

TRIP REPORT
ANIAKCHAK 1992

From: Aniakchak Bay to Meshik Lake via Kumlik Peninsula
By: Susan Savage, Linda Hasselbach
Purpose: Vegetation, Bird, Public Use Reconnaissance
General orientation to Aniakchak Natural Resources and
Visitor Opportunities

Detailed accounts of this trip are attached in the journals of Susan and Linda. These details will be summarized below. Linda will provide details on the vegetation and habitat along the route.

August 20

Linda and Susan departed from King Salmon in the park 206 (on floats) with park ranger/pilot Stan Steck. The gear was packed in two personal backpacks, a 30 gallon bear barrel, a large dry bag, plus a radio antennae. The bear barrel contained approximately 5 extra days of food, a VE24 tent, a collapsible fishing pole and tackle, and a Spillsbury single side band radio. The dry bag contained a plant press, plant and bird field guides, individual day packs with clean clothes, journals and reading material, a frying pan, and a trowel. The backpacks contained personal clothes, bear barrels containing 7 days of food (which did not all fit into the bear barrels), cooking and camping gear, binoculars, camera, journals, and Linda carried a small plant press (see detailed list attached).

The flight to Meshik Lake took approximately 1.5 hours. The bear barrel, dry bag, and our hip waders were dropped at Meshik Lake on the Southwestern side at the foot of hills on that part of the lake. Some type of algal bloom was in progress at this time in the lake which made water appear unpalatable. The gear was left about 20 feet from shore at the edge of the willow line along an animal trail. After dropping gear at Meshik Lake we traveled to Aniakchak Bay and were dropped off at approximately 1300. Because we had no hip waders at this point, we removed our pants and boots to unload the plane. Linda cut the bottom of her foot on a rock during unloading.

This day was spent exploring the Aniakchak Bay area. Linda noted that most of the vegetation was forming seeds at this time and several plants were noted that had not been observed in June. We hiked to the "crossing point" on the Aniakchak River and on the way back noted the high tide that turned our walk along shore into a scramble at times over slippery rocks or required removing boots to wade at one point. That night was spent in the cabin. The night's sleep was interrupted by a animal outside (either bear or fox) that explored either the contents of the burn barrel or the scrap tin piled by the cabin.

August 21

Before leaving the cabin site, 6 photographs were taken of the cabin to document its 1992 condition. This was especially important as the Cultural Resources team had not been able to reach Aniakchak Bay during their visit because of weather.

The Aniakchak River was negotiated in bare feet about 3/4 of a mile above the mouth. The site is at a cliff area which had a low grassy saddle to the right that passes to a large brackish sedge meadow. Midriver at this point is a large rock outcrop. The river is crossed just before reaching the cliff. The crossing of the river was timed to coincide with low tide, although Linda felt this was not necessary. Walking sticks (drift wood finds) were used for stability. The deepest section was no deeper than high thigh deep. The bottom substrate is coarse sand or cinders and shifts considerably with each footstep. I used a pair of rubber sandals on the first half of the crossing, but pea-sized to dime-sized gravel caught between my foot and the saddle negating the usefulness of the saddle. Linda wore a pair of socks which eased the impact of the sand and protected the cut she had gotten the day before.

After crossing the river we returned to the beach and walked south until the end of the "tidal flat" slough was passed (about 1.5 miles). Here we turned east and headed for the "swamp". We crossed about 1.5 miles of north/south oriented small dunes. At the western edge of these we encountered expansive wet sedge meadow. We inadvertently, and luckily, crossed the swamp at a location where a prominent rock island (about 200 feet high) interrupted the middle of the swamp. At first this lead to some confusion where I believed we had completed the crossing, but soon realized that we had only gone half way. Amongst the sedge meadows were about half a dozen rapidly flowing and deep streams. These were often not discovered until the lead was directly on top of them. These could all be negotiated by edge reconnaissance 100' up or down stream to find a narrow enough place to jump across or by using one person as an anchor to lean across. The weather deteriorated this day from overcast and light winds to heavy mist and rain with light winds from the south. Crossing of the swamp required a good deal of lung capacity and strong leg muscles for the constant sucking of feet into the various water/mud and vegetation combinations. Remember that we had choose to wear hiking boots because of the remainder of the route and that our hiking boots were completely soaked through.

Once the swamp was negotiated we found a campsite in umbel flats at the foot of cliffs. Our chosen site was about a 10 minute walk from one of the swamp streams where we had to get water. We had covered about 6 miles.

August 22

This day greeted us with heavy mist and a low ceiling. Visibility at times was less than 1 mile. Mist and rain continued intermittently all day. Our route took us southwest along three prominent cliffs and crossing two streams running between these outcrops. Then we headed directly south across the Black Creek drainage which had two tributaries at this point. The route continued through wet sedge meadow interrupted by dense alder thickets that surrounded each stream. Animal trails were often followed both through the sedge meadow and the alder thickets. At nearly every stream crossing large areas were bedded down, salmon heads and pools of blood remained as evidence of bear feeding areas. As we made our presence known by calling and the use of whistles, no bears were encountered. All streams were negotiated without getting wetter than thigh deep by finding narrow or shallow places that could be waded, crossed using grassy islands, or crossed with cooperative assistance between ourselves.

One difficulty we had was determining the location of our pass because of the low ceiling. It was marked by a steep wall on its eastern side and a 300' hill at its northwest opening. However, these were difficult to see consistently until within .5-.75 miles of them. Once we were this close we encountered yet another stream which probably was the stream emanating from our pass. We crossed to the east of this stream and found a meadow clear of alders that we quickly crossed.

Note: the green areas on the topo maps accurately represent the presence of alder thickets. However, alder also extends beyond these areas encompassing nearly every drainage.

When we reached the opening to our pass between the steep wall and 300' hill we found the stream choked with alder. We tried walking up the stream, but the force of the stream and its gradient prevented us from getting very far along. We traveled through the alders and climbed the steep grassy stream edges, discovering brambly "salmon" berries. After about 1/2 mile up the pass creek we found a tundra knoll to make camp. The weather was improving and we made a dry camp. Water was available in a gully below our knoll. We travelled approximately 3.5 miles in this day.

August 23

We woke to clear weather that continued all day. We counted at least 4 waterfall cascades along the west wall of our pass and anticipated passing at least 4 alder filled valleys in our trek up the valley. We began high on the west shoulder, but then spied a grassy strip along the stream bed which we followed for a while. We then climbed back on the hillside shoulder on the western wall. We encountered about twice as many waterfalls and drainages from what we had been able to count from our camp. These were negotiated in turn, holding on to the alders as we climbed down and up each steep slope. "Salmon" berries were also encountered. We

found that our shins were quite bruised after this last bout of alders. The last drainage substrate was scree slope and partially vegetated with tundra. We climbed the eastern "V" of the pass which was tundra.

Once at the top of the pass (950') we could see Kejulik Bay and the valley which met our pass on the opposite side. The valley on the other side was similar in vegetation as the one we had come up. We had planned to travel part way down the pass and cross a side saddle to the west. We opted to stay high in the tundra and avoid the alders for a while. Additionally, since the preceding 10 miles had taken us 2.5 days to traverse we decided to reroute our trip to shorten it and cut out the leg to the Kejulik inholding cabin. We climbed the shoulder (1300') between our pass drainage and the next to the west staying high on the tundra ridges. We found a protected stream valley to make our camp. Clear water was available camp side. Linda explored the high points of the route we had just covered and to the south. She discovered a bear den in the process. We covered approximately 3 miles this day.

August 24

We woke to another fine day weatherwise. We took a short reconnaissance without our backpacks back the way we had come, exploring the bear den. We were able to see the whole route that we had covered. We continued on across the tundra ridges coming down somewhat in elevation. We discovered that our campside stream cascaded to a beautiful tundra waterfall about a mile below our last night's camp. We only crossed one major alder filled stream valley. We negotiated the stream taking turns with my saddles as our feet were covered with dry socks and drying boots for the first time in three days. We crossed a few alder patches in the higher elevation which were dwarfed - only about 3' in height. We also crossed several sedge meadows of varying dampness which commonly sat in saddles between high points or in hill side bowls that initiated streams. We made a hasty camp on a flat ridge above a major branch of a nameless stream running to Kejulik swamp. We had hiked about 3 miles on the tundra; the weather began to deteriorate and rain showers began. The camp was not close to good water. This was the first evening where neither of us was very hungry and I ate a cold lunch-like snack for dinner while Linda ate nothing.

August 25

The sky was overcast when we awoke. Both being tired of hot cereal, we ate a cold breakfast of granola. Today we found and followed the ridge between the North Fork to the south and Albert Johnson Creek to the north. We had to negotiate some side tributaries, but stayed in the tundra zone most of the day. The weather deteriorated soon after we began hiking with wind blown rain coming from the southwest nearly in our faces as we proceeded to the west. We encountered a complex saddle where tributaries of the North Fork and Johnson Creek nearly met. We could occasionally see Meshik Lake and regularly see Pinnacle Mountain, our

destination and guiding landmark. The weather improved later in the day and we made an early camp after about 3.5 miles. Susan made camp, dried out gear and picked rather green blueberries while Linda explored the 885' peak to the south and ridge to the northwest. She could see the remainder of the route to Meshik Lake.

During our dinner that night we heard a rather large splash in a nearby creek, probably attributable to a moose or bear. We also had a fox pass by and leave his mark near our eating site.

August 26

We completed our journey on this day. We had fine weather for it, but our wilderness peace was interrupted by the park 206 which landed on Meshik Lake two days ahead of schedule and proceeded to conduct a fairly extensive search which could only have been on our account. Our battery had failed on our handheld radio so we could never make radio contact, and all attempts to visually signal the pilot failed. Two other small planes were also noted this day in visual range.

Our route took us further along the ridge between the drainages coming down further in elevation. We reached a point where we could have continued along the ridge to Meshik, but only after negotiating an extensive drainage filled with alder and some unpredictable sedge meadows. We opted to leave the ridge, cross a tributary of Johnson Creek and reach some cinder blows that extended toward Meshik Lake to the northwest. The stream crossing required one more barefoot wade. The cinder blows provided easy walking, however we also had our first bear "encounter" at this location. We spotted a medium-sized lone blondish bear at the edge of a sedge meadow about 500 meters to the front and left of our path. At the same time the park 206 was headed directly for us and we were trying to gain its attention. The plane overflight may have had some impact on our interaction with the bear in our favor, but it is impossible to determine. The bear acted fairly neutrally to us. It raised its head several times to inspect us visually and probably olfactorily. It continued nearly directly across our path to the right and slightly toward us. It appeared to be nosing the ground looking for berries, and it continued in this activity. We moved to the left behind the bear across the sedge meadow that the bear had left behind.

We had crossed most of the cinder blows and were now in a mixed willow, meadowy vegetation. Very quickly we found the edge of Meshik Lake. We determined that the edge was fairly firm and being near the end of our trip and near a pair of dry boots (hip waders), decided to walk the edge of the lake. We crossed 3 narrow and clear streamlets which drained into the lake, the last one of these providing our water source while we were camped at Meshik Lake. Within 10 minutes of the last stream crossing we came upon our stashed supplies and the end of our journey.

Our dry bag had been investigated by a bear as it was scratched and punctured in several places. Apparently no reward was achieved from the plant press or the print was too fine in Hultene so this was the extent of the damage. The bag however is damaged enough that it will not be salvageable. We gorged ourselves on treats from the bear barrel (pistachios), set up camp, and went for water. We encountered a good patch of Nagoon berries en route to water which we capitalized on. We were fairly content to stay put that evening. We found a note from Stan explaining the circumstances of the early visit: poor weather was moving in and they came to see if we could be retrieved early.

August 27

When I exited the tent this AM my activity scared up a medium-sized lone, dark (almost black) bear from the lake shore near the location of our gear. He ran away to the south. We made radio contact with Kodiak this morning and learned that our pickup would be as scheduled - tomorrow. Poor weather had moved in as predicted: 1000 overcast, 5-7 mph wind from SE, heavy mist and 5-10 miles visibility. This deteriorated over the day to about a mile visibility. We spent the day in the tent catching up on our journals. We made a short reconnaissance that evening to the outlet of Meshik Lake. I waded into the outlet, but the channel appeared to be deeper than the top of hip waders. This was fairly surprising as the lake is fairly shallow throughout.

August 28

We made radio contact with Kodiak and learned that a pickup attempt would be made today. However, the weather was poorer than the day before: 800-1000 overcast, 7-10 mph wind from SE and about 1-2 miles visibility. We doubted the possibility of pickup. Linda went to the SE corner of the lake to collect some plants she had seen on the last leg of our journey and to get water. We heard a plane several times in the day which we later learned was Joel out in the Meshik River valley (swamp) hop skipping from small lake to small lake as visibility allowed. The weather deteriorated all day to the point where we could barely see the base of Pinnacle Mountain. Down into the Meshik we couldn't see past our local hill. I spent a little time trying to find the local passerines and reading the bird guide. Linda keyed some plants. But we needed to stay near camp pending the anticipated pickup, and the weather was not conducive to exploring anyway.

August 29

Our radio contact with Kodiak indicated an early PM pickup. Our weather had greatly improved since the previous two days: 2000' ceilings, 10+ miles visibility and nearly no wind. We were leisurely finishing breakfast when we heard the hum of an engine. Very soon the 206 was flying over camp sending us scrambling to finish packing our camp. Linda ran down to meet Joel and he came up to our camp. We were ready in 15 minutes, loaded the plane and were off for home. A beautiful flight ensued taking in the Meshik

River and swamp, Bristol Bay coast, several bears, moose and caribou, Joe Clutch's camp and even a good view of Aniakchak, Chiginagak, and Mt. Peulik.

General Experience

The scenery of coastal and mountain Aniakchak is splendid. Both are rugged, rocky, severe. Beautiful waterfalls cascade from tundra origins along the mountain passes. Streams are primarily clear running water, even in the lowland swampy areas. The Aniakchak river at the coast is somewhat silty. The rocks originate from both volcanic and sedimentary processes. Even a piece of fossilized wood was found along Aniakchak coast. The beaches and most of the stream beds are composed of course, dark cinders of volcanic sources. From an aesthetic perspective, what isn't rocky is very green and lush in vegetation. Even "poor" weather can enhance the beauty and mystery of the Aniakchak scenery. Dark clouds contrasting with light clouds or emanating streaks of sunlight commonly vary and magnify the landscape. On a smaller scale, there are varied plants to examine, berries to harvest, and birds and mammals to observe.

However, Aniakchak landscape is no walk-in-the-park. The landscape is tough for those in average or poor shape. The lush vegetation, especially the alder thickets, can make travel difficult to nearly impossible. The wet meadow/swamp vegetation can be read and predicted with experience, but the map is no predictor of a clear route. Streams or ponds may be encountered which cause severe detours, or backtracking, or require getting wet. Animal trails often make passing difficult vegetation easier, but require constant noise and attention to prevent undesirable encounters. This constant noise can detract somewhat from a wilderness experience. Somewhat steep slopes are common along stream drainages. The streams themselves may be deep, wide and sometimes the current is swift.

Hazards in this country are many. Stream levels probably vary with the season and passing may be much more difficult when snow melt is occurring. The temperature of the water was cool in late August, but has probably warmed many degrees since the spring. Even at the August temperature, a good wetting either by streams or rain could cause hypothermia in an individual. Earlier in the season vegetation such as grasses may be lower and passing made easier. Steepness of valley sides may be mis-predicted from topo maps. Sprains or broken bones may be caused by mis-stepping hummocky vegetation or alders, or by sliding on steep slopes. There exist the ever present unpredictable hazards from animals.

Backpacking in Aniakchak requires strict dependence on the supplies one brings. Visitors cannot depend on building fires for cooking or warmth if their stoves fail or they run out of fuel. Help is a long way away and could only be raised if visitors were carrying

an ELT or overstayed a specific permit or plan. As we learned, even large targets can be overlooked by airplane searches.

Public Use/Cabin

Very little evidence of public use was encountered along our route. No humans were encountered on foot during the trip.

Linda noted that certain items in the cabin were not quite the same as they had been left. At least two parties are known to have used the cabin since Linda and Todd's departure on July 1. A group of three German have made an extensive visit to Aniakchak this year calling themselves the "Father Hubbard Expedition." They had used the cabin and unfortunately penned their names and presence on the internal wall of the cabin. They apparently are responsible for several half burned out large bean and chilli cans in the burn barrel outside the cabin. These were possibly what attracted the attention of fox/bear that was rummaging around the cabin on the night of Aug. 20/21. There was also the odor of wood smoke inside the cabin which probably came from the use of the sauna stove in the lean-to attached to the north end of the cabin.

Another party consisting of 3 river rafters and one off-duty NPS biotechnician made use of the cabin at the end of their journey. There was no physical evidence of their presence. One note: there is less fuel remaining than was left on July 1; 5 gal. of kerosene and 0 gal. of white gas remains.

The only other evidence of humans seen at Aniakchak was a set of footprints (three sets) on the cinder blows near Meshik Lake. These are believed to be the aforementioned Germans.

The other prominent evidence of humans was airplane use. Jet aircraft were heard on a regular basis flying over Aniakchak Caldera or the Meshik Drainage. Also large prop traffic, probably regularly scheduled Penn Air flights, were heard on a regular basis flying a similar, but lower route. Small plane traffic was heard on the adjacent drainage to which we were hiking on August 23. On August 26 a red single engine plane and a white with blue stripe super cub were seen in the Meshik and Johnson/Aniakchak drainages.

Weather/Clothing

Weather was variable during our trip. Cool nights (40° F.) and fair days (50-60° F.) were the norm. Precipitation in the form of heavy mist and light rain was common. Moderate rain occurred several times during the night. Wind became an issue for body temperature control when we were crossing the pass and on one other day of hiking.

Both of us hiked in polypropylene shirts with or without raingear on most days. Additional layers of polypropylene were added upon occasion during hiking and in the evening, down or qualafil vests were additional layers used. I hiked in a pair of medium weight

wool pants while Linda use capilene tights with shorts. Raingear was added to these as needed. Dry clothing was exchanged at night for sleeping. Both of us had wool or polypropylene gloves and hats. Besides being wet from rain we were wet from damp vegetation and stream crossings. Cotton is not a viable fabric for backcountry use. Polypropylene is best and wool makes a fairly good substitute.

We both hiked in leather hiking boots with vibram soles. Hip waders would have been desirable for crossing the swamp, but would have been inadequate for use during the tundra walking and hillside scrambles. The weight of regular hip waders prevented their addition to our backpacking gear. Perhaps we could have tried the thin nylon variety inside our hiking boots to keep our feet and socks dry. Both of us suffered minor foot problems due to having our feet wet for three days. Both of us will probably loose 1 toe nail to Aniakhak! and I had several blisters.

Camping Ethic

Linda and I adhered to a strict "pack it in, pack it out" ethic. We left behind no organic "unprocessed" food waste (i.e., no left over oatmeal, tea bags, coffee grounds). All toilet paper was packed out or burned. Very little soap was used on the whole trip (maybe 10 drops at most).

Alternate Routes

Instead of crossing the swamp we could have attempted to cross the mouth of the lagoon or skirt the edge of the lagoon. We would have had to wait for another low tide to negotiate the lagoon mouth and even then, its crossability is questionable. It has been suggested that it would be armpit deep at low tide. The edge of the lagoon looks defined from far away, but this would have required the crossing of streams at their mouth instead of upstream. It is probable that they should be shallow and slow at this point, but this is unknown.

The route up the North Fork will be documented in photos. This route also is choked with alder, however routing through the tundra zone at higher elevation is also a possibility for this drainage.

Photographs

One park camera (a Cannon Sure Shot) was taken on the trip. Each picture was taken three times, one for each of us and one for the park. Park and personal film was used for these. This photographic record will be documented and filed as appropriate.

BIRDS

Red-throated loon

Meshik Lake 8/26, 8/27, 8/28 flying, vocalizing and landing on the water.

American green-winged teal

Meshik Lake 8/28 resting on lake edge in vegetation.

Scaup sp.

Meshik Lake 8/26 resting on open water.

Merganser sp.

Meshik Lake 8/27 resting near lake edge on water.

Northern harrier

Meshik Lake 8/29 1 pair flying near camp.

Bald eagle

Aniakchak coast/river 8/20 (2 ad, 3 juv) flying, 8/21 - several individuals near cliffs soaring, Meshik Lake 8/26 1 flying down lake edge.

Buteo sp.

Over North Fork Drainage, distant 8/26.

Ptarmigan sp.

Tundra areas, 8/24 (+20), 8/25, 8/26, Meshik Lake, common around camp feeding, vocalizing, flying 8/26 (15), 8/27 (2), 8/28 (2), 8/29 (15).

Sandhill cranes

Aniakchak coast - dune area and sedge meadow, foraging, flying 8/21.

Peeps

Small shorebirds were noted along the shore of Meshik Lake on 8/20, 8/26 and 8/29. Peeps were also seen along Aniakchak River on 8/21. However, light and weather conditions did not allow identification to species.

Snipe

Swamp, flushed from vegetation on 8/21.

Yellowlegs sp.

Swamp area and Black Creek drainage, 8/21 and 8/22 heard 3 "tew" notes.

Lesser yellowlegs

Sedge meadow near camp on night of 8/24 (calling 2 or 3 "tew" notes).

Greater yellowlegs

Meshik Lake, 8/27, 5 "tew" notes heard.

Rock sandpipers

Aniakchak Coast/River - flushed from coastal vegetation and rocky areas, 8/20 (15) and 8/21 (25).

Wandering tattlers

Aniakchak Coast/River - flushed from coastal vegetation, rocky areas, and beach 8/20 (5+) and 8/21 (5+)

Parasitic jaeger

Flying over tundra areas one on 8/25, Meshik Lake 5 fly over, 1 dark phase, 4 light phase 8/27, 1 fly over 8/29.

Glaucous-wing gull

Aniakchak River/Coast, flying, sitting on shore and river (50+) 8/20-21, Meshik Lake resting on lake (shallows), and flying 8/26, 8/27, 8/28, 8/29.

Black-legged kittiwake

Aniakchak River/Coast flying, sitting on shore and river, (500+) 8/20-21.

Black-billed magpie

Aniakchak Coast, hillside vegetation 8/20 flying.

Common raven

Aniakchak River/Coast, flying, calling, flipping behavior 8/20, Pass - one pair flying 8/23, one pair flying - 8/24.

Black-capped chickadee

Pass valley, in shrub vegetation 3 birds 8/23.

Gray-cheeked thrush

"Veer" note heard in alders surrounding tundra vegetation, North Fork Tributary at camp of 8/24. Meshik Lake flying from alder to alder near camp, hopping on tundra 8/28.

Water pipet

Aniakchak Coast/River along shoreline vegetation and rocks foraging 5 birds 8/20 and 5 birds 21.

Orange-crowned warbler

Meshik Lake singing 8/27 and 8/28 at camp, alders.

Yellow warbler

Possible - Aniakchak River willow/alder 8/20, singing morning of 8/23 from willows near camp.

Wilson's warbler

Aniakchak River willow/alder 8/20, 8/22 in willows.

Savannah sparrow

Aniakchak River, near shore vegetation and rocks foraging 8/20 and 8/21.

Fox sparrow

Aniakchak River shore vegetation and rocks foraging 5 birds 8/20 and 3 birds 8/21.

Golden-crowned sparrow

Meshik Lake heard singing 8/27.

White-crowned sparrow

Two juvenile sparrows probably this species foraging and calling near camp 8/25.

Snow buntings

Tundra elevation 1000+ 5 birds 8/23, tundra 2 birds 8/24.

Redpoll sp.

Aniakchak River/Coast seen flying 8/20, Pass valley 8/23, Meshik Lake 8/26.

MAMMALS

Mammal sightings were not very common along our route although some sign of mammals was fairly common.

Harbor seals

One along the coast and one in the Aniakchak River (8/20). Both seen head only view, inspecting us.

One along the coast south of the river mouth (8/21).

Sea otter (Linda)

Seen along coast in front of Aniakchak Cabin (8/21).

Brown Bears

Evidence of bear along Aniakchak River and coast included bear tracks (small adult and COY), bedded down areas and numerous fish parts and puddles of fish blood, although some of these could be caused from river and sea otters. (8/20 and 8/21)

Evidence of bear noted along most streams. Evidence includes fish parts and blood and large trampled areas. (8/22)

Bear dens discovered (8/23), den explored and pictures taken on 8/24.

Bear observed in the North Fork Drainage - creekside, viewed from tundra knoll above.

Brown bear near sedge meadow and cinder fields. (8/26)

Brown bear seen Meshik Lake edge. (8/27)

Fox

Fox tracks along beach (8/20-21)

Red fox flushed while hiking. (8/24)

Red fox passes our evening camp, leaves scent mark. (8/25)

Caribou

Seen near tundra camp. Small group of mixed sizes seen. (8/23)

Caribou sightings common. Individual animals seen and groups of up to 15 animals. Calves seen with antlers and without. (8/24)

Continued caribou sightings, fairly common. (8/25)

Caribou seen as before. (8/26)

Moose

Antlers found at approximately 1200' in the tundra zone. (8/24)

Possible moose tracks seen near camp. (8/25)

Cow moose seen near alder drainage, Albert Johnson tributary.
(8/26)

Arctic ground squirrel

Seen and heard in pass area. (8/23)

Seen and heard on tundra. (8/26)

Vole

Jumping small stream in swamp (8/21).

Hare

Pellets seen en route. (8/25)

Equipment

Backpacking:

- Backpacks
- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad
- Northface Westwind Tent (Susan's personal tent)
- Ground cloth
- MSR XGK stove and spare stove parts kit
- 1.75 l. white gas total (one 1 liter container, one 0.75 liter container, one with stove connector/pump)
- 2 cook pots, handle
- 2 plastic bowls, 2 spoons, 1 fork
- 2 insulated coffee mugs
- drip coffee filter
- matches and lighters
- 1 oz Ivory liquid and scrubby sponge
- water bottles
- King handheld radio
- ELT
- Strobe light
- Nikon binoculars
- Canon instant 35 mm camera, 7 rolls of film (4.5 used)
- Plant press
- Small first aid kit
- Journals, pens, sketch pad, book
- Head lamps
- Sewing kit, sewing awl
- Maps
- Compass
- Personal clothing
- Personal toilet articles
- Food packed in bear barrels

Meshik Lake:

- 30 gallon bear barrel
- Dry bag
- Spillsbury SSB radio and antenna (borrow from USFWS)
- Plant press
- Hultene - Alaska Flora, National Geographic bird guide, Animal sign book
- Collapsible fishing pole and tackle
- Flying pan
- Trowel
- water filter, Katadyn
- Plastic bags
- Additional food
- Spare clothes
- VE24 tent
- Hip waders
- Thermal lounge