

Denali National Park and Preserve  
Division of Research and Resource Preservation

**Resources Report for April 2001**

---

The lands and waters encompassed by Denali National Park and Preserve's boundaries provide outstanding examples of subarctic and mountain landscapes, wildlife, and vegetation in relatively pristine condition. In addition, Denali has rich cultural resources of historical and archaeological significance, and ongoing subsistence ways of life. The Division of Research and Resource Preservation is charged with understanding and managing these 9,400 square miles to insure these Park resources and associated subsistence activities are unimpaired as a lasting legacy for future generations.

What has the Division done recently in carrying out this charge? Below is a synopsis of important inventory, monitoring, research, management, education, and administrative activities that have occupied the resource management staff during the month of April 2001.

---

**Selected Resource Highlights for April:**

---

Nesting golden eagles (page 2).  
New landcover map of Denali (page 2, page 9)  
Snow depth in April (page 4)  
Glaciers surging (pages 4-5)  
First sound monitoring station installed (page 5)  
Denali Subsistence Resource Commission Meeting (page 6)  
Photographing the stagecoach once used at Savage Camp (page 7)  
Integrating monitoring of passerine birds and vegetation (page 7)  
Earth day at Denali (page 10)  
Training for helicopter flights (page 11)  
Participation at George Wright Society meeting (page 12)  
Staff changes (page 13-14)

---

**For more information about Denali National Park and Preserve's resources and their protection and management, please contact:**

**Gordon Olson, Chief  
Division of Research and Resource Protection  
Denali National Park and Preserve  
P.O. Box 9  
Denali Park, AK 99755  
(907) 683-2294**

**Gordon\_Olson@nps.gov**

## Resources Report for April 2001

---

<u>I. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</u>	1
<u>Wildlife</u>	1
<u>Vegetation</u>	2
<u>Fire</u>	3
<u>II. PHYSICAL RESOURCES</u>	3
<u>Meteorology</u>	3
<u>Snow Studies</u>	4
<u>Glaciology</u>	4
<u>Soils</u>	5
<u>Soundscape</u>	5
<u>Minerals</u>	5
<u>III. SUBSISTENCE AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>	6
<u>Subsistence</u>	6
<u>Cultural Resources</u>	6
<u>IV. SOCIAL SCIENCES</u>	7
<u>V. MONITORING, INVENTORY, AND RESEARCH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT</u>	7
<u>Monitoring</u>	7
<u>Research</u>	8
<u>VI. PROGRAM SUPPORT</u>	9
<u>Information Resource Management</u>	9
<u>Planning and Compliance</u>	10
<u>Outreach and Interdivisional Activities</u>	10
<u>Training and Meetings</u>	11
<u>Division Administration</u>	13

---

## Resources Report for April 2001

### I. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

#### Wildlife

##### **Wolves**

Division staff continued to address the **three research-related wolf mortalities** that occurred in late March. Panelists have been selected to review the circumstances surrounding the deaths, and to recommend any actions necessary to prevent wolf mortalities during or following immobilization and capture in the future. Gordon Olson, Resources Division Chief; Ralph Tingey, Acting Park Superintendent; and five other panelists will meet on May 4, 2001 in Anchorage. Results of that review will be forthcoming.

When Gordon Olson was out of the Park, Pat Owen was the designated Park point of contact for the wolf mortality issue. Pat was kept busy with the logistics of investigating the mortalities, correspondence, meetings, and staff briefings. On April 6 Pat gave a **wolf issue update** to Park staff during a brown-bag lunch. Approximately a dozen Park staff attended including Susan Boudreau, Lucy Tyrrell, and Shan Burson.

[For related wolf information, see also Subsistence.]

##### **Bears**

###### *Research*

Each year the Alaska Department of Fish and Game requires an annual activity report from those holding permits to capture bears on state land. To fulfill Denali's obligation to the state, Pat Owen relayed to the state the capture summary from the park's bear project in 2000. Some black and grizzly bears were captured on the south side of the Alaska Range outside the park.

###### *Management*

To promote safety in bear country, all park and concessions employees receive annual **bear safety training**. Wildlife Management Technicians Ed Vorisek and Jason Ransom are preparing and presenting these bear information and safety sessions. So far, they have provided training programs to the Communications/Dispatch staff and to bus maintenance staff at the Denali Park Hotel. They will continue to schedule training sessions into May and June.

Jason Ransom and Ed Vorisek have begun **posting boundaries of wildlife closures**. Jason, Ed, and Kahlil Wilson have been inventorying supplies on hand and ordering any needs for the season, including signs and brochures.

## **Birds**

**Golden eagle and gyrfalcon surveys** (aerial portion) were conducted in Denali on April 24-26. During the flights, Carol McIntyre made observations at 74 golden eagle and 11 gyrfalcon nesting areas. Nearly all the nesting areas are occupied and at least 75% of all territorial pairs have laid eggs. Park visitors and park employees will have many opportunities to view golden eagles and gyrfalcons along the park road this summer. Ground surveys to determine nesting success and productivity will be conducted in July.

[See also Long-term Ecological Monitoring.]

## **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**

Since bear-deterrent pepper sprays are registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), national parks in Alaska are required to submit a **Pesticide Use Proposal** each year to cover the purchase and use of bear spray. To eliminate the need for such proposals by each park unit in Alaska, Pat Owen (in her role as IPM Coordinator for the Region) submitted a coordinated proposal covering all Alaska parks. Approval was received for the purchase and use of the 6 brands of sprays currently registered with EPA.

## **Vegetation**

The final version of the **landcover map of Denali** was relayed to the park on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Jess Grunblatt, landcover mapping coordinator for the Alaska Region, and Keith Boggs of the Alaska Natural Heritage Program visited Denali and presented their products: a GIS layer, a map printout, and a manual to interpret the map. This new tool is a major addition to Denali's resource maps and basic ecological information about the Park. The landcover map has already been put to use in several different applications, and will become more valuable as we learn some of the finer points of how to use and interpret it.

The parks in the Central Alaska Network (CAN) will benefit from the skills of a **Botanist devoted to the CAN plant inventory project**. Carl Roland formed a committee to join him in reviewing applications for this term position. To further cooperation related to plant specimens collected in the CAN parks during the inventory project, Carl prepared a modification to the existing cooperative agreement between the parks and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Museum.

Carl Roland continued **data entry and cataloging of plants** collected in 2000.

[See also Long-term Ecological Monitoring.]

## **Fire**

Efforts continue to **hire seasonal staff**. Due to the nationwide increase in seasonal and permanent fire positions, there is tremendous competition for the available work force. Numerous offers for Denali positions have been made but all have been declined. Jan Passek has briefed John Cataldo and Larry Weddle, back after their winter furlough, and they have been scheduling tasks for this summer.

In her shared role as Fire Management Officer for **other park units in Alaska**, Jan Passek and her fire staff worked with both the Western Alaska Park group (Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, and Noatak National Preserve) and Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

Larry Weddle is preparing to travel to Kotzebue, part of the Western Alaska Park group (Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, and Noatak National Preserve) to conduct a **baseline inventory** of allotments and other sites relevant to Fire Management. Larry Weddle is also making preliminary plans to travel to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve to assist in the logistics of **cultural resource surveys** and to conduct **boat baseline inventories** of allotments on Lake Clark.

John Cataldo is coordinating the **scheduling of the helicopter** for the summer field season and working on an interim solution to the anticipated jet fuel shortage at McKinley airstrip. John Cataldo is also the course coordinator for the upcoming week-long helicopter training course (S-217) and the basic wildland firefighting course (S-130/190) which will be presented at Denali this spring.

## **II. PHYSICAL RESOURCES**

### **Meteorology**

Here is a **March weather summary** for Denali Headquarters (HQ).

---

March Weather at Denali National Park and Preserve Headquarters

Maximum Temperature:	42° F
Minimum Temperature:	-19° F
Average Temperature:	15.6° F
Total Precipitation:	0.37 (inches)
Total Snowfall Amount:	6.45 (inches)
Snow on Ground at end of month:	17 (inches)

---

Record High Temperature for March: 56° F - March 1, 1938

Record Low Temperature for March: -47° F - March 7, 1971

April **requests for weather data** were:

- Phil Brease, Resource Management, Denali – Needed precipitation data from 1997 – 2000 for correlation of weather with slump movement.
- Martha Tomeo, Education Specialist, Denali – Requested copies of the 75-Year Denali Weather Record for 2 teachers at Tri-Valley School in Healy.

In order to get “**real-time**” **weather data** from various park locations, Pam Sousanes and Guy Adema are working out the details to upgrade the automated weather stations with satellite technology that would transmit current data to an office computer.

### Snow Studies

**Data on snow depth and density in the Broad Pass area** (east side of park accessible from the Parks Highway) are continuing to be collected by Pam Sousanes, Guy Adema, Phil Brease, and Jeff Yanuchi (Ranger Division). There were two trips in April to five established sites. The snow depths for a trip on April 24<sup>th</sup> trip ranged from 25.5 inches in Cantwell Creek to 74 inches on the flats between Cantwell Creek and Bull River.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) cooperative **snow survey** was completed this month by Pam Sousanes and Guy Adema. As of April 27<sup>th</sup> on the north side of the Alaska Range, at Kantishna and Purkey Pile sites, there were still two feet of snow; at Lake Minchumina and the Headquarters sites, there was only patchy snow. On the south side of the Range, the average depth from the five sites ranged from 34 to 86 inches with an average snow depth of 60 inches (5 feet) still remaining.

For the study on the **effects of snow compaction**, Shan Burson added the last compactions of the season (making a known number of snowmobile passes over the same known location). This study is documenting the impacts of snowmobile compaction on soil temperature and on plants (possible damage to stems, etc. and timing of leaf out). Shan Burson introduced Carl Roland’s new staff to the study and site. They will take over monitoring the phenology of snow melt and plant growth.

Hollis Twitchell piloted several **aerial surveys of snowmobile and wildlife activity**.

### Glaciology

Guy Adema, Phil Brease, and Susan Boudreau met with Lary Mayo from the United States Geological Survey (retired). He presented the final report from a seven-year contract to establish the **glacier monitoring protocols**. Guy and Phil are reviewing the document.

In mid-February, flightseeing pilots from Talkeetna began to notice a **surge on the Tokositna Glacier**. In late March, the surge was quite obvious and monitoring efforts began. Guy Adema conducted an aerial survey of the surge on April 19 and found that the surge is larger than any

previously observed surges on the Tokositna Glacier. The surge extends from near the head of the glacier to within two miles of the terminus. Guy has been in contact with Lary Mayo and Dennis Trebant, U. S. Geological Survey, and Keith Echelmeyer, University of Alaska – Fairbanks, to develop a monitoring strategy. Roger Robinson from the Talkeetna Ranger Station has also been very helpful with observations. In coordination with a scheduled snow survey, another flight was made with Guy, Roger, and Kevin Moore (NPS-Talkeetna) on April 29. The change between April 19 and April 29 was obvious. Fieldwork is planned for early May and a website describing what a surge is, what it means, and details of the Tokositna surge will be available soon. Reports were made on KTUU, the Anchorage Daily News, the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, Channel 11, and National Public Radio. While assessing the Tokositna Glacier, we found that the **Lacuna Glacier also is surging.**

### **Soils**

Mark Clark from the Natural Resource Conservation Service presented an **update of the soil mapping project** to Denali staff. This will be his fifth year of the six year project that will provide a comprehensive survey of the soil properties within Denali National Park. Guy Adema is working with Mark and Pete Biggam, the NPS soil science coordinator, on this summer's logistics and field plan.

### **Soundscape**

The first **sound monitoring station** is now in place in the Dunkle Hills (near Broad Pass on the south side of the Alaska Range). Shan Burson, with the assistance of Kahlil Wilson, installed the station. The sound station will gather sound data in this location for at least one year, including snowmobile noise for the remainder of this “winter” season.

### **Minerals**

Discussions on mining claim sampling and associated **claim validity issues** have been ongoing between Phil Brease, Steve Carwile, Ralph Tingey, Russ Kucinsky (Alaska Support Office) and Lisa Toussaint (Department of Interior - Solicitors Office). The primary topics regard a Plan of Operations that was submitted by Northwest Explorations (NWEX) for placer claims on Rainy and Spruce Creeks. A draft letter to NWEX is circulating for review. The letter outlines aspects of allowable sampling on those claims.

The **volume of mining claim samples taken from Glacier, Friday, and Yellow Pup Creeks** by the claimant was calculated by Phil Brease. He relied on 2000 field data to make the estimate. The volume data were made available for the Alaska Support Office – Minerals Group to use in trial testimony when describing the property. According to Phil's calculation, last year the claimant extracted and processed some 894 cubic yards of material at 83 sample sites.

### III. SUBSISTENCE AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

#### Subsistence

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held to brief Regional Director Rob Arnberger and the Director's staff on **Denali wolf issues**. Layne Adams (U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Biological Sciences Center) presented biological information regarding his wolf and caribou research at Denali, and discussed the recent mortalities of wolves from the Toklat, Sanctuary and Otter Creek packs. Hollis Twitchell presented wolf-relevant information regarding ANILCA mandates and subsistence use at Denali. Hollis also discussed the Park's coordination and consultation with the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission and the Federal Regional Councils regarding Federal Proposal #11. **Proposal #11** requests the closure of park lands in the Stampede Road area to the subsistence taking of wolves. The proposal was submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance.

Rural residents who had been nominated to the **Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council** were reviewed by the **2001 Interagency Review Panel** on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hollis Twitchell participated in this review. Title VIII of ANILCA is important in "enabling rural residents who have a personal knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have a meaningful role" in subsistence management. The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council is one of the Federal Regional Advisory Councils set up to advise the Federal Subsistence Board regarding subsistence fishing and hunting on Federal Public lands.

The **Denali Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC)** met at the McKinley Village Community Center on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Topics were:

- Denali Backcountry Management Plan (main agenda item). Several motions and recommendations were passed regarding protecting opportunities for traditional subsistence use and reducing potential conflicts with recreational users and activities.
- Federal Subsistence Management Program Updates (discussions on recent Regional Advisory Councils actions and recommendations from the Customary Trade working group).

Agency Reports (updates on the wolf issues, Spruce 4 acquisition, and North Access legislation).

Approval by Commission of a Denali SRC Hunting Plan proposal. The proposal would establish a 3-year residency requirement for the Cantwell Resident Zone. This residency requirement in Cantwell would have to be met before new residents would be eligible to use subsistence resources from the park.

#### Cultural Resources

The Cultural Resource staff is working to produce a video which will show what a trip along the

**park road in the late 1920s and 1930s** would have been like. Jane Bryant listened to oral history recordings from the Denali Archives and identified sections that will be useful to narrate the video. Jane Bryant worked with Jane Tranel to flesh out the basic outline and script of the video, and gathered information to use (they reviewed historical still photographs and movie footage from the 1920s & 30s).

**How the park road was built** will be the focus of a new Powerpoint program Jane Bryant is developing. So far, she has been scanning historical photos and formulating ideas. The program will also showcase the historical administrative buildings

In the 1950s, two **stagecoaches that were previously in use at Savage Camp** were moved to the lawn at Park Headquarters, then to the lawn in front of the McKinley Park Hotel, then to Berle Mercer, who sold them to the current owner. This month, Candy Waugaman took Ann Kain and Jane Bryant to see the two stagecoaches. Jane researched their history and found a number of historic photographs showing the coaches in operation. One stagecoach labeled #103 is easily recognized.

The new **Kantishna Mining History interpretive panel** is now set up at the Visitor Center. Ann Kain and Jane Bryant set up the panel where it will be for the season.

#### **IV. SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**Traffic counters** were installed by Shan Burson on the Park Road at 2 ½ mile, 7 mile, and just beyond the Savage River at 15 mile to monitor early season road traffic. These counters are in addition to the permanent installation at the Park Road entrance. The other 7 counters will be installed as the road is cleared of snow.

#### **V. MONITORING, INVENTORY, AND RESEARCH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

##### **Monitoring**

##### ***Denali's Long-term Ecological Monitoring Program***

Preparations for this **field season of bird monitoring** were made as Carol McIntyre coordinated logistics with the Alaska Bird Observatory and Institute of Bird Population Studies.

A new approach that **combines monitoring passerine birds and vegetation** will be piloted at two sites this summer. Carol McIntyre and Carl Roland are working on a sampling design for the pilot study to test the effectiveness of integrating these monitoring components. Jon Paynter is also involved with the sampling design and has provided GIS support for site selection.

## Research

### *Research communications*

**How many large mammals are there** in Denali? A new fact sheet presents population estimates for bear, wolves, moose, caribou, and Dall sheep. Written by Lucy Tyrrell from information obtained from wildlife biologists working in the Park, this fact sheet was developed to distribute to Park Staff, including interpreters, tour and shuttle bus drivers, and naturalists working at private lodges.

This month the frequent **exchanges of information**, exploration of ideas, interactions, and discussions, included conversations about...

- **Molecular genetics study of Arctic Warblers.** Carol McIntyre spoke with Dr. Mutsuyuki J. Ueta of the Research Center of the Wild Bird Society of Japan on possible cooperation.
- Nesting site fidelity and population dynamics of golden eagles** using molecular genetics. Carol McIntyre and Dr. Sandra Talbot, U. S. Geological Survey, Alaska Biological Science Center, completed a study design for studying golden eagles in Denali.
- Laser profiles of selected glaciers.** Guy Adema has been in contact with Keith Echelmeyer, University of Alaska – Fairbanks about his research on park glaciers this May and August.
- Snow stratigraphy project.** Guy Adema has coordinated with snow scientists from the University of Colorado at Boulder who will conduct research in May in Little Switzerland. They may use their equipment to determine the location of buried waste in the vicinity of the 7000' base camp.
- Ozone data.** Pam Sousanes worked with Steve Lloyd and Gordon LaBow from Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory to sort through Denali's ozone data collected for the Fairbanks ozone campaign mentioned in last month's report.
- Data sharing and treeline research.** Pam Sousanes has been in contact with Martin Wilmking of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks to discuss his treeline research project in Rock Creek, and to collaborate on data sharing.

### *Research administration*

During April, seven **applications to conduct research at Denali** were submitted via the new **Research Permit and Reporting System (RPRS)**. Lucy Tyrrell checked in the proposals (new ones and renewals) from the website, facilitated their review by appropriate resources staff, and continued to field questions from investigators and staff about this new web-based system. The website is: <http://science.nature.nps.gov/research>. The projects (and application dates) are:

- The relationship between acute mountain sickness and rating of perceived exertion in climbers on

Mount McKinley 4/4

Dynamics of wolf-prey systems and wolf societies in the Denali region of Alaska 4/6

- Upgrade to the meteorological station at Mt. McKinley, 4/6

Study of the paleontology of the Mount Dall conglomerate, Denali National Park, 4/13

Airborne laser profiling of glacier surface elevation, 4/19

Pulsed radar and the detection of snow characteristics, 4/20

Denali seismic monitoring sites, 4/24

**Investigator's Annual Reports (IARs)** were due on March 31 from investigators who had conducted studies in the park during 2000. Lucy Tyrrell reviewed and "checked in" those reports for 2000 that were submitted on the web system by that date. Reports for Denali projects and other projects Servicewide can be viewed on the NPS website:

<http://science.nature.nps.gov/research>.

The website can be used to sort all project summaries by year, Park, or key words in the project title.

## VI. PROGRAM SUPPORT

### Information Resource Management

#### ◆ **Data Management**

To the extent possible, the **individual project databases** for the Denali Long-Term Ecological Monitoring project will be compiled and integrated by Sharon Kim before her departure for Zion. She has finished compiling and integrating most of the data for raptors, small mammals, pre-1999 vegetation, breeding bird surveys, and invertebrates.

#### ◆ **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

##### *GIS information*

Metadata (information about how data were collected, by whom, when, etc.) are now being prepared Servicewide to standards set by the FGDC. Jon Paynter worked to update and prepare new **FGDC-compliant metadata** for Denali's Geographic Information System (GIS) themes that have been updated over the last year. These data were submitted to the Alaska Region Support Office GIS group for inclusion in their permanent dataset (PDS).

The park received the final **Landcover Mapping Project digital data** and updates to the soils inventory dataset. The landcover data includes several versions of the landcover map at various resolutions, the satellite imagery mosaic that was used to prepare the final product, a data viewer for examining the field data and relating it to the spatial data, and digital versions of the manuals.

The **draft soils map** now covers approximately 80% of the park. The south side of the Alaska Range and the far western portion of the park remain to be surveyed. Jon Paynter worked to consolidate the data received to date and to include them in the Arcview Theme Manager.

### Planning and Compliance

The Environmental Assessment, which was written for the proposed installation of a **seismic repeater on Double Mountain**, has been reviewed by the regional office. Guy Adema received the comments made by regional office staff.

A draft **Park Aviation Management Plan** is undergoing parkwide review. Division staff that reviewed the plan and provided comments were Jane Bryant, Carol McIntyre, Pat Owen, and Jan Passek.

To complete the update to the **Gravel Acquisition Plan**, Phil Brease has been writing and editing numerous planning documents. He has worked on the Statement of Work to finalize the requirements for contract.

Work continues on the **hazard fuel** environment assessment.

The draft **vegetation plan for the cultural landscape rehab** plan was forwarded to park staff for review.

### Outreach and Interdivisional Activities

This year bus drivers, interpreters, and other park staff will again receive a **summary of current resource management projects in the park**. Sharon Kim is compiling project summary statements to provide to the Denali Parks and Resorts (DPR) concessionaire. The goal is to include this information in the packets given to bus drivers. The summaries is also being distributed to all park staff so everyone is aware of the projects that are occurring this year.

At **Earth Day celebrations** held in the Park on April 22, the following activities were offered by resource management staff:

- “Skulls and Skins” table where children and adults learned about mammals that live in the Park (Pat Owen)  
Bear biology and safe living in bear country where bear topics were communicated with a diorama of cabin and food cache (Jason Ransom and Ed Vorisek)  
“Firewise” booth where students were quizzed on how to prevent wildfires while adults were given information on fireproofing their homes.

Some of the resources staff provided these **school programs**:

- Phil Brease led Sonia Schmits’ 8<sup>th</sup> grade class on a geology field trip to locations in

- Healy, the “Canyon”, and in the park.
- Hollis Twitchell flew Martha Tomeo and Shari Quinn (both from Interpretation Division) to Nikolai and McGrath for School Outreach programs. (Shari Quinn also provided an evening program for Nikolai residents).

Hollis Twitchell met with **Nikolai Tribal Council** members and provided them with copies of the recently completed Denali Ethnographic Overview and Assessment; and the Village Histories for Nikolai, Telida, Cantwell, Tanana and Lake Minchumina.

The **Savage Tourist Camp** (an important Mt. McKinley Park destination from 1923 to 1939) came alive again on April 26. That is, Jane Bryant shared historical vignettes of the Camp through a Powerpoint presentation at Park Headquarters for park staff, bus drivers, and interested community members. In keeping with the historical focus, Jane also included a viewing of the **Historical Road Trip**, a show utilizing “old” photographs taken at locations along the road.

Jane Bryant reviewed and commented on successive drafts of the **exhibit plans for the Fannie Quigley house** in Kantishna. Jane provided photographs and review comments for a training program about the history of National Park Service concessions. Jane wrote a brief history of the McKinley Park Hotel for the park concessionaire, illustrating it with historical photos.

Denali’s golden **eagle research may fly on airwaves** this summer. Carol McIntyre spoke with reporter Steve MacDonald who plans to write an eagle research story that will hopefully be broadcast this summer on KTTU-Anchorage.

Phil Brease responded to three requests for **geologic information**.

There will be an **all-employees orientation** meeting on May 21. Park staff from each Division convened several times in May to plan a mix of speakers, safety training, and fun activities. Lucy Tyrrell and Gina Moreno were the Resource representatives to these planning meetings.

## **Training and Meetings**

### ◆ Training

An **Incident Command System** (ICS 200) class was conducted in the Park. Jan Passek served as lead instructor and Larry Weddle served as unit instructor. There were 27 students attending including Gina Moreno, EMS personnel from Cantwell and six people from Denali Park Resorts.

Various trainings related to **fire and helicopter training** were held:

- S-217, Helicopter crew member training in Fairbanks (Carol McIntyre, Jane Bryant, Ed Vorisek, Jason Ransom, Kahlil Wilson)
- S-317, Helicopter manager training in Fairbanks (Guy Adema, Larry Weddle, and John

Cataldo)

S-230, Single Resource Boss course in Fairbanks (John Cataldo)

- M-411, Facilitative Instructor training designed to help instructors teach fire-related courses (John Cataldo and Larry Weddle)

Several members of the resources staff (Pat Owen, Andrea Blakesley, Kahlil Wilson, Guy Adema, Phil Brease, Ken Karle, Gordon Olson, Ann Kain, and Jon Paynter) attended training on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and how our Director's Order 12 provides guidance when reviewing operations for **compliance with NEPA**.

The Park has a new software program called **Portfolio** to manage its extensive photo collection. To learn how to use the program, Pat Owen and Jane Bryant attended Portfolio training.

Phil Brease attended a **Contracting Officers Representative** refresher course in Anchorage on April 17.

Gina Moreno attended **budget training**, facilitated by Lois Alice (administration). Gina also attended a week of training in Fairbanks at Ft. Wainwright to learn the financial and administrative part of the Incident Command System (ICS).

Jan Passek attended two in-park training sessions (**Workman's Compensation and Facilitation Instruction**).

#### ◆ Meetings

A **Resources Division meeting** for information sharing and decision-making was held on April 12.

Attending the **George Wright Society meeting**, April 16-20, in Denver, Colorado were several resources staff members-- Pam Sousanes, Andrea Blakesley, Lucy Tyrrell, Sharon Kim, Hollis Twitchell, and Gordon Olson. Two presentations were made by resource staff:

- Sharon Kim's talk was "**Providing park and resource management information to the visiting public via the transportation concessionaire** at Denali Park and Preserve". When the power point technology failed, she was able to recover using her backup slides. Several people asked to see the bus driver/resource management information packet.
- Hollis Twitchell presented a paper on "**Living cultures, subsistence and the inhabited wilderness** as part of a panel/symposium on the "Management of Alaska National Parks in the New Millennium: Crossing Boundaries to Implement the Vision". Other Denali staff and the Regional Director, Rob Arneberger, were panelists.

Gordon Olson attended a meeting of the **Servicewide Risk Management Advisory Group** held in Omaha, NB. A major topic of discussion was revision of the Servicewide Risk Management Strategic Plan.

Andrea Blakesley represented Alaska parks at a **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** Workshop steering committee meeting in mid-April. The workshop will be held in Seattle this June.

Shan Burson attended the **International Military Noise Conference** in Baltimore. This conference addressed environmental concerns with military and civilian overflights and was a good forum for contact with other NPS staff working with sound studies.

Shan Burson represented Denali National Park and Alaska at the NPS-sponsored **Snowmobile Impacts on Wildlife Workshop** in Denver. The objectives of the workshop were to compile monitoring protocols and research questions to address management questions and concerns. Proceedings and a list of monitoring protocols will be published.

Hollis Twitchell attended (by teleconference) the monthly NPS **Subsistence Advisory Council** meeting.

### **Division Administration**

#### ◆ Reports and Files

Janie Lasell oriented Gina Moreno to Administrative Finance System II (AFS) and shared her expertise on Travel Vouchers, Federal Personnel Payroll System (FPPS), Purchase Order Forms (Form DI-1), and many other aspects of her job. Gina handled the **paperwork for seasonal staff** as they began work.

In preparation for the 2001 Dandelion Deveg Project (digging dandelions to remove this exotic species), Gina Moreno sent out **100 letters to past volunteers**. Gina called approximately 60 people who responded expressing interest, and so far 40 have committed to participating during June 12-15 and June 19-22.

#### ◆ Miscellaneous Items

The necropsy laboratory at park headquarters, which currently doubles as a lunchroom, is being redesigned by Andrea Blakesley and Mary Tidlow as part of a construction project that will convert the old carpenter shop into much-needed office space. The **new lab** will have an upgraded electrical system, more efficient work and storage space, and a space to accommodate a mini-kitchen in a wide hallway adjacent to the lab.

#### ◆ Personnel

Budget Assistant. This position is new to the Division. We would like to welcome Janie Lasell to the position. She is transferring to the Resources Division from the Interpretive Division. She began work for Resources on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Wildlife Biologist. Gordon Olson reviewed the applications for this position and began checking references for some candidates. Reference checks are expected to be complete in a couple of weeks.

Fire Management Officer. Jan Passek has accepted a new position with the National Park Service working for the Intermountain Regional Office stationed in Santa Fe, NM. Her new duties will focus on implementing federal fire policy and the coordination of hazard fuel reduction and urban/wildland interface programs . She leaves Denali at the end of May.

Seasonal Staff for Botany Program. Denali welcomed three summer employees to the Botany Program staff:

- ❖ summer seasonal botanists
  - James Walton, a graduate student from Western Washington University, was working on a cryptogam inventory of Olympic National Park for the past couple of years. Jedediah Brodie, worked on a vegetation mapping crew at Sequoia National Park last summer. He'll be starting a doctoral program in Botany at the University of Washington in the fall.
- ❖ summer field crew member
  - Olga Helmy will be working on the dataset catalog and on entomological projects. Olga holds a Master's degree in entomology from Kansas State University.

Wildlife Management Technicians. Ed Vorisek (permanent subject to furlough) and Jason Ransom (seasonal employee) returned for another season at Denali beginning April 9. This year is Ed's seventh and Jason's second as "bear techs".

Fire Personnel. Larry Weddle, John Cataldo began their summer season on April 2. This is Larry's third summer, and John's second at Denali. Both are now permanent employees subject to furlough.

Physical Science Technicians. Phil Brease has hired two physical science technicians for the 2001 season. Trent Hubbard will start on May 14, and Andy Irvine will begin on May 29.

Geologic Society of America (GSA) intern. Chad Hults is the GSA intern Phil Brease hired for 2001. Chad will start working on June 4.

◆ Budget

Division staff members completed a series of **proposals using the Project Management Information System (PMIS)**, in order to obtain funding. Comments on the proposals were solicited from a number of others in the Region. As of April 20, PMIS was closed to project entry. National review panels will be convened to consider the top-ranking proposals advanced

from each Region.

To streamline budget tracking, Pat Owen and Jan Passek compiled a **protocol for the proper handling of charges for aircraft use.**

---

**Research and Resource Preservation (Resources) Division staff members are:**

Guy Adema, Andrea Blakesley, Susan Boudreau, Phil Brease, Jedediah Brodie, Jane Bryant, S. Burson, J. Cataldo, Olga Helmy Ann Kain, Sharon Kim, Janie Lasell, Carol McIntyre, Gina Moreno, Gordon Olson, Pat Owen, Jan Passek, Jon Paynter, Carl Roland, Pam Sousanes, Hollis Twitchell, Lucy Tyrrell, Ed Vorisek, James Walton, Larry Weddle, Kahlil Wilson, Jennifer Wolk.

---

This month's report was edited by Lucy Tyrrell.