



# Sierra Borealis

## *alaska report*



SIERRA CLUB ALASKA CHAPTER  
JUNE 2014

### Ask Forest Service to reject massive Big Thorne timber sale

***Please send an email comment by June 23 to save Tongass old growth!***

The Forest Service is seeking comment now on a report concluding that no further study is needed on the Big Thorne timber sale, which would cut down and sell 116 million board feet of old-growth trees from the heart of

wolf and other new evidence of the grave threat this sale poses to the region's wolves and other wildlife.

At times, the Obama Administration has offered encouraging words about ending the large-scale destruction of this rainforest from old-growth logging. Last month, the Administration started a process to amend the Tongass Forest Plan for the purpose of phasing out large-scale old-growth logging.

Unfortunately, the Forest Service proposes taking far too long to complete that goal—another 10-15 years of industrial old-growth logging. The agency is set to increase old-growth timber sales on the Tongass in the meantime, not just with Big Thorne sale, but other big new sales in the works. The wolves and other species of the Tongass just can't afford more habitat destruction.

The planning process to amend the Tongass Forest Plan *should* refocus the Forest Service's management of the Tongass toward projects that protect and restore vital watersheds and important fish and wildlife habitat, while promoting a diverse and sustainable economy in Southeast Alaska based on fishing, tourism, and recreation.

*Background:* In 2012, the Forest Service requested comments on their Big Thorne Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Activists in the Juneau Group, and elsewhere in Southeast Alaska, provided detailed comments and concerns regarding the huge project. The DEIS proposed to log timber from approximately *-- continued next page*



Bakewell Lake on the Tongass National Forest

wolf habitat on the Tongass National Forest.

We have an opportunity to save large areas of old growth in the Tongass rainforest—but if we don't act soon, the U.S. Forest Service could finalize the largest old-growth timber sale in America's rainforest in decades. They are poised give the nod to this sale on Prince of Wales Island -- despite the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's potential endangered species listing of the Alexander Archipelago

photo: Jeff DeFreest from USFS

## Big Thorne sale

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5,000 acres on Prince of Wales Island south of Coffman Cove, around the community of Thorne Bay and out to the Control Lake area north of Klawock. Overall, Prince of Wales Island's ecosystem is in critical condition from many decades of intensive logging on national forest, Native corporation, and other lands. The Big Thorne sale is an unconscionable project for an important island ecosystem that is being pushed to the limit. (Prince of Wales is the nation's third largest island, behind Hawaii and Kodiak.)

The Tongass, America's largest national forest, is one of the few old-growth temperate rainforests in the world. Its towering stands of 700 year old trees provide vital habitat for bears, salmon, Sitka black-tailed deer, goshawks, and—importantly—the rare and dwindling Alexander Archipelago wolf. The Fish and Wildlife Service recently found that, because of excessive old-growth logging, this unique subspecies of wolf may warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act.

**Please send your comments June 23.  
Latest by June 30.**

### ⇒ WHAT YOU CAN DO-NOW:

Please email the U.S. Forest Service right away: Here is sample text to write – but please put your remarks largely in your own words:

As someone who cares about protecting America's rainforest for future generations, I was glad to see the Forest Service's recent May 27, 2014 notice of intent to amend the Tongass National Forest Plan to transition out of industrial-scale old growth logging. But, the notice proposes, inexcusably, a 10-15 year timeline—that is a much too slow transition. I encourage you to end these devastating logging practices much more rapidly.

Although I support amendment of the forest plan to end industrial-scale old growth logging, I am deeply troubled by the Forest Service's continued commitment to large-scale old-growth timber sales on the Tongass. In particular, I object strongly to the Forest Service's plan to move forward with the Big Thorne timber sale on Prince of Wales Island, the largest timber sale on the Tongass National Forest in over two decades.

This sale is completely inconsistent with USDA's plan to transition the Tongass quickly away from the industrial-scale old growth logging that has so damaged this treasured public resource. Big Thorne will not only log more than 116 million board feet of old growth trees, but, along with several other large timber projects that are in the planning stages, would lock in massive old growth logging over the next several years at the very time the agency should focus on ending it quickly.

The Big Thorne sale is even further unwarranted



Tongass old-growth canopy

photo: Brian Logan, from USFS

given the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's finding in March that the Alexander Archipelago wolf may warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Alexander Archipelago wolf faces critical and increasing threats due to habitat destruction from logging and roadbuilding, decreasing food supplies from declining deer populations, and legal and illegal hunting and trapping from Tongass logging roads. The Fish and Wildlife Service's finding sends a strong message that agencies like the Forest Service need to do more to protect the wolf and deer.

Unfortunately, the Forest Service's recent report on the Big Thorne timber sale disregards the most important parts of the Fish and Wildlife Service's finding and concludes that no further study is needed, despite the many significant concerns biologists have raised about the sale's damaging impacts.

I urge you to reject the Big Thorne timber sale. Nearly four years after the Administration proposed a rapid Tongass Transition Framework, it is now time to make sure that ongoing operations do not irretrievably harm our country's premier rainforest while the transition occurs. I ask that the U.S. Forest Service and USDA act swiftly to transition out of industrial-scale old growth logging in the Tongass National Forest.

**Please send your comment by email to: [email comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us](mailto:email-comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us).**

June 23 is the official deadline for comments on the recent report claiming that no further study is needed on Big thorne. But your important general comments on the proposed Big Thorne sale can be submitted after that date. They will be most effective if sent by June 30, 2014. ❖

--- Thanks to Earthjustice for considerable material in this alert: <http://earthjustice.org/>

## Agency okays removal of shed and discarded horns, antlers, and bones from most Alaska parks and preserves

### Proposed regulations for subsistence users to follow

Responding to requests from Alaska Native organizations, the National Park Service (NPS) is allowing NPS-qualified subsistence users to collect shed/discarded animal parts and to extract plant resources in thirteen parks and preserves in Alaska open to subsistence “to make and use handicrafts for personal or family uses or to sell them as customary trade,” according to the agency.

Parts are from moose, caribou, Dall sheep, and mountain goats; plant resources include fuel, food, and building materials. Subsistence users include Alaska Native and non-Native local rural residents who qualify as customary and traditional subsistence users.

Katmai, Denali (old Mt. McKinley core), Glacier Bay and Kenai Fjords National Parks are not subject to the collections because they are closed by Congress to subsistence and all forms of the consumption of wildlife, i.e., are true traditional national parks.

The Alaska Chapter and other Alaska conservation organizations opposed the collection proposal as obviously contrary to national park standards—which is why such extractions are illegal in all national parks—and pointed out that subsistence users can legally remove animal parts from animals they bag, and utilize plant materials in the 13 NPS units open to subsistence and from other federal and state lands that also do not prohibit the collection of shed and discarded parts.

As the agency itself acknowledged in its Environmental Assessment (EA): “Although not [now] authorized on NPS-managed lands, local subsistence users will [in the absence of the proposed collections] continue to be able to collect and use shed or discarded animal parts and plants from other lands, they will be able to harvest plants for authorized subsistence uses from NPS areas (e.g. food, fuel, and building materials for personal or family use), and they will be able to make and sell handicrafts out of the non-edible byproducts of wildlife harvested [in the NPS units] for subsistence.”

In its EA on this proposal, the agency concluded that the **no-action** (status quo) **alternative** is the “environmentally preferred alternative:” This alternative causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources (40 CFR 1505.2 Q6a). In its conclusion the agency cites the adverse effects of its proposed action on park, preserve, and monument resources and values:

--Cultural resources. “Archeological, historical, and ethnographic [resources] could be impacted at sites where materials are dug from the ground or removed

from surface features;

--Terrestrial vegetation. “Improper or intensive collection of plant materials and the removal of calcium-bearing bone and antler material could have effects on plant growth and vegetative patterns. Soil chemistry and productivity could be affected in areas immediately adjacent to sites where materials are collected and removed for the making of handicrafts;”

--Recreation and scenic values. “The removal of shed or discarded antlers, bones, horns, and various plant materials could reduce the scenic quality and photographic opportunities in various Alaska National Park System areas;”

--Wilderness. “The removal of shed or discarded antlers, bones, horns, and various plant materials could reduce the scenic integrity and naturalness of wilderness areas within the Alaska region;” and

--Wildlife/Habitat. “The removal of shed or discarded non-edible animal parts (e.g. antlers, bones, horns, and claws) and various plant materials could affect food sources for local populations of small mammals and other animals that scavenge such resources.”

Yet despite these acknowledged adverse effects and its conclusion that the no-action alternative is the environmentally preferable one, the agency has chosen to open the 13 Alaska units to a completely unnecessary additional extraction of park resources.

The Alaska Chapter also notes that if the Preferred “Collections” alternative (D) is implemented a precedent could be set for the national park system as a whole. Should Alternative D be adopted, it could invite federally recognized tribes in other states to request that they too be permitted to collect shed or discarded animal parts and plant materials in park system units.

Federal regulations to adopt the agency's decision are forthcoming “within the year”. This rule-making will provide Chapter members and other national park advocates with the opportunity to comment on the agency's unprecedented reversal of long-standing agency and congressional policy.

Members can ask to receive notice of the NPS's Federal Register publication of the proposed rule-making by contacting the acting regional communications officer in the Alaska Regional Office of the NPS. Email [morgan\\_warthin@nps.gov](mailto:morgan_warthin@nps.gov), 907-644-3418.

In addition, the EA and the final decision are available with responses to public comments on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=1&projectId=35955&documentID=58841>. ❖

--Jack Hession



# Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act in Alaska:



## Coming Up Soon in Fairbanks:

Gretel Ehrlich and *Voices of the Wilderness*, to take place Saturday, July 12 at 7 pm in the [Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center](#) in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Also at the [Morris Thompson Cultural Center](#) -- *Voices of the Wilderness* art show opens in Fairbanks on July 14.

## What's up in Juneau?

June 6th - June 23rd: The *Voices of the Wilderness* Art exhibit is on display at The Canvas in downtown Juneau. At Juneau's gala June 6 opening,

about 60 people attended over three hours. Forest Service wilderness manager Kevin Hood gave brief opening remarks, and many people commented



photo: U.S. Forest Service

Tongass Group activists Mark, Patte and Medora Rorick enjoy *Voices of the Wilderness* June 6 in Juneau

on how impressed they were with the quality of the artwork.

During September and October: More wilderness art will be on display at The Backroom at the Silverbow Inn. Several of the works from the *Voices of the Wilderness* Art exhibit, from the Tracy Arm - Ford's Terror wilderness area, for which there was not enough room to show during the June exhibit will be shown then. Cruise ship passengers in town during September, and legislators, aides and lobbyists in town during October should enjoy this show.

Two other events are planned for The Backroom during September:

**Sept 5, 7 pm (First Friday): *Wild Reads*.** People will come and bring their favorite passages and poems on wilderness and wild nature to share with others.

**Sept 19, 7pm: *Wild Shots*.** People will submit their favorite photos (as a slide show) celebrating wilderness and wild nature and share the stories behind the photos.

These events are meant to re-create the campfire atmosphere of bonding over sharing good tales. The fact that The Backroom serves beer and wine adds to the atmosphere and could bring interested participants.

On October 3, at 7pm (First Friday) – There will be a Presentation at The Backroom by the Alaskans who undertook the Arguk Expedition through the Brooks Range up north.

In November and December, the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center expects to have a series of wilderness speakers—more news on that later.

## Recent 50<sup>th</sup> Events:

**DREAMING BEARS:** a program featuring a Gwich'in Indian Storyteller, A Southern Doctor, from *A Wild Corner Of Alaska* was held May 18 from 1 to 2:30 pm at the Anchorage Museum with entertainment by Samuel Johns' Athabaskan dance group

Also during May, Alaska Public Radio Network hosted a program called **"Wilderness in Alaska"**, with Steve Heimel. The show noted: "Wilderness designation raises some profound cultural, biological and management questions. As it turns 50 years old, is the Wilderness Act showing signs of age? Or has it barely reached maturity? Nowhere in the country is there more wilderness than Alaska...." Guests included [J. Michael Holloway](#), author, [Dreaming Bears](#), a [Gwich'in Indian Storyteller](#), a [Southern Doctor](#), a [Wild Corner of Alaska](#); the program also had segments produced by Aviva Hirsch, Reid Magdanz and Nikki Navio. The LIVE Broadcast was Tuesday, May 13, 2014 on APRN stations statewide.

On May 29, Trustees For Alaska hosted "Article VIII--an Evening with Vic Fischer in Conversation with Shannyn Moore" in the Rasumuson Center Auditorium, Anchorage Museum. During the wintry months of 1955-56 delegates from across the Alaska Territory met in Fairbanks to write the constitution that would govern Alaska. They knew here was an opportunity to do it right the first time—protect natural resources before they were depleted, polluted, or destroyed. Those sentiments live in Article VIII of the Alaska State Constitution. Vic and Shannyn discussed the legacy and promise of Article VIII and Alaska's natural resource ethic. A Reception was held prior to the free program.



photo: U.S. Forest Service

"Funday" for kids at the Ketchikan Gallery this spring

# Summer 2014 Alaska Wild 50 events

## *Also around Alaska:*

Top Chef Rich Francis will also be touring through Alaska later this year to celebrate wild foods and wilderness. Check the Alaska Wild 50 Facebook page for his trips! Rich Francis, the first aboriginal chef to compete on the Food Network's Top Chef Canada competition, won third place this spring.

## *About the Voices of the Wilderness Art Show:*

The exhibit—a centerpiece of Alaska celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act—first opened in Sitka, at Sitka National Historical Park—from March 7 to April 7. Later in the spring, in May, it moved to Ketchikan (see photos); Juneau is the third stop of a statewide tour that will also go to Fairbanks in late July, (at the Morris Thompson Cultural Center) and then, after stints at the Kenai Visitor Center and Homer's Islands & Oceans Visitor Center, it will finish with two months at the Anchorage Museum. Each of the seven openings is coordinated to include a First Friday reception.

**October 3-22: One half of the exhibit will be at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge at Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Homer, and the other half at Kenai Visitor Center, Kenai.**



photo: U.S. Forest Service

Voices of the Wilderness in Ketchikan

Finally -- from November 7 to February 22, 2015: Voices of the Wilderness will be featured at Anchorage Museum, in Anchorage.

The multimedia pieces that make up the exhibit were created by artists from across the United States and the world, many of whom were artists-in-residence hosted by agencies that manage federally designated wilderness. The broad variety of artworks celebrates the diversity of Alaskan wilderness. ❖

## **Anniversary Note from the Fish & Wildlife Service in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge:**

In 1956, Olaus and Mardy Murie led a five-member, summer-long biological research expedition to the heart of the proposed northern refuge—the mountains and river of the Sheenjek valley. The Muries gained more than just biological results, however. Their experiences were a physical expression of their ongoing deliberations about the meanings of wilderness. They recognized the free-roaming caribou as a symbol of the area's unrestricted natural processes, while the wolf came to represent for them a freedom from human control and subjugation.

They appreciated that in northeast Alaska they'd found ecological systems fully intact and large enough for the scientific study of how nature functions when left alone. They also realized that such a landscape, outside of human control, provided unique recreational opportunities for freedom of exploration and discovery.

The Muries and Zahniser recognized that the Arctic landscape exemplified the natural qualities—and the opportunities for discovery, solitude and challenge—they

and others hoped to protect in Wilderness Act legislation. It's no accident, therefore, that the establishing legislation for what is now part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge includes "wilderness" as one of its core values: "wildlife, wilderness and recreation." The Act and the Refuge were birthed together.

*1956 expedition members and visitors in the Sheenjek valley. Left to right: Robert Krear, Olaus Murie, Noel Wien, Mercedes and Justice William O. Douglas, Mardy Murie, and George Schaller. Pioneer bush pilot Noel Wien had just flown George Collins in to confer with the Muries on campaign strategy.*



photo: www.fws.gov



**Update**

## Remaining Mining Company Abandons Pebble Mine

Rio Tinto, the last remaining “deep pockets” mining company involved in the Pebble Mine prospect, donated its 19.1 percent share of Pebble prospect owner Northern Dynasty to two Alaskan charitable organizations in April. This action followed mining giant Anglo American’s abandonment last September of its investment in the Pebble Limited Partnership, and leaves the only remaining owner, Northern Dynasty, without the capital or experience to be able to pursue development or even permitting of this controversial proposed gold, copper, and molybdenum mine in Southwest Alaska’s Bristol Bay watershed. (See **Sierra Borealis** March 2014 and earlier.) Pebble had promised for each of the last six years that it would apply for permits the following year, but so far had never produced the necessary plans. Northern Dynasty does not build or even plan mines, and their parent company, Hunter Dickinson, has been unwilling to invest the necessary funds to do so. They have relied on partners or buyers to provide such funds, and the ones they had have now walked away.

In May, the Pebble Partnership responded to this setback by filing suit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the U.S. District Court of Alaska, charging the EPA had exceeded its authority under the Clean Water Act. After conducting an extensive study of the area, the EPA had issued its final report in January, finding that the proposed mine would probably have devastating environmental impacts on the Bristol Bay region and its salmon fishery. The agency then initiated a rarely used process allowed under the Clean Water Act that could shut down the project even before the permitting phase. The company’s lawsuit aims to prevent this. Tom Collier, Pebble’s new CEO, claimed, “If EPA ultimately vetoes Pebble before a development plan is proposed or evaluated through the comprehensive federal and state permitting processes, the precedent established will have significant long-term effects on business investment in this state and throughout the country.”

The State of Alaska under Gov. Sean Parnell is seeking to intervene in the lawsuit on behalf of the Pebble Partnership. However, even if the EPA drops further action in response to the suit, Pebble would not be able to pursue permitting without new partners. It is highly significant that both Rio Tinto and Anglo American chose to abandon their investments rather than wait for the results of court action. A broad coalition of Native, commercial and sport fishing, and environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, has vigorously opposed the proposed Pebble Mine. It was also opposed by Alaska’s late Republican Senator Ted Stevens, and recently by Alaska’s Democratic Senator Mark Begich. ❖

– Pamela Brodie

**Update:**

## NPS wildlife restrictions pending: NPS overrules incompatible State hunting regulations affecting national preserves

Earlier this year the National Park Service proposed temporary “wildlife restrictions” in several national preserves in response to the Alaska Board of Game’s regulations allowing sport hunters to bait brown/grizzly bears, hunt wolves and coyotes year round; and use lights to hunt black bears at den sites (“spotlighting”) in several game management units, including in several national preserves. For the details, see **Sierra Borealis**, March 2014:

<http://www.alaska.sierraclub.org/newsletter/pdfs/March%202014.pdf>.

When it first proposed the restrictions, the agency said it also intended to propose permanent federal regulations, as its temporary restrictions would have to be renewed every year. With the temporary restrictions now in effect, the question becomes: when will the proposed permanent regulations will be issued for public review and comment?

In a late April reply to the Alaska Chapter’s request for clarification of this matter, the NPS said “If and when the [permanent] regulation is published in the Federal Register, it will be available for public comment.” As this issue go to “press,” the NPS in Alaska has informed the Chapter that publication of the regulations is due “within the year”. ❖

-- Jack Hession



Sean Whonnock: Spirit of the Thunderbird

## Canoeing in Noatak Wilderness

Having never canoed before, nor seen northwest Alaska, I found the slow flowing Noatak was a perfect fit for me. Switching my planned Sierra trip to July, I was ready for this opportunity for August canoeing in Alaska. Flying north from Fresno, California, I had seen only limited wilderness, so I was awestruck flying over Alaskan open space into Fairbanks.

Most of our remaining pristine wilderness is in Alaska. The minute Coyote Air's Beaver-bush-plane set its extra large tires on the gravel bar drop-off point, near the headwaters of the Noatak River, I jumped out, in wilderness, silence, and untouched beauty, just a few flight hours from even a suggestion of civilization, buildings, or roads.

That civilization from which we departed was called Coldfoot, because it marked the spot where miners, attracted to Alaska's gold mine fields (1870s-1890s), had traveled, gotten cold feet, and turned back. Coldfoot now consisted of a truck stop (from pipeline and road building days), a modern Visitor Center, and Dirk's family-run air transportation service.

The low-flying bush plane we used, to and from our back-country trips, was a major connector, revealing a kaleidoscope of color from commercial airport to wilderness camp. There was a price, however, for the uninitiated camper: nights sleeping on the ground, without shower, lacking fresh fruit and vegetables, and with camp food like fried spam, reconstituted mashed potatoes, and Tang. A small price to pay for a river slipping silently by, mountain ranges fading gently into the distance, the arctic sun dipping only slightly below the horizon at evening, and a lone wolf call.

As well as days paddling the river, there were mornings rambling up ridges, through waist-high willows and knee-high forests, on or between tussocks, over blueberry, salmonberry, brilliant red bearberry (the bears eat it), and a carpet of mosses, lichen, and tiny late-blooming flowers. Another time we walked along a small tributary stopping to examine who had been there before us: footprints twice our size, denoting the bear as owner of them, the curved prints of caribou, and the delicate petal-like paw prints of wolf or lynx. A flaming yellow forest of willow, taller than tundra, provided the background color.

On the return flight I felt more familiar with the true three-dimensional topography below, and watched the winding river decrease as it neared the pass, while another river increased as it flowed



Entrancing Alaska rivers--this painting by Heather Anderson is of the Kongakut River

down the other side, the braids looping rakishly as they eroded and widened the valley in their descent. Often the river was gray from silt washed off the gray mountain. At times it was milky-turquoise from glacier melt. Once I saw a yellow river (silt from some ancient colorful formation) flow into the turquoise and become a yellow-green river. The rivers and their surrounding landscape melded together and wove an indescribable multi-colored blanket of vegetation.

It is not impossible to save some of these experiences for future lovers of the land who cannot speak for themselves: wildlife and generations to come. *Wilderness 50 in 2014* marks a national anniversary celebration, fifty years since the 1964 signing of the Wilderness Act by President Johnson. Wilderness organizations are seeking to make the concept and benefits of wilderness better known to the American public. ❖

-- Heather Anderson

(Heather Anderson is a long-time volunteer in the Sierra Club's Tehipite Chapter in central California. She has visited Alaska many times; she is an artist and art educator and spent one summer as Artist in Residence in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.)

***"We are not fighting a rear-guard action, we are facing a frontier. We are not slowing down a force that inevitably will destroy all the wilderness there is. We are generating another force, never to be wholly spent, that, renewed generation after generation, will be always effective in preserving wilderness. We are not fighting progress. We are making it. We are not dealing with a vanishing wilderness. We are working for a wilderness forever."***

-- Howard Zahniser, Executive Secretary of The Wilderness Society and chief author of the Wilderness Act

# Wilderness, Our Enduring American Legacy, -- new publication from The Wilderness Society

See <http://wilderness.org/special-feature-wilderness-our-enduring-american-legacy-wilderness-act-turns-50>. The actual book can be downloaded at [http://www.scribd.com/document\\_downloads/227696973?extension=pdf&from=embed&source=embed](http://www.scribd.com/document_downloads/227696973?extension=pdf&from=embed&source=embed).

In highlighting 12 special wilderness areas across the country, (including our largest, smallest, and newest) the new 50th anniversary booklet features two in Alaska: **Denali National Park Wilderness, Alaska National Park Service; size: 2,124,783 Acres; Year Protected: 1980**

At the center of the towering Alaska Range, this wilderness contains vast mountain, tundra and taiga landscapes. Caribou, grizzly bears and Dall sheep are among the three dozen mammal species that inhabit these lands along with 150 bird species and more than 400 species of flowering plants. First established as a wildlife refuge in 1917, much of the land was known as Mount McKinley National Park until its designation as wilderness in 1980. Native Athabascans used the word "Denali" to describe 20,320-foot Mount McKinley, which is the highest mountain in North America.

**Wrangell Saint Elias Wilderness, Alaska National Park Service, size: 9,078,675 acres; year protected: 1980**

Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve embodies the essence of wild. It is a land of remote valleys, wild



rivers, and an unparalleled wildlife community that includes Dall sheep, grizzly bears, black bears, caribou, moose, bison, mountain goats, wolves, wolverines, beavers, coyotes, foxes, and marmots. In the north part of the park, the glaciated peaks drop to tundra and forested uplands. In the south, massive glaciers spread from the mountains almost to the Gulf of Alaska. Here visitors will find the most extensive glaciated country of Alaska (with more than 100 glaciers), a vastly rugged land that holds nine of North America's 16 highest peaks (many over 16,000 feet) and the unsurpassed Malaspina Glacier, which covers an area 50 percent larger than the state of Delaware. ❖

America's  
Largest  
Wilderness

## Sierra Borealis / alaska report

is the newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club

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➡ Please e-mail to us your own e-mail address. We will use it sparingly! Send your e-mail to chapter chair Pam Brodie [pbrodie@gci.net](mailto:pbrodie@gci.net). Include your name and mailing address or eight digit membership number for identification purposes.

Many thanks, Pam