#### Ewing Bank

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# Mississippi Canyon

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## Green Canyon

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### Atwater Valley

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Walker Ridge

120, 121, 164, 197, 198, 678, 723, 766

[FR Doc. 96–7132 Filed 3–22–96; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4310–MR–M

# **National Park Service**

Notice of Availability of the Revised Draft Development Concept Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement for South Side Denali, Alaska

**AGENCIES:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of the Revised Draft Development Concept Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for South Side Denali, Alaska.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service announces the availability of a Revised Draft Development Concept Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DCP/EIS) for South Side Denali, Alaska. The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and two action alternatives for visitor facilities and services on the south side. A no action alternative also is evaluated. This notice announces the dates and locations of public hearings to solicit comments on the revised draft DCP/EIS.

**DATES:** Comments on the revised draft DCP/EIS must be received no later than

May 21, 1996. Hearing dates, times, and locations are listed under Supplementary Information, below.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the revised draft DCP/EIS should be submitted to the Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, Post Office Box 9, Denali Park, Alaska 99755. Copies of the Revised Draft South Side Denali DCP/EIS are available by request from the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Swanton, Park Planner, Denali National Park and Preserve. Telephone: (907) 257–2651 Fax: (907) 257–2485.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91–190, as amended), the National Park Service, as lead federal agency, in cooperation with the State of Alaska, Matanuska-Susistna Borough, and Denali Borough, has prepared a DCP/EIS for proposed visitor facilities and services on the south side of Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. Information meetings and public hearings are scheduled in Alaska on the dates and at the times and locations indicated below.

• April 16—Fairbanks, John A. Carlson Center, Pioneer Room, 2010 Second Avenue. Information meeting (5:30–6:30 p.m.); Hearing (6:30–8:30 p.m.)

• April 17—Healy, Tri-Valley Community Center, Windjammer Room, First Floor. Information meeting (6:30–7:30 p.m.); Hearing (7:30–9:30 p.m.)

April 18—Cantwell, Community
Hall. Information meeting (6:30–7:30
p.m.); Hearing (7:30–9:30 p.m.)
April 23—Trapper Creek, Trapper

- April 23—Trapper Creek, Trapper Creek Elementary School, Mile 2.5
   Petersville Road. Information meeting (6:30–7:30 p.m.); Hearing (7:30–9:30 p.m.)
- April 24—Talkeetna, Talkeetna Elementary School, Mile 14 Talkeetna Spur Road. Information meeting (6:30–7:30 p.m.); Hearing (7:30–9:30 p.m.)
- April 25—Anchorage, William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center, Board Room, Second Floor, 555 West Fifth Avenue. Information meeting (5:30–6:30 p.m.); Hearing (6:30–8:30 p.m.)

The first hour of each meeting will be a discussion session. Representatives of the South Side Denali Cooperative Planning Team will be available to answer questions and hear your comments in a more informal setting. The rest of the meeting will be a public hearing; a brief introduction by the planning team will be followed by public testimony on the plan.

The revised draft DCP/EIS represents a cooperative planning effort that builds

on previous planning for the region, including a draft DCP/EIS issued in 1993. The south side refers to an area that includes Denali National Park and Preserve land, Denali State Park land, and other lands to the south of the national park and preserve boundaries. This revised draft DCP/EIS describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action, two other action alternatives, and a no action alternative. The proposed action is based on south side recommendations made by the Denali Task Force, a group formed in 1994 at the request of Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, to provide recommendations through the National Park System Advisory Board regarding visitor facilities and services in and near Denali National Park and Preserve, including the south side. Other sections of the document, including alternatives to the proposed action, are based on the 1993 draft DCP/EIS, with modifications made in response to public comments and environmental and economic considerations.

The proposed action includes a new visitor center (up to 13,000 square feet), picnic area, campground, public use cabins, and short interpretive/hiking trails in the Tokositna area at the western end of Denali State Park. Some of the hiking trails would lead into Denali National Park and Preserve. The Petersville Road would be upgraded and extended to provide improved access to this area. In cooperation and, where desirable, partnership between the National Park Service, local government, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Native Corporations, and the State of Alaska would develop visitor facilities and services at Talkeetna, Broad Pass, and the central development zone of Denali State Park when the need and opportunity to do so are established. For the central development zone of Denali State Park, this would entail constructing up to a 3,000 square foot visitor center. The Byers Lake campground would be expanded by up to 25 sites or a new campground of up to 50 sites would be built elsewhere in the central development zone of the state park. Up to five primitive fly-in only campsites would be constructed at Chelatna Lake, along with two public use cabins and a short hiking/interpretive trail and trailhead interpretive sign. The Dunkle Hills road could provide new access opportunities in the Dunkle Hills/Broad Pass area, including access into Denali National Park and Preserve, pending resolution of land status/access issues. These actions would be phased in practical and achievable steps over the

15 to 20-year life of the plan, under the guidance of an intergovernmental implementation team.

The focus of the two other action alternatives is to provide visitor facilities and services within easy access from the George Parks Highway. No facilities would be constructed in the Tokositna area, in the Dunkle Hills, or near Chelatna Lake. No public use cabins would be constructed. In one alternative, a new visitor center (up to 13,000 square feet) would be located at either the northern, central, or southern development zone of Denali State park, with short hiking/interpretive trails established near the visitor center. The Byers Lake campground would be expanded by up to 25 sites or a new campground of up to 50 sites would be built elsewhere in the central development zone of the state park. In the other action alternative, a new visitor center (up to 1,500 square feet) would be located at either the northern, central, or southern development zone of the state park, with short hiking/ interpretive trails established near the visitor center.

With the no action alternative, management activity and the current level of backcountry visitation would continue. A 320 square foot visitor contact station would be built near the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Denali State Park, and a short trail to the Chulitna River would be developed in the central development zone of the state park. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough likely would construct snowmachine and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails and facilities near the Forks Roadhouse along the Petersville Road. An existing privately built (trespass) cabin near Chelatna Lake would be converted to public use. No campgrounds or other visitor facilities would be developed by the state, the National Park Service, or boroughs on the south side. Certain policies and actions would be implemented under each action alternative (some actions also would apply under the no-action alternative). The policies would call for locating commercial facilities (e.g., lodging) primarily on private lands; protecting the wild character of the south side; minimizing impacts on existing uses; adhering to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, sections 1306 and 1307, and phasing development. The following actions would be taken (those applying to the no action alternative are noted with an asterisk):

• Developing up to five additional roadside exhibits along the George Parks Highway

- identifying and establishing watchable wildlife areas
- developing self-guiding interpretive brochures
- implementing state highway rightof-way restrictions and conducting selective brushing and vista clearing along the George Parks Highway
- reviewing and revising the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Special Land Use District in Denali State Park to improve implementation and enforcement\*
- completing corridor management plans for the George Parks Highway and implementing management guidelines\*
- working cooperatively to manage uses on the south side
- seeking designation of the George Parks Highway within Denali State Park as a state scenic byway \*
- conducting research on the natural and cultural resources and human uses in the area in advance of development on the south side \*
- formally establishing a Denali South Side Plan Implementation Partnership to continue the cooperative partnership approach in implementing the DCP.

The DCP/EIS is the result of a collaborative process that takes a regional rather than a jurisdictional approach to planning. The cooperative planning team is comprised of representatives from the National Park Service, State of Alaska, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Denali Borough, and two Native Regional Corporations (Ahtna, Incorporated and Cook Inlet Region Incorporated). All six partners in this cooperative effort have land management authorities on the south side. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the National Park Service is the lead federal agency responsible for the environmental impact statement; the state and the two boroughs are cooperating agencies. The two Native Corporations are not cooperating agencies but are considered planning partners in accordance with National Park Service guidelines and the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Dated: March 15, 1996. Robert D. Barbee, Field Director, Alaska Field Office. [FR Doc. 96–7108 Filed 3–22–96; 8:45 am]

Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items in the Possession of the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

**AGENCY:** National Park Service **ACTION:** Notice