DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of an Open Public Meeting for the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the National Park Service (NPS) is hereby giving notice that the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) will hold a public meeting to develop and continue work on NPS subsistence program recommendations, and other related regulatory proposals and resource management issues. The NPS SRC program is authorized under Section 808 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SRC meetings are open to the public and will have time allocated for public testimony. The public is welcome to present written or oral comments to the SRC. SRC meetings will be recorded and meeting minutes will be available upon request from the Superintendent for public inspection approximately six weeks after the meeting. Before including your address, telephone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time.

Proposed meeting agenda: The agenda may change to accommodate SRC business. The proposed meeting agenda includes the following:

1. Call to Order—Confirm Quorum
2. Welcome and Introduction
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Superintendent’s Welcome and Review of the SRC Purpose
6. SRC Membership Status
7. SRC Chair and Members’ Reports
8. Superintendent’s Report
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Federal Subsistence Board Update
12. Alaska Boards of Fish and Game Update
13. National Park Service Reports
  a. Ranger Update
  b. Resource Manager’s Report
  c. Subsistence Manager’s Report
14. Public and Other Agency Comments
15. Work Session
16. Set Tentative Date and Location for Next SRC Meeting
17. Adjourn Meeting

If this meeting is postponed, the alternate meeting dates are Wednesday, March 8, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Thursday, March 9, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The alternate meeting location is the Kenny Lake School in Kenny Lake, AK. SRC meeting locations and dates may change based on inclement weather or exceptional circumstances. If the meeting dates and locations are changed, the Superintendent will issue a press release and use local newspapers and radio stations to announce the rescheduled meeting.

Alma Ripps,
Chief, Office of Policy.

[FR Doc. 2016–29551 Filed 12–8–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Savidge, Park Headquarters, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123; phone (415) 561–4725.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Current dog management in the park is based on a number of factors. Areas included in the GGNRA Citizens’ Advisory Commission’s 1979 pet policy, following the park for over twenty years, are currently managed in accordance with the June 2, 2005, decision by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (U.S. vs. Barley, 405 F.Supp. 2d 1121 (2005)) which prohibited the NPS from enforcing the NPS-wide regulation requiring on leash walking of pets (36 CFR 2.15(a)(2)) in areas where the park had previously allowed off leash use until notice and comment rulemaking under 36 CFR 1.5(b) is completed. A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published for a 90-day notice and public comment period on February 24, 2016. A final rule will be published after a 30-day no action period on the FEIS, and after a Record of Decision has been signed. The purpose of the Plan/FEIS is to determine the manner and extent of dog use in appropriate areas of the park, provide a clear, enforceable dog management policy, preserve and protect natural and cultural resources and natural processes, provide a variety of visitor experiences, improve visitor and employee safety, and reduce user conflicts.

The Plan/FEIS evaluates the impacts of six alternatives for dog management in 22 areas of GGNRA. The range of alternatives includes the consensus recommendations of the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for Dog Management, the 1979 Pet Policy, the current NPS policy 36 CFR 2.15, voice and sight-control dog walking and commercial dog walking. The preferred alternative includes site specific treatments from multiple action alternatives that together allow for a balanced range of visitor experiences, including areas that prohibit dogs, and areas that allow on-leash and voice and sight-control dog walking. It includes the following key elements: The Negotiated Rulemaking Committee’s consensus agreement on overarching plan guidelines and committee recommendations on commercial dog walking limits; on-leash and/or voice and sight-control—dog walking in multiple specific areas of the park where impacts to sensitive resources and visitor experience were minimized; no dogs in areas of the park where impacts would be unacceptable and could not be mitigated; a monitoring-based management program measuring compliance in on-leash and voice and sight-control dog walking areas which will provide information that can result in a range of management responses as needed, including further restrictions, training requirements or temporary or long-term closures to a use if that use approaches an unacceptable level; and permit requirements for both private and commercial dog walkers for more than three dogs, with a maximum of six, in limited areas of the park.

Dated: December 2, 2016.
Laura E. Joss, Regional Director, Pacific West Region.
[FR Doc. 2016–29529 Filed 12–8–16; 8:45 am]