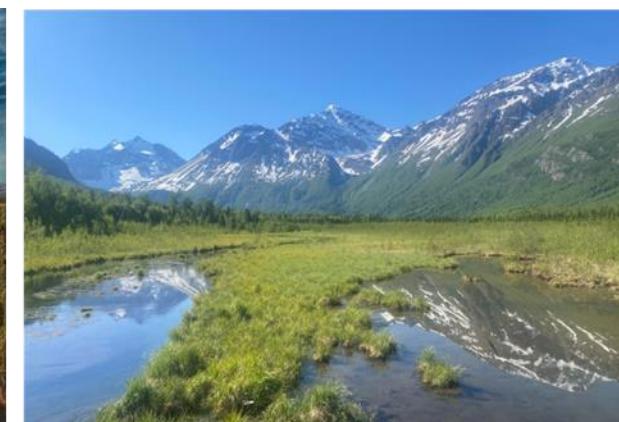


# Executive Order 126: Eliminating the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council

## Senate Resources Committee



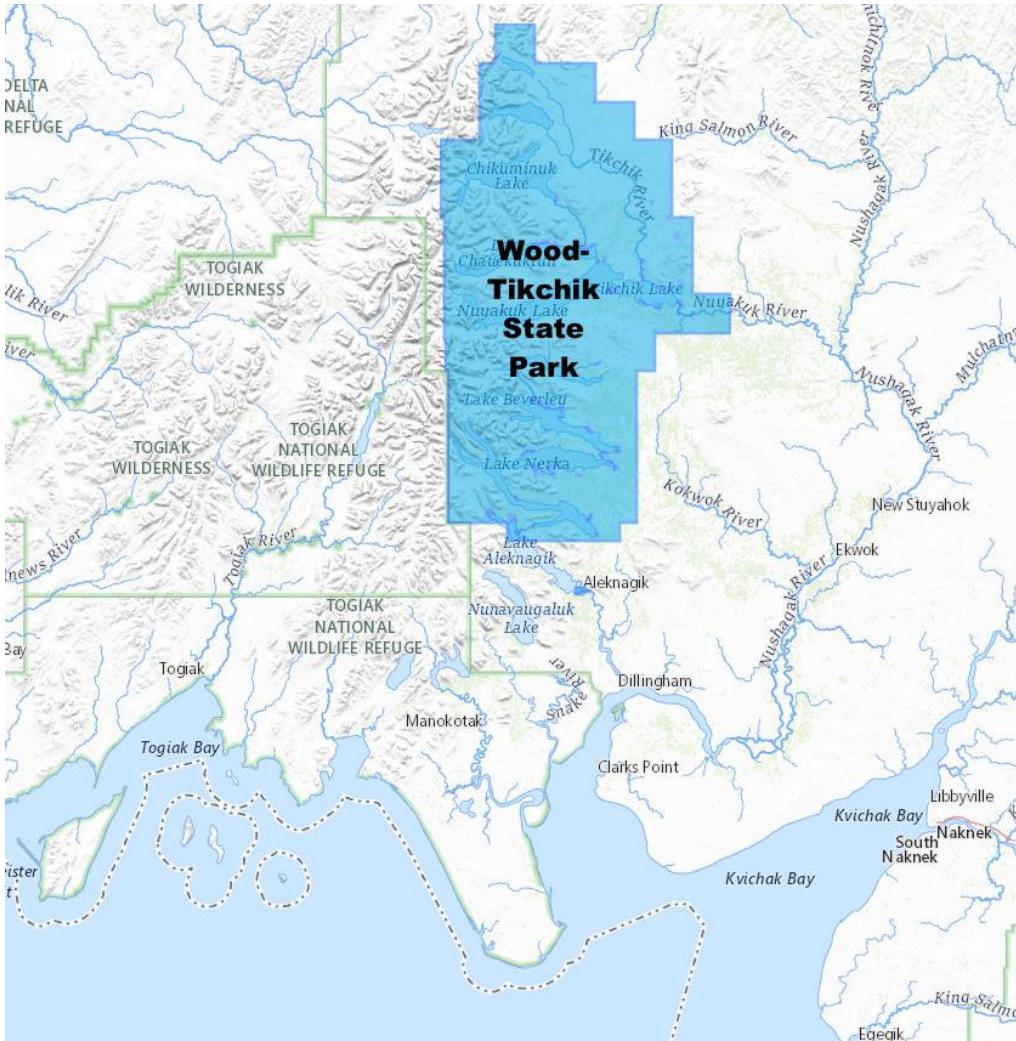
**Presented by Ricky Gease, Director**  
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
February 5, 2024





# Wood-Tikchik State Park

- 1,541,759 acres near Dillingham
- Established by Legislature in 1978 (AS 41.21.161)
- Primary purpose: protect the area's fish and wildlife systems (important breeding grounds) and continued subsistence and recreational activities
- Largest state park in the U.S., managed by 1 park employee





# Wood-Tikchik State Park

- Alaska State Constitution Article 8, Section 7:
  - Special Purpose Sites: Legislature may reserve land from the public domain
- Legislature closed the park land and water to “multiple use” and dedicated area as special purpose site (closed to oil and gas leasing, mineral entry) (AS 41.21.160-167)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is responsible for managing fish and game resources within park

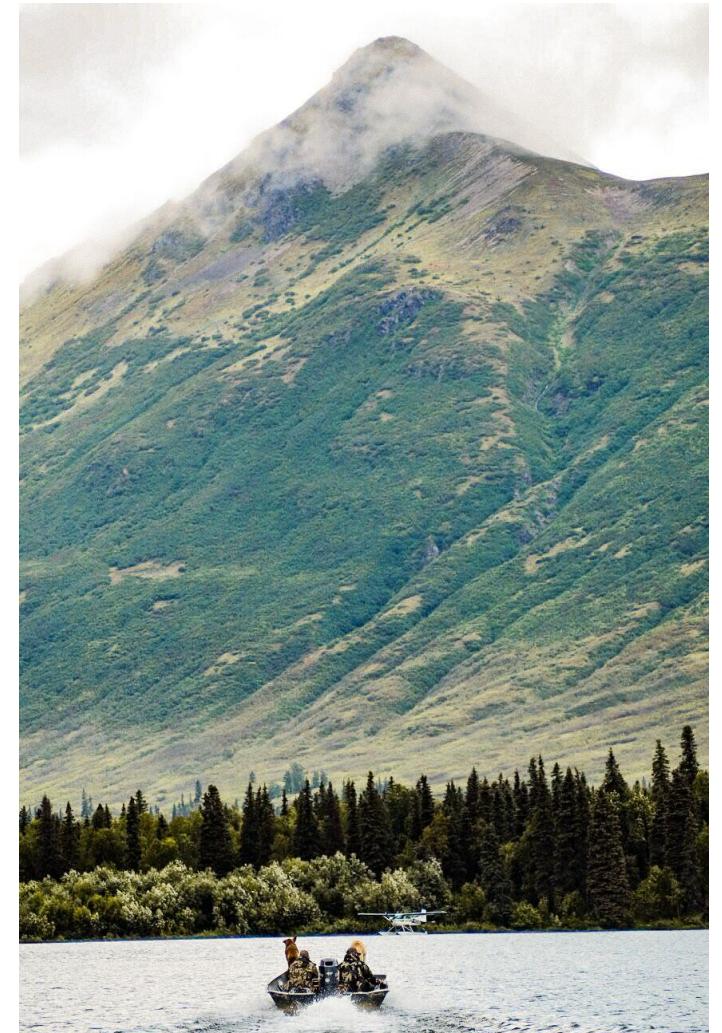


Photo credit: Jordan Perrego



# Management Council Members

- 7-member Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council is established in AS 41.21.163.
- Governor appoints one member from three nominations submitted by each of the following:
  - the village council of Koliganek
  - the village council of New Stuyahok
  - the village council of Aleknagik
  - the city council of Dillingham
  - the Bristol Bay Native Association, Inc.
  - the commissioner of natural resources
  - the commissioner of fish and game

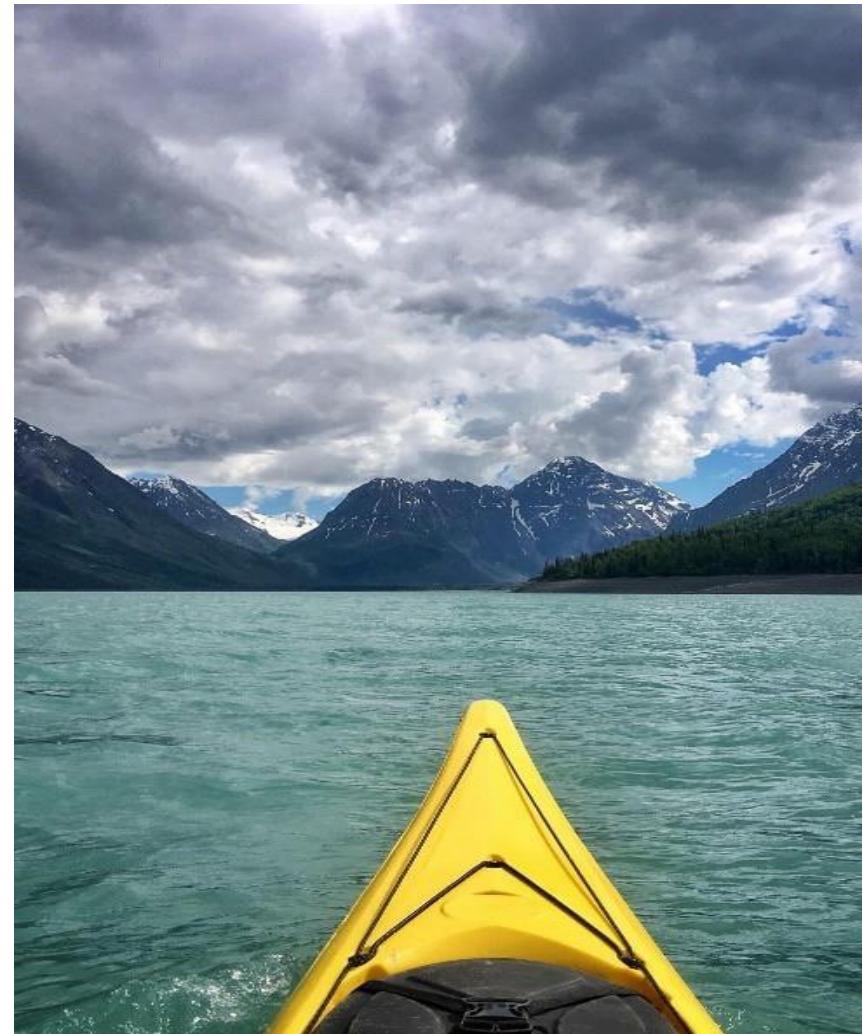


Photo credit: Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation



# Management Council Responsibilities

- Management council provides feedback, recommendations and local insight regarding management, operations, facilities
- Meetings serve as a forum for public input on park management
- Members set agenda items, discuss topics such as park user conflicts, resource issues, proposed developments and proposed regulation changes
- The Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council shall develop a management plan for the park with the advice and assistance of the department (AS 41.21.164)
- DNR, ADF&G must consult with each other and the management council before adopting regulations



Photo credit: Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation



# DNR's Support Role

Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation coordinates and supports the Management Council by:

- Providing staff to develop management plan
- Issuing public notice for meetings
- Assisting with agendas
- Taking meeting minutes and/or recording meeting
- Posting meeting minutes and/or recording meeting
- Coordinating appointments through Governor's office
- Filling requests for information from DNR

Council has met online since 2020 and the most recent meeting was February 1, 2024.



Photo credit: Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation



# Executive Order 126

## WHAT:

- Sunsets the management council. DNR will develop management plans and receive stakeholder input through traditional channels and creation of citizen advisory board

## WHY:

- Creates efficiency and establishes single point of contact for park management
- Eliminates duplication within state government
- Aligns management activities with those of other parks

## FUTURE:

- Management processes don't change – revisions subject to robust public process and multiple input opportunities
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game remains involved in management plan development, associated activities



Photo credit: Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation



# Future Stakeholder Engagement

DNR has other important engagement tools:

- Creation of a local citizen advisory board covering the parks in the local region (Lake Aleknagik State Recreation Site)
- Citizen advisory boards assist park staff with management and development issues
- Alaska State Parks director appoints members for up to 3-year terms
- Members are representative of multiple user groups
- Active boards in Chugach, Juneau, Kachemak Bay, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Mat-Su, Northern Region and Seward



Photo credit: Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation



# Thank you!

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