

Finding of No Significant Impact
Fire Management Plan
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

The National Park Service has prepared an environmental assessment for the proposed enactment of a fire management plan for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Under recently implemented National Park Service guidelines, each park service unit with burnable vegetation will produce a fire management plan outlining its wildland fire management policies and strategies (Director's Order 18). The array of acceptable management strategies for park service units includes wildland fire suppression, wildland fire use for resource benefit, and prescribed fire implementation, as determined by criteria pre-specified in the fire management plan.

A public review was conducted for the proposed plan from February 14 through April 14, 2000 comments were received expressing concerns about effects of the Fire Management Plan on fire management strategies. These concerns were addressed by reiterating that the Fire Management Plan in no way changes fire management strategies currently outlined by the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan.

The National Park Service considered three alternatives in the development of the proposed fire management plan:

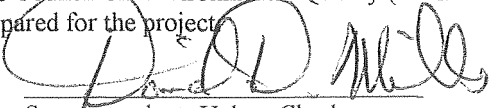
- Alternative One: Combination of wildland fire suppression and prescribed fire use.
- Alternative Two: Combination of wildland fire suppression and wildland fire use.
- Alternative Three: Combination of wildland fire suppression, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire (preferred alternative).

The National Park Service has determined the proposed action can be implemented with no significant adverse effect to natural and cultural resources as documented by the environmental assessment. The combination of wildland fire suppression, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire implementation will allow fire managers sufficient flexibility to preserve fire in its natural role within the Preserve's ecosystem while at the same time ensuring the protection of life, property, and sensitive cultural and natural resources. Through the predominate application of wildland fire use and the appropriate, site-specific application of wildland fire suppression and prescribed fire the risk of catastrophic, uncontrollable fire behavior will be lessened, the accumulation of combustible vegetation will be within the acceptable range of natural variability for fire dependent ecosystems, the health of fire-dependent plant communities and animal habitat will be preserved, and the impact of fire and fire management activities upon subsistence use and other activities will be more effectively mitigated.

There will be no significant restriction of subsistence activities as documented by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII, Section 810(a) Summary Evaluation and Findings.

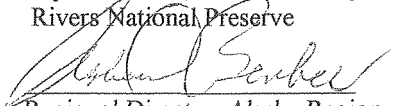
I find that the proposed action does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9), an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for the project.

Recommended:


Superintendent, Yukon-Charley
Rivers National Preserve

7/18/00
Date

Approved:


Regional Director, Alaska Region

9/29/00
Date