

S J R

42

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

Date of 5-DAY NOTICE _____
IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIFORM RULE 23

FURTHER

**FISCAL NOTE(S) MUST BE ATTACHED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH AS 24.08.035

4/3/89

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE _____

Mr. President:

RES

Committee considered

SJR 42

development of a visitor center for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
and Preserve in the vicinity of Glennallen

and recommended:

[] replace with CS _____ [] same title
[] new title

[] attached amendment(s) and

[] _____ letter of intent adopted

[] do pass

[] do not pass

[] no recommendation

[] individual recommendations

[] further referral to _____

FISCAL NOTE(S) attached [] zero
[] appropriation no FN attached

[] fiscal impact
[] Gov. FN introduced w/ bill

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Julius Stogalenko
J. Kott
Frank J. Gouff
Gregory
Rich. Holford

Dette Suberling
Chair signature and recommendation

[] Committee backup attached

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: _____
 Title: SJR 42 Relating to the development BRU: _____
of a visitor center for Wrangell-St. Elias Nat'l Park and Preserve in the vicinity
 Sponsor: Sturgulewski Components: of Glennallen.
 Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Senate Resources Committee Phone: 465-3834
 Division: Bettye Fahrenkamp Date: 4-17-89
 Approved by Commissioner: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp Date: _____
 Agency: Chairman, Senate Resources Committee

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

SJR 42



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3815 (ARO-RP)

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 2892

31 MAR 1989

Honorable Arliss Sturgulewski
Alaska State Legislature
P. O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

The National Park Service is pleased to comment on the proposed Senate Joint Resolution relating to the development of a visitor center for Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve. For almost three years the Park Service has been on record in favor of locating and purchasing land in the vicinity of Glennallen for a visitor center. During the public meetings for the Park's General Management Plan people in local communities and elsewhere expressed broad support for a National Park Service visitor center in the Glennallen area.

This visitor center would facilitate travel in the area for a range of tourists, from those on a guided tour, to those who travel independently. Exhibits and displays could feature the outstanding natural and cultural resources of the park/preserve.

Currently, we are looking for suitable sites for this facility so a purchase can be negotiated. Once site acquisition is completed, it will take several years to secure funding from the Congress, develop detailed construction plans and build the visitor center.

We believe this project will have significant benefit for the local area as well as for the traveling public, both visitors and Alaskans, and we appreciate your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Paul F. Haertel
Acting Regional Director

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT HAS
NOT BEEN FILMED BUT IS
AVAILABLE IN THE ORIGINAL
FILE

Wrangell-St. Elias

Official Map and Guide

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
Alaska

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



George Herben
Mt. Sanford is one of several peaks in the Wrangells that can be viewed from nearby highways. Mt. Drum, Blackburn, and Sanford are dormant vol-



The Chitstone River flows through a many-headed, glacier-carved gorgo and turns into a 300-foot waterfall over a sheer wall.



Tom Bean
If any single species symbolizes the park's wildlife, it is Dall sheep, which inhabit the interior highlands.



Tom Bean
The profusely braided Chitina River flows from the Chitina and Logan glaciers on the park's eastern boundary to the Copper River on the western

boundary. The mighty Copper, which starts on the north side of the Wrangells, empties into the Gulf of Alaska.



Jim Higgins
Boating is among the many adventuresome ways to explore Wrangell-St. Elias. Here a boater makes his way on the Kennicott, a minor river in

comparison with the Copper, Chitina, and Chisana. Kayakers increasingly are plying bays and inlets near Yakutat.



Washington State Historical Society
Men build a railroad bridge across the Kuskulana River in 1910. Today travelers on the road to McCarthy cross this bridge.



Tom Bean
Skiers on the Malaspina Glacier head toward Mt. St. Elias, at 18,008 feet the second highest peak in the United States.



Tom Bean
With massive Hubbard Glacier as a backdrop, camping in Disenchantment Bay is, if nothing else, enchanting. The glacier, which flows out

of the St. Elias Mountains in Canada into the United States, is surging into the bay.

A Preeminent Mountain Wilderness

Incredible. You have to see Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve to believe it—and even then you are not too sure. The number and scale of everything is so enormous. Peaks upon peaks. Glaciers after glaciers. If you follow any of the many braided rivers and streams to their source, you will find either a receding glacier, an advancing glacier, or a tidewater glacier. Several mountain ranges converge here, and the park includes 9 of the 16 highest peaks in the United States. The total acreage makes this the largest U.S. national park, the size of six Yellowstone. And beyond all that, it contains a representative sampling of Alaska's wildlife and old mining sites indicative of man's early explorations here. Hike into these mountains, float the rivers, ski across the glaciers, fly over the area, and see geology in the making. Amid the splendid isolation comes a feeling of discovery, a feeling that you might be the first person to see such sights.

Itself, but even then some of its major peaks, including Blackburn, Sanford, Drum, and Wrangell, can be seen from nearby highways. Position yourself in one spot and watch the sun, clouds, and storms play hide and seek with a single peak or ridge. The mood changes by the minute.

Three major mountain ranges meet here: The Wrangells huddle in the northern interior, the Chugach guard the southern coast, and the Saint Elias Mountains rise abruptly from the Gulf of Alaska, thrusting northward past the Chugach and on toward the Wrangells. The Wrangells are volcanic in origin, but only Mount Wrangell remains active with vents of steam near its summit. It last erupted in 1930. Other major, but smaller, ranges include the Mentastans and Nutzotins on the northeast side of the park. With adjoining Klauane National Park in Canada, all these ranges

Hubbard, and Guyot. The Malaspina Glacier flows out of the St. Elias Range between Icy Bay and Yakutat Bay in a mass larger than the State of Rhode Island. It carries so much glacial silt that plants and trees take hold on its extremities, grow to maturity, and topple over the edge as the glacier retreats. Flowing from the glaciers are a multitude of meandering rivers and braided streams. The Copper River, the largest, forms the western boundary of the park starting in the Wrangells and emptying into the Gulf of Alaska in Chugach National Forest. In the early 1900s the Kennecott Mining Co. transported copper from its mines near McCarthy by railroad along the Chitina and Copper rivers to ships at Cordova. Ore was extracted from these highly productive mines between 1911 and 1938 and lured many people to the area, if only temporarily. Similarly gold was transported from the Nabesna area. Today mining still occurs on

Chitina, Gulkana, and Chistochina are among the old Athapascan settlements. Yakutat, on the coast, is a traditional Tlingit fishing village.

Though the vegetation may seem sparse, especially in the interior, the park contains a variety of wildlife. Dall sheep and mountain goats patrol the craggy peaks. Herds of caribou feed on the lichen and low woody plants around the Wrangells. Moose browse in sloughs and bogs in the coastal lowlands and in brushy areas, which also attract brown/grizzly bears. Black bears roam throughout the park. Bison were released in the Copper and Chitina River valleys in 1950 and 1962 respectively and remain as separate herds today. Many rivers, streams, and lakes provide spawning grounds for salmon and other fish. The Copper River drainage and the Malaspina forelands are major flyways for migratory birds and

Cover photo by George Herben: The Kennicott and Gates glaciers sweep down from Mt. Blackburn and Ragai Mountain in the Wrangells

