putting it on a sedated cow moose in October, 2008, west of Coldfoot, Alaska, near the eastern border of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

Moose density in the upper Koyukuk region is low. While it's still too early to report results, the study is intended to help manage subsistence hunts and to collect information on productivity, particularly twinning rates.

Sukakpak Mountain looms above the frozen Middle Fork Koyukuk River in late April. Radio antennae used to locate moose with radio collars are attached to the wing strut of a Cessna 182.

The study is intended to help manage subsistence hunts and to collect information on productivity.

Hares on the Rise

By Donna DiFolco

2008 marked the 12th year of the snowshoe hare track count. The population continues to grow gradually. An average of 26 tracks was counted in four of six vegetative zones on 2 count days, double the number of tracks counted in 2007. We expect this population to continue rising over the next few years before reaching its peak.

This was the second year for collecting hare pellet plot data. At all sites, more pellets were deposited in 2008 than in 2007. Overall, non-mineral sites showed greater increases in the number of pellets deposited than mineral sites. We surmise this difference may be due to hare populations in mineral areas sustaining a longer peak than populations in non-mineral areas, vegetation in mineral areas thereby becoming more heavily browsed, and the subsequent crash of populations being more severe.

Browse samples collected in June 2005, March 2006, June 2007 and August 2007 were analyzed for nitrogen, calcium, magnesium and tannins. We have received results for some of the N, Ca and Mg analyses and are still awaiting results on tannin content. Preliminary results show there are seasonal differences in the amount of N, Ca, and Mg in browse species, with greater concentrations found in June than in March (no results yet for August). For willows, there does not seem to be much difference between mineral vs. non-mineral sites in amounts of these nutrients during the low phase of the hare population.

We expect this population to continue rising over the next few years before reaching its peak.

In background photo, NPS researcher Donna DiFolco snowshoes out to track count transects in Gates of the Arctic National Park in March 2008. (Photo by Denny DiFolco.)
Below, UAF partner Dr. Julie Maier checks for hare pellets in a 2" x 10' plot during the second annual pellet count.

Dall's Sheep Population Monitoring

By Kumi Rattenbury

This area has the highest density of Dall's sheep within the Park, and most of the area is open to sport and subsistence hunting.

In July 2008, the Arctic Network Inventory and Monitoring Program (ARCN) conducted Dall's sheep surveys in the area east of Anaktuvuk Pass to the Dalton Highway, including the Itkillik Preserve of Gates of the Arctic. This area has the highest density of Dall's sheep within the Park, and most of the area is open to sport and subsistence hunting.

Sheep were counted from small, fixed-wing aircraft and were classified as lamb, ewe-like (ewes and yearlings), sub-curl ram, and full-curl ram. Weather conditions hindered aerial sheep surveys across the state in 2008, including ours, but we were able to cover 736 square miles (77% of the intended survey area). Over 1,230 sheep were counted (960 adults, 269 lambs). The average density was 1.67 sheep/mile^2. There were 40 lambs per 100 ewes-yearlings and 43 rams per 100 ewes-yearlings, while 18% of the rams were full-curl. These composition data generally suggest a stable population in this area of Gates of the Arctic.

ARCN conducts and supports science in the parks of northern Alaska including Gates of the Arctic. The primary goal of its Dall's sheep monitoring program is to determine trends in the abundance and distribution of sheep in the Central and Western Brooks Range.

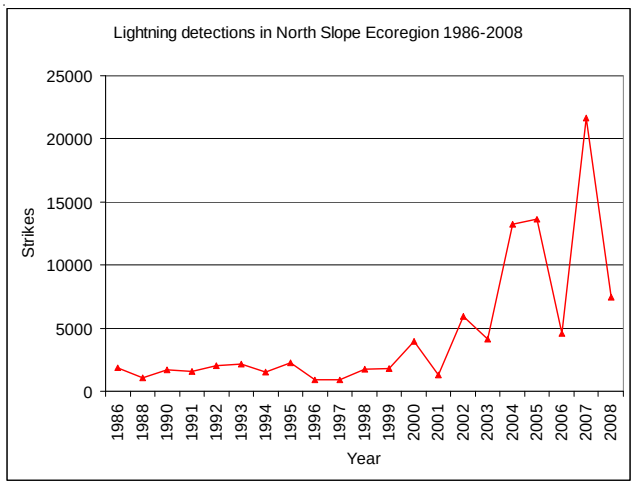
Most sheep were at high elevation on ridgelines to escape the insects and heat.

Research Continues on Species of Concern
Research student Teri McMillan holds a female Smith's Longspur near Itkillik Lake in Gates of the Arctic National Preserve. Found only in remote areas, this rare species is poorly understood and thus, is recognized as a species of concern. NPS supports Teri's reseach at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Lightning Strikes Increase in North Slope Ecoregion

By James Savage

Lightning strikes on the North Slope have increased considerably since 1999, a trend that matches statewide increases. While the cause for this increase remains unknown, increased lightning may lead to increased risk of wildfires on certain portions of the North Slope Ecoregion. In 2007, the Anaktuvuk River fire burned almost 257,000 acres on lands 40 miles north of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Most of the acreage burned in September, later than the typical Alaskan fire season, and it burned mostly in the Arctic Foothills ecoregion. Scientists from the Bureau of Land Management and the University of Alaska Fairbanks are conducting a study of the fire effects of the Anaktuvuk River Fire, and National Park Service fire managers continue to monitor lightning strikes in the North Slope Ecoregion.



Lightning strikes recorded annually, from 1986 to 2008, in the North Slope Ecoregion. The ecoregion includes the Arctic Coastal Plain, the Arctic Foothills, and the Brooks Range.

Increased lightning may lead to increased risk of wildfires on certain portions of the North Slope Ecoregion

Provide for Public Enjoyment and Visitor Experience

Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of parks and their resources for this and future generations.

Annual Goal IIb1: By September 30, 2008, 92% of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve visitors understand the significance of the Park.
GOAL ACHIEVED

Allakaket schoolchildren learn about methane in lakes during a winter outreach program.

Students in Fairbanks learn about Alaska mammals.

Camping With My Parents: two nights of camping, hiking, cooking and learning together.

Gates of the Arctic Reaches Near and Far

By Tracie Pendergrast

We had a very successful Interpretation and Outreach program this year. The new Park film, *Gates of the Arctic: Alaska's Brooks Range,* was a big hit and debuted to 2 sold-out crowds in Anchorage, Alaska, and also aired on public TV stations throughout the U.S.

Our new Junior Ranger Program was offered to visitors and children requesting the program. Because the Park is so remote and difficult to access, this program, supported by the Junior Ranger SCA program, will teach children all over the U.S. to care about and protect wild remote places.

This year, a Youth Partnership Program grant helped us reach out to local children living in our resident zone communities. Children in Anaktuvuk Pass learned about species of concern found in their village within the Park boundary. Children and parents from Evansville went camping in the Park for 2 nights. These families, whose ancestors traveled through and relied on the land for thousands of years, were able to go there and learn about Leave No Trace techniques and wildlife preservation.

We also received a grant to fund a Teacher Ranger Teacher through the Murie Science and Learning Center. This was a huge boon to our education program. The Teacher Ranger rewrote the student handbook to be age appropriate, a chore long overdue. She also created a Wilderness Travel curriculum for 4th grade that she implemented with 4th graders at her school. The curriculum had students preparing for a wilderness adventure and "traveling" to Gates of the Arctic where they cooked hot chocolate, dug a cat hole, and set up a tent.

Teacher Ranger Teacher Rebecca Himschoot on a backcountry patrol in the Itkillik Preserve.

Finally, for the first year, the Far North Conservation Film Festival traveled around Alaska. Remote communities were able to participate and view films that address conservation issues in the state, our country and the world.

Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.

Annual Goal IIa1A: By September 30, 2008, 96% of visitors to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.
GOAL EXCEEDED

The new visitor center in Bettles, completed in October 2008, is used jointly by NPS and USFWS to welcome visitors and provide staff with office space.

Construction Completed on Visitor Center & Bunkhouse in Bettles

By Julia Youngblood

In the wee hours of January 27, 2004, the Bettles visitor center burned to the ground. The building had been jointly used by NPS and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for visitor contact, staff offices, and a bunkhouse. A log building was quickly constructed to provide visitors with a space to learn about Gates of the Arctic and Kanuti Wildlife refuge and to give the community a place to meet.

In the meantime, planning and design proceded on 2 buildings to meet the needs of our visitors, community and staff.

Construction of the new Bettles visitor center/office and bunkhouse began in June 2008. Funding for the visitor center came from the region's 20% fee funding sources; bunkhouse funding was provided by USFWS. Visitor information and offices are shared, as is bunkhouse space.

Summer 2008 was a dust cloud of activity as construction crews moved from one building site to the other. Both buildings were completed under budget in early October, allowing staffs to move in and get settled.

Open House festivities, hosted jointly by USFWS and NPS, were held in June 2009, welcoming community members of Bettles and Evansville and beginning a new chapter in the life of both agencies in these communities.

Ensure Organizational Effectiveness

The National Park Service uses current management practices, systems, and technologies to accomplish its mission.

Restructuring Park Management: A Letter From the Superintendent

By Greg Dudgeon

2008 was a year of significant change for management of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. We began by implementing many of the recommendations resulting from a comprehensive management review of park operations completed in fall 2007. Most notable was evolving the approach of directing two national park units (Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve) and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center (FAPLIC) as three distinct units with separate staffs to a single organization ("YUGA") led by one Leadership Team stationed in Fairbanks.

To accomplish this, the park's Chief of Operations, who had been responsible for day-to-day supervision of the Administration, Aviation, Interpretation, Maintenance, and Law Enforcement programs while living in Bettles, was placed in the position of Chief Ranger. Incumbent Gary Youngblood's responsibilities were realigned to that of directing the Aviation and Protection programs for both parks and efforts to relocate Gary and his wife Julia to Fairbanks to join YUGA's other program managers were initiated.

Along with naming the parks' new Chief Ranger, recruitment, selection, and placement of a Chief of Interpretation (Don Pendergrast), Subsistence Coordinator (David Krupa), Facility Manager (Arch Thompson), Park Planner and NEPA Coordinator (Jobe Chakuchin), and two Pilot-Rangers (Peter Christian and Seth McMillan) for YUGA consumed much of 2008. In the meantime, the roles and responsibilities of the parks' frontline staff in Anaktuvuk Pass, Bettles, Coldfoot, Eagle, and Fairbanks were reviewed and, where necessary, revamped to assure that visitor services and resource protection and monitoring remained effective and efficient given the new management structure.

YUGA's Mission, Vision, and Values

Given the changes and new approach to managing the park units, YUGA staff recognized the need for clear and defining language describing who we were as an organization, why we existed, and our purposes. Over time, together we developed the following Mission, Vision, and Values statements. The Leadership Team also determined what YUGA's focus areas should be for the next three-to-five years to optimize the staff's capabilities and accomplishments. To help you understand us, and as a commitment to the parks' stakeholders, I share these with you here:

Mission

Everything we do at Gates of the Arctic , Yukon-Charley Rivers, and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center is inspired by one paramount Mission:

To preserve unimpaired the Parks' natural, cultural, and historical resources; to protect their environmental integrity and processes; to uphold opportunities for traditional subsistence activities and outdoor recreation; and to provide this and future generations with a legacy of wilderness and wildlands for solitude, enjoyment, education, and inspiration.

Vision

To achieve this Mission, we have a Vision with ambitious aims:

- Parks – Safeguarding and sharing these special places in perpetuity, while learning to understand their complex ecosystems and features for the benefit of all Americans
- People – Being a place to work where people are empowered to achieve their best
- Partners – Nurturing mutually beneficial partnerships that optimize our capabilities and accomplishments
- Planet – Being responsible citizens who make a positive difference in our personal and professional lives

Values

We are guided by shared Values that we live by as an organization and as individuals:

- Leadership - "The courage to shape a better future"
- Service - "Consistently meeting peoples' needs and exceeding their expectations"
- Integrity - "Doing what is right whether anyone knows it or not"
- Accountability - "Taking responsibility for our choices and the results"
- Collaboration - "Leveraging our collective abilities and talents"
- Innovation - "To seek, imagine, create, inspire"
- Passion - "Committed in heart and mind to what we do"

YUGA's Focus Areas for Next 3 – 5 Yrs

- Improve and evolve our internal and external **communications**
- Develop mutually beneficial **partnerships** to include a **foundation**
- Implement **work force strategies** that attract, develop, empower, and reward staff
- Position YUGA's **infrastructure** for optimal effectiveness and efficiency

As before, our most important challenges and opportunities remain understanding the natural and cultural wonders found within these parks so that they will continue to be preserved and protected for the enjoyment and appreciation of future generations. In this report, you have learned about some of the notable achievements that park staff accomplished in 2008 to further our understanding of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. I thank all those who contributed to this report; I hope that what you read here will help you to have a better personal understanding and appreciation for your parklands.

Baasee'. *Quyanaq*. Thank you.

Greg Dudgeon,
Superintendent

Financial Summary

Operating Budget Base Allocation (ONPS) Expenditure Highlights

Research & Studies: $1,308,100
Cooperation and sharing expertise provide the synergy Resource Division and I&M Networks use in accomplishing resource work in the parks. Examples: Smith's Longspur project, caribou study, sheep survey, wolf study. Research and inventories of historic and prehistoric sites, such as the Matcharack Lake archaeological site, provide a wealth of information.

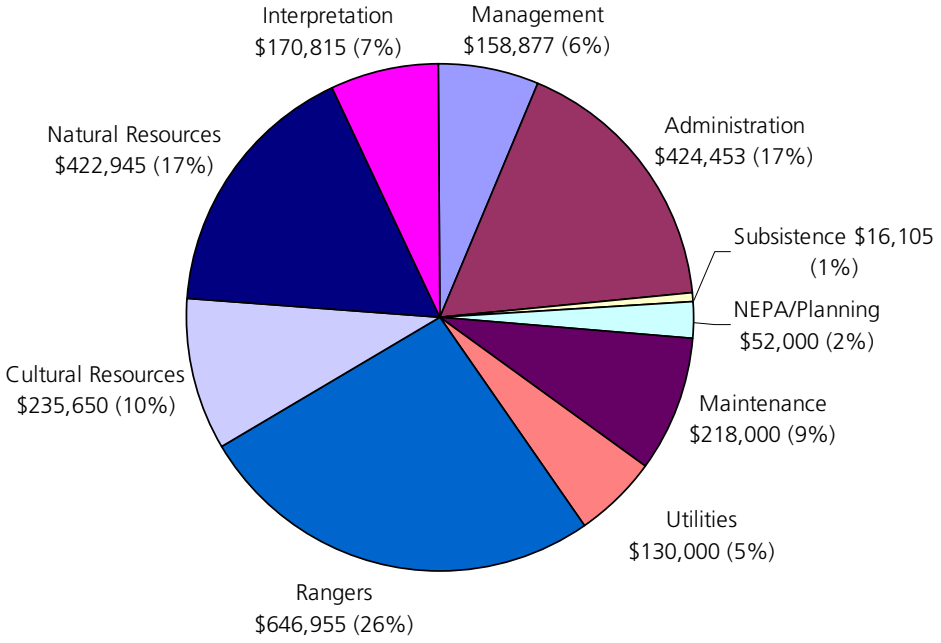
Facilities Operations & Maint: $567,000
We remodeled and upgraded houses, VIP cabins and outbuildings to improve energy conservation. Partnerships used limited resources for projects big and small, from septic pumping to relocating a building for a new, energy efficient generator. Also: a lube cube at Anaktuvuk Pass replaced two 55-gallon barrels for heating fuel; Maintenance and ARCN installed an air quality monitoring station in Bettles.

Resource Protection & Visitor Services: $1,656,661
Backcountry and hunting patrols assured visitor safety and resource protection. Educational outreach continues to reach local as well as students in the lower 48. NPS again provided mushers and dogs a rest at historic Slaven's cabin during the Yukon Quest as an official dog drop. Work continues on the planning and design of the 9000 ft^2 exhibit space in MTVC.

Management & Administration: $848,039
Our new workforce configuration is fostering new relationships and improved organizational effectiveness through audio visual equipment with bridge system capabilities, allowing us to connect to locations near and far. An upgraded IT system delivers improved reliability, better backups, and quicker access to data. New fencing and cage material at FAC secures equipment and supplies .

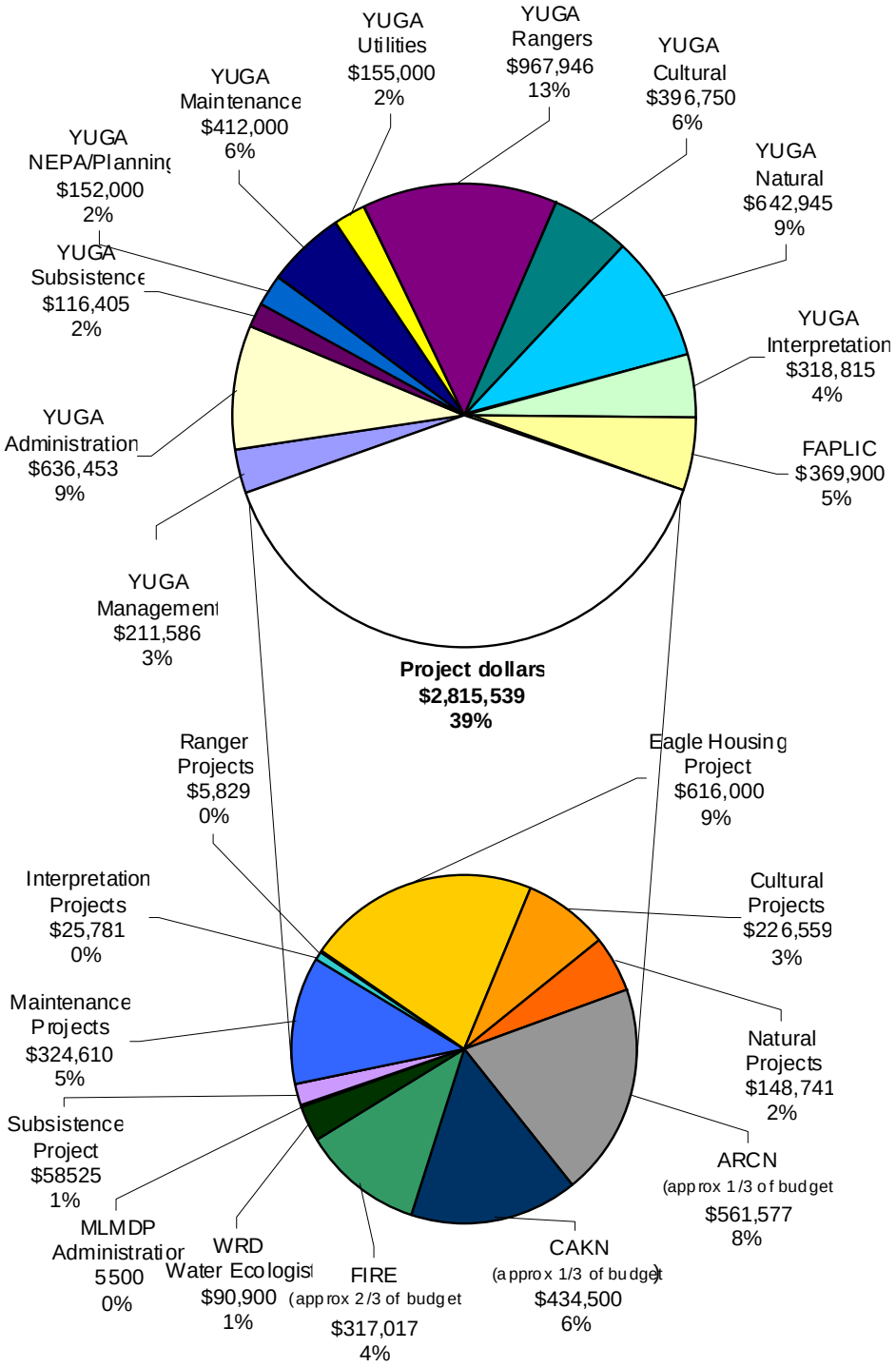
Gates of the Arctic Operating Budget Base Allocations (ONPS) Expenditures

Total = $2,575,800

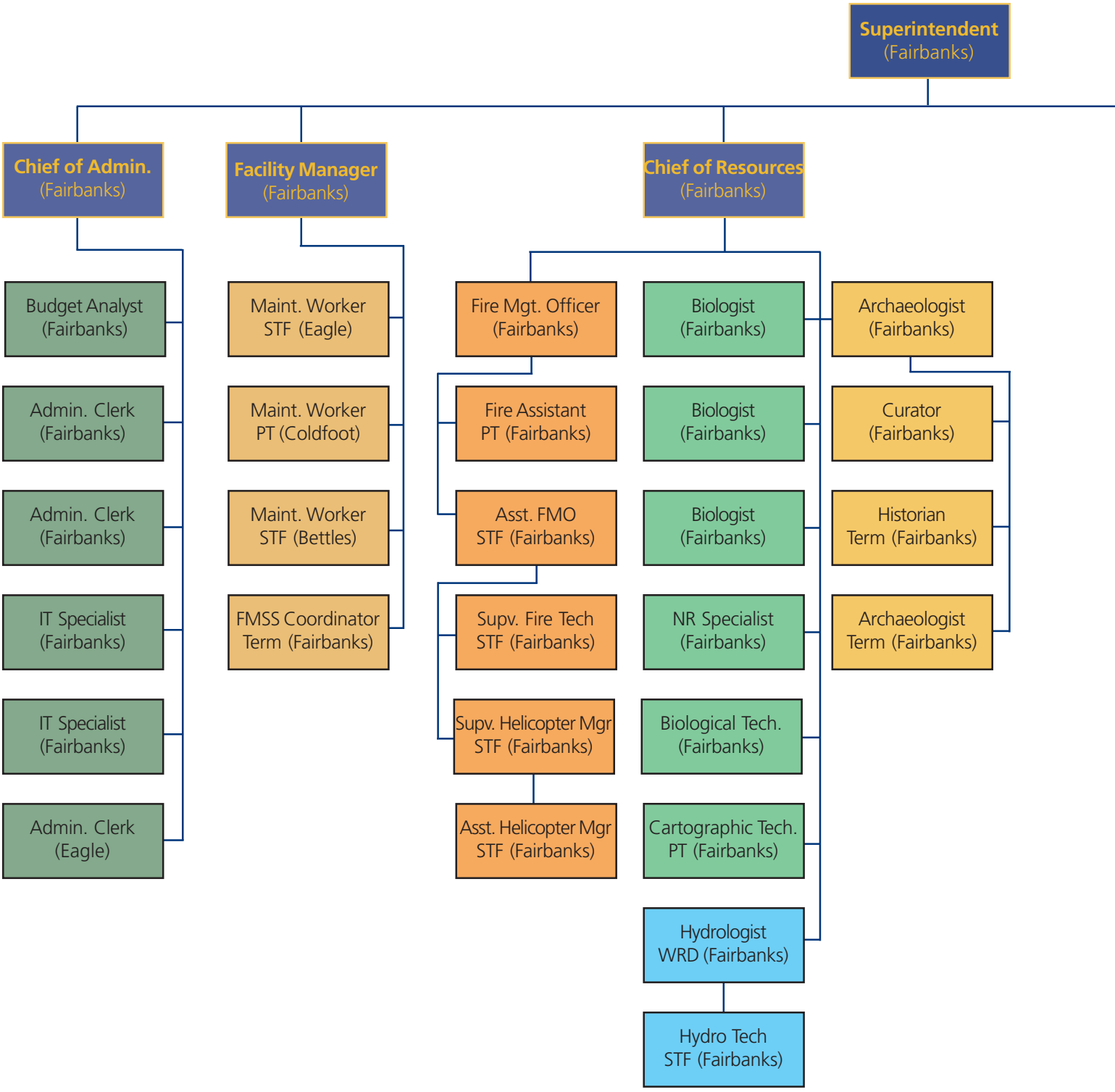


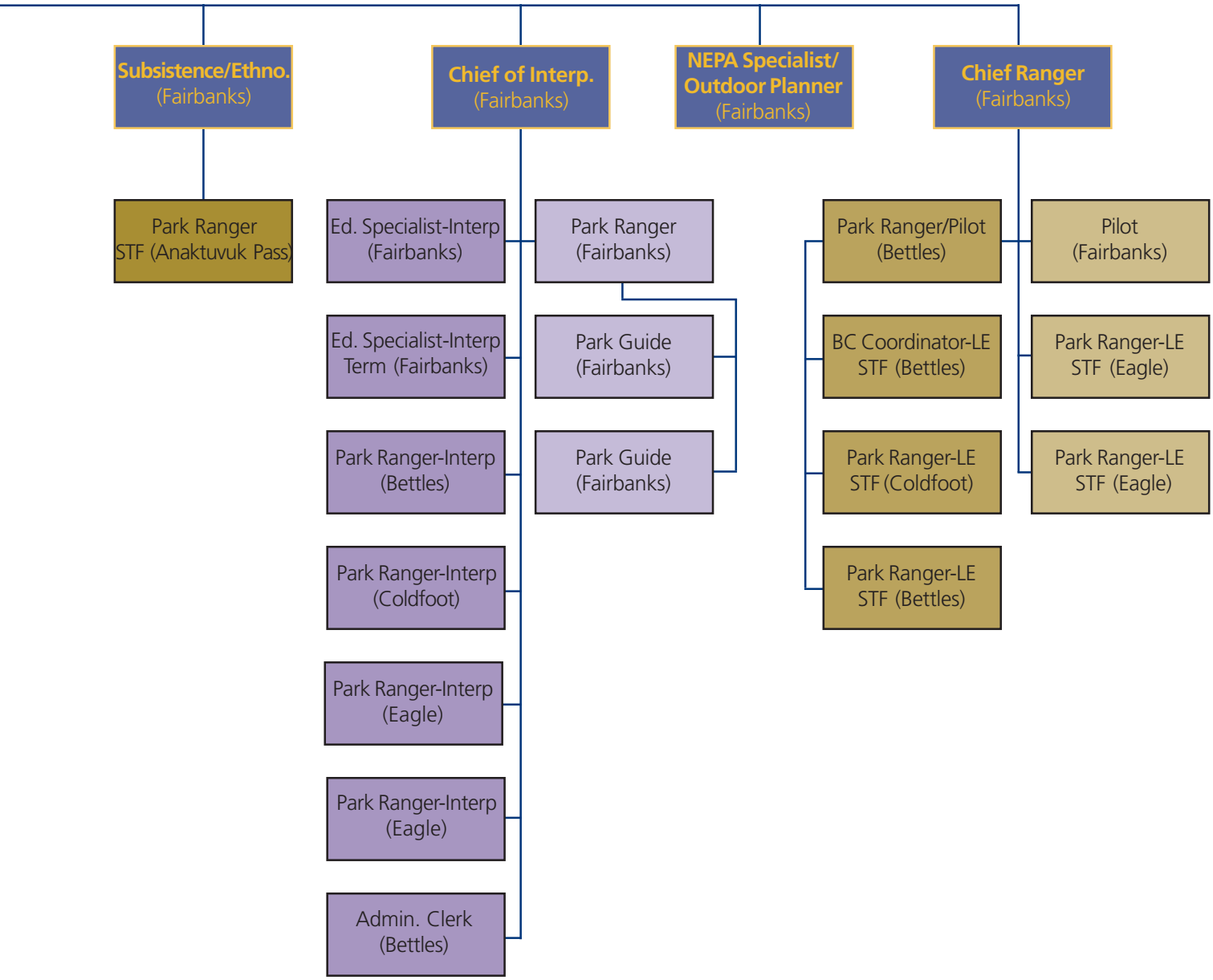
YUGA All Funding Source Budget Allocations

Total = $7,195,339



Gates of the Arctic, Yukon-Charley Rivers, Alaska Public Lands Information Center Organization




Subsistence/Ethno. (Fairbanks)
Chief of Interp. (Fairbanks)
NEPA Specialist/ Outdoor Planner (Fairbanks)
Chief Ranger (Fairbanks)
Park Ranger STF (Anaktuvuk Pass)
Ed. Specialist-Interp (Fairbanks)
Park Ranger (Fairbanks)
Ed. Specialist-Interp Term (Fairbanks)
Park Guide (Fairbanks)
Park Ranger-Interp (Bettles)
Park Guide (Fairbanks)
Park Ranger-Interp (Coldfoot)
Park Ranger-Interp (Eagle)
Park Ranger-Interp (Eagle)
Admin. Clerk (Bettles)
Park Ranger/Pilot (Bettles)
Pilot (Fairbanks)
BC Coordinator-LE STF (Bettles)
Park Ranger-LE STF (Eagle)
Park Ranger-LE STF (Coldfoot)
Park Ranger-LE STF (Eagle)
Park Ranger-LE STF (Bettles)

Volunteer Denny DiFolco skis down the winter trail used by local subsistence users in Gates of the Arctic National Park following the 12th annual snowshoe hare track count in March 2008.

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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