

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Denali National Park and Preserve, AK;
Final Backcountry Management Plan,
General Management Plan Amendment
and Environmental Impact Statement**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Final Backcountry Management Plan, General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the Final Backcountry Management Plan, General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Denali National Park and Preserve. The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a preferred alternative and three other action alternatives for managing the park and preserve's backcountry. A no action alternative also is evaluated.

DATES: A Record of Decision will be made no sooner than 30 days after the date the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability for this final EIS appears in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: The Final Plan and EIS may be viewed online at <http://www.nps.gov/dena> through the "in Depth" link on our homepage under "Planning and Management." Hard copies or CDs of the Final Backcountry Management Plan and General Management Plan Amendment and EIS are available on request from the address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Tranel, Chief of Planning, Denali National Park and Preserve, 240 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Telephone: (907) 644-3611, Fax: (907) 644-3803.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the NPS has prepared a final environmental impact statement that considers five alternatives for managing the park and preserve's backcountry. The five alternatives evaluated in this EIS included four action alternatives and a no action alternative.

Alternative 1 (No Action): The National Park Service would continue the present management direction, guided by the 1986 *General Management Plan*, the 1997 *Entrance Area Road Corridor Development Concept Plan*, the 1997 *South Side Denali Development Concept Plan*, the 1997 *Strategic Plan*, and the 1976

backcountry management plan with amendments. Recreational use and access patterns would continue to develop and the agency would respond as necessary on a case-by-case basis. No new services or facilities would be developed to meet increased levels of use in the backcountry, except for those identified in the Entrance Area or South Side plans.

Alternative 2: This alternative would distinguish a unique Denali experience based on dispersed use in a wilderness landscape with few sights or sounds of people or mechanized civilization. There would be few services, facilities, or signs of management presence. This alternative would most clearly distinguish the backcountry experience in Denali from the surrounding public lands, providing a place primarily for visitors who are very self-reliant, and including many opportunities for extended expeditions in very remote locations. Backcountry users seeking other experiences would find those opportunities on neighboring lands.

Alternative 3: This alternative would provide a variety of wilderness recreational activities by establishing areas to serve those visitors who want to experience the wilderness resource values of the Denali backcountry but require services, assistance, or short time-commitments. The areas would be the minimum necessary to provide these experiences based on present demand and would be focused along the park road in the Old Park and Kantishna and at the existing high activity areas at the Ruth Glacier and Kahiltna Base Camp. The majority of the backcountry would be managed for dispersed, self-reliant travel and would include opportunities for extended expeditions in very remote locations.

Alternative 4: Modified (Preferred Alternative): Alternative 4 from the Revised Draft was modified for the final plan to respond to substantive public comments. Management area allocations and corridors were adjusted slightly, and indicators and standards for wildlife were added. The hierarchy for guided services and educational programs was removed and replaced with a statement indicating that NPS and Murie Science and Learning Center activities would have a priority for available backcountry capacity where such capacity is limited. Definitions of scenic air tours and air taxis were clarified. The restriction that would prohibit scenic air tours from landing on the Pika or Eldridge Glaciers when climbers or mountaineers are present was modified. Scenic air tour landings may take place when climbers are present, but those landings are subject

to management area standards, cannot occur when other landing locations are available, and are discouraged when climbers are present. Guided day-hiking in the Old Park would be restricted to areas west of Toklat River with access from Kantishna, plus the hiking in the Wonder Lake area authorized by the *Entrance Area and Road Corridor DCP*. The total number of groups would be limited to the average number of groups over the previous 5 years. Language describing backcountry facilities and administrative and scientific activities was also modified to address substantive public comments. Specifically, the requirement to develop management area-specific criteria for research and resource management activities was removed in favor of a requirement to obtain research permits.

This modified alternative would guide the National Park Service in providing opportunities for a variety of wilderness recreational activities and experiences while recognizing and protecting the premier wilderness resource values of the entire backcountry. Areas in the Dunkle Hills and around the Ruth and Tokositna Glaciers on the south side of the Alaska Range would be managed for those visitors who want to experience the wilderness resource values or other resource values of the Denali backcountry but require services or assistance, or who are unable to make a lengthy time commitment. Areas along the park road in the Old Park and the Kantishna Hills would provide accessible opportunities for short- or long-duration wilderness recreational activities with only limited options for guidance or assistance the farther one gets from the park road. The remainder of the backcountry would be managed for dispersed, self-reliant travel, and would include opportunities for extended expeditions in very remote locations.

Alternative 5: This alternative would create two distinct geographic areas that provide different kinds of visitor experiences in the Denali backcountry. The Old Park and the Denali Additions north of the Alaska Range would be primarily managed for dispersed, self-reliant travel although no areas would be managed specifically to preserve opportunities for extended expeditions in remote locations. Areas along the park road and in Kantishna that presently receive a relatively high volume of use and large parts of the additions south of the Alaska Range would be managed for a greater intensity and variety of appropriate recreational activities and would have more visible management presence and

opportunities for more services and facilities.

The responsible official for a Record of Decision on the proposed action is the NPS Regional Director in Alaska.

Dated: December 23, 2006.

Marcia Blaszk,

Regional Director, Alaska Region.

[FR Doc. 06-481 Filed 1-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-PF-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Proposed Ten Percent Increase in Glacier Bay Cruise Ship Quota Beginning in Year 2007

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; Proposed Ten Percent Increase in the Seasonal Cruise Ship Quota for Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve for Year 2007.

SUMMARY: The Superintendent of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve proposes to increase the number of cruise ships allowed to enter Glacier Bay during the summer visitor season by ten percent beginning in 2007. The current cruise ship limit is a seasonal quota of 139 visits during June, July and August. The proposal, if implemented, would increase the seasonal cruise ship quota to 153.

DATES: Comments on the proposal must be received no later than February 21, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The proposal memorandum and related documents may be viewed online at <http://www.nps.gov/glba/pphtml/documents.html>. Please submit electronic comments on the proposal memorandum at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/parkHome.cfm?parkId=12>. Written comments can be mailed to the Superintendent, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 140, Gustavus, AK 99826 or faxed to (907) 697-2654.

Comments may be hand delivered to the Superintendent at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, 1 Park Road, Room 204, Gustavus, AK 99826.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tomie Lee, Superintendent, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 140, Gustavus, AK 99826; (907) 697-2230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Cruise ship use in Glacier Bay is currently limited to no more than two ships per day and a further seasonal quota of 139 total visits during June, July, and August

of each year. The superintendent may adjust this seasonal quota upwards or downwards, but may not exceed two ships per day. The Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Vessel Quota and Operating Requirements Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (VQOR EIS and ROD) provide additional background information regarding vessel management within the park area.

Federal regulations specific to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (36 CFR 13.65(b)(2)(v)(C)) provide that "[b]y October 1 of each year (beginning in 1998), the superintendent will determine, with the director's approval, the number of cruise ship entries for the following summer season (June 1 through August 31). This determination will be based upon available scientific and other information and applicable authorities. The number will be subject to the maximum daily limit of two vessel use-days. The superintendent will publish a document of any revision in seasonal entries in the **Federal Register** with opportunity for public comment."

This proposal is the result of the VQOR EIS public planning process. In making the proposal the Superintendent considered reviews of the best available scientific information collected both by the National Park Service and by scientists independent of the agency, which were incorporated in the report and recommendations from the Glacier Bay National Park Science Advisory Board, and an assessment of that report provided by the NPS Alaska Regional Science Advisor.

Following a review of public comments submitted in response to this notice, the Superintendent will submit the final decision for submission to the Director of the National Park Service for approval. If an increase is approved it will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 22, 2005.

Marcia Blaszk,

Regional Director, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 06-482 Filed 1-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-HX-M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bureau of Justice Statistics; Agency Information Collection Activities: Existing Collection; Comments Requested

ACTION: 60-Day Notice of Information Collection Under Review: National Corrections Reporting Program.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Statistics, has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for "sixty days" until March 20, 2006. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

If you have comments especially on the estimated public burden or associated response time, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions or additional information, please contact Allen J. Beck, Ph.D., Bureau of Justice Statistics, 810 Seventh Street NW., Washington, DC 20531.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of this information collection:

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* National Corrections Reporting Program. The collection includes the forms: National Corrections Reporting Program.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Form number(s): NCRP-1A, NCRP-1B, NCRP-1C, and NCRP-1D. Corrections Statistics Unit, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice