



State of the Park Report

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Alaska



'Come Up and See Us Sometime...'

April 2013

On the cover: Martin Itjen (Stampeder, Undertaker, Ford Dealer, Wood-Cutter, Tourist Promoter and Preservationist) and Mae West (Actress) in Hollywood in front of Martin's Skagway Street Car No. 2 (Nothing Like It In The World!). In 1935 Martin Itjen traveled down the West Coast of the United States telling his Klondike Gold Rush stories in movie theaters and promoting various products eventually ending up in Hollywood all in an attempt to boost Skagway tourism in the midst of the Great Depression. It Worked! Martin Itjen died in 1942 leaving a wealth of historic artifacts and buildings to friend George Rapuzzi, who preserved Martin's legacy until the NPS acquired the collection and buildings from the Rasmuson Foundation in 2008. (Credit: George & Edna Rapuzzi Collection, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Inventory # 00159, Gift of the Rasmuson Foundation).

Disclaimer. This State of the Park report summarizes the current condition of park resources, visitor experience, and park infrastructure as assessed by a combination of available factual information and the expert opinion and professional judgment of park staff and subject matter experts. The [internet version](#) of this report provides the associated workshop summary report and additional details and sources of information about the findings summarized in the report, including references, accounts on the origin and quality of the data, and the methods and analytic approaches used in data collection and assessments of condition. This report provides evaluations of status and trends based on interpretation by NPS scientists and managers of both quantitative and non-quantitative assessments and observations. Future condition ratings may differ from findings in this report as new data and knowledge become available. The park superintendent approved the publication of this report.

Executive Summary

The mission of the National Park Service (NPS) is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of national parks for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. [NPS Management Policies \(2006\)](#) state that “The Service will also strive to ensure that park resources and values are passed on to future generations in a condition that is as good as, or better than, the conditions that exist today.” As part of the stewardship of national parks for the American people, the NPS has begun to develop State of the Park reports to assess the overall status and trends of each park’s resources. The State of the Park report uses a standardized approach to focus attention on the priority resources and values of the park based on the park’s purpose and significance, as described in the park’s Foundation Document. The report summarizes and communicates the overall condition of priority park resources and values based on the available scientific and scholarly information and expert opinion, irrespective of the ability of the park superintendent or the national park Service to influence it. The NPS will use this information to improve park priority setting and to synthesize and communicate complex park condition information to the public in a clear and simple way.

The purpose of this State of the Park report is to:

- Provide to visitors and the American public a snapshot of the status and trend in the condition of a park’s priority resources and values;
- Summarize and communicate complex scientific, scholarly, and park operations factual information and expert opinion using non-technical language and a visual format;
- Highlight park stewardship activities and accomplishments to maintain or improve the State of the Park;
- Identify key issues and challenges facing the park to help inform park management planning.






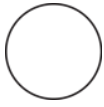



“Gold!” is what the headlines read in 1897, starting the Klondike Gold Rush. Thousands, hoping to ease the woes of economic depression, sold farms, dropped businesses, and boarded ships to follow their dreams north. Today, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (KLGO) commemorates the bravery of the stampeders who voyaged north by protecting the trails, historic boomtowns and buildings of the Klondike Gold Rush era. The purpose of KLGO is to preserve in public ownership for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States, the historic structures, trails, artifacts and landscapes and stories associated with the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898.

Significance statements express why the park unit’s resources and values are important enough to warrant national park unit designation. KLGO is significant because the park:







- Commemorates a great human drama that caught the attention of the world, and transformed the demographics, culture, and environment of Alaska and the Yukon.
- Preserves an integral link in a ribbon of sites that connects the places, events, and resources of the Gold Rush, extending across the international border from Seattle to Dawson and beyond.
- Provides outstanding and diverse opportunities for visitors to retrace the steps of the gold rush stampeders, and in so doing, gain personal insight into the motivations, adversities, impacts and significance of the event.
- Fosters preservation of the resources within two National Historical Landmarks of two principal American boomtowns of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897–1898, the most popular routes to the Klondike gold fields, and the most vivid reminders of the struggle and determination of the stampeders.
- Fosters an understanding of the physical and biological processes and associated unique flora and fauna of the Northern Lynn Canal, where subarctic, alpine, coastal and boreal ecosystems converge within the Taiya and Skagway river valleys.







The summary table, below, and the supporting information that follows, provides an overall assessment of the condition of priority resources and values at KLGO based on scientific and scholarly studies and expert opinion. The internet version of this report, available at <http://www.nps.gov/stateoftheparks/klgo/>, provides additional detail and sources of information about the resources summarized in this report, including references, accounts on the origin and quality of the data, and the methods and analytical approaches used in the assessments.








The Status and Trend symbols used in the summary table below and throughout this report are summarized in the following key. The background color represents the current condition status, the direction of the arrow summarizes the trend in condition, and the thickness of the outside line represents the degree of confidence in the assessment.






Condition Status		Trend in Condition		Confidence in Assessment	
	Warrants Significant Concern		Condition is Improving		High
	Warrants Moderate Concern		Condition is Unchanging		Medium
	Resource is in Good Condition		Condition is Deteriorating		Low

State of the Park Summary Table

Priority Resource or Value	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Natural Resources web ▶		
Climate		Annual average high and low temperatures in Skagway have increased during the 110-year period of record from 1898 to 2010. Lows are increasing at a rate of 1.9 ± 0.4 °F/century, and highs are increasing at a rate of 1.2 ± 0.7 °F/century.
Air Quality		Concentrations of nitrogen, sulfur, and lead from lichens (which are sensitive receptors for air pollution and are used worldwide as biomonitors of air quality) in the Chilkoot Unit of the park are well below thresholds of concern, but some samples in the Skagway Unit exceed the thresholds for sulfur and lead.
Geologic Resources		The land near the mouth of the Taiya River is rising at ≈ 1.8 cm/year, which is causing incised rivers, over steepened banks, and threatening the historic townsite of Dyea and park infrastructure.
Water Quantity and Quality		Water chemistry and streamflow measurements for the Taiya River that flows through the park are consistent with a healthy glacially-influenced river.
Freshwater and Marine Contaminants		Measurements of mercury, PCBs, and DDT in tissues of salmon taken from the Taiya River, and mercury concentrations in streambed sediments, are well below any thresholds of concern for human health or aquatic organisms. Monitoring of PCBs, PAH, and mercury contaminant levels in bay mussels has found that the nearshore marine environment adjacent to the Chilkoot Unit and Taiya River delta is extremely clean.
Flora		KLGO has one of the highest numbers of lichenized and lichenicolous fungus species per unit area ever reported, with 766 recorded taxa within its 53 km ² area. The 2010 study discovered one lichen genus, four lichen species, and one species of lichenicolous fungus that were new to science, and added 196 taxa to the list of those known for Alaska. In 2012, 21 acres in the park were infested with invasive plant species. Tomentoses root disease, gall rust, and needle disease have been found in lodgepole pine in the Dyea town site area.

Priority Resource or Value	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Fauna		The number of boreal toads (<i>Bufo borealis</i>) found in the park during 2010–2012 indicates an increase in breeding activity, but overall numbers are low compared to previous years, and chytrid fungus disease has been found in the toad population. A recent species list published by the Skagway Bird Club (2010) documented 201 bird species. The number of breeding bird species and bird diversity in recent years using three monitoring methods appears to be consistent with values reported since each survey began. KLGO is an important stop-over site for migratory coastal birds before they fly further north to their breeding grounds, with a greater number of species observed in the spring compared to summer and fall.
Cultural Resources web ►		
Archaeological Resources		Forty (40) of the 48 (83%) known archaeological sites in the park are in good condition. 70% of the 48 recorded sites in the park are adequately documented for National Register purposes. Surface archaeological surveys with limited testing have been completed for Dyea and the Chilkoot Trail Unit. Extensive archaeological excavation on park property has been completed in the Skagway Unit. Extremely limited archaeological surface survey with no testing has been conducted in the White Pass Unit. Historical archaeological resources in the park are suffering from natural decay and river erosion.
Cultural Anthropology		The park is working cooperatively with the Skagway Traditional Council, the Carcross/Tagish First Nations, the Chilkoot Indian Association, Chilkat Indian Village, and the Tlingit Haida Council to increase our understanding of ethnographic resources and uses of the park. An Ethnographic Overview and Assessment study was completed in 2004, and the park continues to actively pursue information relating to the Stampeders and other participants in the Klondike Gold Rush.
Cultural Landscapes		All five (100%) of the park's cultural landscapes (Skagway Historic District, Moore House, White Pass, Chilkoot Trail and Dyea) have accurate, complete, and reliable data from the Cultural Landscape Inventory. Two of the five cultural landscapes are in good condition. One additional cultural landscape will be created when the Soapy Smith Parlor restoration is completed in 2016.
Historic Structures		The park owns 30 historic structures, 25 of which are buildings. Twenty of the 30 historic structures are listed in good condition. Historic structure reports are completed for all but five of the park's buildings. 84% of the historic structures have adequate National Register documentation, including all of the buildings.
History		The Klondike Gold Rush is one of the best-documented human dramas in North America. The park has acquired a large number of historical resources from all over the world from people visiting and through research. Recently a Historic Research Plan (Gurcke 2011) was written to best chart a course for acquiring additional historical resources and laying out the historical research needs for the park. Data management for the numerous historical resources in the park is inadequate.

Priority Resource or Value	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Museum Collections		The park's only collection condition survey was completed more than 15 years ago in 1997. Funding requests have been submitted for collection condition surveys specific to the archaeological collection, the archival collection, and the historical collection. Completion of the Rapuzzi Collection inventory is scheduled by the end of 2013. Museum staff continues to digitize historic photographs and documents as workload permits, resulting in the digitization of more than 300 written accounts and historical photographs in 2012. However, many historical documents are not easily accessible due to conservation concerns and cataloging backlog.
Visitor Experience web ▶		
Number of Visitors		Total number of visitors to the park in 2012 was 854,250, which is similar to the five year average of 876,872. The Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau is projecting an increase of an additional 100,000 visitors to Skagway in 2013 based on cruise ship bookings.
Visitor Satisfaction		Based on the standard visitor satisfaction survey conducted each year, the percent of visitors satisfied in 2012 was 98.0%, similar to the ten-year average of 98.3% for 2001–2011.
Interpretive and Education Programs – Talks, Tours, and Special Events		KLGO offers excellent interpretive programs in downtown Skagway and in the outer district of Dyea. The Ranger-led Historic Walking Tours reached approximately 30,000 visitors in 2012. In 2012, nearly 15,000 people visited the Junior Ranger Activity Center in the Pantheon Saloon building, and 1,800 Junior Ranger badges were awarded. The park collaborates with the Skagway School District to implement Spring and Fall education programs for Grades 2–5, and partners with local organizations to host a summer teen backpacking trip over the Chilkoot Trail incorporating resource education and stewardship.
Sense of Place		KLGO is dedicated to providing an authentic experience for its visitors, allowing them to follow in the footsteps of stampedeers of 1898 in their epic journey to the Klondike. Visitors gain a sense of the wild west boomtown while touring the Skagway Historic District, in which nearly 20 park buildings have been restored to the gold rush era. Additionally, seven buildings are part of the park's lease-back program in which merchants lease the historic buildings.
Interpretive Media – Brochures, Exhibits, Signs, and Website		The park has audio visual exhibits in a number of locations, including ambient sounds, portable tablets for Junior Rangers, and Touch Kiosk Visitor Information stations. A new award-winning park orientation film was completed in 2009. The park museum exhibits are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and American Barriers Act and are outdated, and are scheduled to be replaced within the next few years.
Recreational Activities		The park works collaboratively with Parks Canada to maintain a high level of standards in regards to trail condition, safety, education, and authentic experience. Most visitors to Skagway and Dyea are cruise ship passengers who experience the park as part of commercial excursions that include activities such as sight-seeing tours, biking, hiking, rafting, and horseback riding.

Priority Resource or Value	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Accessibility and Visitor Amenities		Walking tours in the Skagway Historic District are designed to allow visitors with limited mobility to participate. Assisted listening and closed captioning are available for the park movie and Chilkoot video. Rangers use voice amplifiers during walking tours of the Skagway Historic District to increase audibility. The park hires German, French, and Spanish speakers each year to staff the visitor center and to provide tours.
Safety		The safety of visitors is a park priority, and the number of safety incidents recorded is small. Park staff provides a comprehensive safety briefing and orientation for permitted hikers during the Chilkoot Trail evening program.
Partnerships		The park has also recently revived its Artist in Residence Program in cooperation with Parks Canada, which invites artists to spend time in the park and produce visitor friendly multi-media projects. 8,443 volunteer hours were contributed in 2012. Klondike Gold Rush NHP provides an authentic backdrop for the business community and strives to be a good neighbor. The park has an excellent partnership with Parks Canada for co-management of the Chilkoot Trail.
Park Infrastructure web ▶		
Facility Condition Index (Overall FCI)		The 157 assets at KLGO have an overall FCI (Facility Condition Index) of 0.112, which is Fair based on industry and NPS standards. Seventeen park-owned historic buildings in the Skagway Historic District have been restored, and seven buildings are leased back to proprietors and used as shops while maintaining the historic setting. Funding requests have been submitted to improve the Old Dyea Town Site and Lost Lake roads, which are in poor condition.
Energy Consumption		Energy usage (BTUs per gross square footage of buildings) at the park in 2012 was 49% lower than the average for the previous 4 years (Source: NPS Annual Energy Report). To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to save energy, the park operates and maintains a small fleet of electric vehicles that are powered by the glacier-fed hydroelectric power plant.

Summary of Stewardship Activities and Key Accomplishments to Maintain or Improve Priority Resource Condition:

The items below provide examples of stewardship activities and accomplishments by park staff and partners of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park to maintain or improve the condition of park resources and values for this and future generations.

Natural Resources

- Four weather stations have been installed in the park, all of which will be operational by 2013. The weather stations collect information that will be used to study climate changes throughout the area and contribute information to a larger regional dataset.

Cultural Resources

- Acquisition of the George and Edna Rapuzzi Historic Gold Rush Collection is the park's greatest success story of the past five years. The Rasmuson Foundation donation of the George and Edna Rapuzzi Historic Gold Rush Collection added three gold rush era buildings to the park's holdings, including notorious Jefferson "Soapy" Smith's Parlor and the first YMCA building in Alaska, as well as thousands of historic objects from the gold rush.
- The park successfully launched Artifact ID days in 2012. This extremely popular program asked local residents to assist the NPS curator in identifying "mystery objects" from the George and Edna Rapuzzi Historic Gold Rush Collection. Because many of the

objects are industrial in nature, this program attracted several elderly men who were able to identify car and train parts and other unique artifacts.

Visitor Experience

- The Junior Ranger program and Education and Outreach Program have been significantly enhanced over the last few years, and are reaching more students and young people than ever before. Several activities are available, including an environmental education program designed for grades 3–5, Ranger-led excursions with local teenagers to hike the Chilkoot Trail, Junior Ranger activity center using iPads and interactive staff, and a First Bloom garden that involves local children in design and maintenance of a native plant garden in the heart of Skagway.
- Interpretive staff developed a very successful living history drama program that is carried out on NPS grounds.

Partnerships

- A Welcome sign at the entrance to the city of Skagway is being completed in partnership with the Municipality of Skagway Borough, the Skagway Traditional Council, and the NPS. This new sign will prominently display each agency's logo and allow photo opportunities for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who will see it each year.
- The park boasts an ongoing successful partnership with Parks Canada as part of the International Klondike Gold Rush Historical Park. Parks Canada is responsible for Chilkoot Trail hiking permits, and works cooperatively with the park staff in educating hikers for responsible hiking practices in bear country.
- The park is an active participant in Skagway community activities, including hosting a float in the 4th of July parade, open house during the Yuletide Christmas events, and volunteering for a variety of community activities supporting the school.

Infrastructure

- The park trails crew has made significant safety improvements to the Chilkoot trail by creating a more durable surface and repairing hazardous sections of the trail.
- The park is “greener” by purchasing several electric vehicles to use in the Skagway and Dyea area.

Staffing

- The park has assembled a staff of highly competent and motivated individuals who work together to advance the mission of the NPS and KLGO.
- Recent changes to hiring authorities have allowed the park to attract local residents to jobs that might otherwise have gone to non-residents, thus ensuring continued community support for KLGO and its mission.

Key Issues and Challenges for Consideration in Management Planning

Natural Resources

There are numerous potential challenges that face the park in the immediate future relating to the park's natural resources. One potential threat to the Chilkoot Trail and Dyea unit, is a glacial moraine outburst flood from Nourse Lake which is located outside of park that could catastrophically and severely impact the lower portion of the Chilkoot Trail, and potentially destroy the remains of the Dyea historic townsite and park infrastructure in Dyea. External developments also continue to remain a threat to the park's resources.

Cultural Resources

Because the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 was one of the most photographed and documented events of its kind at that point in history—due to the recent invention and popularization of the camera—the park has a very large collection of historical photos as well as numerous firsthand accounts in the form of diaries and letters of the happenings in Skagway at the turn of the 20th century that support the visitor experience in the park. These collections, combined with the opportunity to visit the historic buildings and ruins that are represented in this body of historic records, provide a unique visitor experience. Maintaining the integrity of the historic objects and structures of the gold rush for the enjoyment of the visitor continues to be a challenge the park faces into the future.

Preservation of Historic Structures

The park is completing a building plan to address a variety of methods for preserving the historic structures in the park and inspiring the municipality and private landowners to strive for high standards in caring for other gold rush era buildings in the Skagway Historic District that are not owned by the NPS. With limited financial resources, long-term sustainability of historic structures will continue to be a challenge. To date, the NPS has been successful with adaptive reuse for administrative purposes and especially with the historic

leasing program, but some of the structures acquired in the past several years are not well suited for historic leasing because of their location and/or because they require considerable restoration to be useful for administrative purposes.

New Visitor Opportunities

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is the most-visited NPS unit in Alaska. Projections for the next several years predict nearly 1 million visitors in Skagway, the vast majority arriving by cruise ship. All visitors who disembark in Skagway will experience the park's Skagway Unit during their visit. The National Park Service provides orientation and information, and a variety of visitor experiences that could be enhanced with additional services. Enhanced services could include Rangers on board cruise ships and expanded digital communications programs that take advantage of newly developing technologies. In addition, continued partnership opportunities with Youth programs, whether YCC, SCA or VIP programs can provide rewarding experiences for youth while enticing a new generation to NPS service.

Partnerships and Community Involvement

A key challenge, which is shared by many other parks, is working with multiple land owners within the park boundaries. Land owners include the State of Alaska, the Municipality of Skagway Borough, and private landowners. In addition, tribal interests are of paramount importance since their history is integrally linked to the land and the gold rush. As an international park, KLGO works closely with Parks Canada in managing the 33-mile international trail and is immediately affected by changes in management and staffing on the Canadian side of the trail.

Park Infrastructure, Safety, and Sustainable Practices

Every year, thousands of modern-day stamperders come to the park to hike up and over the Chilkoot Pass as so many did from 1897–1899. Enhancing and maintaining safety on the trail is a key issue for management.

In Skagway, maintaining the condition of historic structures requires constant attention, especially in the face of changing ADA/ABA requirements, sustainable building practices, and the need to improve the efficiencies of heating and cooling systems.

One sustainable practice that gets little mention is data management. With the increasing reliance on digital data, and a turning away from the traditional paper filing system, it is taking ever-increasing vigilance to keep master copies of reports and files in centrally located places for immediate access by staff or the public. Shared drives offer staff access, but also can provide the opportunity for files to go missing, be altered, or re-filed. This is a serious issue that all parks face with no good solutions as of yet.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

**Sixty-Eight Rich Men on
the Steamer Portland.**

STACKS OF YELLOW METAL!

**Some Have \$5,000, Many Have More, and
a Few Bring Out \$100,000 Each.**

With cries of "Gold! Gold! in the Klondike!" there unfolded in the Yukon and Alaska a brief but fascinating adventure, which has captured the imagination of people around the world ever since. In August 1896 when Skookum Jim Mason, Dawson Charlie and George Washington Carmack found gold in a tributary of the Klondike River in Canada's Yukon Territory, they had no idea that they would set off one of the greatest gold rushes in history. Beginning in 1897, an army of hopeful goldseekers, unaware that most of the good Klondike claims were already staked, boarded ships in Seattle and other Pacific port cities and headed north toward the vision of riches to be had for the taking.

All through the summer and on into the winter of 1897–98, stampederers poured into the newly created Alaskan tent and shack towns of Skagway and Dyea—the jumping off points for the 600-mile trek to the goldfields. Stampederers faced their greatest hardships on the Chilkoot Trail out of Dyea and the White Pass Trail out of Skagway. There were murders and suicides, disease and malnutrition, and death from hypothermia, avalanche, and, some said heartbreak. During the first year of the rush an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 goldseekers spent an average of three months packing their outfits up the trails and over the passes to the lakes. The distance from tidewater to the lakes was only about 35 miles, but each individual trudged hundreds of miles back and forth along the trails, moving gear from cache to cache. Once the prospectors had hauled their full array of gear to the lakes, they built or bought boats to float the remaining 550 or so miles downriver to Dawson City and the Klondike mining district where an almost limitless supply of gold nuggets was said to be ready for the taking.

The purpose of this State of the Park report for Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is to assess the overall condition of the park's priority resources and values, communicate complex park condition information to visitors and the American public in a clear and simple way, and to inform visitors and other stakeholders about stewardship actions being taken by park staff to maintain or improve the condition of priority park resources for future generations. The State of the Park report uses a standardized approach to focus attention on the priority resources and values of the park based on the park's purpose and significance, as described in the park's Foundation Document. The report:

- Provides to visitors and the American public a snapshot of the status and trend in the condition of a park's priority resources and values.
- Summarizes and communicates complex scientific, scholarly, and park operations factual information and expert opinion using non-technical language and a visual format.
- Highlights park stewardship activities and accomplishments to maintain or improve the state of the park.
- Identifies key issues and challenges facing the park to inform park management planning.

The process of identifying priority park resources by park staff and partners, tracking their condition, organizing and synthesizing data and information, and communicating the results will be closely coordinated with the park planning process, including natural and cultural resource condition assessments and Resource Stewardship Strategy development. The term "priority resources" is used to identify the fundamental and other important resources and values for the park, based on a park's purpose and significance within the National Park System, as documented in the park's foundation document and other planning documents. This report summarizes and communicates the overall condition of priority park resources and values based on the available scientific and scholarly information and expert opinion, irrespective of the ability of the park superintendent or the National Park Service to influence it.

The purpose of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is to preserve in public ownership for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States, the historic structures, trails, artifacts and landscapes and stories associated with the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898.

Significance statements express why the park unit's resources and values are important enough to warrant national park unit designation. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is significant because the park:

- Commemorates a great human drama that caught the attention of the world, and transformed the demographics, culture, and environment of Alaska and the Yukon.
- Preserves an integral link in a ribbon of sites that connects the places, events, and resources of the Gold Rush, extending across the international border from Seattle to Dawson and beyond.
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- Fosters preservation of the resources within two National Historical Landmarks of two principal American boomtowns of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897–1898, the most popular routes to the Klondike gold fields, and the most vivid reminders of the struggle and determination of the stampeders.
- Fosters an understanding of the physical and biological processes and associated unique flora and fauna of the Northern Lynn Canal, where subarctic, alpine, coastal, and boreal ecosystems converge within the Taiya and Skagway river valleys.

The United States and Canada officially recognized the Chilkoot Trail as part of the Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park in 1998. Included in the designation are the Thirty Mile Heritage section of the Yukon River, Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site of Canada (Dawson City) and the Seattle and Alaska Units of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. Since the 1960s, the Chilkoot Trail has been cooperatively managed by both nations. The Trail Center in Skagway is jointly operated by Parks Canada and the U.S. National Park Service. The 33-mile Chilkoot Trail from Dyea, Alaska, to Bennett, British Columbia, is staffed en route by rangers and wardens in the respective countries.

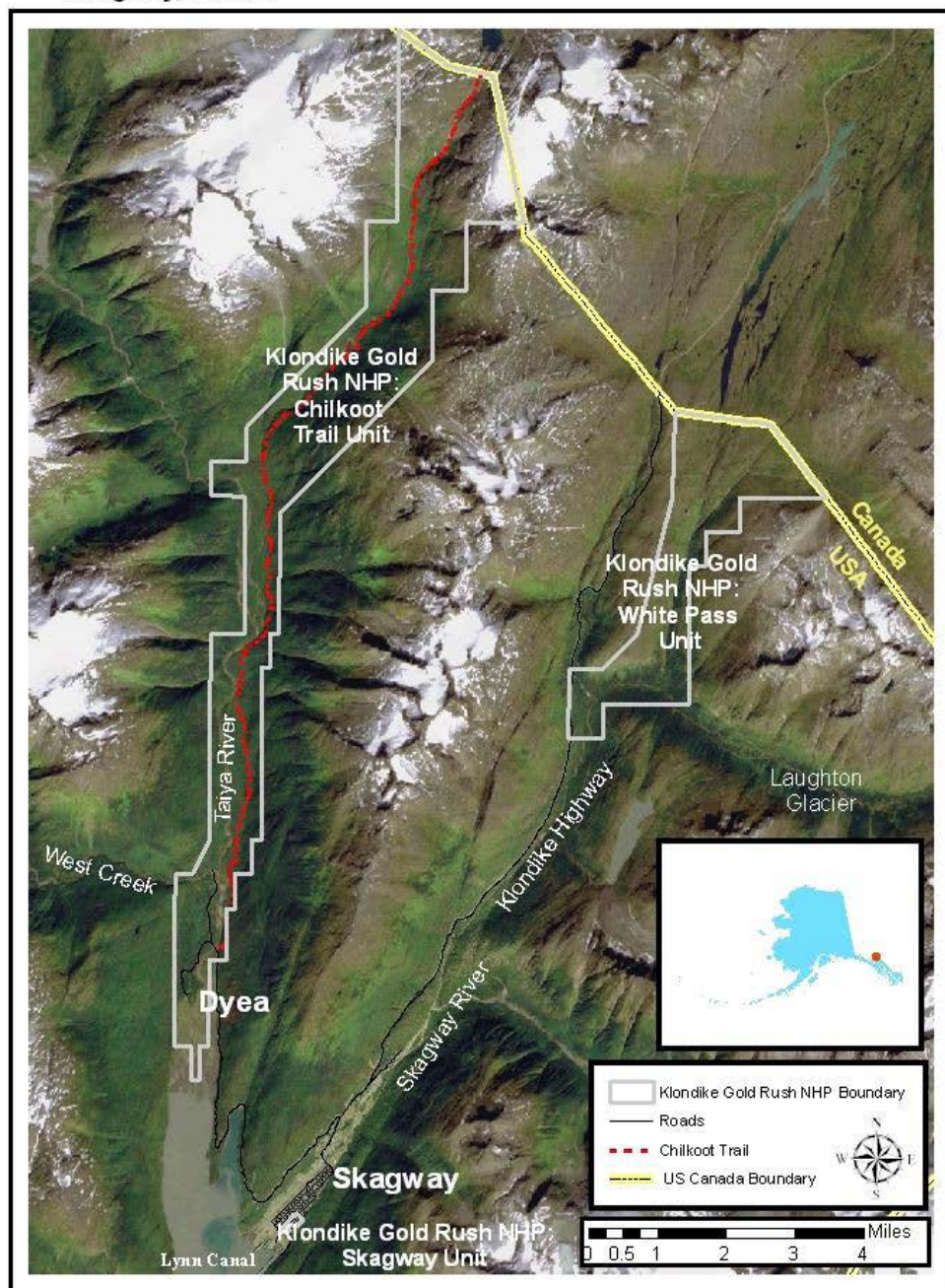





Figure 1. Map of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Southeast Alaska


Chapter 2 - State of the Park

The State of the Park is summarized below for four categories—Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Visitor Experience, and Park Infrastructure—based on a synthesis of the park’s monitoring, evaluation, management, and information programs, and expert opinion. Brief resource summaries are provided below for a selection of the priority resources and values of the park. Clicking on the [web ►](#) symbol found in the tables and resource briefs below will take you to the internet site that contains content associated with specific topics in the report.







The scientific and scholarly reports, publications, datasets, methodologies, and other information that were used as the basis for the assessments of resource condition are referenced and linked throughout the report and through the [internet version of this report](#) that is linked to the NPS [IRMA data system](#) (Integrated Resource Management Applications). The internet version of each report, and the associated workshop summary report available from the internet site, provide additional detail and sources of information about the findings summarized in the report, including references, accounts on the origin and quality of the data, and the methods and analytical approaches used in data collection and the assessments of condition. Resource condition assessments reported in this State of the Park report involve expert opinion and the professional judgment of park staff and subject matter experts involved in developing the report. This expert opinion and professional judgment derive from the in-depth knowledge and expertise of park and regional staff gained from their being involved in the day-to-day practice of all aspects of park stewardship and from the professional experience of the participating subject matter experts. This expert opinion and professional judgment used available factual information for the analyses and conclusions presented in this report. This State of the Park report was developed in a park-convened workshop.

2.1. Natural Resources

Climate  web ►			
Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Temperature	Mean annual temperature		Annual average high and low temperatures in Skagway have increased during the 110-year period of record from 1898 to 2010. Lows are increasing at a rate of 1.9 ± 0.4 °F/century, and highs are increasing at a rate of 1.2 ± 0.7 °F/century. After accounting for the contribution of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (which affects temperatures in coastal Alaska), nighttime annual average temperatures since 1898 show an increase in temperature of about 3 °F in winter and summer and 1 °F in spring and fall (Denny 2013).
Precipitation	Mean annual precipitation (inches)		Skagway’s annual average precipitation is 26 inches. The highest precipitation usually occurs in September and October, while the lowest occurs April through August.

Air Quality  web ►			
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Air quality in Southeast Alaska is very good, but localized air pollution from sources such as marine vessels and cruise ships, wood-burning stoves, vehicle exhaust, and unpaved roads can contribute to the deterioration of air quality that can affect park resources. Additionally, trans-Pacific pollutants such as nitrogen are a growing concern for all of western North America. Lichens are well-known sensitive receptors for air pollution and are used as biomonitors of air quality worldwide. The thresholds established in a study by scientists with the Tongass National Forest for Southeast Alaska ([Dillman et al. 2007](#)) represent the upper-most limits for element concentrations expected in target lichen species from background (clean) sites. Concentrations above threshold can be considered elevated due to enhancement from natural or human caused sources.

Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Nitrogen Deposition	N concentration in Chilkoot Unit lichens		Percent dry weight nitrogen in tissues from three lichen species across all sampling years (1998/1999 and 2008/2009) ranged from 0.49% to 0.69%, which is well below the threshold (0.88%) established by researchers at the Tongass National Forest to represent the uppermost limits for element concentrations expected in target lichen species from background (clean) sites (Dillman et al. 2007 ; Schirokauer et al. 2013; NPS ARD 2013).
	N concentration in Skagway Unit lichens		Percent dry weight nitrogen in tissues from three lichen species across all sampling years ranged from 0.59% to 0.74%. Nitrates recorded in summer in Skagway using passive sampler units were relatively high (Schirokauer et al. 2013). The park will continue to monitor nitrate levels as part of the regular monitoring program (NPS ARD 2013).
Sulfur Deposition	S concentration in Chilkoot Unit lichens		Percent dry weight sulfur in tissues from three lichen species across all sampling years ranged from 0.07% to 0.09% (Schirokauer et al. 2013), which is similar to the threshold level of 0.08% (Dillman et al. 2007 ; NPS ARD 2013).
	S concentration in Skagway Unit lichens		Percent dry weight sulfur in tissues from three lichen species across all sampling years ranged from 0.07% to 0.12%. For all samples taken from the Lower Dewey site, median sulfur concentrations exceeded the 97.5 th percentile for lichen tissue values collected from the Tongass National Forest (Dillman et al. 2007 ; Schirokauer et al. 2013; NPS ARD 2013).
Lead Deposition	Lead concentrations in Chilkoot Unit lichens		Parts per million lead in tissues from three lichen species decreased from 10 ppm in 1998/1999 to 5 ppm in 2008/2009 (Schirokauer et al. 2013).
	Lead concentrations in Skagway Unit lichens		Parts per million lead in tissues from three lichen species were extremely high at the Lower Dewey site, but decreased from 177 ppm in 1998/1999 to 108 ppm in 2008/2009. These values are approximately 10 times higher than the 97.5 th percentile for lichen tissue values collected from the Tongass National Forest. Lead from the Sturgills site dropped from 32 to 15 ppm (Dillman et al. 2007 , Schirokauer et al. 2013). High concentrations of lead in park ecosystems can be attributed to the historic load from poorly managed fugitive dust from lead ore trucking practices. Although current trucking practices reduce fugitive dust significantly, increased ore processing could pose a threat in the future. http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us/pubs/reddogmine/RDM_ACA_T_%20071904.pdf

Geologic Resources




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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Coastal Features and Processes	Rate of isostatic rebound		Near the mouth of the Taiya River, isostatic rebound rates are ≈ 1.8 cm/year (Larsen 2005), meaning that the land is rising and causing incised rivers and over-steepened banks that are threatening the historic townsite of Dyea and park infrastructure. The Dyea and Chilkoot Unit southern boundary extends into the Taiya Inlet, but the shoreline properties are owned by the Municipality of Skagway Borough and are not federally managed. The shoreline is extending southward as the land continues to lift due to isostatic rebound. Natural processes appear to be unencumbered, but has resulted in increased deposition immediately offshore which is burying the historic wharf structure.
Fluvial Features and Processes	Rate of riverbank erosion Rate of outflow on Nourse moraine		Significant floods over the last decade have resulted from one lateral moraine failure and heavier than normal rains. The potential exists for moraine-dammed lake failure from the Nourse Lake. Post and Mayo (1971) and Streveler (1995) provide evidence that Nourse Lake burst catastrophically down the Taiya River valley approximately 150 and 250 years ago. These are all natural processes operating normally within the peri-glacial environment which still have the potential to cause adverse effects to the park's resources. Bank hardening in place since the mid 1940s on downstream sections has also impacted the ability of the river to function naturally and contributes to the erosion of the riverbank and the historic townsite.
Glacial Features and Processes	Rate of glacial retreat Monitoring of moraine stability		No glaciers occur in the park, but several exist in surrounding areas. Feierabrand and Schirokauer (2008 unpublished report) mapped glaciers within a 221,000 acre area encompassing the park using imagery in order to determine changes in areal extent of glaciers between 1948 and 2002. They measured a 13% loss in areal extent of glaciers from 30,138 acres in 1948 to 26,223 acres in 2002, or 72.5 acres per year. Glacial outburst floods and other natural peri-glacial processes present potential hazards to the park's downstream resources (KellerLynn 2009).

Water Quantity and Quality



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Streamflow	Taiya River annual average discharge		Annual average discharge on the Taiya River was 1,136 cubic feet per second during 1970–1977, and 1,212 cfs during 2004–2011. Streamflow has been stable during the past few decades, but patterns and magnitude of discharge may change over time depending on glacial dynamics within the watershed (USGS website).





Water Chemistry	pH, Taiya River		In 2011, the first year of water chemistry monitoring by the Southeast Alaska I&M network at KLGO, pH ranged from 7.2 to 7.9 in the Taiya River from late April to mid-November. These values are comfortably within the healthy range for aquatic organisms and well within the most stringent State of Alaska water quality standards of 6.5 to 8.5 (Sergeant et al. 2012).
	Dissolved Oxygen, Taiya River		In 2011, dissolved oxygen ranged from 12.1 to 14.1 mg/L in the Taiya River from late April to mid-November. Anadromous and resident fish generally prefer values greater than 5 mg/L (Sergeant et al. 2012).
	Specific Conductance, Taiya River		In 2011, specific conductance ranged from 0.02 to 0.08 mS/cm in the Taiya River from late April to mid-November. These values are consistent with a glacially-influenced river and of no concern to aquatic organisms. The range of values collected in 2011 are consistent with limited spot measurements taken by USGS in the same location between 1969 and 2004 (USGS website ; Sergeant et al. 2012).
	Water temperature, Taiya River		Water temperatures in 2011 samples ranged from 0.3 to 6.9 °C in the Taiya River from late April to mid-November. This cold temperature range is characteristic of glacially influenced rivers in Southeast Alaska. Temperatures are highly variable in the springtime due to glacial runoff, and then stable and cooling as fall approaches and glacial runoff decreases (Sergeant et al. 2012).
	Turbidity, Taiya River		In 2011, turbidity ranged from 1 to 229 NTU in the Taiya River from late April to mid-November. While most decreased water clarity events are likely caused by glacial runoff, some turbidity is also caused by bank sloughing in the vicinity of the water quality instrument. This sloughing could be affected by the amount of riprap in the river (Sergeant et al. 2012).

Freshwater and Marine Contaminants



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Freshwater Contaminants	Total mercury in age 0 coho salmon, Taiya River		In 2007, age 0 coho salmon in the Taiya River contained only 1.7 ng/g total mercury, which is well below thresholds of concern for human health or aquatic organisms. (Eisler 2000, Nagorski et al. 2011).
	Total mercury in streambed sediments		In 2007, sediments in the Taiya River contained only 3 ng/g total mercury (Nagorski et al. 2011).
	Total PCBs in juvenile coho salmon, Taiya River		In 2007, juvenile coho salmon in the Taiya River contained only 2.9 ng/g total PCBs. These levels are well below human health concern thresholds (Nagorski et al. 2011).

	Total DDTs in juvenile coho salmon, Taiya River		In 2007, juvenile coho salmon in the Taiya River contained only 1.4 ng/g total DDTs. These levels are well below human health concern thresholds (Nagorski et al. 2011).
Marine Contaminants	Total PCBs in bay mussels, Dyea		Contaminant levels in bay mussels demonstrate that the nearshore marine environment adjacent to the Chilkoot Unit and Taiya River delta is extremely clean. All documented contaminant levels are well below human health concern thresholds. In 2007, bay mussels collected near Dyea contained 1.6 ng/g total PCBs. This single measurement is the closest measurement to park boundaries, but additional data from Nahku Bay are available from the NOAA Mussel Watch website (Tallmon 2011 ; NOAA website).
	Total PAH in bay mussels, Dyea		In 2007, bay mussels collected near Dyea contained 2.7 ng/g total PAHs. This single measurement is the closest measurement to park boundaries, but additional data from Nahku Bay are available from the NOAA Mussel Watch website (Tallmon 2011 ; NOAA website).
	Total mercury in bay mussels, Dyea		In 2007, bay mussels collected near Dyea contained 7.0 ng/g total mercury. This single measurement is the closest measurement to park boundaries, but additional data from Nahku Bay are available from the NOAA Mussel Watch website (Tallmon 2011 ; NOAA website).

Flora



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Lichen Diversity	Species richness		Klondike Gold Rush NHP is significant for having one of the highest numbers of lichenized and lichenicolous fungus species per unit area ever reported, with 766 recorded taxa within its 53 km ² area (Spribille et. al. 2010). One lichen genus, four lichen species and one species of lichenicolous fungus are described as new to science, including <i>Coccotrema hahriae</i> , named in tribute to a former park staff member who recently passed away. The study also added 196 taxa to the list of those known for Alaska.
Invasive Plants	Number of acres infested		Twenty-one (21) acres of federal lands in the park were infested with invasive plant species in 2012, and 0.91 acres were treated. No new species were documented in 2012 although in recent years several new species have been detected (Goodrich 2011). Volunteers contributed more than 1,062 volunteer-hours of time to controlling exotic plants in the park, thereby protecting native flora.
Forest Pathogens	Number of sites infected by forest pathogens		Tomentoses root disease (<i>Inonotus tomentosus</i> fungal infection) was discovered near Dyea in 2004. A 2006 study of the disease found that 52% of plots were infected (Schultz et. al. 2007). Gall rust (<i>Peridermium harknessii</i>) and needle disease(s) were found to be prevalent in lodgepole pine in the old Dyea town site area (Schultz 2011). Root disease may weaken the tree's immune

systems. Tomentoses infection may be a factor in bark beetle infestations.

Fauna



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Amphibians	Occurrence of Western Toads and Columbia Spotted Frogs		The number of boreal toads (<i>Bufo borealis</i>) found during the 2010, 2011, and 2012 monitoring seasons indicates an increase in breeding activity, but overall numbers are low compared to previous years. In 2012, 25 egg masses were recorded—the greatest number at KLGO since monitoring efforts began in 2004 (Welfelt 2012)—and the remnant KLGO population appears to be relatively stable. The occurrence of chytrid fungus disease (<i>Batrochochytrium dendrobatidis</i>), which is causing dramatic population declines and even extinctions in other toad populations, and human impact continue to be of significant concern. Nine Columbia spotted frogs (<i>Rana luteiventris</i>) were observed in the White Pass unit in 2012, which is the largest number recorded in this area since the discovery of this species south of the Canadian border in 2004. Chytrid fungus disease has not yet been detected in this population and the increase in detection of Columbia spotted frogs merits the continuation of extensive surveys (Welfelt 2011, 2012). Anecdotal evidence within the community suggests that the toad populations have seriously declined over the past several decades.
Breeding Birds	Species richness and diversity		A recent species list published by the Skagway Bird Club (2010) documented 201 bird species, of which 18 species are known to breed and nest in the Skagway area and another 17 species are probable breeders (Bernatz et al. 2011). Breeding birds have been monitored at KLGO since 1993 using the standardized Breeding Bird Survey counts, off-road counts, and Christmas Bird Count methods. The number of breeding bird species and bird diversity in recent years using the three monitoring methods appears to be consistent with values reported since each survey began (Bernatz et al. 2011).
Coastal Birds	Species richness and diversity		Surveys of coastal waterbirds have been conducted annually at the park since 1993. KLGO is an important stop-over site for migratory birds before they fly farther north to their breeding grounds, with a greater number of species observed in the spring compared to summer and fall (Hahr and Trapp 2004). The number of coastal bird species observed during 2006–2009 was slightly higher than in previous years, but adjustments to survey timing and effort may explain some of the apparent increase. Diversity indices for coastal birds have been fairly consistent since 2003 (Bernatz et al. 2011).

Resource Brief: Boreal toad research at Klondike Gold Rush NHP








This summer, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is outfitting boreal toads with radio transmitters that allow biologists to follow the movements of these elusive amphibians. Local and regional declines of boreal toad populations prompted the initiation of the Klondike Gold Rush NHP Amphibian Monitoring Program in 2004 by former Natural Resources Program Manager Meg Hahr. Until the 2012 season, efforts focused mainly on monitoring breeding success and testing for diseases. Very little is known about where toads go after they leave their breeding ponds. Unlike frogs, toads spend a majority of their time out of water in upland habitat.

Weighing less than 2 grams and attached by a specially-designed plastic belt, each radio unit transmits a unique signal that can be located using radio telemetry. This radio tracking study will help researchers locate important habitat features such as hibernation sites, additional breeding ponds and migration corridors. Discovering where the toads spend the other 11 months of the year, away from the breeding ponds, is crucial in helping to conserve Skagway's small remaining boreal toad population.

Because of their unique life cycle between water and land, amphibians are very sensitive to environmental changes and pollution. Even in remote Southeast Alaska, amphibian deformities, diseases and significant population declines are being experienced. By monitoring the health of amphibian populations, larger environmental problems can be detected.

2.2. Cultural Resources



Archaeological Resources  web ▶			
Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Knowledge	Baseline documentation for all archaeological resources within the park is complete and current.		Archaeological research is conducted primarily as a result of park development actions and Section 106 compliance activities. Pedestrian (surface) surveys with limited testing have been completed for Dyea and the Chilkoot Trail. Extensive testing has been conducted on park-owned property in the Skagway Unit. Limited pedestrian surveys have been conducted in the White Pass Unit. Archaeological information would be improved through an Archaeological Overview and Assessment, and a formal research design.
Inventory	Percent of park adequately surveyed		Park-owned or managed lands have been surveyed in the Chilkoot and Dyea Units. This includes nearly all of Dyea, the Chilkoot Trail corridor, and major historic campgrounds along the trail. Very little has been surveyed of the lands within the administrative boundaries of the park but not owned by the National Park Service (a significant portion of the park). 100% of the park-owned lots in the Skagway Unit have been archaeologically tested. Funding has been received for an archaeological survey of the White Pass Unit.
Documentation	Percentage of known sites with adequate National Register documentation		70% of the 48 recorded sites in the park are adequately documented for National Register purposes. Fifteen (15) are listed as contributing elements in the Skagway Historic District and White Pass NHL, and 19 are listed in the Chilkoot Trail and Dyea NHL. Both nominations require

			updating to incorporate new information. The White Pass Unit has not been adequately documented.
Condition	Percentage of archaeological resources in good condition		Forty (40) of the 48 sites (83%) listed in the NPS ASMIS database are in good condition. The park does not list subsites in ASMIS. Condition Assessments are conducted routinely in Skagway and the Chilkoot Trail and Dyea units. A condition assessment schedule will be prepared for White Pass once the initial survey is completed.

Cultural Anthropology




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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Knowledge	Sufficient research exists to understand the relationship of the park's ethnographic resources and the historic contexts.		An Ethnographic Overview and Assessment (Thornton et al. 2004) was completed in 2004. The park continues to actively pursue information relating to the Gold Rush Stampeders and other stakeholders. Additional research is needed on the ethnic diversity of the Klondike Gold Rush Stampeders, and the pre-gold rush occupation of the Skagway and Taiya River watersheds by the Tlingit peoples. Recently-completed oral histories highlight the need to continue to prioritize collecting this particular category of resources.
	Appropriate studies and consultations document ethnographic resources and uses with regards to the park.		The park works cooperatively with the Skagway Traditional Council, the Carcross/Tagish First Nations, the Chilkoot Indian Association, and the Chilkat Indian Village to increase our understanding of ethnographic resources and uses of the park. Funds have been requested for a cultural resources intern to document prehistoric rock shelters along the Chilkoot Trail. The park continues to consult with tribes to document grave sites along the Taiya River.

Cultural Landscapes



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Knowledge	Sufficient research exists to understand the relationship of the park cultural landscapes to historic contexts of the park.		Additional research is needed to understand the resources of the White Pass Unit. Sufficient research has been completed for all other units of the park.



	Adequate research exists to document and preserve the cultural landscapes of the park.		The park has five completed Cultural Landscape Inventories: Skagway Historic District, Moore House, White Pass, Chilkoot Trail, and Dyea. Dyea has a completed CLI with treatment plan. Chilkoot Trail CLI is partially complete and is still waiting for the treatment plan. One additional cultural landscape will be created when the Soapy Smith Parlor restoration is completed in 2016. See National Park Service (2011).
Inventory	The scope of cultural landscapes in the park is understood and a determination has been made whether or not they are a fundamental resource.		All five of the identified cultural landscapes have been determined to be fundamental resources that are important for the park to preserve. Landscapes are identified in the park's Resource Stewardship Strategy (2011).
	Percentage of landscapes eligible for the National Register with accurate, complete, and reliable Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) data.		All five (100%) of the park's cultural landscapes (Skagway Historic District, Moore House, White Pass, Chilkoot Trail, and Dyea) have accurate, complete, and reliable CLI data.
Documentation	Percentage of cultural landscapes with adequate National Register documentation.		Only one (Moore House) of the park's five identified cultural landscapes has adequate National Register documentation. The Dyea and Chilkoot Trail Cultural Landscape Reports are in the process of completion.
Condition	Percentage of cultural landscapes in good condition		Two of the five (40%) cultural landscapes are in good condition. Three are in stable condition and will continue to remain so. Not all cultural landscapes will be restored to good condition.

Historic Structures



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Knowledge	Percentage of historic structures evaluated using appropriate historical contexts.		Historic structure reports, which document baseline condition, historic context, and architectural features, are completed for all but 5 of the park's 25 buildings. Those remaining are in draft and are expected to be completed this year. Other historic structures such as the Canyon City boiler and the tram towers on the Chilkoot Trail have been evaluated and documented.
Documentation	Percentage of historic structures owned by the park with adequate National Register documentation.		The park owns 30 historic structures, 25 of which are buildings. 84% of the historic structures have adequate National Register documentation (100% of historic buildings, and 0% of historic non-buildings).

	All historic structures have been recorded commensurate with their significance and mandated purposes.		HABS/HAER documentation, photographs, and histories have been completed for all park-owned historic buildings. Photographs have been completed for all of the park's non-building structures.
Condition	Percentage of historic structures in good condition.		Twenty (20) of the 30 (67%) historic structures are listed in good condition. The remaining historic structures are either in stable condition, or are in the process of stabilization and/or restoration.

Resource Brief: George and Edna Rapuzzi Collection

The George and Edna Rapuzzi Collection contains an estimated 30,000 objects and five historic buildings. George Rapuzzi (1899–1986) was a machinist for White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad and a lifetime resident of Skagway. He was a longtime friend of Martin Itjen, a Gold Rush Stampeder who became a fervid promoter of tourism in Skagway. Itjen's efforts were bolstered by a historic tour down the West Coast with his Skagway Street Car, culminating in a photo opportunity with Mae West in Hollywood. Itjen also began Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum as a tourist attraction for visitors to Skagway. Itjen outfitted the museum, originally the bandit Soapy Smith's bar, with animatronic mannequins and a large diorama of two moose locked in combat. Rapuzzi inherited the Street Car and Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum and added it to a growing collection of buildings and objects, assisted in his efforts by his wife, schoolteacher Edna Rapuzzi. A wide range of objects are represented in the Rapuzzi Collection, including train machinery, automobile parts, the contents of Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum, the trappings of home life over several decades, Gold Rush artifacts, historical documents and photographs, and a variety of bemusing and miscellaneous objects.



George and Edna Rapuzzi in front of the Skagway Street Car. (KLGO #55786)

In 2007, the Rapuzzi Collection was purchased by the Rasmuson Foundation from Phyllis Brown, the Rapuzzis' niece and heir, and donated to the Municipality of Skagway with the express intent that the collection be jointly processed by the Skagway Museum and Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. The park also received three buildings from the donation (Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum, Meyer's Meat Market, and the first YMCA in Alaska) while the Municipality received the Dahl/Rapuzzi House and the WWII Commissary. Processing of the collection has required a majority of the museum staff's time since 2007. During the first two years of the inventory, KLGO and the Skagway Museum both contributed staff to assist with the process, but in the last few years, the work has largely fallen on the KLGO museum technician. After inventory of the objects, the Skagway Museum director and the park's curator jointly review the inventory for items that would be appropriate for their collections. The process has resulted in the addition of more than 2,500 objects to the KLGO museum collection (including the Martin Itjen's Street Car and the contents of Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum) and more than 3,600 objects to the Skagway Museum collection. Completion of the inventory was identified as a park priority for FY13 and the museum staff is currently focused on completing the inventory process, photo-documentation of available items, researching the available objects to make sure that no important artifacts are missed, and notifying area museums of available items that are outside the scope of the partner repositories.

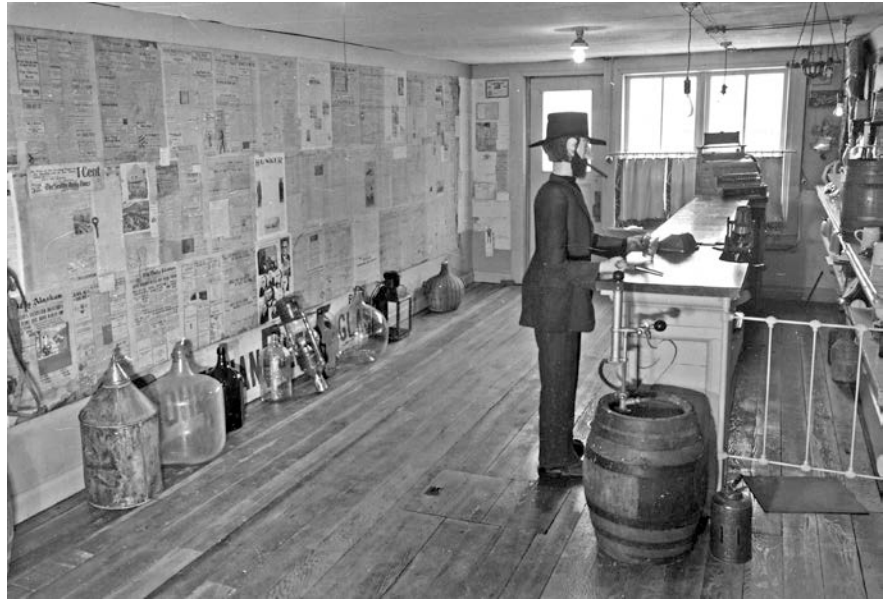


Museum technicians Deb Boettcher and Jon Wachstetter in the Dahl/Rapuzzi House basement, 2010.

The inventory process has also become an opportunity for the park to reach out to local expertise, particularly regarding mechanical objects. In 2012, the park and the Skagway Museum hosted three Object ID days that were attended by local railroad veterans and other mechanically-inclined residents. KLGO museum staff has also recruited assistance from a local vintage car restorer for inventory of automotive objects, and is planning to work with local railroad engineers and mechanics to identify a number of train-related objects in Spring 2013. The park is also planning to host several Alaskan subject-matter experts in 2013 to assist with evaluation of objects.

Resource Brief: Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum

One of the most important acquisitions in the George and Edna Rapuzzi Collection donation from the Rasmuson Foundation is the Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum. The building began life as the First Bank of Skaguay [sic] (1897–1898) and soon became Jeff. Smith's Parlor, the base of operations for notorious swindler Jefferson "Soapy" Smith and his gang. After 1900, the building housed the city's volunteer fire department. In 1935, Martin Itjen took over management of the building and converted it into the Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum, a homespun tourist attraction featuring animatronic mannequins created by Itjen and a wildlife diorama centered on two moose locked in combat. After Itjen's death in 1942, Itjen's friends Jack Grelsbach and George Rapuzzi assisted Martin's widow, Lucy, with the museum's operations. The museum was closed in the 1950s after Grelsbach and Lucy Itjen's deaths. In 1963, Rapuzzi moved the museum from its original location on 6th Avenue to its current location on 2nd and Broadway. George and Edna Rapuzzi re-opened the museum as a tourist attraction in the mid-1960s and it was available in varying degrees to the public until George's death in 1986. The building and its contents are a note-worthy addition to the park's resources, as they represent not only Gold Rush history but also the development of early Alaskan tourism, fueled by the folk mythology propounded by Martin Itjen and his contemporaries.



The park formally received the building in 2008. At that time the building was in poor condition with a leaking roof, rotted floor, no foundation, and melting into the ground. The NPS has lifted the structure, 12 foot by 72 feet, above the ground and installed a new concrete foundation and wood floor. The building was then lowered onto this new floor system. The interior/exterior walls have been reinforced with new 2"x4" wood studs, and a new cedar shingle roof has been installed over the existing reinforced rafters. The building restoration will follow the recommendations of the NPS Sustainable Checklist that will provide an energy efficient building. The exterior siding is currently being repaired and restored then re-installed over the high tech wall structure. A Historic Structure Report was completed in 2010 to assist with the restoration of the building.

Exhibit planning for the interior of the building was completed in 2012. The park plans to restore the exhibits to the 1965–67 period to reflect George and Edna Rapuzzi's influence on the museum as well as Martin Itjen's original displays. The poor condition of the building in the decades prior to NPS acquisition also had a negative impact on the building's contents, resulting in the need for a multi-year conservation effort to prepare the interior for the museum's planned re-opening in 2016. The conservation effort began in 2008 with the removal of the Gold Rush-era newspapers and documents that covered approximately two-thirds of the interior walls. During the removal, paper conservator Eileen Clancy carefully recorded the placement of each document in order to facilitate their re-installation after treatment for water damage. Artifacts requiring significant treatment have been shipped to the Harper's Ferry Center conservation lab and will be treated in 2013 and 2014. However, many of the artifacts require only minor cleaning and stabilization treatment. With the support of conservation staff at the Alaska State Museums, the park initiated a conservation internship program in 2012 in partnership with the Student Conservation Association. The program gives artifact conservation students the opportunity to clean and perform minor treatments on artifacts slated for exhibit as well as an opportunity to practice their community outreach skills. In addition to treating four major artifacts and eight smaller objects, the 2012 conservation interns taught three heirloom care community workshops, wrote six blogs and gave a public presentation about their work.

History



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Knowledge	Sufficient research is conducted to understand significance of site.		The Klondike Gold Rush is one of the best-documented human dramas in the history of North America, and perhaps the world. Research on the Gold Rush, conducted by scholars both within and outside of the NPS, is extensive. KLGO completed a Historic Research Plan in 2011 to identify areas needing further documentation and research, such as the prehistoric period, maritime elements of the Gold Rush, historic use of the landscape, and understanding the diversity of the Stampeders and all others who took part in the gold rush.
	Sufficient research is conducted to establish the reasons for park creation and site history.		<i>Legacy of the Gold Rush: Klondike Gold Rush NHP Administrative History</i> (Norris 1996) documents the research conducted to establish the park. KLGO Historic Resources Study (Beatts 1970) documents discussions and rationale for park creation. The 94 th Congress legislative records (in KLGO archives) document legislative intent.
	Research at the appropriate level precedes planning decisions involving cultural resources.		Section 106 of NHPA needs are not always addressed ahead of funding acquisition for park projects that have the potential to impact resources. Maintenance funding is disconnected from Section 106 and NEPA compliance needs. Because of limited funding basic historical research at KLGO has been concentrated on the Section 106 needs of individual projects rather than on the overall research needs of the park.
Documentation	Completeness and discoverability of historical documentation		The park has excellent historical resources, but data management for the large number of resource materials is not adequate. The quality of research already completed is good, but there are many unexplored avenues of research that would round out the park's understanding of the Gold Rush.
	Completeness and discoverability of historical documentation		The park library is an important resource for understanding the Klondike Gold Rush and the cultural and natural history of the park and surrounding area. It contains information in a wide variety of media and supports all divisions of the park in their cultural and natural resource needs. However, limited staffing makes it difficult to keep up with the growing body of Gold Rush scholarly literature or assist the library user (park staff and public) in their research needs.
	National Register Documentation is up to date.		KLGO's National Register Documentation is extensive but needs updating. For example, because of Skagway's booming tourist economy, the entire Skagway NHL is in a constant state of flux. Historic buildings have been moved, new buildings have been built, and presumed non-historic buildings are discovered to be historic due to additional research. Most of the non-park owned contributing resources to the NHLs have only minimal documentation.

Museum Collections



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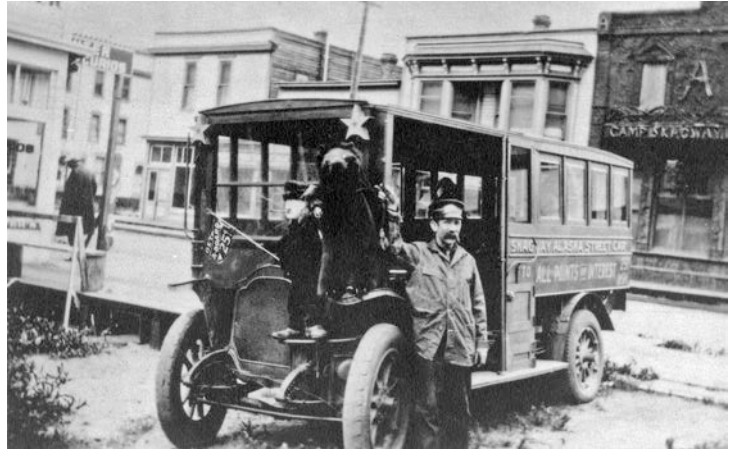
Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Inventory	Objects in the museum collection fit within the park's Scope of Collection Statement. All resources have been surveyed to determine their appropriateness for inclusion in the museum/archive collection		To ensure that acquisition of museum objects is consistent with park purpose, the park is currently revising its Scope of Collection Statement and expects to finalize the new document in 2013. Completion of the Rapuzzi Collection inventory is scheduled by the end of 2013. An archival survey of the park's records, including the park's digital records, is needed to ensure adequate long-term storage of administrative records.
	Percentage of objects accessioned and cataloged		22% of the museum collection has not been cataloged. The park's archives are individually cataloged as museum objects and need to be properly cataloged in the archives module of ICMS (the park's museum collection database) to ensure they are fully retrievable in the future.
Documentation	Completeness of baseline documentation (plans and procedures)		Funding requests have been submitted to update four primary museum management documents that are obsolete or non-existent, including the Collection Management Plan. Though it is not currently required, the park needs a digital curation plan to ensure these records are adequately protected and are retrievable.
Needs Assessment	Museum collections are appropriately addressed in park planning		Preservation and protection of museum collections requires integration with other programs. Funding requests for natural and cultural resource projects need to include provisions for curation of resulting documents, artifacts and specimens.
Condition	Overall condition of the collection based on condition survey and improvements to storage		The park's only collection condition survey was completed in 1997. Funding requests have been submitted for collection condition surveys specific to the archaeological, archival, and historical collection. Preventive conservation of objects could be improved by storing objects according to material type to optimize use of controlled environments (temperature and humidity).
Public Access to Resource	Museum collections, including archives, are made available to the public		Many historical documents are not easily accessible due to conservation concerns and cataloging backlog. The park is seeking funding for long-term storage. Additional online resources are needed to increase access for academic researchers and family genealogists.

Resource Brief: Skaguay Street Car

The park received Martin Itjen's Skaguay [sic] Street Car in 2008 as part of the Rapuzzi Collection donation from the Rasmuson Foundation. The Street Car is a unique customized vehicle with a rich history and multiple conservation challenges. The vehicle was customized by Martin Itjen sometime in the 1920s to assist with his nascent tour business. Itjen was an inventor and folk artist, and the vehicle reflected his creativity, with colorful side painting, added lights, and an animated bear. The vehicle chassis appears to be from a 1910 Packard, with an extended body that Itjen built to mimic a San Francisco cable car. The passenger cabin is windowed with beveled glass and upholstered with leather. The original Packard motor was replaced by an in-line, 4-cylinder engine that has yet to be identified. During inventory of automotive parts in the Rapuzzi Collection, a Packard engine matching the chassis was been identified; this may be the original engine to the vehicle. Historical photographs show another Street Car customized by Itjen on a Ford Truck frame, which has not survived.

After George Rapuzzi's death in 1986, local volunteers continued to run the Street Car in Skagway's annual July 4th Parade until 1996. The Street Car has been accessioned into the park's museum collection, but is currently housed in a substandard facility due to lack of collection storage space. The park is currently discussing options for long-term exhibit/storage of the Street Car that would provide the artifact with storage that meets Servicewide standards for museum collections.

Because the park plans to conserve the vehicle as a museum object rather than restore it to "newness" in the manner of many historic vehicles, the pool of appropriate conservators is very small. Funding for a complete conservation assessment and treatment plan was authorized in 2012, but there were no bids made for the contract. Increased information will need to be made available when funding is re-authorized.



Martin Itjen and his Skaguay Street Car (KLGO 55774).

Resource Brief: Public heirloom care workshops

The park museum and curatorial staff offered 3 heirloom care workshops for the public during the summer of 2012. The series began on July 12th with an open house for community members to bring in their family treasures and receive a free condition assessment. The first workshop featured the Alaska State Museum's "science gun", a portable X-ray fluorescent spectrometry unit that allows conservators to identify different types of metal. The "science gun" was operated by Scott Carrlee, Alaska State Museum's Curator of Museum Services, and a conservator with fifteen years of field experience with a variety of objects. Participants brought their small metal objects for identification, and expertise was also available for other types of items. The Red Onion's curator, Cori Giacomazzi, offered her advice on textiles, and Klondike Gold Rush NHP's two artifact conservation interns, Katie Bonanno and Nicole Peters, assisted with condition assessments.

The subsequent two workshops focused on the care of heirloom items with hands-on experience. Participants in "Cleaning to Maintain Character" learned gentle cleaning techniques used by conservators to maintain the look and patina of historical artifacts. There was also a demonstration of how to make a vacuum attachment to clean fragile but dusty objects. The last workshop taught participants how to make museum-quality artifact housing from inexpensive, easily available materials.



2.3. Visitor Experience

Visitor Numbers and Visitor Satisfaction



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Number of Visitors	Number of visitors per year		Total number of visitors to the park in 2012 (854,250) was similar to the five year average of 876,872. The Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau is projecting an increase of 100,000 visitors to Skagway in 2013 based on cruise ship bookings.
Visitor Satisfaction	Percent of visitors who were satisfied with their visit		Based on the standard visitor satisfaction survey conducted each year, the percent of visitors satisfied in FY 2012 was 98.0%, similar to the ten-year average of 98.3% for 2001–2011 (2012 Visitor Survey Card Data Report).

Interpretive and Education Programs – Talks, Tours, and Special Events



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Education Programs	Number and quality of programs, and number of participants		The park collaborates with the Skagway School District to implement Spring and Fall education programs for Grades 2–5. These curriculum-based studies include in-class activities and field work in Dyea. Programs for a high school Gold Rush curriculum are also offered. The park partners with local organizations to host a summer teen backpacking trip over the Chilkoot Trail incorporating resource education and stewardship. Future growth is needed to transport students to Skagway from nearby communities, offer distance learning programs, and develop website curriculum.
Ranger Programs	Number and quality of programs and attendance		Klondike Gold Rush NHP offers excellent interpretive programs in downtown Skagway and in the outer district of Dyea. The park offers five or more 50-minute walking tours in the Skagway Historic District daily during the summer months. The Ranger-led Historic Walking Tours reached approximately 30,000 visitors in 2012. This classic ranger program contributes to the park's sense of place and the NPS is one of only two organizations authorized to provide walking tours within the historic district. These long-standing interpretive programs have been harder to maintain in 2012 and 2013 due to cuts in the Interpretive program from 13 seasonal rangers to 10. Continued budget cuts have already reduced the Dyea Townsite tours; these underwent a 50% reduction in 2012. The park also offers eight showings of the park movie daily. Daily amphitheater programs at the Visitor Center are being replaced with more films instead of Ranger-conducted, park-specific programs.

Junior Ranger Programs	Number of programs and attendance		The Junior Ranger program has grown in the last four years in response to the higher number of families traveling to Alaska. In 2011, the park opened the Junior Ranger Activity Center in the park-owned Pantheon Saloon building. This facility is designed for families with interactive displays and engaging activities. Adventure backpacks are available on loan for self-guided tours of Skagway. In 2012, 1,800 Junior Ranger Badges were awarded and nearly 15,000 people visited the facility. Children are also awarded Alaska Adventure badges, based on their visits to state public lands. Plans for 2013 are to create an interactive digital Junior Ranger book that will be completed on iPads.
Special Events	Variety and longevity of events, community involvement		Community outreach for Klondike Gold Rush has grown during the past five years. The park hosts a large annual Junior Ranger Day with more than 250 attending. Several community organizations participate. Additionally, the park Guide Series invites guest speakers from both cultural and natural history experts. Annually, these programs are attended by 300+ local participants and continue to grow.

Resource Brief: Skagway youth explore habitats at Klondike Gold Rush NHP



“We found a spider!” a local 5th grader shouted to the other students. This was the scene from Skagway’s elementary school field trip, grades 4 and 5, as they recently explored their outdoor classroom in Dyea. The field experience is part of the earth science curriculum offered by KLGO and engages young scientists to make observations of dune, meadow and stream habitats over time. The lesson passes quickly as the students work cooperatively in small groups and complete specific measurements for their quadrant. The teacher and park education staff beam as the students continue to share their excitement— “This grass is taller than me!” Concepts introduced here will be tested later in the classroom; but for now, the student investigations are a focused and fun A+ experience.

Resource Brief: Stampeder Stories Performing Arts Program



The performing arts program, entitled, *Stampeder Stories: Tales from 1898*, continues to receive rave reviews from park visitors. The 30-minute vignette features role-playing by two interpretive rangers, who portray two actual historical figures from the gold rush. The program explores the difficult journey stampeders Claire Boyntan and George Harvey faced as they traveled to Dawson City in 1898 and how it changed their lives. The format resembles a traditional auditorium program. Before the presentation, a uniformed Ranger introduces the scene and explains the setting—Skagway harbor in 1898. The costumed characters sweep in and begin a 30-minute conversation about their plans to travel to Dawson City in the Yukon. At the end, Claire and George part ways on stage, but each character individually returns to relate what happened to them after their meeting in Skagway. This living history program helps park visitors reach meaningful conclusions about the Klondike Gold Rush—con men, avalanches, freezing temperatures—in a unique, minimalist museum theater production.



Sense of Place



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Authentic Historic Experience	Number of visitors provided the opportunity to have an authentic gold rush experience.		Klondike Gold Rush NHP is dedicated to providing an authentic experience for its visitors, allowing them to follow in the footsteps of stampedeers of 1898 in their epic journey to the Klondike. The Skagway Historic District, Dyea Townsite, and the Chilkoot Trail all offer visitors unique opportunities to better understand the struggles and stories of the Klondike Gold Rush. Visitors gain a sense of the wild west boomtown while touring the Skagway Historic District, in which nearly 20 buildings have been restored to the gold rush era. Additionally, seven buildings are part of the park's lease-back program where merchants lease the historic buildings. This allows visitors to relive the hustling bustling commercial activity that took place between 1897 and 1899. Beyond the historic district, the park maintains the Chilkoot International Historic Trail, providing a unique recreational opportunity to hike in the footsteps of the stampedeers. Well-maintained campsites along the trail are located in original settlement sites and other historic locations are interpreted. The trail begins in Dyea, which is also home to another boomtown site that was abandoned shortly after the gold rush, but its ruins and cultural landscape remain. The park offers recreational opportunities and is completing a site plan for the historic Dyea townsite that will call for expanded interpretive opportunities. All of the 800,000 + visitors are afforded the opportunity to have an authentic gold rush experience.
Continuity of Related Sites	Number of partnerships linking gold rush site interpretive opportunities		Klondike Gold Rush NHP preserves an integral link in a ribbon of sites that connects the places, events and resources of the Gold Rush, extending across the international border from Seattle to Dawson and beyond. KLGO works closely with Parks Canada and our sister site at KLSE providing a continuous link of Gold Rush period sites and opportunities for interpretive activities.

Resource Brief: Chilkoot teen hike

On August 3, 2012, six teenagers and four adult chaperones embarked on a 33-mile, six-day, and five-night journey over the Chilkoot Trail, retracing the footsteps of the stampedeers during the Klondike Gold Rush over 100 years before. The annual hike, led by Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and Skagway Recreation Center and funded by Alaska Geographic and the National Park Foundation Active Trails Grant, is open to teenagers 13–18 years of age from Southeast Alaska and the Yukon. This year's participants hailed from Whitehorse, Gustavus, Haines, and Skagway, home of KLGO. A herculean feat, the teens and their chaperones hiked from sea level to over 3,500 feet through rain-flooded trails, mud, streams, and snow on this epic voyage from Dyea to Lake Bennett. While on the trail they had the opportunity to interact with Artist-in-Residence Jay White who challenged the teens to record their experiences on the trail through a series of sketches. The teens also



aided NPS Trail Crew in rebuilding a land-bridge near Sheep Camp that had been washed away by the river and brushing the trails around the camp. Undoubtedly, their experiences on Chilkoot Trail will be forever embedded in their memories.

Resource Brief: Junior Ranger day

There were a wide range of activities offered last summer as Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park hosted the 4th Annual Junior Ranger Day event. Approximately 300 families and children participated in a wide array of activities. Thanks to the community organizations, children could run, jump, examine artifacts, and make crafts as they learned about firefighting, museum collections, and library services. New for 2012, children had the opportunity to visit a “CSI” table sponsored by the Skagway Police department, while the Dahl Memorial clinic offered their “prescription” for engaging in healthy outdoor activities. A performance by the Jilkaat Kwaan Heritage Dancers from Klukwan was a highlight for many visitors. Park natural resource staff provided hands-on experience with tracking devices. Using radio-telemetry equipment similar to what is used in the field for boreal toad research, Junior Rangers tracked hidden rubber ducks. Protection staff introduced children to what rangers do in their jobs with an obstacle course and educational stations. As Superintendent Mike Tranel said, “life-long memories were made with these kinds of experiences.”







Interpretive Media – Brochures, Exhibits, Signs, and Website



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Wayside Signs	Condition and currency of signs		Waysides in the historic district of Skagway were completed in partnership with the BIA and the Skagway Traditional Council and are new and relevant. More are needed to interpret historic buildings such as Jeff Smith’s Parlor and the YMCA complex. The Dyea planning process for changes in the district has delayed the installation of new waysides; however, funding is forthcoming. In 2013, the park will install entrance signs in the Skagway Historic District.
Exhibits	Gold Rush Exhibits in Administration Building		Museum exhibits are not ADA/ ABA compliant and are outdated. Funding requests have been submitted and exhibits are scheduled to be replaced within the next few years. Funding for replacement of exhibits and ADA/ABA upgrades has been acquired for the White Pass Railroad buildings in 2013.
	Condition of Mascot exhibits		Artifact exhibits in the Mascot building are well kept, relevant and meet visitor satisfaction. However, the interpretive panels are dated and could use improvements.
	Condition of Moore House exhibits		Moore house exhibits are well kept, relevant and meet visitor satisfaction. Access to the exhibits is limited by the building design and reconstruction.
Print Media	Accuracy and availability of primary park publications		The park offers a wide variety of accurate and relevant brochures on a variety of natural and cultural subject matters. The division of interpretation staff actively edits, revises, and updates park publications.

Audio-visual Media	Orientation films		A new award-winning park orientation film was completed in 2009.
	Other AV material		Audio visual exhibits are available in a number of locations and include ambient sounds, portable tablets for Junior Rangers, and Touch Kiosk Visitor Information stations. Plans include development of digital and mobile interpretive products, with funding requests in place for mobile apps and smart phone tours. The park has received funding for developing a pilot audio tour for visitors with low vision.
Websites	Currency and scope of website; number of website visitors		Visitation to the park website has been declining, but is expected to increase in the next two years to record levels. The park's capacity to provide new web content and podcasts is limited due to lack of appropriate equipment, computers, software, and staff time. A newly formed inter-divisional committee is creating new content.
	Social media: Facebook updates and "likes," overall activity		The park created a Facebook page in 2013 and has updated a Twitter account seasonally since 2011. The park looks forward to success in communicating with a broader audience and refining use of these social media communication methods.

Recreational Activities



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Trails	Trail Use		The park works collaboratively with Parks Canada to maintain a high level of standards for Chilkoot Trail conditions, safety, and education. 1995 visitors hiked the Chilkoot Trail in 2012. Day hiking has declined slightly along the lower stretches of the Chilkoot Trail, probably due to fewer commercial "hike and float" trips. The park also offers short hiking opportunities in the historic townsite of Dyea. In addition, cruise ship visitors who book on shore excursions use trails for horse and bike tours in Dyea.
Camping	Percent of satisfied campers		The park offers both backcountry and front country camping opportunities. Improvements on the Chilkoot Trail to camping shelters, sites, tent platforms, restrooms, and food storage are on-going. Based on visitor feedback cards and contacts, the percent of campers who are satisfied with camping conditions in Dyea has been high and is likely due to additional maintenance and a stable, friendly camp host and Park Ranger presence.
Commercial Services	Number and types of commercial services permits and activities		Most of the commercial tour operators in the park operate in the Dyea area. The vast majority of visitors are cruise ship passengers who experience the park on biking, hiking, rafting, wildlife viewing, and horseback riding trips. Independent travelers also travel to the park, but in

			significantly reduced numbers compared to the cruise ship visitors. Vehicular traffic in Dyea includes tour operators permitted by the Municipality of Skagway or operators who transit through the park. This traffic can be heavy and competes with limited space for hikers, bikers and equestrians. The park has taken strides to mitigate increased parking and usage through facilities improvements and staffing.
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Resource Brief: Collaborative efforts to improve local hiking trails

In Summer 2012, Skagway residents joined employees of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, the Skagway Recreation Center, and the Municipality of Skagway to improve Skagway's local trails. Projects have included re-routing dangerous trails, brushing trails to make them easier for visitor to find, and improving washout areas. In 2012, park and city volunteers brushed 20+ miles of trail, started a trail re-route, and completed one French Drain to provide hikers with better access on the trails.

The trail work is a part of the Backpacking and Trail Improvement Series, a joint series between the National Park Service and the Municipality of Skagway. The Series was made possible by an Active Trails Grant from National Parks Foundation. The Backpacking and Trail Improvement Series culminated in a four-day trip over the Chilkoot Trail in August 2012. One difficult project that the group has undertaken is the Sturgill's Landing Re-route. This section of trail was formerly known for its rockslides and tricky footing in its final descent to the ocean. The new trail bypasses the hazardous portion of the trail, directing hikers instead over a beautiful route that is closer to the ocean, crosses through a unique section of forest, and connects with the original trail just before arriving at Sturgill's Landing. Trail work on the re-route consisted of moving large rocks to form steps and walls in steep sections and cutting a flat bench in mellower sections of the new trail. The crew made considerable progress in their two days of work on the most challenging section of trail, but there is more to be done! Municipality trail workers will be returning to the re-route in summer 2013 to put the finishing touches on the new trail.








Sarah Histan of the Skagway Recreation Center directs volunteers doing trail crew work on the Lower Dewey Lake Trail System.

Accessibility and Visitor Amenities



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Accessibility	ADA / ABA mobility compliance		Walking tours in the Skagway Historic District are designed to allow visitors with limited mobility to participate, although the sidewalks are boardwalks that limit some visitors. Facilities that are accessible to visitors with limited mobility include the Visitor Center, Trail Center, Moore House, and the Mascot and White Pass Administration building Gold Rush museums. The campground at Dyea is ADA compliant, but the SST restrooms do not meet current code.
	ADA accommodations to visual and auditory impairment		Assisted listening and closed captioning are available to all visitors who need it to enjoy the park movie and Chilkoot video. Rangers use voice amplifiers during walking tours of the Skagway Historic District to increase audibility. Some of

			the museum exhibits are not ADA/ABA compliant because of their placement height. Recent audio improvements have been made in the Mascot Saloon. The park has received funding to pilot an ADA low vision audio tour in the historic district. Improvements are needed to the park website and online videos to make them more accessible.
Public Facilities	Percent of visitors satisfied with facilities		KLGO offers the visiting public clean and accessible restrooms, picnic tables, special event building use, green space, and benches. KLGO takes pride in maintaining clean, aesthetically pleasing facilities and grounds. Visitor satisfaction surveys routinely score above 95% in visitor satisfaction for clean restroom facilities.
Multi-lingual resources	Audio and print materials in multiple languages		Brochures are available in a variety of languages: French, Spanish, German, and Japanese. As part of the Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park, materials in the trails center are provided in both French and English to meet Parks Canada language requirements.
	Multi-lingual staff		The park hires German, French, and Spanish speakers each year to staff the visitor center and to provide tours.

Safety



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Visitor Safety	Recordable incidents		The safety of visitors is a park priority. In 2012 the park recorded two safety incidents involving visitors. The nature of these incidents included a broken humerus and one voluntary evacuation. The park provides safety messages during each walking tour, and park staff provides a comprehensive safety briefing and orientation for permitted hikers prior to their hike and during the Chilkoot Trail evening program. The park works to quickly identify and mitigate potential hazards.
Staff Safety and Training	Number of staff trained		Operational Leadership Training has been completed by all 33 permanent staff and by 22 seasonal staff. Each division prepares Job Hazard Analyses in advance of carrying out work, and takes strides to reduce hazards and injury. Regular safety meetings are scheduled throughout the year. CPR and First Aid training are offered to all staff on a space available basis. Safety messages are delivered routinely via email to all employees.

Partnerships



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Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale Comments
Volunteers	Number and hours contributed		Significant growth in the volunteer program has been experienced in recent years. 8,443 volunteer hours were contributed in 2012 by 26 volunteers. Volunteers worked on the Chilkoot Trail, assisted with amphibian research, controlled exotic plants on NPS lands, archived artifacts, and greeted visitors at the Junior Ranger Center. The park recently revived the Artist in Residence Program in cooperation with Parks Canada.
Partnerships	Number of official and unofficial partnerships		Klondike Gold Rush NHP works with a wide variety of partners and continues to seek opportunities to develop new partnerships. At least ten partners are represented in long-term informal partnerships and include the Municipality of Skagway (several branches of this local government), Alaska State Museums, Student Conservation, Southeast Alaska Guidance Association, Alaska Geographic, Skagway Traditional Council, White Pass & Yukon Railroad, Alaska State Department of Transportation, Taiya Inlet Watershed Council, and Skagway Arts Council.
Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park	Number of partnership meetings for co-management of the trail		The successful international relationship between Parks Canada and the NPS is manifested in the co-management of the Chilkoot Trail. The Trail Center with an on-line reservation system and the backcountry operations provide for resources protection and opportunities for public use and appreciation. Meetings are held throughout the year to ensure smooth operations between the parks.
Community Relationships	Number of community events participated in, providing leadership and benefits for local citizens.		Klondike Gold Rush NHP provides an authentic backdrop for the business community and strives to be a good neighbor. Park staff participates in many community events including the Health Fair, Career Fair, July 4 th parade and Yuletide. Cultural Resource staff provides expertise and workshops for historical preservation activities.

2.4. Park Infrastructure

Overall Facility Condition Index










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The National Park Service uses a facility condition index (FCI) to indicate the condition of its facilities and infrastructure. FCI is the cost of repairing an asset, such as a building, road, trail, or water system, divided by the cost of replacing it. The lower the FCI number, the better the condition of the asset. The condition of the buildings and other infrastructure assets at each park is determined by regular facility inspections, or “condition assessments”, including daily informal inspections and formal yearly inspections. Deficiencies identified from these assessments are documented in the NPS Facility Management Software System and the cost for each repair determined. Repairs that cannot be completed within the year count against the condition of a structure. The total cost of these deferred repairs divided by the total cost to replace the structure results in the FCI, with values between 0 and 1 (the lower the decimal number, the better the condition). The FCI is assigned a condition category of Good, Fair, Poor, or Serious based on industry and NPS standards. Deferred maintenance projects that require additional funding are identified based on FCI. Planned preventive maintenance on critical components occurs during the year, using a park’s base budget. For additional information about how park

managers use information about the condition of facilities and infrastructure to make decisions about the efficient use of funding for maintenance and restoration activities at the park, [Click Here](#).

Another important facilities management planning tool used at a park is the Asset Priority Index (API). It identifies the importance of the various infrastructure components at a park. The API is determined using five criteria, and is calculated out of 100 possible points. The criteria are weighted based on their importance to NPS core priorities. They are distinct to ensure that each aspect of the asset is measured independently. As a result, most assets will not rate high in every category.

Asset Category	Number of Assets 2008 / 2012	FCI 2008 / 2012	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Buildings	54 / 73	0.042 / 0.119		A number of improvements have been made to buildings since October 2012 when the FCI data were captured, and condition status will be Green once facility managers have full access to the new data system. The park has completed restoration of 17 historic buildings in the Skagway Historic district. Seven buildings are leased to proprietors in the historic district and used as shops. Roofs of five historical buildings have been replaced in recent years, and building exteriors have been repainted with the historic colors of the gold rush era. Jeff "Soapy" Smiths Parlor Museum is one of the recently acquired buildings that the park is restoring.
Campgrounds	2 / 5	0.066 / 0.098		Four of the park's five campgrounds are located along the historic Chilkoot Trail to provide warming and cooking shelters for the hikers. The Dyea Campground is located near the historic Dyea townsite.
Trails	2 / 25	0.341 / 0.144		Most of the assets included in the Trails category are footbridges along the Chilkoot Trail. The Skagway Historic District boardwalk and Historic Dyea Townside Trail are also included. The park's trail crew has upgraded the Chilkoot Trail to remove safety hazards and to improve the trail surface. Three major bridges along the trail have been replaced.
Waste Water Systems	2 / 2	0.000 / 0.000		The two waste water systems located in the park are in good condition and require little to no annual maintenance.
Water Systems	2 / 2	0.000 / 0.000		One of the park's two water systems operates only in the summer for the Dyea Ranger Station.
Paved Roads, Parking Areas, Bridges, Tunnels	2 / 6	0.000 / 0.272		The road to Dyea Historic Town Site and the Lost Lake Road are in poor condition, and the park has submitted funding requests to improve them.
All Others	34 / 44	0.000 / 0.027		The park has upgraded its communication system to help facilitate safety, including installation of two new repeater communication shelters, linking the communication system with Parks Canada and with the Denali Dispatch Center. The park's phone system and internet access has also been

				upgraded including Voice-over IP capability. To help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the park is in the process of replacing its fuel oil heating systems with electric energy.
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Resource Brief: Historic preservation on the first YMCA of Alaska

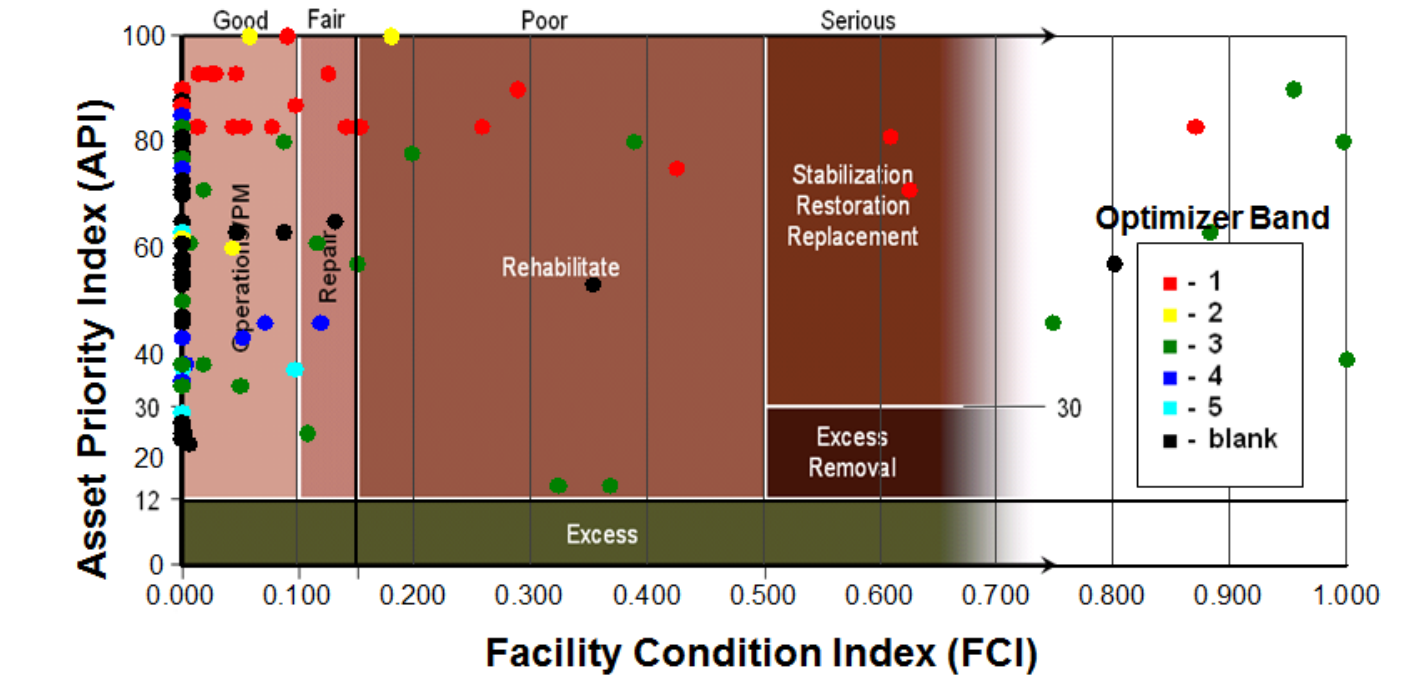
The Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) came to Alaska along with the Klondike stampeders. William Reid, sent by the YMCA from Kalamazoo, Michigan, to found a branch in Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada, was traveling through Skagway in 1898. Reid’s experience is described in the YMCA 1901 Yearbook: *“On reaching Skagway, the journey on to Dawson seemed inexpedient, and the need for such work at Skagway seemed to be so imperative, that he remained at that point where he set up a tent to be used as association headquarters”*.

The YMCA moved their reading room from the tent into the Presbyterian Church on Fifth Avenue in 1899. When the YMCA staged a membership drive in early 1900, they recruited nearly 1,000 members, which is quite remarkable considering the total population of the town was 3,117 residents according to the 1900 U.S Census. This success created a desire to expand the YMCA to include a gymnasium, furthering the goal of training “muscular Christians.”



In 2008, the Rasmuson Foundation acquired the building as part of the George and Edna Rapuzzi Historic Gold Rush collection grant request, and donated the building, along with several other structures and an extensive collection of artifacts, to Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and the Municipality of Skagway. Park maintenance staff has been working to stabilize the building and prepare it for its future as a visitor destination.

The scatterplot (below) for 2012 shows the FCI for each of the infrastructure asset types at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. It plots buildings, trails, roads, parking areas, and other infrastructure assets against its Asset Priority Index (API). Park managers and maintenance staff use the FCI and API data for each park asset to focus on preventive maintenance and repairs to facilities that are most critical to their parks.



Optimizer bands—the color of the dots in the scatterplot—are assigned to each facility or asset as a tool to prioritize use of limited funding to maintain park infrastructure. Optimizer Band 1 includes those assets with the highest maintenance priorities. These assets are most important to the park—often linked to the park's enabling legislation or have high visitor use—and usually are in the best condition. Band 1 assets receive the highest percentage of base funding for routine operations, preventive maintenance, and recurring maintenance to keep them in good condition with proactive, planned maintenance. These assets are important to park operations, but because fewer park base dollars are available after maintaining Band 1 assets, Band 2 assets receive a lesser percentage of remaining funds. Assets in the lower priority bands may only receive preventive maintenance for the most critical components or may require special projects or partner funding to maintain them. For additional information about optimizer bands and how park managers use them to make decisions about the efficient use of funding for maintenance and restoration activities at the park, [click here](#).

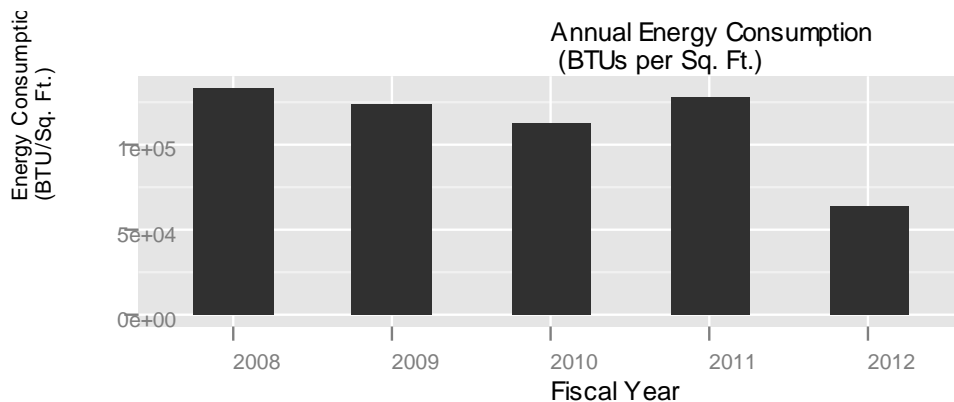
Energy Consumption



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The production of energy to heat, cool, and illuminate buildings and to operate water utility systems is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. The National Park Service is committed to improving facility energy performance and increasing its reliance on renewable energy sources. The National Park Service has a goal to reduce Servicewide building energy consumption per square foot of building space by 35% by 2016 from the baseline set in 2003 ([NPS Green Parks Plan 2012](#)).

Indicators of Condition	Specific Measures	Condition Status/Trend	Rationale
Energy Consumption	BTUs per gross square footage of buildings		Energy usage (BTUs per gross square footage of buildings) at the park in 2012 was 49% lower than the average for the previous 4 years (Source: NPS Annual Energy Report). The park recently acquired several historic buildings that are in the process of being restored and are not being heated.



Resource Brief: Electric vehicles powered by glacier-fed hydroelectric power

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to save energy, Klondike Gold Rush NHP operates and maintains a small fleet of electric vehicles including four Global Electric Motorcars (GEM), one Solectra Van, and one Ford Escape Hybrid. This fleet provides year-round transportation for employees working within the park. The Solectra Van provides transportation to the Maintenance Team and serves as a traveling shop stocked with electrical and HVAC parts and tools. The vehicles are driven an average of 4,340 miles annually. The electricity that provides power to charge these batteries is provided by the glacier-fed hydro power plant. The cost to provide 40 miles of driving is about one dollar. The Park's five electric vehicles cut fuel consumption by approximately 1,480 gallons which equals a reduction of 28,955 lbs. of CO₂ emissions annually. Visitors in the park are very interested in these electric vehicles; as a result the park has created a window placard that explains some of the features.



Park employees have spent many hours talking with the visitors about the vehicles. Most recently, the park created a short video featuring the fleet of Electric Vehicles for "Greening of the Parks" that won an NPS award and can be viewed on the parks website: [Watch the Video](#). The park intends to purchase additional electric and hybrid vehicles.

Chapter 3. Summary of Key Stewardship Activities and Accomplishments

The items below provide examples of stewardship activities and accomplishments by park staff and partners of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park to maintain or improve the condition of park resources and values for this and future generations:

Natural Resources

- The resource division has long-term inventory and monitoring records for several species including bird inventories through the standardized Breeding Bird Survey, BBS off-road counts, and coastal waterbird surveys; ongoing Western Toad inventory and monitoring; and the recently initiated lichen inventory. Additional long-term monitoring of natural resource condition is being conducted by the [Southeast Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Network](#). Inventory and monitoring is done in partnership with local community members and other agencies. The recently-completed lichen inventory resulted in the amazing claim that KLGO holds the world's record for the highest number of "lichenized and lichenicolous" fungus species per unit ever reported.
- In 2004, the park acquired full LIDAR coverage of the park. These data form the basis for the park's robust GIS program. Soils inventory and vegetation mapping will be included in the GIS in 2013. Cultural Resources data layers are being standardized and entered as data as funding becomes available.
- Four weather stations have been installed in the park, all of which will be operational by 2013. The weather stations collect information that will be used to study climate changes throughout the area and contribute information to a larger regional dataset.

Cultural Resources

- Acquisition of the George and Edna Rapuzzi Historic Gold Rush Collection is the park's greatest success story of the past five years. The Rasmuson Foundation's donation of the George and Edna Rapuzzi Historic Gold Rush Collection added three gold rush era buildings to the park's holdings, including notorious Jefferson "Soapy" Smith's Parlor and the first YMCA building in Alaska, as well as thousands of historic objects from the gold rush.
- The park successfully launched Artifact ID days in 2012. This extremely popular program asked local residents to assist the NPS curator in identifying "mystery objects" from the George and Edna Rapuzzi Historic Gold Rush Collection. Because many of the objects are industrial in nature, this program attracted several elderly men who were able to identify car and train parts and other unique artifacts.
- Steady progress is being made to digitize the park's extensive collection of historical photographs and to make them available online for research and education purposes. An ongoing challenge is the lack of adequate resources for digitizing the historical photo collection, diaries and other documents from Stampers, and other historical materials and to make them available online.

Visitor Experience

- The Junior Ranger program and Education and Outreach Program have been significantly enhanced over the last few years, and are reaching more students and young people than ever before. Several activities are available, including an environmental education program designed for grades 3–5, Ranger-led excursions with local teenagers to hike the Chilkoot Trail, Junior Ranger activity center using iPads and interactive staff, and a First Bloom garden that involves local children in design and maintenance of a native plant garden in the heart of Skagway.
- KLGO has steadily been improving and upgrading to a variety of new media to ensure visitor access. The website has been improved and expanded content has been added. Social media accounts have been created for Twitter and Facebook. Movies have recently been upgraded.
- Interpretive staff developed a very successful living history drama program that is carried out on the NPS grounds.

Partnerships

- Several established partnerships continue to enhance the park's ability to preserve and protect resources: Community volunteers monitor and control invasive weeds through participation in the annual Weed Pull hosted in partnership with the

Municipality of Skagway Borough, the State of Alaska DOT, and the Taiya Inlet Watershed Council; the Municipality of Skagway Borough and the U.S. Geological Survey cooperatively operate the stream flow gauge on the Taiya River.

- A Welcome sign at the entrance to the city of Skagway is being completed in partnership with the Municipality of Skagway Borough, the Skagway Traditional Council, and the NPS. This new sign will prominently display each agency's logo and allow photo opportunities for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who will see it each year.
- KLGO interpretive staff works cooperatively with Cruise line partners to provide on-board presentations on two ships each week. These presentations target visitors who may or may not take the time to disembark and visit the community.
- The park boasts an ongoing successful partnership with Parks Canada as part of the International Klondike Gold Rush Historical Park. Parks Canada is responsible for Chilkoot Trail hiking permits, and works cooperatively with the park staff in educating hikers for responsible hiking practices in bear country.
- The park recently re-established the Artists in Parks program and has been collaborating with Parks Canada to ensure the successful implementation of this program.
- The park is an active participant in Skagway community activities, including hosting a float in the 4th of July parade, open house during the Yuletide Christmas events, and volunteering for a variety of community activities supporting the school.
- Avalanche safety study done in partnership with Parks Canada; included technical assistance to Parks Canada on establishment of weather stations.

Park Infrastructure

- The park trails crew has made significant safety improvements to the Chilkoot trail by creating a more durable surface and repairing hazardous sections of the trail.
- Several improvements to radio communications system have been completed. New improvements will allow better coverage for the park's least-developed White Pass unit and enhance safety for the park's employees working in the unit.
- Upgrades to internet access and IT system, including voice-over communications have been implemented. The park has also been provided access to Denali NP dispatch center for emergency operations use.
- Fire protection and safety equipment have been upgraded to meet NPS facilities standards.
- The park is "greener" by purchasing several electric vehicles to use in the Skagway and Dyea area.
- Historic building restoration combines the preservation of the historic integrity of the building exteriors while treating the interiors to meet modern fire and safety codes and to provide appropriate insulation levels to meet energy conservation needs.

Staffing

- The park has assembled a staff of highly competent and motivated individuals who work together to advance the mission of the NPS and KLGO.
- Recent changes to hiring authorities have allowed the park to attract local residents to jobs that might otherwise have gone to non-residents, thus ensuring continued community support for KLGO and its mission.

Chapter 4. Key Issues and Challenges for Consideration in Management Planning

In the fall of 2011, the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (KLGO) Leadership Team completed the 2012–2016 KLGO Strategic Plan. Based on the [NPS Call to Action Plan](#), and the park's recently completed Foundation Statement (2010), the strategic plan incorporated priorities from the park's Resource Stewardship Strategy (2011) and Long-range Interpretive Plan (2005), and identified new goals based on emerging technologies and emphases on connecting people to parks in non-traditional ways. The Leadership Team identified priority objectives and action items to guide park management over the next five years. The draft strategic plan was then shared with the entire staff to incorporate additional ideas for managing the park's natural and cultural resources and developing new opportunities for visitors. The KLGO Strategic Plan was reviewed at the beginning of the State of the Parks report process, and the park's leadership team determined that the objectives and work plan elements are still current and provide valid management direction. The objectives and action items in the Strategic Plan guide the following discussion.

Natural Resources

The Chilkoot Trail and Dyea and White Pass units and the Skagway and Taiya River valleys host considerable biodiversity that make the natural resources at KLGO unique in Southeast, Alaska. For example, a recent survey of lichens resulted in the finding that the park contains the greatest diversity of lichens and lichenicolous fungi per unit area ever reported globally at this latitude. Lichen are particularly important to study because they provide critical air quality information for park management purposes. Baseline studies

are planned for anadromous fish, eulachon (smelt), resident bat populations, arthropods, and the Columbia spotted frog. These studies, along with others, are being completed in conjunction with the [Southeast Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Network](#) for identifying and tracking the health of the natural resources in the park.

There are numerous potential challenges that face the park in the immediate future of note: One potential threat to the Chilkoot Trail and Dyea unit is a glacial moraine outburst flood from Nourse Lake which is located outside of park boundaries on BLM lands. If a catastrophic failure of the end moraine were to occur, it is anticipated to represent a 500-year plus flood event that would severely impact the lower portion of the Chilkoot Trail, and potentially destroy the remains of the Dyea historic townsite and park infrastructure in Dyea. The park staff continues to study and monitor the end moraine at Nourse Lake cooperatively with the Municipality of Skagway Borough each year.

External developments that may impact park resources include the potential for introduction of a hydroelectric power generation plant in the West Creek drainage area near Dyea. Hydro power in Dyea may present opportunities for clean energy, but also may affect the soundscape, night skies, and the aquatic environment at the lower Taiya River. The continued increase in mining in the Yukon Interior has the potential to increase truck traffic through Skagway, but not within the Skagway unit. If the railroad is used to transport ore, then both the White Pass and Skagway units have the potential to be affected.

Another continuing threat is from invasive plants and animals: while the park can inventory, treat, and attempt to control invasive species within the park boundaries, it has little or no control on how adjoining land owners manage their properties. Through educational outreach programs, awareness of the impacts of invasive species on native flora and fauna may open new opportunities to work more closely with private landowners.

Cultural Resources

Because the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 was one of the most photographed and documented events of its kind at that point in history—due to the recent invention and popularization of the camera—the park has a very large collection of historical photos as well as numerous firsthand accounts in the form of diaries and letters of the happenings in Skagway at the turn of the 20th century. In addition, the park owns a significant artifact collection representing the period of significance. Continued preservation of these photographs, archival documents and historical objects and the ability to make them discoverable to the public is of utmost importance. These materials provide the basis for effectively telling the story of the Klondike Gold Rush and the events that preceded and followed the gold rush that forever transformed the demographics, culture, and environment of Alaska and the Yukon.

Updated and expanded museum exhibits, visual storage of artifacts, and enhanced public access to curated photographs, records, and artifacts will allow greater research opportunities to be made available. The expected results would be additional information being shared with the public through popular articles and scientific and scholarly works. The continued challenge is to provide access and present these materials in ways that are discoverable, accessible and relevant to the researchers needs, whether through hands-on access or through multi-media methodologies that are developing.

Baseline information that describes the integrity of historic and archaeological sites is also critical to understanding and managing these unique resources. The completion of the White Pass archaeological inventory and Cultural Landscape report are park priorities, as is the expansion of the Chilkoot Trail survey to cover non-park owned lands. The park units lie with two National Historical Landmarks, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, yet very few of the historic buildings and archaeological sites have been evaluated and/or nominated for the National Register of Historic Places as important sites in their own rights.

Preservation of Historic Structures

The park is completing a building plan to address a variety of methods for preserving the historic structures in the park and inspiring the municipality and private landowners to strive for high standards in caring for other gold rush era buildings in the Skagway Historic District that are not owned by the NPS. With limited financial resources, long-term sustainability of historic structures will continue to be a challenge. To date the NPS has been successful with adaptive reuse for administrative purposes and especially the historic leasing program, but some of the structures acquired in the past several years are not well suited for historic leasing because of their location and/or because they require considerable restoration to be useful for administrative purposes.

Since establishment of the park in 1976, the National Park Service has had a critical role in protecting the integrity of the historic district and cultural landscape of downtown Skagway. Many of the historic buildings and land within the historic district are not owned by the National Park Service. The NPS has been directly involved with the Skagway Historic District Commission (HDC), providing the members of the HDC with the subject matter expertise necessary to uphold the historic sense of place that defines this community and drives its economy. In support of this role, the NPS plans to develop and conduct historic preservation workshops for the community. These workshops will provide the public with technical information in historic preservation and an opportunity to discuss preservation challenges with park experts.

New Visitor Opportunities

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is the most visited NPS unit in Alaska. Projections for the next several years predict nearly 1 million visitors in Skagway, the vast majority arriving by cruise ship. All visitors who disembark in Skagway will experience the park's Skagway Unit during their visit. The National Park Service provides orientation and information, and a variety of visitor experiences that could be enhanced with additional services. This could begin as cruise ships arrive in Skagway if the NPS could have a ranger on board, provide park literature and information to the shore excursions office, and meet with ship personnel during port familiarization trips to Skagway conducted in the spring.

Continually staying up to date and expanding digital media programs is also a key component in offering new visitor opportunities to a public who may or may not set foot within the park boundaries. Social media and web access to the events and undertakings of the park will be instrumental for increasing visitor knowledge of historical events and understanding scientific and scholarly research related to park resources. Relaying this information digitally will also need to be done in conjunction with interpretive wayside programs in Skagway, Dyea, and on the Chilkoot Trail.

The park is developing additional programming for youths through the YCC, SCA and VIP programs. The goal is to provide work experiences such as internships as well as educational opportunities. While there has been considerable success with the VIP and SCA programs, the youth population base in Skagway is not large, and the challenge is to conduct new programs and opportunities to interest and recruit young, diverse audiences in the local area, within the State of Alaska, and from throughout the United States and the world.

The Chilkoot Trail and Dyea and the White Pass units of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park could accommodate additional visitor use. The White Pass unit has not yet been formally opened to visitor traffic due to its in situ archaeological resources that have yet to be documented. A baseline archaeological survey scheduled to begin in 2015 will provide the park needed information to prepare a management plan for this relatively unused unit of the park. The use of alternative methods to connect visitors to these areas is being explored by the park's interpretive staff. Traditional waysides are available along the road that parallels the park unit. Radio and cell service are not available.

Supporting additional visitor use in the Chilkoot and Dyea unit may require infrastructure development. Planned improvements are described in the Dyea Area Site Plan EA which is expected to be completed in 2013. This document is based on the Cultural Landscape Treatment Recommendations for Dyea. In concert with improvements in Dyea the park will explore public transportation opportunities between Skagway and Dyea, a critical piece of infrastructure which is lacking.

Partnerships and Community Involvement

A key challenge, which is shared by many other parks, is working with multiple land owners within the park boundaries. Land owners include the State of Alaska, the Municipality of Skagway Borough, and private landowners. In addition, tribal interests are of paramount importance since their history is integrally linked to the land and the gold rush.

As an international park, KLGO works closely with Parks Canada in managing the 33-mile international trail and is immediately affected by changes in management and staffing on the Canadian side of the trail. Recent budget cuts within Parks Canada could affect not only trail operations but also the overall interpretive opportunities related to the gold rush sites from Seattle to Dawson City, Yukon, by reducing the opportunities to collaborate on internationally driven initiatives such as the International Gold Rush Trail designation. Klondike Gold Rush NHP currently enjoys a strong partnership with the Municipality of Skagway Borough and the community which continues to be enhanced as we explore other opportunities for collaboration. For example, KLGO and the Municipality of Skagway Borough work cooperatively to monitor the Nourse Lake end moraine for stability, are looking at the feasibility of providing public transit opportunities to Dyea, and are working with appropriate entities to reduce or eliminate negative bear/human interactions primarily through responsible waste storage and disposal.

KLGO's strategic plan calls for the park to conduct a new economic benefits analysis. This study will provide quantitative information about the park's contributions to the community that can be shared with the park's many partners. Ensuring the preservation of resources for future generations and enhancing every visitor's experience at the park can also be accomplished through partnerships and community involvement. Opportunities to engage the park's commercial operators and other stakeholders who rely on the tourism industry through orientation and education are being explored as a way to strengthen community relationships and public access to park resources.

Park Infrastructure, Safety, and Sustainable Practices

Every year, thousands of modern-day stampeder come to the park to hike up and over the Chilkoot Pass as so many did from 1897–1899. Enhancing and maintaining safety on the trail is a key issue for management.

In Skagway, maintaining the condition of historic structures requires constant attention. Historic boardwalks provide visitors with a sense of place and connect them to the feel of the gold rush, but they also present safety concerns and trip hazards. In addition, most historic structures do not meet current ADA and ABA requirements, nor do they meet modern code for sprinklers and other safety infrastructure. Upgrading offices, museums and other public spaces to meet modern requirements is a major challenge the park is facing in the near future.

The park has worked to improve sustainable practices in recent years. In the fall of 2012, the park Environmental Management Team developed a new EMS Program that will help meet the goals of the NPS Green Parks Plan and improve our ability to share information with staff and the public. One of the greatest sustainability challenges the park faces is increased energy costs. Skagway receives 98% of its electricity from renewable hydroelectric power that does not emit greenhouse gasses, but most of the park's heating is supplied by furnaces operating on fuel oil. As a result, KLGO has the ability to greatly reduce its consumption of fossil fuels and GHG emissions by replacing existing furnaces with electric boilers. However, in doing so, the park's electrical consumption and costs will increase. To offset this increase, reduction in electrical consumption elsewhere in the park must be explored. One option that will reduce energy costs is to replace all traditional light bulbs in park facilities with LED lights. The park is also enhancing its recycling program through a partnership with the Municipality of Skagway Borough and the Skagway Traditional Council.

One sustainable practice that gets little mention is data management. With the increasing reliance on digital data, and a turning away from the traditional paper filing system, it is taking ever-increasing vigilance to keep master copies of reports and files in centrally located places for immediate access by staff or the public. Shared drives offer staff access, but also can provide the opportunity for files to go missing, be altered or re-filed. This is a serious issue that all parks face with no good solutions as of yet.

References

See the [State of the Park Report for the Park website](#) for a more complete list of references to documents and data sets upon which the assessments in this State of the Park report are based. References for several of the key documents cited in this report are as follows:

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See Also:

[Collection of Natural Resource-Related References](#)

[Collection of Cultural Resource-Related References](#)

[Collection of Visitor Experience-Related References](#)

Glossary

See the [State of the Parks home page](#) for a link to a complete glossary of terms used in State of the Park reports. Definitions of key terms used in this report are as follows:

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and American Barriers Act (ABA)

Laws enacted by the federal government that include provisions to remove barriers that limit a disabled person's ability to engage in normal daily activity in the physical, public environment.

Archaeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS)	The National Park Service's standardized database for the basic registration and management of park prehistoric and historical archaeological resources. ASMIS site records contain data on condition, threats and disturbances, site location, date of site discovery and documentation, description, proposed treatments, and management actions for known park archaeological sites. It serves as a tool to support improved archaeological resources preservation, protection, planning, and decision-making by parks, centers, regional offices, and the national program offices.
Baseline Documentation	Baseline documentation records the physical condition of a structure, object, or landscape at a specific point in time. A baseline provides a starting point against which future changes can be measured.
Carbon Footprint	Carbon footprint is generally defined as the total set of greenhouse gas emissions caused by an organization, event, product or person.
Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)	A Cultural Landscapes Inventory describes historically significant landscapes within a park. The inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, characteristics, and features, as well as other information useful to park management.
Curation	National parks are the stewards of numerous types of objects, field notes, publications, maps, artifacts, photographs, and more. The assemblage of these materials comprises a museum collection. Curation is the process of managing, preserving, and safeguarding a collection according to professional museum and archival practices.
Facility Condition Index (FCI)	FCI is the cost of repairing an asset (e.g., a building, road, bridge, or trail) divided by the cost of replacing it. The lower the FCI number, the better the condition of the resource.
Foundation Document	A park Foundation Document summarizes a park's purpose, significance, resources and values, primary interpretive themes, and special mandates. The document identifies a park's unique characteristics and what is most important about a park. The Foundation Document is fundamental to guiding park management and is an important component of a park's general management plan.
Fundamental and Other Important Resources and Values	Fundamental resources and values are the particular systems, processes, experiences, scenery, sounds, and other features that are key to achieving the park's purposes and maintaining its significance. Other important resources and values are those attributes that are determined to be particularly important to park management and planning, although they are not central to the park's purpose and significance. These priority resources are identified in the Park Foundation Document and/or General Management Plan. The short-cut name that will be used for this will be Priority Resources.
Historic Integrity	Historic Integrity is the assemblage of physical values of a site, building, structure or object and is a key element in assessing historical value and significance. The assessment of integrity is required to determine the eligibility of a property for listing in the National Register.
Indicator of Condition	A selected subset of components or elements of a Priority Resource that are particularly "information rich" and that represent or "indicate" the overall condition of the Priority Resource. There may be one or several Indicators of Condition for a particular Priority Resource.
Interpretation	Interpretation is the explanation of the major features and significance of a park to visitors. Interpretation can include field trips, presentations, exhibits, and publications, as well as informal conversations with park visitors. A key feature of successful interpretation is allowing a person to form his or her own personal connection with the meaning and significance inherent in a resource.

Invasive Species	Invasive species are non-indigenous (or non-native) plants or animals that can spread widely and cause harm to an area, habitat or bioregion. Invasive species can dominate a region or habitat, out-compete native or beneficial species, and threaten biological diversity.
List of Classified Structures (LCS)	LCS is an inventory system that records and tracks the condition of the approximately 27,000 historic structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places that are the responsibility of NPS.
Museum Collection	NPS is the steward of the largest network of museums in the United States. NPS museum collections document American, tribal, and ethnic histories; park cultural and natural resources; park histories; and other aspects of human experience. Collections are managed by professionally-trained NPS staff, who ensure long-term maintenance of collections in specialized facilities.
National Historic Landmark (NHL)	<i>National Historic Landmarks</i> are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. They are exceptional places and form a common bond between all Americans. While there are many historic places across the nation, only a small number (fewer than 2,500) have meaning to all Americans—these we call our National Historic Landmarks. Working with citizens throughout the nation, the National Historic Landmarks Program draws upon the expertise of NPS staff who work to nominate new landmarks and provide assistance to existing landmarks.
Natural Resource Condition Assessment (NRCA)	A synthesis of existing scientific data and knowledge, from multiple sources, that helps answer the question: what are current conditions of important park natural resources? NRCAs provide a mix of new insights and useful scientific data about current park resource conditions and factors influencing those conditions. NRCAs have practical value to park managers and help them conduct formal planning and develop strategies on how to best protect or restore park resources.
Priority Resource or Value	This term refers to the Fundamental and Other Important Resources and Values of a park. These can include natural, cultural, and historic resources as well as opportunities for learning, discovery and enjoyment. Priority Resources or Values include features that have been identified in park Foundation Documents, as well as other park assets or values that have been developed or recognized over the course of park operations. Priority Resources or Values warrant primary consideration during park planning and management because they are critical to a park’s purpose and significance.
Project Management Information System (PMIS)	A servicewide intranet application within the National Park Service to manage information about requests for project funding. It enables parks and NPS offices to submit project proposals to be reviewed, approved and prioritized at park units, regional directorates, and the Washington Office.
Resource Management	The term “resources” in NPS encompasses the many natural, cultural, historical, or sociological features and assets associated with parks. Resource management includes the knowledge, understanding, and long-term stewardship and preservation of these resources.
Section 106	Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the evaluation of historic properties in advance of activities which could potentially cause adverse effects to those properties.
Southeast Alaska Network (SEAN)	One of 32 I&M networks established as part of the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program . The Southeast Alaska Network provides scientific data and expertise for natural resources in three parks located in Alaska.
Specific Measure of Condition	One or more specific measurements used to quantify or qualitatively evaluate the condition of an Indicator at a particular place and time. There may be one or more Specific Measures of Condition for each Indicator of Condition.