

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Alaska



Frontcountry Management Plan

A RENEWED VISION FOR BARTLETT COVE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

June 2019





FIGURE 1. GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK



FIGURE 2. FRONTCOUNTRY CONTEXT

(above) Glacier Bay National Park covers 3.2 million acres of rugged mountains, dynamic glaciers, temperate rainforest, wild coastlines and deep sheltered fjords. It is a Biosphere Reserve and part of a 25-million acre World Heritage Site—one of the world’s largest international protected areas. From sea to summit, Glacier Bay offers limitless opportunities for adventure and inspiration.

(left) The park frontcountry encompasses 7,120 acres centered around Bartlett Cove, the only developed area where visitor services are available. In a remote setting, accessible only by water, air, and local roads, Bartlett Cove is harder-to-reach than most national park frontcountry destinations.

Frontcountry visitors typically arrive at the Bartlett Cove public dock or by paved road from the nearby gateway community of Gustavus ~9 miles away, with a population of 544 (2017 Alaska Department of Labor data). The Gustavus airport supports regular small plane and seasonal jet service. An Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) dock provides year-round passenger and vehicle ferry service. Gustavus has strong links with Juneau (~50 miles away) where visitors can make connections to the rest of Alaska, Canada, and the lower 48 U.S. states.

More intrepid travelers perform logistical feats to launch a frontcountry visit from distant gateway communities, including Hoonah (~30 miles), principal village for the Huna Tlingit who originally settled the region, Elfin Cove (~25 miles), Haines (~50 miles), Skagway (~75 miles), and Yakutat (~160 miles).

A Renewed Vision

Letter from the Superintendent



Dear Friends,

We have reached an important milestone in finalizing a shared vision for Bartlett Cove that is responsive to visitor needs, discloses cumulative impacts, and articulates a path to guide future stewardship, activities,

decision-making, and investment priorities with transparency and accountability to the American public.

Thanks to all who contributed to this vision during initial outreach (June to October 2016) and during its final review (April to May 2019) despite accelerated Environmental Assessment deadline constraints. This final plan incorporates changes based on your feedback and concerns.

Please stay in touch during implementation to learn about our progress and provide input as we further define and refine the tiered actions (email us to subscribe to a planning updates list at glba_public_comments@nps.gov or visit us online at https://go.nps.gov/GLBA_FMP).

Thank you for your commitment to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and its core values.

Philip Hooge, Superintendent
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

The frontcountry is the only developed area in the park and includes lands and waters around Bartlett Cove, where NPS administrative facilities and visitor services are located (see map below).



(above) Bartlett Cove at sunset.



(above) Public Dock and Glacier Bay Lodge.



(above) Huna Tribal House.



FIGURE 3. BARTLETT COVE MAP



(above) Pictured above in its early days (~1970), the Glacier Bay Lodge was developed in Bartlett Cove in the late 1960s to support park visitation and to take advantage of an airfield constructed during WWII in nearby Gustavus.



(above) Bartlett Cove today (~2019) supports park visitation with remote facilities, infrastructure, and services; visitor attractions and interpretation; and outdoor recreation and backcountry access opportunities.



(above) The Bartlett Cove shoreline is where most frontcountry visitor activity occurs, and features the Huna Tribal House (left), the Glacier Bay Lodge (middle) and Visitor Information Station (VIS) and NPS public dock (right).



(above) The Inner Lagoon and tidal cut vicinity. Visible structures include NPS offices (left) and housing (right).

Aerial Images: ShoreZone, NOAA (2018).

FIGURE 4. BARTLETT COVE CONTEXT

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Acronyms

ABAAS	ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
CEQ	COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CFR	CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
CTA	COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES
DCP	DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN
DO	DIRECTOR'S ORDER
EA	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
EPA	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
FONSI	FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FMP	FRONTCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
GIS	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM(S)
GLBA	GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
GMP	GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
HIA	HOONAH INDIAN ASSOCIATION
IVUMC	INTERAGENCY VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
NEPA	NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
NHPA	NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT
NPS	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NRHP	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PEPC	PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC COMMENT
SHPO	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
USACE	U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
USFWS	UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
VC	VISITOR CENTER
VIS	VISITOR INFORMATION STATION

Symbols

[CTA]	PLANNING VISION PROPOSAL COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES (B AND C)
[EA]	PLANNING VISION PROPOSAL ANALYZED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
~	APPROXIMATELY

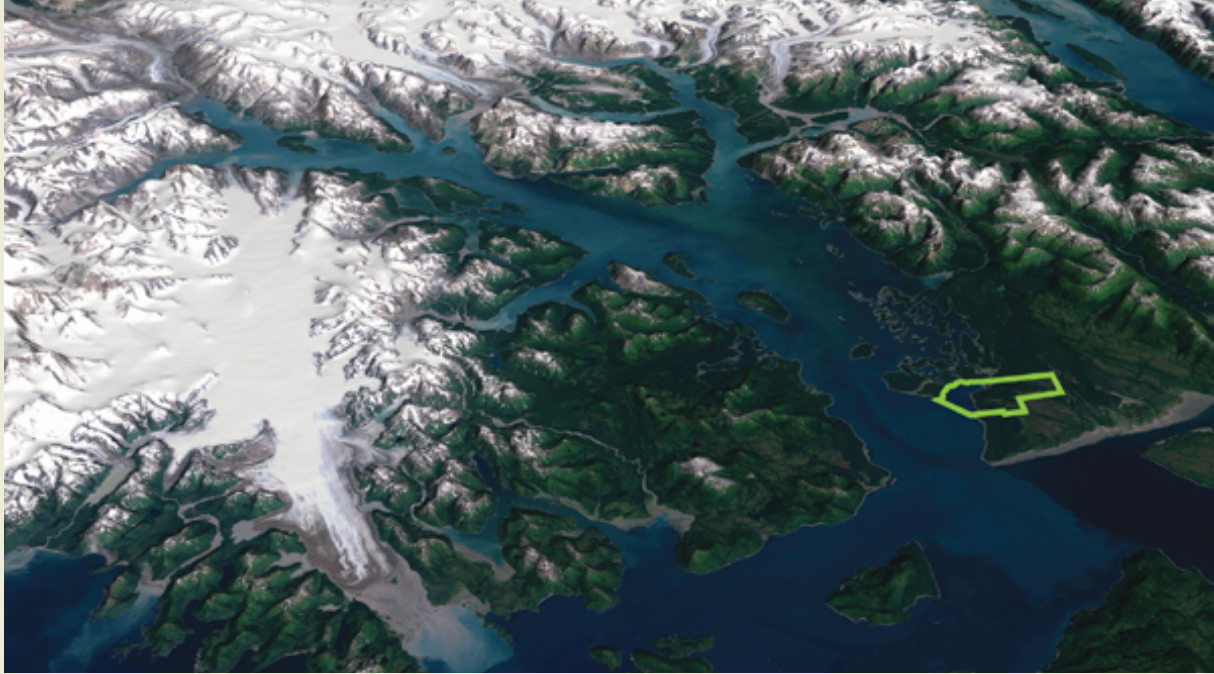


Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

Frontcountry Management Plan

Part I - A Renewed Vision for Bartlett Cove

June 2019



(above) A NASA Earth Observatory Satellite image of Glacier Bay and Icy Strait with park frontcountry highlighted.

(below) This image shows the Bartlett Cove shoreline, where most of the frontcountry visitor services, facilities, and attractions are located. Surrounded by dense, fast-growing successional vegetation, even in the busiest frontcountry areas visitors can have intimate nature experiences where they feel like they are on the edge of one of the wildest places on the planet.

FIGURE 5. FRONTCOUNTRY PLANNING AREA

INTRODUCTION

This National Park Service (NPS) **planning vision** provides long-term, comprehensive management direction for facilities, services, operations, resource stewardship, and visitor experiences in the frontcountry area of Glacier Bay National Park (*see figure 2*), and related to visitor day use originating from Bartlett Cove (including into adjacent designated wilderness).

Elements of the planning vision include:

■ **WHAT** the NPS is seeking to achieve:

- the **goal** or broad outcomes the park is hoping to achieve over the life of the plan (*see page I-14*)
- the **objectives**, including the specific outcomes or future desired conditions that the park is seeking to achieve through consistent management over time (*see page I-14*)

■ **HOW** the NPS proposes to achieve this:

- the **planning vision** (*see page I-18 and II-9*)
- the implementing actions including broad **strategies** and specific **actions**, described by how they support or relate to:
 - the **Huna Tlingit Homeland** (*see page I-20*)
 - the **Glacier Bay Lodge** (*see page I-22*)
 - the frontcountry **Visitor Experience** (*see page I-25*)
 - and overall **Park Operations** in the frontcountry (*see page I-34*)

■ **WHY** the NPS supports this planning vision (*see page I-37*)

■ **WHEN** the NPS may implement changes (*see page I-38*)

■ **WHERE** the NPS may implement changes, presented as illustrative **planning vision concepts**:

- an implementation site concept rendering (*see figure 8 on page I-18*)
- an overview map of the planning vision and trail concepts (*see figure 13 on page I-39*)
- an inset map of the visitor core area site concept (*see figure 14 on page I-40*)
- an inset map of the administrative core area site concept (*see figure 15 on page I-41*)

This planning vision is an expanded presentation of the NPS preferred alternative (**alternative C**) in the environmental assessment (EA) portion of this document.

The planning vision and alternative C together comprise the proposed Frontcountry Management Plan (plan) that updates the 1984 Glacier Bay General Management Plan and amends the 1998 Bartlett Cove Comprehensive Design Plan.

As context, following is a general overview of the park and its frontcountry, along with some of the NPS management responsibilities, and the process that guided the development of this plan.

THE PARK

America's national parks are among our nation's greatest treasures, managed for the enduring benefit and legacy of present and future generations. A gem among these national treasures, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve offers a sample of truly wild America, an awe-inspiring place to experience nature on its own terms in a dynamic landscape, where ancient Tlingit heritage blends with living cultural traditions.

First protected as a National Monument in 1925, generations of visitors have been inspired by Glacier Bay's rugged mountains, dynamic glaciers, dense temperate rainforest, wild coastlines, and deep sheltered fjords. Designated a national park in 1980 and a Biosphere Reserve since 1986, the park today includes 3.2 million acres, which is part of the even larger 25-million acre Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Elsek World Heritage Site—one of the world's largest international protected areas (*see figure 1*).

As a national park experience, Glacier Bay delivers powerful natural and cultural experiences every day, while annually serving around 560,000 visitors (2018 NPS visitor data). The majority of these park visitors are cruise ship passengers aboard vessels that do not enter Bartlett Cove, and who never set foot on land in the park. On average, visitors travel more than 3,000 miles from home to visit the park from around the world (20%), across the country (80%), within the state (>5%), or who live in nearby areas (2%) (2015 NPS visitor data).

Overall park visitor expenditures and contributions total \$168 million in economic output, benefit 400 different companies, support an estimated 2,090 jobs, provide \$58.8 million in labor income, and add \$94.5 million in total contributions to the national gross domestic product (2017 NPS data).

THE FRONTCOUNTRY

Located in a remote Alaskan setting centered around Bartlett Cove, the 7,120-acre frontcountry (*see figures 2 and 6*) includes some of the park's most biologically rich, culturally significant, and scenic coastal lands and waters. The frontcountry is the only developed area within the 3.2 million-acre park where visitor services are available. It is distinct from the park backcountry, which includes 2.6 million acres of designated Wilderness.



(above) **Bartlett Cove's Inner Lagoon in the 1960s. The area has served as a base for NPS operations since the 1950s.**

Since the 1950s, Bartlett Cove has been the NPS base for day-to-day parkwide operations. Depending on the season, 60 to 200 people with different roles supporting visitors, park stewardship, and day-to-day operations work in Bartlett Cove. This includes NPS interpretive staff who board cruise ships in Glacier Bay to serve around half a million visitors each season.

The NPS also provides housing in Bartlett Cove for around 5 permanent and 35 seasonal employees, supplemented by WWII-era Civil Aeronautics Administration Complex houses in Gustavus, transferred to the NPS after the Gustavus military airfield became a public airport.

In the 1960s, the Glacier Bay Lodge complex was developed on Bartlett Cove's scenic shoreline. The lodge was initially conceived as a remote way station to help visitors overcome the challenging logistics of experiencing Glacier Bay. Its location supported road connections to the nearby community of Gustavus (*see figure 6*) and a decommissioned WWII military airfield enabling visitors to arrive by plane, stay overnight, travel upbay and fly out the following day.

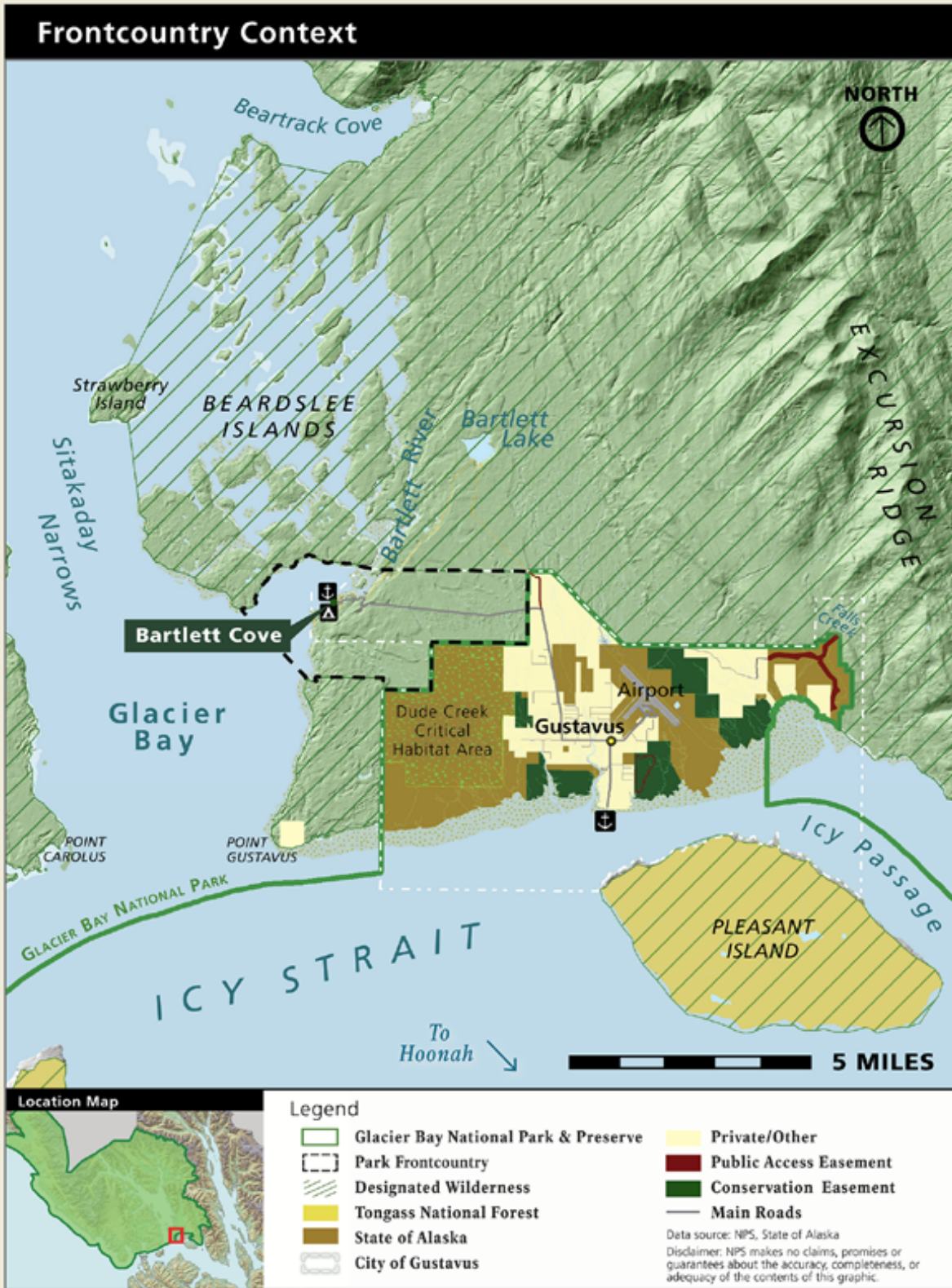


FIGURE 6. FRONTCOUNTRY CONTEXT MAP

Based on initial visitor demand, lodge additions were ongoing through 1974. By the late 1970s, however, emerging cruise ship markets began offering price-competitive park visits, bypassing Bartlett Cove and supplanting the lodge's role as a way station. Today, around 30,000 visitors annually visit the frontcountry, accounting for only five percent of the overall park visitation (2017 NPS visitor data).



(above) Pictured here in the early 1970s, the Glacier Bay Lodge opened in 1966 as an overnight way station to support visitation.

Given its remote setting and the travel logistics and expense of a visit, independent travelers are the segment most intimately connected to the Bartlett Cove experience. Frontcountry visitation occurs mainly during the prime season when Gustavus is served by a daily jet connection with Juneau (*see figure 1*), and when the Glacier Bay Lodge is open (Memorial Day through Labor Day).

While Glacier Bay's frontcountry remains harder to reach than most NPS frontcountry areas, most visitors value the experience of being "off the beaten path" in a remote Alaskan setting. The intrepid travelers who do arrive in Bartlett Cove generally enjoy learning about the park's rich cultural and natural heritage, and exploring the scenic shoreline and NPS trails. Most visitors also appreciate the lodge and other frontcountry services and comforts, in contrast with the rest of the park where there are no visitor amenities, and the unforgiving environment demands self-sufficiency.

The lodge facilities are owned by the NPS, and historically have been operated for visitors under a concession contract with a private business partner managing day-to-day operations. As the only developed accommodations in the park, the lodge complex features 48 guest rooms in cabins connected by wooden boardwalks. The main lodge building includes a restaurant, a gift shop, a 1980s-era NPS visitors center, an auditorium, an Alaska Geographic book store, and lounge areas. The current lodge operator, Aramark, reports annual average occupancy in recent years ranging between 66% (7,632 guests) and 75% (7,771 guests) during the period between 2016 and 2018.

Today, the lodge facilities and its associated landscape are recognized as a historically-significant architectural achievement of the NPS Mission 66 nationwide program (2018 NPS HSR). For decades now, however, the NPS has found it challenging to enlist commercial partners to operate the lodge on favorable terms and to generate the funds needed to reinvest in facility conditions and the overall guest experience. As a result, in recent years the NPS has accepted a greater role in caring for the aging facility and funding its deferred maintenance.

Many Bartlett Cove visitors arrive independent of guided tour groups, yet the majority depend on some form of commercial service to participate in backcountry adventures. These currently include an 8-hour upbay "dayboat" excursion with camper drop-off service, kayak rentals and guided trips, charter day trips that meet passengers at the Bartlett Cove Dock, and tour vessels with passengers who explore what the frontcountry has to offer as guided groups, or on their own.

Multi-day wilderness immersion trips also launch from Bartlett Cove. These often rely on NPS-provided services, including a semi-primitive walk-in campground with 33 individual and group tent sites, and basic amenities. This backcountry experience requires serious preparation, skill, equipment, and place-specific knowledge. Such backcountry visitors rarely go home disappointed. Few places across the US National Wilderness Preservation System (or planet) can match the Glacier Bay experience of challenge, freedom, and renewal as a part of the greater community of Life.

Consistently rated by visitors as a quality destination, 95% of park visitors who spend time on the ground in Bartlett Cove are satisfied overall with appropriate interpretation and recreational opportunities, services, and facilities (2016 NPS Visitor Survey Card Data).

MANAGEMENT CONTEXTS

A planning vision is best served by first describing the park purpose and the NPS management responsibilities for the frontcountry area. Following is a summary of some of the overarching laws, policies, and plans that have helped the NPS manage Bartlett Cove as a special place over many decades in a consistent but dynamic portfolio approach. Most of these documents can be found on the park website (*see www.nps.gov/glba/learn*).

The Organic Act: Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (1916)

The 1916 NPS Organic Act (16 USC 1) charges the NPS with providing for public enjoyment while protecting our nationally-significant resources and values, unimpaired for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. This mandate is defined by the NPS Organic Act, which is a substantive statute, and the NPS Management Policies 2006 (1.4.4), which set forth the NPS interpretation of the Organic Act.

Together, these policies prohibit the NPS from taking any action that would result in the impairment of park resources or values, while recognizing that “virtually every form of human activity that takes place within a park has some degree of effect on park resources or values, but that does not mean the impact is unacceptable or that a particular use must be disallowed.” Thus, while the NPS has the discretion to adversely impact park resources and values, managers must always seek ways to avoid, or to minimize them to the greatest extent practicable.

When making decisions about NPS-administered resources, including when assessing whether an action would result in impairment or unacceptable impacts to park resources and values, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process is used by NPS managers in tandem with other applicable laws and policies (*see appendix F*), including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Foundation Statement (2010 NPS)

The units of the national park system collectively represent fundamental resources, experiences, and stories that preserve our American heritage. Each unit’s foundation document provides basic guidance for planning and management decisions, including identifying the park unit’s purpose and fundamental resources and values through a careful analysis of the unit’s enabling legislation and legislative history.

As articulated in Glacier Bay’s enabling legislation and 2010 Foundation Statement, park-specific themes are presented below. Also discussed is how the frontcountry is relevant to, and presents opportunities for, meeting park purposes and preserving its fundamental resources and values.

Park Purpose

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve protects “a dynamic tidewater glacial landscape and associated natural successional processes for science and discovery in a wilderness setting.” The frontcountry supports this purpose day-to-day as an operational base for the NPS and its partners, and as a visitor node and gateway for the entire 3.3 million acre unit.

Enabling Legislation

Three prongs of significance were emphasized in the 1925 enabling legislation that designated Glacier Bay as a national treasure (Presidential Proclamation 1733):

Tidewater Glaciers in a Magnificent Setting

Central to the formation of Glacier Bay as a National Monument in 1925 was the presence and ability to access and enjoy “Tidewater glaciers of the first rank in a magnificent setting of lofty peaks, and more accessible to ordinary travel.” The desire by visitors to see and enjoy tidewater glaciers remains just as relevant today—even though their extent has dramatically changed over the past century (and will continue to change given the characteristic dynamism of Glacier Bay). Providing these experiences for frontcountry visitors thus remains relevant to meeting the park’s fundamental purpose.

A Living Laboratory

When Glacier Bay and surrounding lands were first set aside, the principal lobby was the scientific community; they wanted to ensure preservation of the area’s potential to contribute to scientific knowledge with “unique opportunities for the scientific study of glacial behavior and of resulting movements and development of flora and fauna and relics of ancient interglacial forests.” Scientists were first drawn to Glacier Bay in the late 1800s because of its dynamic, rapidly-deglaciating landscape and the associated colonization of new land by plants and animals. Glaciologists, geologists, plant ecologists and other scientists came from all over the world to study the unfolding phenomena, and soon Glacier Bay became widely known as a living laboratory.



(above) Glacier Bay’s dynamic geologic and successional processes, as seen in this aerial of upper Tarr Inlet (~2007), have shaped scientific understandings of natural change since the late 1800s.

In this way, rather than the modern notion of employing science to preserve nature (science for parks, for example), Glacier Bay became the quintessential example of a park for science. Today, having hosted more than a century of research resulting in countless important contributions to science, Glacier Bay is considered a globally important reserve for learning about nature and helping the NPS and other management agencies wisely manage protected areas the world over. The frontcountry is relevant to the park’s fundamental purpose as a living laboratory through its role in actively supporting legacy science specific to Glacier Bay, and helping to translate this knowledge into understanding for frontcountry visitors.

Historic Interest

The 1925 proclamation also describes Glacier Bay’s historical significance and the need to preserve valuable historic and cultural resources and records. The frontcountry is relevant through its support for the active study and preservation of Glacier Bay’s rich record of human experience—including its role as homeland, and in historic exploration, science, and conservation—and helping translate this knowledge into understanding for frontcountry visitors and the broader public.



(above) The steamer Ancon in Glacier Bay in 1889 with a tidewater glacier in the background (photo copyrighted by I.W. Taber, 1889). Adventurers and explorers visiting Glacier Bay in the late 1800s and early 1900s were instrumental to the protection of the area by 1925. These notably included the naturalist John Muir, travel writers like Eliza Scidmore, and a cadre of world-class scientists associated with the Ecological Society of America who were fascinated by Glacier Bay’s dynamic glacial landscape.

Park Fundamental Resources and Values

The 2010 Foundation Statement articulates a range of fundamental park resources and values that align with the park’s purpose, and that serve as a basis for frontcountry management directions:

Visitor Experience

Bartlett Cove offers visitors a premium national park experience in one of the most scenic and biologically and culturally rich areas of the park. For generations of visitors, Bartlett Cove’s setting, facilities, and services have delivered powerful natural and cultural experiences. Today the frontcountry remains an important base for a range of visitor experiences and services, and is a gateway for launching adventures in the larger park.



(above) Within the national park system, Glacier Bay is unique in conserving intact terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. From sea to summit, the park is a sanctuary for a myriad of species—and offers visitors limitless opportunities for adventure and inspiration.

Tlingit Ancestral Homeland

The frontcountry presents opportunities to partner with the Hoonah Indian Association and support the park role as the traditional homeland of the Huna Tlingit, who evolved with and adapted to the changing Glacier Bay landscape just as they, in turn, shaped the resources and ecosystems themselves. The Bartlett Cove area is also of significance to the Huna Tlingit people, encompassing *L’eiwshaa Shakee Aan* and *Gaatheeni* (traditional village sites), historical use areas, and natural systems that contribute to the traditional cultural landscape.



(above) During the 2016 dedication of *Xunaa Shuká Hit* (the Huna Tribal House), traditional carved spruce canoes journeyed from Hoonah to Bartlett Cove to herald the Huna Tlingit return to homeland.

In partnership with the tribe, this plan conceptualizes the frontcountry as a “living cultural landscape” with strengthened ties to tribal members who primarily live in the Tlingit village of Hoonah (around 30 miles by water across Icy Strait). The plan was developed through tribal consultation and builds from ongoing NPS-tribal collaborations (the draft Huna Tribal House Strategic Plan, Huna Tribal House Interpretive Site Plan, etc.).

Within this living cultural landscape, the treasured Tlingit homeland is both memorialized and renewed through contemporary frontcountry features that serve as “containers” to hold the ancestral stories and the traditions of the Chookaneidí, Kaagwaantaan, Wooshkeetaan, and T’akdeintaan clans. These features include *Xunaa Shuká Hit* (the Huna Tribal House), totem poles, culturally modified trees, *Yuxch Yaakuw* (a traditional dugout canoe), and the Ceremonial Beach. The plan also reinforces the Huna Tribal House and surrounding area as a venue for a range of tribal activities that not only strengthen and maintain relationships between the living Tlingit and their homeland, but also provide opportunities for visitors to learn about Tlingit culture, the bond between people and place, and the partnerships that support this evolving relationship.

Pre-Historic and Historical Site Records

Bartlett Cove presents a range of opportunities to understand Glacier Bay through the historic lens of human experience and study, and its evolving role in the story of our shared American heritage—as homeland, and in historic exploration, science, and conservation. The frontcountry presents opportunities to preserve these multi-dimensional stories, features, landscapes, and structures, and showcase relevant features in the Bartlett Cove visitor experience.

Scientific Investigation

The frontcountry presents opportunities for enhancing Glacier Bay as a living laboratory, building on more than a century of active field research and study. Bartlett Cove thus serves as an important base to help researchers overcome the challenging logistics of conducting field research in such a remote and dynamic environment. The frontcountry also serves as a venue for translating knowledge into understanding, and for sharing findings with Bartlett Cove visitors and broader audiences through the web and other media.

Dynamism and Succession

Within the Glacier Bay story of dynamism and succession, the frontcountry physical environment is comprised of tell-tale geologic features and vegetation to indicate how the area was covered with a sheet of ice more than a mile thick around 200 years ago. Remnant biophysical hallmarks of large-scale glacial disturbance include relics of interstadial wood on shorelines and geologic features such as the Bartlett Cove moraine crest, kettle ponds, and Cooper’s Notch—a coastal feature created by the glacial outwash that formed the physical landscape of Gustavus today.



(above) A simulation of Glacier Bay 250 years ago, superimposed over today's coastline. A star marks Bartlett Cove, tan is glacial outwash, blue is water, and the green hillshade areas were untouched during recent glacial advances.

The frontcountry can bring attention to these features as well as the resulting living biota in the early stages of recovery after landscape-scale disturbance. This includes the biologically rich waters of Bartlett Cove and lower Glacier Bay, and their evolving story of dynamic habitats and resident species over time. This also includes tidal cuts and beach meadows that tell the story of “new” lands rising from the sea (the area has some of the fastest levels of isostatic rebound in the world, at around 1 inch per year) and the rapid rainforest vegetation growth due to succession, challenging NPS managers who are accustomed to more traditional national park approaches to maintaining scenic views, trails, and facilities.

Ecological Integrity | Protected Marine Ecosystems

The frontcountry is strongly dominated by dynamic natural processes, including a variety of intact ecosystems. The frontcountry thus presents opportunities to enjoy a variety of habitats and wildlife, and for the NPS to implement measures and mitigations to retain intact landscapes and avoid unacceptable impacts to sensitive habitats and animal and plant populations of concern, since the area is also zoned as a day-to-day operational land base where human modifications, activities, and development are to be expected.



(above) Two humpback whales surface near the shore in Bartlett Cove. Glacier Bay encompasses one of the most productive marine environments on the planet.

Wilderness

The park is one of the largest units in the wilderness preservation system, encompassing more than 2.7 million areas of designated Wilderness—including around 53,000 acres of marine wilderness. While the frontcountry does not encompass any of the designated Wilderness, it supports visitors who are launching and returning from extended backcountry experiences, and enables day-use trips from Bartlett Cove into adjacent designated Wilderness, targeted to those who may not otherwise be able to access this experience (e.g., due to physical conditions or the lack of equipment, time, or backcountry skill).



(above) A tent in Bartlett Cove's walk-in, semi-primitive campground. While the frontcountry includes no designated Wilderness, for some visitors, experiences like camping or walking in the frontcountry provide an accessible experience of the natural elements.

The frontcountry is an appropriate land base for higher concentrations of visitors, including commercial groups and higher intensity activities that require development and services. Focusing these activities in frontcountry preserves wilderness character parkwide.

The 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)

This plan and its actions are consistent with the 1980 Act that designated Glacier Bay as a national park for the benefit, use, education, and inspiration of present and future generations, associated with its nationally significant natural, scenic, historic, archaeological, geological, scientific, wilderness, cultural, recreational, and wildlife values (Public Law 96-487, Section 101a).

The plan also focuses development to within a limited zone of the 3.2 million-acre park, complementing the intent of Congress when dedicating Glacier Bay National Park as a large “sanctuary where fish and wildlife may roam freely, developing their social structures and evolving over long periods of time as nearly as possible without the changes that extensive human activities would cause.” (ANILCA Senate Committee Report 96-413, p. 137).

Further, locating higher intensity, land-based activities and operations in the frontcountry (the only terrestrial area in the entire park that is not designated as Wilderness) supports the intent of Congress, as codified in ANILCA Title VII, Section 701(3) and implemented by Section 1317, to dedicate 2.7 million acres of Glacier Bay National Park to the preservation of wilderness character and values, as defined by the 1964 Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577).

Finally, because ANILCA and NPS regulations prohibit subsistence uses in Glacier Bay National Park (codified in 36 CFR, part 13), the plan is not expected to significantly restrict or increase competition for ANILCA Title VIII subsistence resources on federal public lands within the broader region (*see further analysis in appendix B*).



Glacier Bay National Park encompasses one of the few remaining intact ecosystems on the planet—with diverse marine, terrestrial and freshwater habitats that serve as an important sanctuary for a myriad of species. (above) Mountain goats on Gloomy Knob. (below) Mother and calf humpback whales, backed by the Fairweather Mountains in Glacier Bay (NPS photo by scientists conducting whale monitoring, NMFS Scientific Research permit #945-1776-01).

Glacier Bay General Management Plan, 1984

This plan is consistent with and supplements directions in the general management plan (GMP) that guide the long-term management of the park including visitor use, facilities, and resource management. The GMP established management zones and placed Bartlett Cove into a Development Zone to be managed for park development and concentrated public use that would substantially alter the natural environment. Parking lots, public roads, buildings, and park utilities were to be included in this zone. It also emphasized that, to the extent possible, any development should emphasize a high quality of design that harmonizes with the park's history and atmosphere to minimize impacts on visitors and resources.

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirements (VQOR) | Final Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision 2003

This plan is consistent with the 2003 Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirements EIS Record of Decision to address the continuing demand for motorized watercraft access into Glacier Bay with a system of seasonal use quotas and operating requirements for four vessel types (cruise ships, tour, charter, and private vessels). As current issues and conditions do not warrant revisiting these management directions, this plan would not amend these decisions and defers to the decisions and guidance outlined in the Vessel Quotas and Operation Requirements EIS Record of Decision.

Huna Tribal House EA | FONSI (2013)

This plan is consistent with all of the 2013 Huna Tribal House EA directions. The Huna Tribal House EA called for the development of a Tlingit tribal house on the Bartlett Cove shoreline as a venue for tribal members to reconnect with their traditional homeland, lifeways, and ancestral knowledge, as a focal point for educational programs designed to convey the story of the Huna Tlingit and their evolving relationship with the NPS, and for appropriate NPS administrative activities.

The EA proposed two buildings that were completed in 2016, including *Xunaa Shuká Hít* (Huna Ancestors' House) and an adjacent annex building with a kitchen and restrooms. The development was also to include totem poles (completed in 2017) and an outdoor gathering area.

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Trail Management Plan (1994)

This plan amends the 1994 trail plan that identified trail deficiencies and established priorities for construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance. It includes new trails and management strategies to address plant succession, isostatic uplift, and maintenance sustainability.

Bartlett Cove Comprehensive Design Plan (CDP) | FONSI, 1998

This Frontcountry Management Plan amends and replaces the 1998 Comprehensive Design Plan (CDP) that called for upgrading existing utility systems and constructing a new maintenance facility, visitor access center, research or "Discovery Center," tribal house, and additional lodging. The CDP also proposed adapting existing facilities to accommodate the increased needs of administration, moderately expanding lodge facilities, and realigning a section of the park entrance road that was then converted to serve as a pedestrian trail. While much of the CDP has been implemented, some elements and directions have not. Any CDP actions and planning decisions carried forward (such as the new visitor Discovery Center project) are expressly identified in the Frontcountry Management Plan.

PLANNING PROCESS

Planning began in early 2016 when an NPS team was formed (*see appendix G*). Their first step was to articulate a planning goal describing the broad outcome the park was hoping to achieve and specific management objectives to define “what success would look like.”

Next, the NPS asked the public and stakeholders to identify opportunities and concerns over a four-month open comment period (June to October 2016). Substantive comments were received from more than 100 individuals, several organizations and elected officials, and through formal government-to-government tribal consultation (*see appendix E for more details*).

During the public process, the NPS heard many ideas and a range of approaches to protecting Bartlett Cove’s natural and cultural resources, while enhancing opportunities for frontcountry visitors. Building from this input and the stated goal and objectives, the team prepared a purpose and need statement, and developed three alternative futures for park frontcountry (*presented in full in Chapter 2 of the environmental assessment*).

For each alternative, the NPS team prepared a comprehensive vision and set of implementing strategies and actions specific to frontcountry visitor experiences, facilities, services, resource management, and day-to-day operations. Then the NPS selected a preferred alternative and prepared a draft plan and an environmental assessment analyzing the trade-offs between alternative visions.

The NPS released the draft plan and environmental assessment during an open comment period (April 9 - May 8, 2019) and solicited comments through outreach and public meetings in Hoonah, Gustavus, and Juneau. Next the NPS considered all received comments, made changes and corrections, and prepared responses to substantive comments by agencies, organizations, and the general public. Then, the NPS prepared a final decision document (Finding of No Significant Impact) including amendments or modifications to the proposal based on feedback submitted by the public and agencies during the comment period, and finalized this planning vision.

Planning Vision Elements

Goal: The broad outcomes the NPS is hoping to achieve over the life of this plan.

Objectives: The specific outcomes or future desired conditions that the NPS is seeking to achieve through consistent management action over time. Objectives can also be considered performance measures to guide decision-making as conditions change.

Vision: The NPS preferred alternative, including these elements:

- **Implementing strategies and actions**, described by how they support or relate to:
 - the **Huna Tlingit Homeland** (*see page I-20*)
 - the **Glacier Bay Lodge** (*see page I-22*)
 - the park’s **Visitor Experience** (*see page I-25*)
 - overall **Park Operations** in the frontcountry (*see page I-34*)
- The **planning vision concept**, presented in several illustrative graphics:
 - a rendering of the implementation **site concept** (*see figure 8, page I-18*)
 - an overview map highlighting **planning vision** elements and trail concepts (*see figure 13, page I-39*)
 - an inset map of the **visitor core area** site concept (*see figure 14, page I-40*)
 - an inset map of the **administrative core area** site concept (*see figure 15, page I-41*)

FIGURE 7. PLANNING VISION ELEMENTS

PLANNING VISION

GOAL



The frontcountry is a welcoming place where development, operations, and services promote the stewardship of park resources, serve the public, and provide opportunities for all to explore and discover the ever-changing natural and living cultural landscapes of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

OBJECTIVES

Visitor Experience

The frontcountry provides meaningful experiences that connect visitors to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and its fundamental resources, values, and purposes.

The frontcountry welcomes diverse audiences, arriving by a variety of modes, and seeking a range of national park experiences that emphasize the exploration and discovery of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve's ever-changing natural and living cultural landscapes.

Visitor transportation to park destinations, including Bartlett Cove, is viewed as a critical element of the recreation experience, and is managed to emphasize:

- visitor convenience and safety, appropriate to a remote national park setting
- experience-based opportunities for contact with the natural environment
- a low threshold for the acceptance of adverse impacts on resources
- optimized access opportunities that meet all current laws and regulations

To protect sensitive backcountry park resources and wilderness character, Bartlett Cove is the encouraged location in the park for higher intensity, land-based visitor activities associated with commercial services operations, such as passengers disembarking from small- to medium-sized marine vessels. To retain the quality of the visitor experience, the park intentionally manages these

high-density uses to address both the maximal and the sustainable daily infrastructure capacities of the frontcountry area (*see details in appendix C*).

Bartlett Cove is managed as a special place where human uses and alterations of the environment harmonize with the park's history and atmosphere, minimize impacts on visitors and resources, and convey an authentic character and remote Alaskan experience.

Architectural elements along the Bartlett Cove shoreline seek to complement the Glacier Bay Lodge form and roofline, and are sensitive to visitor enjoyment of scenic views and night skies.

NPS identity and design elements and guidelines are consistently applied in the frontcountry, adapted to incorporate Pacific Northwest Modern and Mission 66 design themes (e.g., colors and materials that harmonize to blend into their natural surroundings, open floor plans that maximize natural light and reduce outdoor-indoor distinctions, and the combination of rustic and modern features).

Visitors find appropriate recreational opportunities that connect them to the park.

Developed recreational facilities and amenities are designed to provide an authentic place-based experience at the lower intensity end of the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum, to include:

- Semi-Primitive experiences that emphasize nature “as it is,” with the least modification to support use. The experience requires of its users a high acceptance for personal effort, risk, and discomfort due to natural elements, and respect for other users’ privacy and quiet.
- Remote Rustic experiences that emphasize no-frills, basic conveniences and convey a minimalist rustic aesthetic. The experience requires self-sufficiency by its users due to the lack of amenities, but offers easier access, more comfort, and expanded social opportunities.

Developed recreational facilities and amenities anticipate the dynamic landscape and may be designed to shift their location over time to retain the desired experience.

The frontcountry supports a variety of **necessary** and **appropriate** visitor services that enable high-quality national park experiences and are also commercially viable, operationally sustainable, and administratively feasible.

Authorized commercial services are consistent with the preservation and conservation of resources and values of the park, and are **necessary** and **appropriate** for public use and enjoyment.

A visitor service that is **appropriate** accomplishes all of the following:

- It is consistent with the park purpose and significance.
- It is consistent with all applicable NPS policies, and federal, state and local regulations.
- It does not compromise public health and safety.
- It meets the desired conditions of the frontcountry management plan and other relevant park planning documents, and does not create unacceptable impacts to the fundamental resources and values of the park that are unable to be mitigated.
- It does not unduly conflict with other park uses and activities.
- It does not exclude the general public from participating in limited recreational opportunities.

A service that is **necessary** accomplishes one or more of the following:

- It contributes to visitor education, understanding, and appreciation of park purpose and significance.
- It enhances visitor experiences consistent with park purpose, significance, and the desired conditions of the park's fundamental resources and values.
- It assists the park in managing visitor use to protect park resources.
- It is an essential service or facility not available within a reasonable distance from the park.

Tlingit Ancestral Homeland

Living and evolving cultural relationships between Huna Tlingit tribal members and their homeland are strengthened in the frontcountry, supported by NPS-tribal partnerships based on mutual respect and collaborative effort.

Tribal members engage in traditional practices in the frontcountry that sustain their ongoing connection to ancestors, homeland, and culturally significant sites.

The Huna Tribal House, or *Xunaa Shuká Hit* (roughly translated as “Huna Ancestors’ House”) serves as a gathering place where tribal members can reconnect with their treasured homeland and visitors can learn about the Huna Tlingit ancestral homeland.

Contemporary cultural features along the Tlingit Trail serve as “containers” to hold the ancestral stories and traditions that maintain connections between a living culture and their traditional homeland, and also remind visitors of the deep and ongoing connection between a traditional people and their homeland.

The NPS and tribal interests collaborate to steward the lands and waters of traditional homeland and advocate for the protection of park purposes and values.

Pre-Historic and Historical Site Records

Cultural, historical, archaeological, and ethnographic resources in the frontcountry are described through the lens of human experience and study, and their integrity is preserved.

Frontcountry visitors have opportunities to learn about the park's rich cultural connections and particular meanings for traditionally-associated people and groups.

Nationally significant historic sites and structures are managed to preserve their story of significance and to avoid unacceptable impacts to their character-defining features.

Ecological Integrity | Protected Marine Ecosystems

The integrity of large, contiguous, intact ecosystems is sustained by frontcountry programs, facilities, and operations.

While the frontcountry serves as a concentrated visitor use and development zone, its landscape-level ecological integrity remains unimpeded by these activities.

Visitors can access and have authentic experiences of a variety of intact natural ecosystems in the frontcountry.

While Bartlett Cove is a hub of activity, the NPS and its partners demonstrate ecosystem-scale awareness and long-term preservation best practices.

Frontcountry operations are adapted to the remote setting and the dynamic environment to maximize life-cycle efficiencies, and model environmental stewardship.

Scientific Investigation

The long-term, world-class study of Glacier Bay as a “living laboratory” (as described in the 1925 enabling legislation) is sustained by frontcountry programs, facilities, and operations.

The frontcountry serves as a base for researchers engaged in diverse endeavors within Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, who receive support to mitigate logistical challenges, and have opportunities to share the results of their research with the visiting public.

The frontcountry is an inspirational place where visitors can learn about Glacier Bay’s significance in a scientific context through exposure to legacy research findings, cutting-edge discoveries on emerging questions, and hands-on experiences in a dynamic landscape.

Bartlett Cove serves as a base for the NPS and its partners to generate and share scientific knowledge that promotes understanding and stewardship of ecosystems within the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

Dynamism and Succession

Dynamic natural processes and environmental changes are anticipated by frontcountry programs, facilities, and operations.

While the frontcountry serves as an intensive visitor use and development zone, broader landscape-level succession and habitat changes are unimpeded by these activities.

Human disturbance zones are managed as native landscapes that blend with or frame broader successional landscape and scenic contexts.

The frontcountry showcases authentic experiences of the fundamental physical and biological processes of dynamism and succession, including the opportunity to directly or indirectly experience a tidewater glacier.

Wilderness

The frontcountry serves as a portal to high-quality wilderness experiences, ranging from more accessible day-trips to multi-day backcountry adventures.

Bartlett Cove supports backcountry users with appropriate services, facilities, and information.

The number and intensity of impacts to wilderness character (in nearby designated wilderness areas) are minimized and balanced with access and educational opportunities.

A RENEWED VISION FOR BARTLETT COVE

Planning Vision and Preferred NPS Alternative

Actions and strategies in this alternative would continue historic National Park Service management directions for this area (under the general management plan as a concentrated visitor use and development zone, with periodic incremental investment and expansion) so that the frontcountry becomes a welcoming destination that strengthens visitors' connections to larger park purposes.

Bartlett Cove would function more like a traditional national park frontcountry where visitors can “Find their Park” and be inspired by the features, processes, stories, and attributes associated with the national significance of Glacier Bay—whether or not they are able to explore farther into the backcountry. The National Park Service would continue to provide the foundational services to access the backcountry, but would further expand its facilities, operations, and programming to engage broader audiences in the frontcountry for longer periods and to offer more accessible and condensed experiences of park resources and values.

To strengthen Bartlett Cove's appeal as a day-excursion destination and as a base for multi-day independent stays, the National Park Service would redesign and expand its frontcountry trail system and add new amenities that enable visitors to enjoy Bartlett Cove despite Southeast Alaska's challenging weather. These amenities would include restorations to the historic lodge and new visitor-oriented upgrades.

The economic viability of the lodge would be addressed by broadening its range of accommodations and hospitality options and by strategic partnerships to strengthen occupancy. Finally, the National Park Service would seek to strengthen local tourism benefits and enhance visitor opportunities by defining the level of involvement and processes to collaborate with tribal, gateway community, private, and other entities.

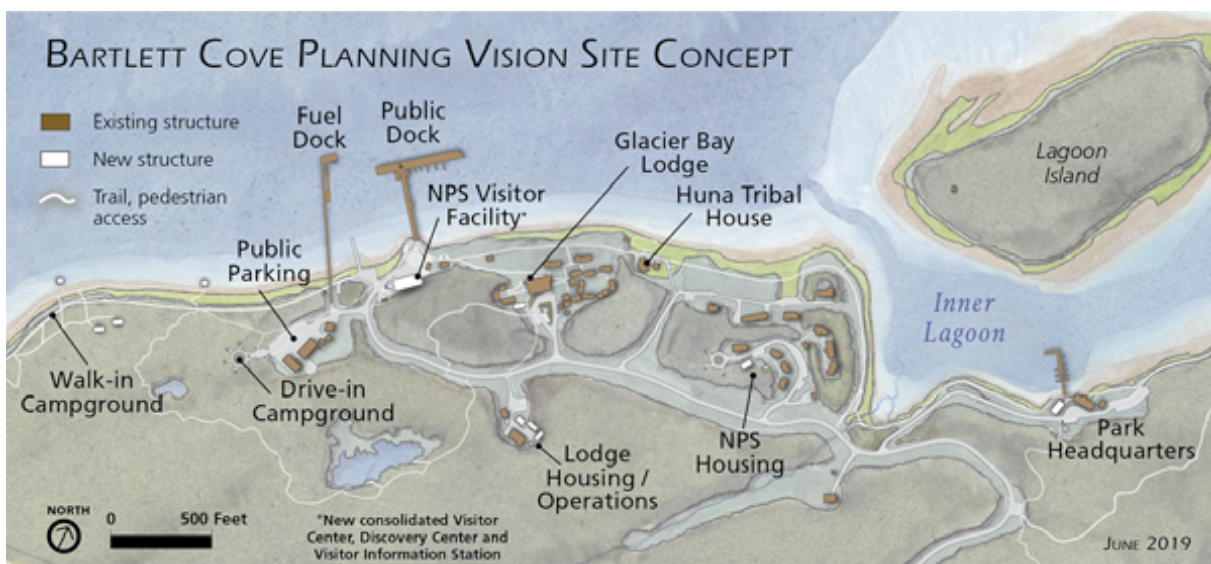


FIGURE 8. PLANNING VISION SITE CONCEPT



(above) **Bartlett Cove in the foreground, the Huna Tribal House at left, and the mouth of Glacier Bay in the distance.**

How the planning vision relates to the environmental assessment (EA):

- This planning vision is a consolidated and elaborated version of **alternative C** in the EA
- All the goals and objectives and some of the actions presented here in the planning vision would also be implemented if the NPS had selected **alternative B**. These are “Common to all Action Alternatives,” and are indicated in the section that follows by **[CTA]**.
- Only some of the strategies and actions presented in the planning vision that follows are analyzed in the EA (as indicated by **[EA]**). Others are not analyzed at this time because:
 - 1) the activity falls within existing NPS management authorities
 - 2) required environmental analyses have been previously completed
 - 3) the action is too broadly defined and is not yet ripe for analysis

Details analyzed in the EA at this time are conceptual to give a sense of site use and scale of development footprint. Actual design will vary based on site constraints, resource conditions, and available funding. Finally, the analysis assumes that prior to the construction of facilities, site-specific environmental analyses, permitting, and consultation will occur (as appropriate), as further feasibility and site design studies are completed.

FIGURE 9. HOW THE PLANNING VISION RELATES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

HUNA TLINGIT HOMELAND

LIVING CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Collaborate with the Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) to support tribal members' sustained connection to homeland at the Huna Tribal House and elsewhere in Bartlett Cove. [CTA]

Conceptualize the Huna Tribal House environment as a living cultural landscape that sustains meaningful, evolving homeland connections for tribal members, and convey this relationship to the visiting public. [CTA]

Partner with HIA to ensure that the Huna Tribal House and surrounding area meet appropriate tribal needs, and enhance its use to include:

- Upgrade the functional capacity of the Tribal House and especially its annex to accommodate larger groups. Attach a retractable awning to the backside of the covered walkway for enhanced capacity associated with larger gatherings. [CTA]
- Develop Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS) access to the beach above high tide across the front meadow from the Huna Tribal House (~250 linear feet, Trail Class 5, tread 72" maximum). Incorporate a durable landing node for wheelchair turnaround and enhanced tribal house viewing. [EA, CTA]
- Directly in front of the Tribal House, between the Tlingit Trail and the beach, accommodate larger public gatherings by maintaining a native herbaceous species meadow with woody plants removed. Make limited site amendments to the existing natural terracing within a ~14,000 square foot area. Spot grade and strategically use natural stone and timber elements as

“The frontcountry plan might consider the Tribal House environment as a living community.”

Robert Starbard, HIA Tribal Administrator (2016 NPS-HIA Frontcountry Management Plan Tribal Consultation)

“Glacier Bay is not whole without the Huna Tlingit and the Huna Tlingit are not whole without Glacier Bay.”

Robert Starbard, HIA Tribal Administrator (2016 NPS-HIA Frontcountry Management Plan Tribal Consultation)



(above) The 2016 Huna Tribal House opening in Bartlett Cove marked the realization of a long-awaited dream, and represents decades of NPS-HIA collaborative effort.

needed. In nearshore waters and intertidal areas, make strategic spot rock movements to facilitate canoe arrivals. [EA]

- Build a retractable awning or permanent wooden covered shelter as a place to host cultural demonstrations and other gatherings in the disturbed footprint of the existing Tribal House or directly in front of its annex (up to 400 square feet). For this structure and any cultural activities that use temporary outdoor shelters, ensure that structures complement views of the Tribal House from the water, for pedestrians arriving via the Tlingit Trail, and are appropriate within a national park setting. [EA]
- Establish an area proximal to the Tribal House as a setting to demonstrate traditional activities to the visiting public. Traditional activities may include, but are not limited to: carving, canoe paddling with a canoe run, fire, art, methods of plant and seafood gathering and processing, and other cultural demonstrations.
- In front of and proximal to the Huna Tribal House, define vegetation clearing and terracing objectives and methods to:
 - enhance views to and from the Tribal House [CTA]

- maintain a visual connection with the historic village site on Lester Island, and [CTA]
- support traditional life ways demonstrations. [CTA]

Deter visitors from driving in front of the Tribal House by installing a gate at the top of its driveway. [EA, CTA]

In partnership with HIA, focus interpretation along the Tlingit Trail to convey:

- Tlingit history associated with Bartlett Cove and elsewhere the park. [CTA]
- The evolving and strengthening NPS-tribal relationship. [CTA]
- The living cultural landscape, of ever-adapting traditional life-ways. [CTA]

Retain the Ceremonial Beach’s natural character to enable tribal members to reconnect with tribal stories and memories associated with the 1992 Peaceful Demonstration. [CTA]

Maintain *Yúxch’ Yaakw* (the 1987 Tlingit dugout canoe) at its present site and honor its role in park and tribal relationships and in sharing traditional Tlingit boat craft. [CTA]

CULTURAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND STRENGTHENED HOONAH CONNECTIONS

Support potential HIA efforts to operate a tribal transportation ferry between Hoonah and Bartlett Cove that facilitates tribal and public access. [CTA]



(above) **A Tlingit boat in the water and a young tribal member on the shoreline during the 2018 healing totem raising. The renewal of ancient traditions and new relationships to homeland are underway in Bartlett Cove.**

Address barriers to tribal members’ participation in cultural programs in Bartlett Cove (logistics, transportation, and overnight lodging, etc.). [CTA]

Update frontcountry park entrance signs to communicate to the visiting public that this area is the ancestral homeland for the Huna Tlingit people.

Visibly celebrate the park’s significance as Huna Tlingit homeland by reflecting Tlingit traditional elements as appropriate in facilities, trails, and interpretive displays. [CTA]

With HIA, cooperatively implement the Huna Tribal House Strategic Plan and the Huna Tribal House Interpretive Site Plan to diversify the cultural learning opportunities available to frontcountry visitors, including:

- Develop diverse interpretive programs to educate the public about the Tribal House, Tlingit culture, traditional practices, and the evolving relationship between the Huna Tlingit and the NPS. [CTA]
- Develop enhanced cultural programs such as craft workshops at the Tribal House that may only be possible utilizing cost-recovery fees.
- Develop the living cultural landscape concept to support tribal members’ sharing personally meaningful living history experiences with park visitors and residents from gateway communities.
- Provide some level of year-round public access to cultural interpretive opportunities. [CTA]
- Relocate and enhance a more accessible Ceremonial Beach wayside. Potentially co-locate with a visitor arrival node to include such things as a rustic transit shelter, wayfinding displays, and functional amenities like phone and wi-fi. [CTA]

Build frontcountry visitor facilities taking into account tribal interest in accessing nearby historic cultural sites, balanced with protecting the integrity of those sites. [CTA]

GLACIER BAY LODGE

HISTORIC RESOURCE

Enhance and showcase the Glacier Bay Lodge Complex Historic District as a signature Mission 66 project by:

- interpreting its Mission 66 history and significance [CTA]
- submitting a National Register nomination for the Glacier Bay Lodge Complex Historic District, and [CTA]
- marketing the lodge historic experience with targeted promotion (Historic Hotels of America list and tours, media, writers). [CTA]

Feature select historical elements (period pieces, retro finishings) in the lodge building and select cabins.

Perform vegetation maintenance tasks as defined in the Vegetation Treatment and Preservation Maintenance Plan (NPS 2018a) for the lodge to:

- define viewscape intent and restore historic district viewsheds, and [CTA, EA]
- develop defensible space and maintenance standards for managing vegetation in the historic district to protect the integrity of historic buildings (mildew, hazard trees, fire wise). [CTA, EA]

Portions of the lodge building would be restored to its period of significance (1965-1975), and the following rehabilitation treatments proposed in the 2018 NPS Historic Structures Report would be implemented:

- Remove non-historic additions to the south side of the lodge building that are located west of the main drop-off and visitor entrance. The lodge would be restored to historic specifications by constructing a wrap-around deck with southern exposure and rain cover. [EA]



(above) The Glacier Bay Lodge during its period of historical significance (1965-1975). A 2018 NPS Historic Structures Report recommended rehabilitation of the lodge with sensitive repairs, alterations, and expansions that preserve or restore its character-defining features.

- Remove NPS exhibits from the second floor of the lodge and restore the architect's original design configuration above the dining area to achieve the desired catwalk effect with enhanced natural lighting and views. [EA]

NPS PRESENCE

Remove NPS visitor service operations from the lodge and explore opportunities for the highest and best re-use of the re-configured space, potentially working with a partner. [CTA]

Install a small NPS indoor kiosk/automated service desk with a phone and/or computer that connects visitors with both park and gateway community information to help with logistical planning for in-park and out-of-park activities.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Address facility conditions by completing deferred maintenance. [CTA]

Add bathroom capacity in the lodge building that addresses accessibility (ABAAS).

Convert the upstairs auditorium into a more flexible multi-use space where internet and phone users can congregate, potentially in conjunction with other activities. [CTA]

Upgrade the upstairs auditorium to increase natural light, improve patio access, and increase sunshine and outdoor views. Consider expanded uses of this space such as a café, bookstore, and/or scheduled programs (e.g., movie, storytelling, indoor physical activities).



(above) In its early days the interior lodge floor plan was more open, designed to enhance indoor daylight and the social atmosphere for visitors.

Re-purpose some of the lodge ground level (north side) for visitor services and to showcase scenic Fairweather Range views. This may include such things as a coffee shop, public laundry, and/or an indoor-outdoor flexible space or banquet room that extends food service capacity for pulses of visitors, and supports special events. This could connect to a patio/overlook/terrace with open-air seating and an amphitheater-style fire feature that encourages visitors to relax and socialize to the best effect, and supports casual programming like informal talks, storytelling, and opportunities to showcase local talent.

Strengthen the arrival experience associated with the lodge main entrances:

- ABAAS access at main entrances. [CTA]
- Install attractive entry features on the south and northeast exteriors of the lodge with NPS wayside/orientation amenities and ABAAS connectivity.
- Develop an accessible trail between the lodge and Public Use Dock. [CTA]

Designate an area of the lodge as a kid's corner or informal play/reading nook. [CTA]

Provide 4-6 upscale room offerings with appropriate rate (combine two lodge units into one or build new).

Build new or remodel some lodge rooms as insulated bunk rooms or minimalist offerings with a kitchenette that can be used year-round.

In a new or existing structure consolidate camping services and public laundry/showers. Potentially combine with new overnight bunkhouse lodging in the historic lodge district, or relocate into the current Visitor Information Station (VIS) structure if a freestanding new combined Visitor Center, VIS, and Discovery Center is developed.

Reduce the need for parking at the lodge by providing convenient alternative transportation (scheduled shuttle, taxi) to support restaurant and bar demand from non-lodge guests.

Expand parking proximate to the lodge if/when needed due to expanded local patronage. [CTA]

Remove or limit use of wi-fi in the lobby and key window and scenic view areas of the lodge to enhance the primary visitor experience. [CTA]

Establish wi-fi in lodge rooms as local technology/cost permits. [CTA]

PROFITABILITY AND REINVESTMENT

Partner to redefine the lodge as a more compelling, experientially-focused product using a total Glacier Bay package and approach:

- Focus on reducing the barriers independent travelers face in visiting Bartlett Cove.
- Leverage shore-based frontcountry excursions, trips into the bay, non-park activities, and services provided by the NPS and partners to support the lodge's functioning as a base for a compelling, competitive multi-day experience.

Work with partners to retain the lodge as a hotel in the park (instead of repurposing it) and adjust its offerings, products, and prices to improve the profitability and appeal of the Glacier Bay Lodge experience:

- Look for opportunities to expand the portfolio of room offerings at a range of prices. [CTA]

- Seek to expand the visitor base with offerings that appeal to a greater diversity of visitors (economic, age, cultural, ethnic). [CTA]
- Look for opportunities to improve visitor occupancy such as increasing length of visitor stays, extending seasons, and fully utilizing existing cabins. [CTA]
- Encourage increased advertising and digital communications about lodge opportunities, and cooperate with associations, partners, and others on marketing campaigns. [CTA]
- Provide bar service with a family-friendly atmosphere. [CTA]
- Look for opportunities to diversify food service. [CTA]
- Provide a variety of eating experiences.
- Explore opportunities to showcase high-quality local and regional talent and products that directly relate to Glacier Bay's stories of significance and align with a national park experience.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL

Work to develop a more stable, flexible, and sustainable business model for the lodge using the most appropriate tools, such as under the 2016 National Park Service Centennial Act authorization. Address chronic lodge concessions challenges and seek to:

- Enhance the lodge's financial viability as a remote operation. [CTA]
- Promote a business model that achieves reinvestment into the historic facility and an enhanced visitor experience. [CTA]

Work with local entities and partners to leverage market expertise and resources to help refine the business model, expand visitor opportunities, and address chronic operational challenges (operating costs, attracting and keeping quality staff, remote logistics, etc.). [CTA]

Foster synergies and a sustainable regional tourism sector in which the lodge complements gateway community offerings and vice-versa. [CTA]

DAY-TO-DAY LODGE OPERATIONS

Engage partners in functional space planning and consider opportunities to relocate non-essential administrative functions and operations from inside the lodge historic district in order to:

- enhance ambiance, reduce use conflicts
- maximize the space available for visitor enjoyment, especially indoor areas that provide a welcome escape from rain, and
- restore space uses and circulation to match the original architectural design intent (Mission 66 and Pacific Northwest Modern) and to maximize interior natural light.

Consolidate non-essential operations and administrative functions into a new or rehabilitated structure(s) on the concessions-assigned property, within the previously disturbed landscape, sensitive to the nearby Forest Trail experience. This may include such things as:

- storage (housekeeping supplies, goods, tools, equipment, recycling, and other materials)
- lodge functions (laundry, waste management, shipping, receiving, vehicle staging and staff parking)
- employee activity areas (maintenance work, designated staff smoking and break areas)

Consider electric utility vehicle or human-powered means to unobtrusively connect concessions-assigned property functions and the lodge complex (e.g., shuttle supplies, waste, laundry).

If staffing levels increase, expand housing capacity within concessions-assigned property area, and use shuttles to provide more opportunities for people to live in Gustavus.

Improve lodge employee housing within its assigned property area (outside of the lodge historic district). Buffer surrounding visitor uses and consider a range of alternatives and funding approaches (e.g., total rehab, new modular and/or efficiency buildings or structures). May feature an outdoor employee use space with permanent rain shelter, fire pit, and features to enhance healthy off-duty socialization in a natural setting. [CTA]

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

MEANINGFUL NATIONAL PARK EXPERIENCE

Expand the NPS Bartlett Cove visitor offerings with a focus on meaningful experiences that connect visitors to the park's fundamental resources and values. [CTA]

VISITOR CONTACT MODEL

Consolidate and clarify NPS visitor contact functions to enhance visitor experiences and achieve staffing efficiencies. As facility upgrades are made, apply this new model and update NPS displays and exhibit packages with contents that:

- engage diverse modern audiences [CTA]
- are interactive and experiential to support longer and repeat visits [CTA]
- offer some exhibits that are accessible year-round (outdoor kiosk), and [CTA]
- showcase the park's fundamental resources and values. [CTA]

Implement the Discovery Center project from the 1998 Bartlett Cove Development Plan. Combine with visitor contact and service functions in a signature new facility (up to 20,000 square feet) with a new 80 person capacity auditorium on the southeast edge of the current VIS parking lot to maximize accessibility for visitors. During its design, redefine parking, circulation, and access needs in a way that is sensitive to the existing scale of the frontcountry arrival experience and overall shoreline aesthetics. Intentionally program the space to feature a strong research component that does justice to Glacier Bay as a living laboratory and the park's enabling legislation:

- Share the story of historical exploration and preserve the record of research heritage with targeted collection displays and real-time science exhibits that build on more than 100 years of active science in Glacier Bay.
- Coordinate, support, and extend current park interdisciplinary scientific



(above) **The frontcountry presents opportunities to connect park visitors with the values and stories that were important enough to merit national designation.**

collaborations within the park and with outside institutions with functional space.

- Provide a better integration of science and exploration as fundamental aspects of the park in all interpretation and education programs.
- Provide place-based experiential learning opportunities that deeply connect visitors to park resources and values by dynamically responding to personal knowledge and interests. Design for wide generational appeal and more intimate, smaller group formats. Opportunities could include citizen science, nature walks, scientist-led observation outings, visitor-populated exhibits (photo, video, nature journaling, art), and topic-specific presentations, labs, workshops, pre-trip science briefings, and interdisciplinary symposia.

EXCURSION OPPORTUNITIES: TRAILS

Develop and maintain a high-quality trail network originating from Bartlett Cove that connects frontcountry visitors with fundamental park resources and values, including designated Wilderness.

Address park wilderness access originating from Gustavus (including Bartlett Lake/Towers Trail and Falls Creek) in backcountry planning. [CTA]



(above) In a marine park with large designated wilderness areas, Glacier Bay's frontcountry is a terrestrial base for welcoming visitors to explore the park.

Enhance visitor experience and reduce life-cycle maintenance costs associated with trails by applying sustainable trails best practices, trail management objectives, and anticipating the dynamic successional landscape in Glacier Bay (see figure 10).

Incrementally construct new trail segments as dedicated maintenance funds are available and route, design, and maintain according to sustainable trail standards and trail class (see figure 11), with ephemeral adaptations and investment strategies that anticipate succession given Glacier Bay's evolving landscape. [CTA]

Actively create and maintain quality views from land to water in key trail locations that interpret the post-glacial changing landscape and park resources. Add benches where appropriate, and design with wide spots for group gathering and other approaches that focus pedestrian traffic to reduce social trailing.

Develop trailheads and enhance trail network signage, wayfinding, and interpretive tools that support self-guided trail use. [CTA]

Design new and reroute existing trails to achieve a premium and sustainable experiential trail network that connects Bartlett Cove visitors with fundamental park resources and values, including designated Wilderness.

When planning projects, be aesthetically purposeful about frontcountry views in transition zones from wilderness waters to Bartlett Cove's more developed areas. [CTA]

TRAILS IN A SUCCESSION LANDSCAPE

Intertidal Zone



This biologically important zone has constant tide fluctuations up to 25 vertical feet—some of the world's largest. It is a fun place to explore with miles of prime scenery and wildlife viewing. Longer treks require familiarity with tide cycles, water crossings, and coastline conditions.

Upper Intertidal



Above typical high tide and below the grassline is often a band of well-drained sand, gravel, and rocks punctuated by a few salt-tolerant plants. Although dry with great walking, hikers can inadvertently flush birds or step on camouflaged nests.

Beach Grass



Beach meadows are a distinctive feature of Glacier Bay, where post-glacial isostatic rebound is causing the land to rise up out of the sea. Beach grasses are tolerant of storm waves and salt water at high tides, but are vulnerable to regular foot traffic.

Forest Edge



A lush, diverse mix of plants grow above extreme high water, often backed by alder and fast growing new trees. Trails here can offer dry feet, scenic views, and diverse wildflowers with roots that attract bears.

Lowland Forest



Young forests offer lush moss, lichen, ferns, spruce, hemlock, and dense shrubs, such as blueberry and alder. Trail issues include tree fall, thick understory, organics that soak in abundant rain (mud trenches), and slick roots.

Upland Forest



Deeply-shaded uplands are dominated by tall, straight-trunked spruce and hemlock with few lower branches. Lovely moss carpeting and the lack of understory enhances walking, as do better-drained moraine substrates of gravel and sand.

FIGURE 10. DYNAMIC FRONTCOUNTRY TRAIL CONDITIONS

BARTLETT RIVER TRAIL

Inner Lagoon Dock to Bartlett River

Class 3 ~1.8 miles

Provide a high-quality rainforest and shoreline hiking experience. Feature premium bird, wildlife and intertidal life viewing, and an ABAAS accessible overlook in the north-eastern end of the Inner Lagoon. The trail connects the Bartlett River (in designated Wilderness), the Beardslee Islands Tidal Cut, and the Inner Lagoon Dock (with the NPS headquarters area as a multi-modal hub with other trail connections). Retain spur link to the existing park entrance road trailhead. Enhance visitor experiences with design considerations for scenic views, aesthetics (minimal boardwalk profile and natural colors that blend when viewed from afar), night skies, wildlife viewing best practices, forest-edge birding blinds, and clear distinctions between public and non-public use areas. Construct portions as a single-lane soft-tread trail using only native materials and reuse portions of the existing trail that are durable. Construct the rest as movable elevated structures such as boardwalks on helical piers that allow for periodic location adjustments to maintain the shoreline experience and adjust for isostatic rebound. Mitigate to address resource concerns including Wilderness character impacts, wildlife obstruction on boardwalks and wildlife disturbance, and to discourage off-trail access into sensitive estuary, wetland, and tidal cut areas.

Analyzed Action: Approximately one mile of new route would be built on the shoreline and along the tidal cut (some portions in designated Wilderness), as a Class 3 ABAAS and narrower rustic boardwalk (up to 36" wide) on helical piers or other elevated structures that can be periodically shifted toward the water to maintain the shoreline experience as isostatic rebound occurs. This would include the minimum required site modifications (based on wilderness analysis during pre-design). End the ABAAS boardwalk at a new 12-person overlook destination just outside the designated Wilderness boundary in the northeastern Inner Lagoon. Approximately .6 miles of new and existing route within rainforest would be upgraded to meet sustainable trail standards as a durable



FIGURE 11. FRONTCOUNTRY-WILDERNESS BOUNDARY AT THE BEARDSLEE ISLANDS TIDAL CUT

(above) **The Beardslee Islands Tidal Cut at the northeast end of Bartlett Cove. The boundary for designated Wilderness is accessible less than a mile from the most fully developed area of the frontcountry. Water access through the cut opens and closes with the tides, and is getting shallower each year due to isostatic rebound (~1" per year).**

soft-tread trail using native materials. The closed trail segment would no longer be maintained and about .70 miles would be spot revegetated to discourage public access. All inner lagoon kayak operations (racks and launching) would be consolidated to a site at the end of an expanded park headquarters parking area with a connecting path to the boardwalk that enables launching and consolidates foot traffic to reduce shoreline vegetation impacts. [EA]

BARTLETT LAKE TRAIL

Inner Lagoon Dock to east of the Tribal House

Class 2, ~4 miles

Upgrade a short spur connection (up to 300 feet) from the new Bartlett River trail to support Bartlett Lake Trail use. After the new trails in this plan are constructed, consider closing this and the entire Bartlett Lake Trail (weighing maintenance costs and trail use levels) using minimal vegetation rehabilitation and large rock placement to deter use. [EA]

INNER LAGOON TRAIL

Inner Lagoon Dock to east of the Tribal House

Class 4, ~.5 miles

Create a new ABAAS trail to showcase the scenic Inner Lagoon shoreline with expansive water and Fairweather Range views, and enhance pedestrian safety by enabling walkers to bypass the park entrance road at Alder Creek. On the existing portion, retain the experience of entering a natural green tunnel of vegetation. The trail connects the Inner Lagoon Dock (with the NPS headquarters area as a multi-modal hub with other trail connections), a new Alder Creek bridge, and the existing trail from the park entrance road to just east of the Huna Tribal House Annex. Enhance the visitor experience with design considerations for scenic views, aesthetics (minimal boardwalk profile and natural colors that help it blend when viewed from afar), night skies, wildlife viewing best practices, and clear distinctions between public and non-public use areas. Also, amplify the experience of discovery and surprise with a short side link to the Lagoon Island tidal “cut.” Starting at Alder Creek, construct a footbridge crossing and construct the northern portion as movable elevated structures, such as boardwalks on helical piers, that allow for periodic adjustments to maintain the shoreline experience and adjust for relocation due to isostatic rebound. On the existing portion, maintain as a rustic trail experience with a 36” maximum hardened width and an aesthetic crushed gravel base (limiting vehicular access to utility system repairs and emergencies). Maintain vegetation for a soft, natural, and more enclosed feeling with enough clearance for two people to walk abreast. Mitigate for historic lodge road considerations and to address resource concerns including wildlife obstruction on boardwalks and wildlife disturbance, and to discourage off-trail access into sensitive estuary and wetland areas.

Analyzed Action: Develop an Alder Creek footbridge crossing (~150 linear feet), and construct a ~.25-mile elevated boardwalk on the shoreline spanning from the trail terminus east of Alder Creek to a scenic vista near the Inner Lagoon Dock. It would be built as an ABAAS rustic boardwalk on helical piers or other elevated structures that can be periodically shifted toward the water to maintain the shoreline experience as isostatic rebound occurs. [EA]

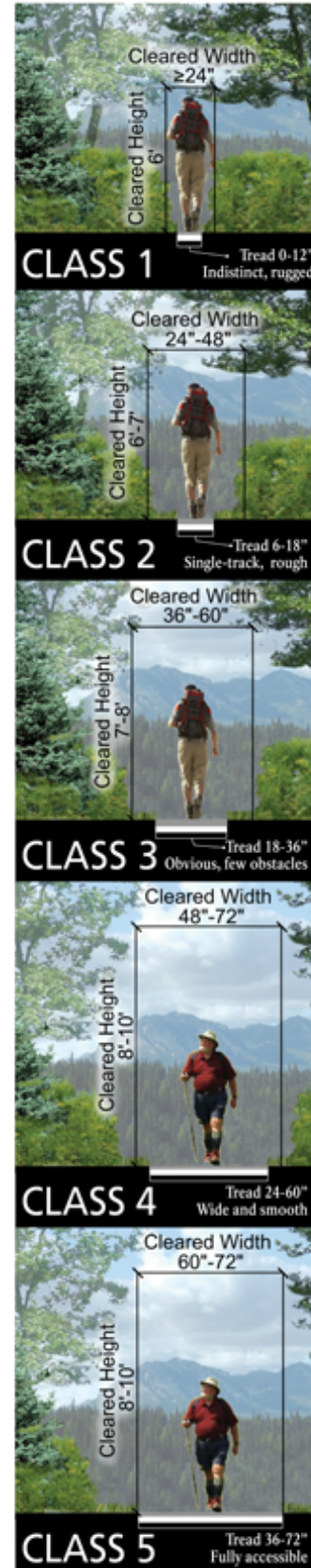
TLINGIT TRAIL

Huna Tribal House Annex to the NPS Public Dock

Class 5 (~.25 miles)

Continue to provide a high-capacity promenade featuring authentic visitor experiences (natural, cultural, historic). Thematically focus primarily on conveying living Tlingit traditions and an evolving healing relationship in partnership between NPS and HIA. Maintain existing route starting east of the Tribal House and extending to the Public Dock. Incorporate a range of featured visitor attractions for interpretation starting at the Healing Totem Pole and ending at the Tribal House. Add new amenities that enable access-challenged visitors to rest along the way, and expand opportunities to enjoy the shoreline, scenic water, and Fairweather

Hiker-Pedestrian Trail Class Standards



Range views. Maintain as an accessible facility with an aesthetic crushed gravel base that is capable of supporting occasional vehicular access (e.g., fire engine, operations, and large event shuttles for those unable to walk). Mitigate to optimize the viewscape from both the water and the lodge, including night sky experiences, and to acknowledge the trail's origins and significance as the historic lodge road.

FOREST TRAIL

Lodge, Blackwater Pond, shoreline pavilion **Class 3 and 5 (~1.5 miles)**

Continue to provide an intimate nature immersion and rainforest visitor experience. The trail connects the lodge with the scenic Blackwater Pond and ends at a new shoreline day-use pavilion ~800 feet southwest of the Public Use Dock that serves as a hub for other trail connections. Reroute portions for accessibility and to retain the nature immersion experience. Actively revegetate social trail connectors. Enhance for group and self-guided interpretation. Maintain as an accessible trail with portions constructed as boardwalk trail with interpretive overlooks (existing Class 5) and then as a single lane soft-tread trail featuring native material in a natural setting (existing and relocated Class 3). Mitigate to limit views to and sounds from adjacent uses.

Analyzed Action: Up to 800 linear feet of the most steep and rough sections of the existing trail would be rerouted to improve opportunities for limited-mobility users. Rerouted sections would be constructed as 18" to 36" wide single track with soft tread featuring native material. Abandoned sections would be actively revegetated once trail construction is completed. [EA]

COOPER'S NOTCH TRAIL

Shoreline pavilion to the Inner Lagoon Dock **Class 3 and 2 (~5 miles)**

Provide a varied and more challenging hike transecting Bartlett Cove's most significant geomorphic features (the terminal moraine and Cooper's Notch) and interpreting natural disturbance and subsequent landscape development. Trail connects to a shoreline pavilion, the upper intertidal zone, Cooper's Notch, the moraine crest, and the Inner Lagoon Dock. Support connections to Forest Trail, Point Gustavus Route, and multi-modal links near park headquarters.

Enhance variety by showcasing different stages of successional vegetation and ecological zones (including wetland, riparian, and pond features). Incorporate regular steeper short-pitch elevation changes, rough tread, and rock-hopping obstacles for an interesting, diverse, and more strenuous experience. Provide interpretive overlooks and areas where small groups may gather. At wetland and riparian edges use natural materials to support crossings, ranging from strategic boulders to sections of rustic elevated trail. Mitigate natural resource damage by considering existing game trails and avoiding switchback layouts that encourage social trailing, fall-line drainage problems, and habitat disruption. Maintain as a rugged hike featuring native material to include minimal width single lane tread trail (Class 2), with regular interval passing zones (Class 3). Design the at-grade crossing of the park entrance road for safety and to support a continuity of experience connecting to the Headquarters area trail hub (with secondary links to the maintenance area for NPS staff pedestrian connectivity).

Analyzed Action: The proposed trail route would be refined to meet resource and visitor objectives. Four miles of new trail would be created, with tread width ranging from 18" to 36," and including up to five hardened gathering and overlook points (up to 400 square feet each). Elevated boardwalk on helical piers would be used to provide wetland and riparian edge access and crossings (up to 1,800 linear feet). An at-grade road-crossing would be prepared on the park entrance road. [EA]

POINT GUSTAVUS ROUTE

Cooper's Notch to Point Gustavus **Class 1 (~5.5 miles)**

Provide a longer-distance forest edge and scenic beach wilderness hike. Route starts at Cooper's Notch Trail and features mainly undeveloped shoreline, with minimalist, natural modifications to help users navigate tides, water crossings, and sensitive habitat (spot planks/strategic rocks). Enhance opportunities for visitors to have a premium backcountry experience by preserving wilderness character. Promote as a day trip with an end point turnaround location that considers designated overnight use areas (to be explored in future backcountry planning, working with adjacent landowners and

broader interests). Preserve wilderness character by limiting modifications and maintenance to the minimum; use indistinct single track tread and unmodified natural conditions (Class 1) with spot modifications (Class 2) using native materials. Consider isostatic rebound, avoid multiple social trails.

Analyzed Action: Minimalist, natural modifications (i.e., rock placement and spot planking) would be provided to help users navigate tides, water crossings, and sensitive habitat along 5 miles of shoreline, including designated Wilderness. This would include minimum required modifications (based on analysis during pre-design) to the environment using native natural materials such as rock and logs. [EA]

Working with partners outside the park, explore a Dude Creek State Critical Habitat Area trailhead with a park connection to the proposed Point Gustavus Route. Seek collaborative agreements with private land owners, government entities, and tribal interests (Hoonah Indian Association, native allotment owners).

EXCURSION OPPORTUNITIES: MARINE

Look for opportunities to provide leisurely, sensory-focused boat tours for whale and wildlife watching that are 1/2 day or shorter, and focus on understanding the science of productivity in lower Glacier Bay. These could utilize the current dayboat entry permit (in the evening), or an existing tour permit, or the park could encourage these offerings through the charter prospectus process. Seek to keep a low cost price point and focus on quality, repeatable experiences using a small eco-vessel.

For future dayboat selection, optimize visitor experience (natural sound, viewing, social and interpretive presentation areas), energy efficiency, and ticket affordability. [CTA]

EXCURSION OPPORTUNITIES AND RELATED SERVICES

Seek to build more flexibility and accountability into concessions operations to enhance visitor outcomes, broaden the



(above) The NPS vision strengthens Bartlett Cove's role as a wilderness adventure gateway, while seeking also to add more accessible and condensed frontcountry opportunities that enable visitors to learn about and experience the park.

frontcountry visitor base, and adapt to changing generational preferences. This may include such things as:

- work with partners to expand shore excursions and visitor offerings that align with the NPS mission and park purpose
- expand rental services to support short-notice kayak rentals and day excursion opportunities (2 - 5 hours)
- expand visitor offerings into shoulder seasons, and
- provide new opportunities for stand-up paddleboard rentals.

Frontcountry kayaking commercial operations are consolidated and shifted to outside the Glacier Bay Lodge Complex Historic District, into temporary/removable structures instead of permanent land assignments. This shift would be an opportunity to create convenient access for customers, improve operations, relieve congestion in the VIS area, and address trailer traffic congestion. A shared quarter-acre site would be prepared northeast of the fuel pier and southwest of the launch ramp for concessioner-provided storage buildings (kayak rental and day trip operations). In this area, a new 200 square foot rain shelter would be constructed to support orientations and equipment staging, marked by NPS typography signage and linked to the shoreline by a short hardened foot path extending approximately 30 feet to reduce shoreline vegetation impacts. Within the site, up to 1,000 square feet of tree clearing and ground hardening would enable access, circulation, and kayak trailer parking.

A portion of the existing Beach Trail (up to 130 feet) would be upgraded, widened, and extended with graded gravel or paving to support the vehicular access required to install and retrieve removable structures seasonally, and to support through-foot traffic. [EA, CTA]

Increase the number of kayak racks in the frontcountry and consolidate to three locations. Retain public use racks at current location under fuel pier. After the Inner Lagoon Trail and headquarters parking lot upgrades are constructed, add an active use/short-term use rack (public and NPS) and define its uses. Relocate NPS non-active use kayak storage racks to the “erratic” (a former generator building in seasonal housing). Visually screen kayak storage areas from the water and visitor use areas and add appropriate site adaptations to focus shoreline access and minimize vegetation trampling and erosion. Require public permits and manage recreational equipment so as to avoid derelict or indefinite property storage along the shoreline. [CTA]

Work with business partners and gateway communities to enhance visitor access to essential services and provisions:

- Offer the sale/rent of certain backcountry necessities in Bartlett Cove that are difficult to obtain or travel with from afar, or are prohibitively expensive (e.g., bear spray, fishing licenses, camp stove fuel). [CTA]
- Upgrade laundry and shower opportunities to serve backcountry users, campers, and private boaters.
- Enhance backcountry users’ and private boaters’ access to light groceries and sundries.

Collaborate with partners to promote a sustainable frontcountry tourism model to:

- leverage the resources of the NPS, partners, and gateway communities, and [CTA]
- anticipate and respond effectively to dynamic market forces, recognizing that various tourism futures are possible over the life of the plan, and future visitation levels cannot be predicted. [CTA]

Support community partners as they seek to implement complementary tourism offerings, visitor-oriented services, and infrastructure

outside the park, recognizing that many services and forms of recreation enjoyed by the public do not require a national park setting and are more appropriate in other venues. May include projects such as the Gustavus Community Center and transportation and recreation facilities outside the park, including trails and community boat facility upgrades. [CTA]

The NPS will encourage private cellular telephone service in the frontcountry and adjust NPS public wi-fi coverage if duplicative, to free up bandwidth for park operations.

Designate specific areas in Bartlett Cove for internet and phone users to congregate so as not to detract from the primary visitor experience. Provide a map of zones to include:

- hotspots for connectivity with plug-ins, seating, and congregation areas, and [CTA]
- places where communication services are intentionally unavailable or device use is discouraged to protect the unconnected experience for visitors. [CTA]

RAIN SHELTERS

A 30’ x 30’ day-use pavilion for NPS demonstrations and programs would be built on the beach and/or intertidal zone that could secondarily support casual visitor use and picnicking. The pavilion would be constructed as a park-appropriate, iconic landmark consistent with historic park architecture visible to arriving boats. It would connect to the Campground Trail and to expanded day-use parking areas with a new Class 3 ABAAS accessible trail (up to 36” wide) of ~500 linear feet through the forest with tread appropriate to the anticipated regular use and with a short ramp segment at the pavilion. [EA]

Build another 30’ x 30’ day-use pavilion on the beach and/or intertidal zone near the campground dedicated to casual camper and visitor use, socializing, cooking and picnics, and to support gear staging and preparations for backcountry trips. [EA]

A covered picnic area (up to 300 square feet) would be developed near the relocated park

headquarters for day-use by visitors and staff. The area would be oriented for sun and scenic views and integrated with a covered walkway between NPS buildings. [EA]

OVERNIGHT OPTIONS

Provide a range of on-shore overnight options for visitors, while retaining the bulk of camping sites as no-fee, semi-primitive walk-in sites available on a first-come first-serve basis. [CTA]

A small, drive-in campground would be developed that includes between four and six rustic, no-frills sites that could accommodate up to 30-foot-long RVs as well as other vehicles. Encourage any expanded future need for RV camping to occur in Gustavus by private enterprise or local government that could better provide for enhanced services such as hookups. The area could include picnic tables, fire pits, and tent sites. No utilities would be provided except a limited-service, small RV pump-out station and a nearby vermiculture composting toilet (that also serves pavilion and parking area users). Use quiet hours to manage visitor-created noise to reduce its impacts on other visitors. A cost-recovery fee and/or a reservation system may be applicable. The campground would be located southwest of the expanded parking area within easy walking distance of the composting toilet, but offset with some vegetated buffers to reduce impacts to walk-in campsites and the final Forest Trail route, and enhance the rustic experience. Up to 18,000 square feet of forest would be cleared, with an expanded gravel pad and pavement installed for an entrance road, drop-off and pump station pull-outs, and sites that can accommodate up to 30-foot-long RVs. [EA]

Up to two public use huts (~260 square feet each) would be developed as a rustic, no-frills option for low-cost lodging in the frontcountry and a dry and warm option for outgoing and incoming kayakers. The huts would be connected to the existing campground group sites, have a minimal building pad clearing zone, and be surrounded by natural forest that buffers nearby campers. Consider as a multiple-party use concept with 12 bunks, a wood stove, plywood counters for cooking using personal gear, and a rustic

table/booth for gathering. Visitors would be required to carry in water. No utilities would be provided, but a bear-proof, vermiculture leach system for gray water disposal (cleaning dishes) would be incorporated. Use of the public use huts could include fees and reservations. [EA]

Relocate campers' storage shed function into a visitor facility near the dock. [CTA]

VISITOR ACCESS, ARRIVAL, AND CIRCULATION

Make Bartlett Cove's layout and services more user-friendly and self-evident using design, wayfinding, circulation, and signage for an enhanced visitor arrival experience. [CTA]

Focus more accessible and condensed park experiences within easy walking distance of the Bartlett Cove Public Use Dock (using ABAAS standards) sited along the shoreline to showcase premium scenic water-mountain views. [CTA]

Decrease the scale and intensity of development as visitors leave more high-use areas, and again at each wilderness boundary, to enhance visitor perceptions of traveling deeper into the park. [CTA]

For boat- and vehicle-based visitors, provide visitor facilities that convey an authentic remote Alaska character emphasizing rustic, compact, and no-frills development at a walkable scale. [CTA]

Enhance the visitor experience of arriving in Bartlett Cove by water:

- Provide a cohesive and inviting frontcountry appearance from offshore that conveys a sense of arrival for visitors. [CTA]
- Continue to maintain an attractive welcome sign and wayfinding information at the Public Use Dock. [CTA]
- Actively manage dock use to enhance its capacity to welcome first-time visitors, and best support short-duration activities. [CTA]
- Perform passenger-oriented Public Use Dock modifications/enhancements to improve accessibility and wheelchair offloading from vessels. [CTA]

- Reallocate Public Use Dock usage to serve the widest number and type of visitors, while maintaining essential NPS capacity. [CTA]
- Consider other alternatives for enhancing Public Use Dock functionality. [CTA]
- Phase-in a public mooring facility for both short-term and long-term use in Bartlett Cove on a cost-recovery fee basis. This system would address boat anchoring failures and sea-floor damage concerns, and would provide opportunities for more convenient, secure, and longer duration tie-ups that enable visitors to maximize time ashore. Over time, this may include up to 40 boat moorings with enough reserved for short-term private vessel permit holders, charter vessels, and other commercial users. Installation would include removable and relocatable conservation helical type moorings to include float, rode, and helical fixed anchors at the bottom. Moorings would be located within a five-acre area starting 300 feet from the Public Use Dock, at no less than a 10-foot minimum depth (at minus low tide). Install moorings in a grid pattern with extra spacing to account for vessels with different swinging characteristics due to currents and winds. Independent anchorage in Bartlett Cove would be prohibited for vessels within the mooring-appropriate size class. Areas would be specified for larger boats to anchor, for float plane landings, and for transiting to the Public Use Dock. [EA, CTA]

Utilize the flexibility afforded the superintendent in current law and regulation to optimize private vessel marine entries to the frontcountry, recognizing that Bartlett Cove is the portal for such vessels initially entering Glacier Bay. This optimization would seek to promote quality visitor experiences consistent with the park's 2003 Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirement (VQOR) EIS ROD. [CTA]

Remove accumulated sediment from the public boat launch ramp to enhance the functional tidal range and usability for small recreational vessels (recognizing that gateway communities support this function for commercial and larger vessels). Use minimally invasive suction to maintain the ramp to its original constructed condition by relocating sediment to a nearby seafloor location while

minimizing its suspension in the water column. [EA, *see additional details on page II-8, CTA*]

Enhance the visitor experience of arriving in Bartlett Cove by road:

- Provide a national park-like aesthetic along the park entrance road. [CTA]
- Provide wayfinding and/or signage in the park and in key town locations to assist first-time visitors who are driving. [CTA]
- Continue to maintain an attractive welcome sign at the park entrance. [CTA]
- Actively manage parking near the VIS to welcome first-time visitors and for short-duration activities (drop-off/pick-up, ABAAS, etc.).
- Designate an area near the launch ramp for staging boat trailers with time-limited parking that is compatible with overall traffic safety and circulation. Manage time durations to make it possible to obtain permits and stage recreational trips, yet short enough to give greater numbers of visitors easier launching and enhanced opportunities to experience the park.
- Allow boat trailer parking in designated area at the park maintenance facility. [CTA]

Develop additional visitor parking capacity within walking distance of the VIS to facilitate access to Bartlett Cove facilities and services, in a phased approach:

- **Phase 1)** Maximize use of the existing paved area and disturbed footprint near the generator building to support expanded and reconfigured public and staff parking. Relocate non-essential activities off-site. Up to 25,000 square feet of forest would be cleared with an expanded gravel pad and pavement installed to support up to 58 total parking spots and new ABAAS pedestrian connectors to the VIS and dock area (Class 3 ABAAS accessible trail, ~600 linear feet, up to 36" wide). [EA]
- **Phase 2)** When VIS/VC project is constructed, reprogram the VIS lot as drop-off, drive-through access serving the dock, and limited parking (ABAAS).
- **Phase 3)** When needed and/or Discovery Center is constructed.



(above) Most visitors to Bartlett Cove arrive without a vehicle and explore the frontcountry on foot.

Reduce peak demand parking needs in Bartlett Cove and enhance visitor access from Gustavus by establishing regularly-scheduled shuttle service and/or other alternative transportation options. Intentionally design for fiscal and environmental sustainability, enhanced visitor experience, and a complementary role and/or collaboration with private transportation services.

Strategically locate trailhead parking to serve an expanded trail network, while minimizing impacts to park resources and operations, and discouraging private land trespass and impacts.

Widen the entire park entrance road up to 60" and restripe it to support on-grade bike and pedestrian use on one side. The road would be constructed for year-round active transportation (bike, pedestrian, and ski). [EA]

Enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and safety in the vicinity of Bartlett Cove roads, facilities, and parking areas when physically feasible and cost effective. [CTA]

Strategically locate covered bike racks around the frontcountry. [CTA]

In addition to recreational trails in the frontcountry, plan and develop a well-defined network of supporting walkways and pedestrian facilities as the primary mode of on-shore visitor transportation in Bartlett Cove's core area. Intentionally link key areas together with a focus on self-evident layout, wayfinding, safety, discouraging visitors from entering non-visitor use areas, and eliminating social, user-created paths. Upgrade for ABAAS accessibility where cost and site conditions allow, while also retaining some rugged and steeper footpaths where more appropriate due to site conditions, costs, and user needs. [CTA]

PARK OPERATIONS

THE NATIONAL PARK EXPERIENCE

Align the operational and administrative activities of the park and business partners in the frontcountry to:

- harmonize with the park's history and atmosphere [CTA]
- minimize impacts on visitors and resources [CTA]
- convey a national park-like experience, even in operational and utility functional zones, with care to minimize any unnecessary sights, sounds, smells, and/or activities that might detract from visitor enjoyment of the natural environment, and [CTA]
- perform operations to high environmental standards and best practices. [CTA]

ENERGY AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Upgrade frontcountry facilities and operations for electrical efficiency and to capture energy- and cost-saving opportunities. [CTA]

Invest in local renewable energy by connecting to the Falls Creek Hydroelectric Project. [CTA]

Explore opportunities to replace the park fleet and to operate visitor services (including the lodge dayboat) using electrical vehicles that maximize the use of local renewable energy sources and spread peak demand by taking advantage of night time low-energy use within the community. Also explore opportunities for electrical vehicle plug-in stations consistent with NPS policy.

Reduce staff-related needs for additional parking in Bartlett Cove by supporting a program of alternative employee transportation to, from, and within the park. [CTA]

Intentionally link park housing, headquarters, and maintenance with footpath connectors that reduce the need for driving in Bartlett Cove; where appropriate, communicate and buffer to discourage public access. [CTA]

Minimize the footprint of park operations and facilities by concentrating and consolidating park operations where possible, and removing obsolete assets. [CTA]



(above) The Inner Lagoon in the 1960s with NPS housing, a maintenance shop, and dock. Since 1950, generations of park staff have worked and lived in Bartlett Cove, playing a legacy role in managing day-to-day park operations and implementing the park's legislative purposes.

Minimize increased needs for storage by re-evaluating functional space and looking for opportunities to increase efficiency. [CTA]

Consolidate emergency response equipment storage from four existing locations into one in the existing generator building, with facility adaptations. Enhance operational capacity and efficiency by re-programming emptied-out areas. [CTA]

NPS FACILITIES

The 1958 park headquarters building would be replaced to address its deferred maintenance and substantial deficiencies. Construct nearby within the historic disturbance footprint, while keeping with the original aesthetics and character/feel of the area. Build to replace in-kind administrative space (~6,000 square feet) scaled up as required to meet current NPS facility standards (ABAAS, telecommunications, utilities, etc.). [EA]

The park headquarters road would be upgraded to address spot safety issues and enhance overall circulation. The upgrades may include paving and redesign to efficiently meet staff parking demands, support alternative and active transportation, serve as a public trailhead, and implement environmental best practices that safeguard water quality and protect people's health. This may include such things as a settling

basin to treat snow and stormwater runoff and pollution, and road paving to reduce airborne dust. Views of vehicles from the water would be buffered by retaining vegetation. [EA]

Develop a new ABAAS restroom(s) near park headquarters that supports public access as a new 400 square foot structure located on the concrete pad of the existing headquarters building (after it is replaced). It would include multi-modal hub and trail amenities (covered bicycle parking, ABAAS restroom, and wayfinding). [EA]

Develop additional housing and associated facilities in the seasonal housing area, off the existing service road (total area of development would not exceed 0.5 acres):

- New dormitory style housing or a bunkhouse (up to 2,000 square feet in size) southwest of the existing duplexes for seasonal employees, Student Conservation Association volunteers, Volunteers in Parks, and researchers. The new development may include additional parking for up to eight vehicles (up to 2,000 square feet in parking). [EA, CTA]
- Three RV pads with electrical and water hook ups (totaling up to 8,000 square feet) would be constructed at the end of the seasonal housing area service road to accommodate RVs brought by volunteers, visiting scientists, and/or seasonal staff. [EA]
- A new rain shelter would be developed in a central open area between the park entrance road and park employee housing. The site would be constructed to promote responsible socializing and gathering, and would be developed as a natural and rustic outdoor area for employees to use during off hours. New parking would be included in the vicinity for up to six vehicles, with boardwalks extended to link to nearby housing (up to 150 linear feet). May include clearing up to 1,500 square feet of forest. Vegetative buffers would be retained so the shelter is not visible from the main road. [EA]

Maintain the Lagoon Island Cabin, the oldest building in the park, for utilization as a housing opportunity that supports enriched visitor

experiences in the frontcountry, such as an artist-in-residence, cultural experts, teacher-rangers, and visiting scientists. May also be used for longer-duration Student Conservation Association intern and volunteer housing. Recognizing full-scale changes in the cultural landscape, do not restore to original full vista clearing.

Maintain the Civil Aeronautics Administration Historic Complex (in Gustavus) to provide NPS seasonal and permanent employee housing. Enhance its historic interpretation by developing a wayside describing its significance. Also, fulfill community obligations associated with its infrastructure and the transfer of this facility to the NPS.

Buffer park employee housing from Tribal House use and associated activities. [CTA]

Provide functional amenities that foster employee wellness and retention. May include such things as recreational equipment storage and gear drying, bike fleet and maintenance area, greenhouse, barbecues, and logistics support (recycling, mail/grocery delivery, transit), and/or bike commuter amenities. [CTA]

Adaptively reuse the erratic building (formerly a generator shed) in seasonal housing as a base for recreational equipment to support employee fitness and on-the-job skills.

MANAGING THE DYNAMIC LANDSCAPE

Maintain adequate navigational markers for the Lagoon Island “cut.” [CTA]

Maintain the Inner Lagoon Dock for administrative use and consider compatible special case public and concessions uses and enhancements consistent with park mission, with explicit recognition of the inherent safety and equipment damage risks given tidal access limitations.

Hazard and windthrow risk trees would be removed in a half-acre area above the cut bank south of employee housing and north of the park entrance road. This area would be actively managed for wind stability (e.g., forest health, age diversity) and as an attractive visual buffer. [EA]

Define desired conditions for vegetation maintenance and clearing for each park structure. Intentionally consider cultural landscape, protection of structures and assets (hazard tree fall, mold, fire), building use (privacy, daylight, scenic views), visitor experience and landscape succession. Maintain defined conditions. [CTA]

Define desired conditions for vegetation maintenance and clearing for each park road and trail. Intentionally consider safety, structural integrity, natural resources (such as prevention of invasive plant establishment/spread, wildlife disturbance and conflict with humans), destination viewsheds, and park-like aesthetics. Maintain defined conditions. [CTA]

Intentionally manage, as appropriate, the landscape in disturbed areas to retain the visitor experience intended at the time of development by taking into account natural processes, cultural landscapes, viewsheds, and safety. [CTA]

In design, development, and vegetation management, anticipate natural regime changes and preserve ecological integrity at the larger landscape level. Thus, in disturbed footprints, the NPS will not seek to create new artificial habitats or artificially enhance any habitat in order to conserve a single species (e.g., salmon habitat enhancement in park entrance roadside ditches). Also, rather than arresting natural systems at one successional stage through periodic disturbance (e.g., trails, views), the NPS will regularly perform treatments that retain the original design and blend within larger landscape contexts. [CTA]



(above) A current view of the Glacier Bay Lodge and the public use dock. While the lodge site was selected for its scenic views, active vegetation management is needed to maintain the view because of the dynamic landscape (e.g., isostatic uplift at ~1 inch a year, less than 200 years of plant succession, and temperate rainforest conditions with ~70 inches of precipitation annually).

WHY THE NPS SUPPORTS THIS VISION

Before selecting the preferred management vision described in part I, the NPS considered three alternative visions for Bartlett Cove's future based on extensive public, tribal, agency, and internal consultation. After considering all the visions and review comments, and weighing their benefits and trade-offs for park resources and visitor experiences, the park is interested in implementing its preferred vision for several reasons.

First and foremost, this vision best aligns with the NPS mission, park purpose and significance, and the goal and objectives for the frontcountry plan.

Second, the vision incorporates many of the thoughts and suggestions raised by the public during public engagement efforts (*see appendix E*).

Third, it presents a compelling agency vision with realistic management tools to:

- welcome diverse visitors to immerse themselves in the park's fundamental resources and values in the frontcountry
- sustain and enhance the quality of those resources
- direct public investments in a coordinated and holistic approach that is more locally appropriate and operationally sustainable

Finally, the renewed vision for Bartlett Cove also helps the NPS meet its new and evolving responsibilities. In its first century, the NPS pioneered "America's best idea." As we enter a second century, the viability and success of the national park system also appears inextricably linked to evolving public mandates, above and beyond its core mission, including to:

- inspire the next generation to connect to the natural world
- extend the benefits of outdoor recreation to improve our health and quality of life
- be exemplary in all aspects of stewardship: natural and cultural resource protection, public safety, operational excellence, transparency, and financial accountability
- advance scientific exploration, learning, and conservation with the NPS serving as a catalyst, convener, and collaborator
- strengthen gateway communities and extend economic benefits for a win-win tourism model aligned with NPS mandates. On this point, the planning vision integrates tourism sector themes expressed by gateway communities, as highlighted below:

GUSTAVUS: Enhance value-added economic opportunities for local businesses and residents, and retain an economically viable NPS lodge, recognizing its interconnected importance to the upbay dayboat and seasonal jet service as an economic anchor for local tourism and the community. Also, provide the world-class national park opportunities that target the intrepid, independent adventurers that local businesses seek to attract (especially related to nature immersion and marine experiences).

HOONAH: Support a tribal ferry between Hoonah and Bartlett Cove to facilitate tribal access to homeland and improve access to Bartlett Cove for independent visitors. Also, enhance value-added economic opportunities for the Hoonah Indian Association, local businesses, and residents including related to employment (NPS, tribal, and private), cultural tourism and demonstrations, native arts and crafts, and transportation services (ferry, marine services, harbor).

JUNEAU: Seek to encourage Southeast Alaska cruise passengers to return to Juneau as a base for independent and intimate experiences, off the beaten track.

IMPLEMENTATION AND VISION CONCEPT

Long-range planning is a vision for the future in the face of unknowable conditions (usually for at least five years, but often over decades). Only time will tell (maybe over ten to twenty years) if the collaborative work and investment required to implement the planning vision will be realized.

For example, the 1998 plan recommended a Discovery Center that has not yet been funded (this plan carries it forward). Further, implementing *Xunaa Shuká Hít* (the Huna Tribal House) took many years to implement and today represents the fruits of an evolving and strengthening NPS and tribal relationship.

Whether any proposed action within the plan is implemented depends on many factors, including NPS staffing, visitor use patterns, environmental considerations, funding, and other resource availability. At the same time, the NPS is excited about its vision and hopes to begin pre-design on top-priority actions starting in 2019.

Further, the NPS recognizes that there will be experiential challenges and trade-offs to frontcountry users during the implementation process. Common areas of concern include localized construction disturbances, user inconveniences, and adjusted operations during the transition.

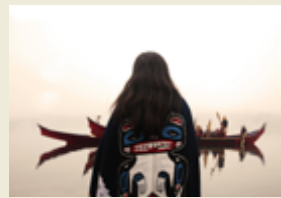
For these reasons, the NPS will consider an incremental action approach (where phased disturbances are smaller and spread over a much longer timeframe) as well as a “do it all at once and get it over with” approach (where multiple actions are scaled up for cost efficiencies, resulting in a more compressed, but more impactful, disturbance period).

Prior to the construction of facilities, further feasibility and site design studies will occur to inform site-specific environmental analyses, permitting, and consultation (as appropriate) with tribes, agencies, and relevant parties.

Concluding part I, the following pages graphically present the planning vision concept (figures 13-15) and existing conditions (figure 16) to convey a sense of site use and the scale of the development footprint. Actual design will vary based on site constraints, resource conditions, ongoing consultation, and funding availability.

Planning Vision Themes

Implementation of the planning vision seeks to:



Huna Tlingit Homeland: Sustain living cultural connections, evolve and strengthen the NPS and tribal relationship, and share this rich heritage with visitors.



Fundamental Park Resources & Values: Connect frontcountry visitors with distinctive experiences of the foundational qualities that merited national designation (glaciers, science, intact ecosystems).



Visitor Access & Services: Provide a more condensed frontcountry experience with enhanced offerings to broaden the visitor base and enhance multi-day stays.



Accommodations: Rehabilitate the historic lodge, retain the semi-primitive walk-in camping experience, and add new dry and affordable overnight options.



Resource Stewardship: Emphasize caring for the park as a special place so that all may experience its heritage.

Frontcountry Management Plan

Planning Vision Concept

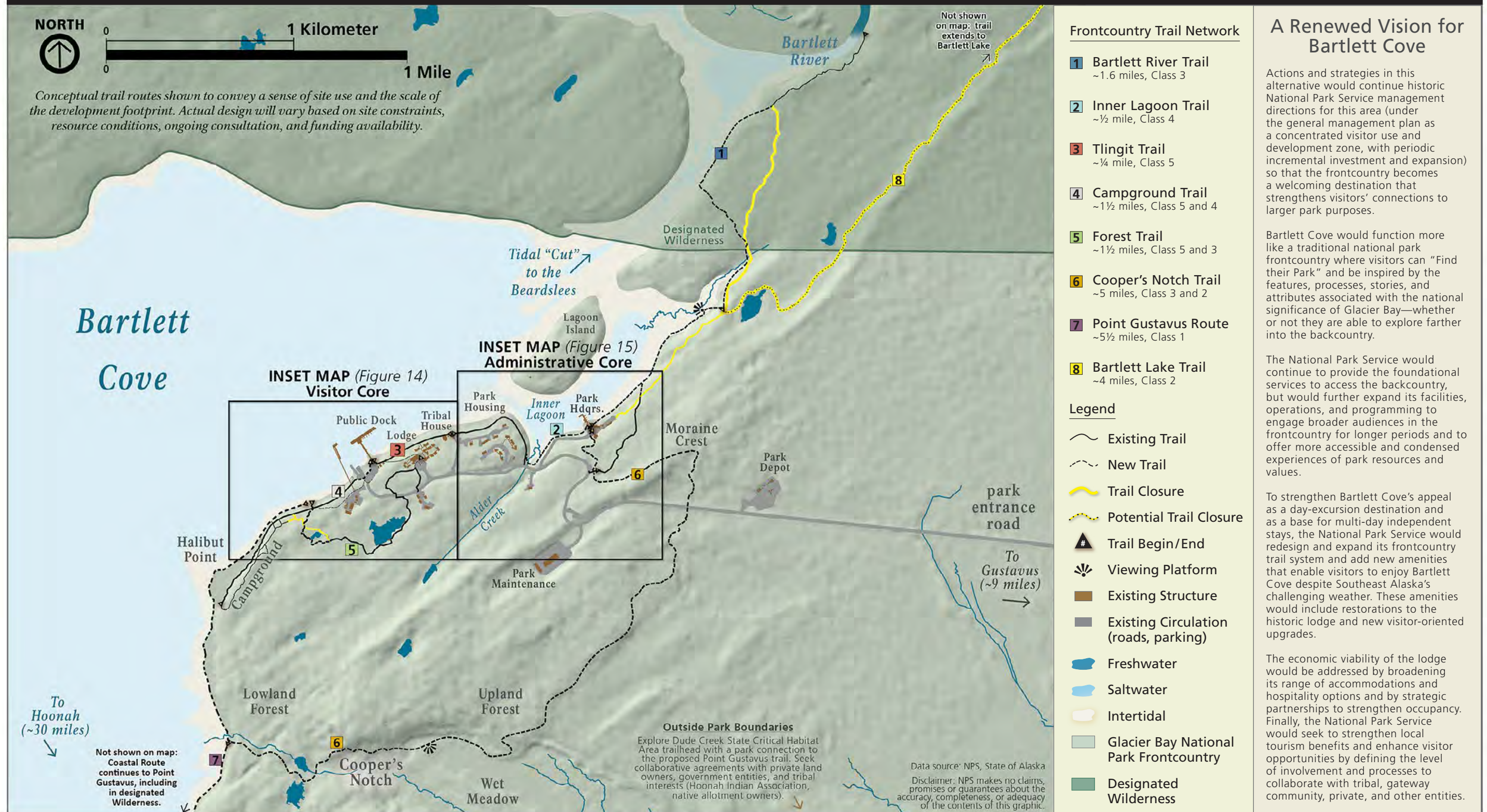


FIGURE 13. PLANNING VISION AND FRONTCOUNTRY TRAIL NETWORK

Frontcountry Management Plan

Planning Vision Concept



Legend

- Trail, pedestrian access
- Trail closure
- Trailhead
- Existing structure
- New structure
- Potential phased parking expansion (if/when needed)

Implementing Actions

Visitor Experience

- A - New Consolidated Visitor Facility: NPS Visitor Center, Glacier Bay Science and Discovery Center, and Visitor Information Station (VIS).
- B - Remove Existing VIS Structure
- C - Glacier Bay Lodge as a Historic Centerpiece
- D - Lower Bay Boat Tour
- E - Optimize Day Boat Experience
- F - Enhanced Trails Suited to a Succession Landscape
- G - Viewscape/Succession Vegetation Management
- H - Day Use Pavilion
- I - Enhanced Cultural Programs
- J - Enhanced Commercial Services
- K - Seasonal Housing Upgrades (Glacier Bay Lodge staff)

Overnight Amenities

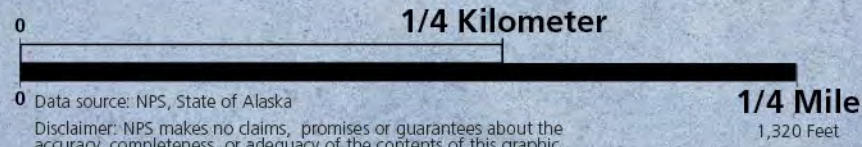
- L - Diversified Lodge Offerings
- M - Rustic Car/RV Campsites (4 to 6)
- N - Multi-Party Public Use Hut (1 or 2)
- O - Campground Cooking Pavilion
- P - Semi-Primitive Walk in Camping (existing)
- Q - Eco-Moorings (phased, up to 40)

Access and Transportation

- R - Dock and Water Arrival Enhancements
- S - Road Arrival Enhancements (parking/shuttle, accessibility, active transportation, safety)

Tribal Ancestral Homeland

- T - Tribal Transportation Ferry to/ from Hoonah
- U - Tlingit Trail Enhancements to convey cultural themes
- V - Tribal House and Associated Landscape
- W - Park Sign Homeland Recognition



Data source: NPS, State of Alaska
Disclaimer: NPS makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of this graphic.

Visitor Experience Themes

Values of the Frontcountry

- Adventure and inspiration in an iconic setting
- High-quality, comprehensive interpretation
- A quiet, rustic Alaskan atmosphere where you feel you are “on the edge of one of the wildest places on the planet”
- User-friendly, accessible frontcountry activities and services
- Backcountry launch point

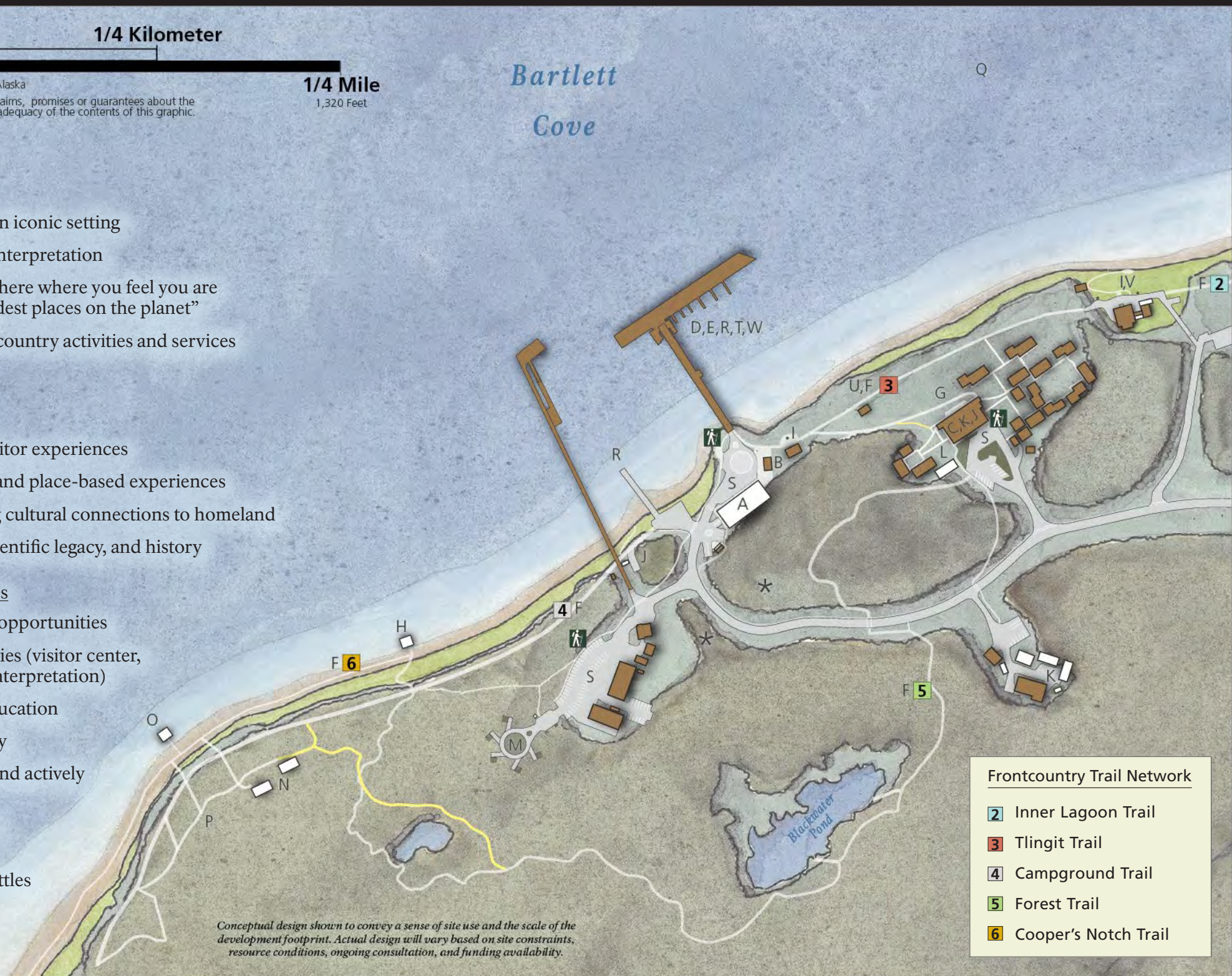
Vision for the Frontcountry

- High quality and expanded visitor experiences
- Emphasize nature immersion and place-based experiences
- Partner with the tribe on living cultural connections to homeland
- Interpret the environment, scientific legacy, and history

Additional Services and Facilities

- Huna Tribal House expanded opportunities
- New and improved NPS facilities (visitor center, lodge, rain shelters, outdoor interpretation)
- Increase interpretation and education
- Expand trail system and quality
- Opportunities to learn about and actively engage in science
- Expand the range of overnight opportunities
- Alternative transportation/shuttles

To Hoonah (~30 miles) ↓



Conceptual design shown to convey a sense of site use and the scale of the development footprint. Actual design will vary based on site constraints, resource conditions, ongoing consultation, and funding availability.

Frontcountry Trail Network

- Inner Lagoon Trail
- Tlingit Trail
- Campground Trail
- Forest Trail
- Cooper's Notch Trail

FIGURE 14. VISITOR CORE AREA SITE CONCEPT

Frontcountry Management Plan

Planning Vision Concept



Legend

- Trail, pedestrian access
- Trail closure
- Trailhead
- Existing structure
- New structure

Implementing Actions

Visitor Experience

F - Enhanced Trails Suited to a Succession Landscape

Park Operations

G - Succession Vegetation Management

S - Road Arrival Enhancements (parking/shuttle, accessibility, active transportation, safety)

X - Seasonal Housing Capacity Upgrades

Y - Replace Headquarters Building

Z - Inner Lagoon Cut Markings and Dock Utilization

NPS Operations Contexts

The 1916 NPS Organic Act (16 USC 1) charges the NPS with providing for public enjoyment while protecting our nationally-significant resources and values, unimpaired for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

The NPS focuses its management efforts on protecting the national significance, fundamental resources, and the values that merited the designation of each unit, as described in their enabling legislation and foundation documents.

The General Management Plan for Glacier Bay National Park (1984) sets the management zoning for Bartlett Cove as supporting parkwide operations and serving visitors, including with high-quality development and design that harmonizes with the Park's history, atmosphere, and resources.

Before making decisions that impact the human environment and historic properties, the NPS is required to complete integrated review under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and to ensure actions are consistent with current policy and law (see pages I-7 to I-12, and appendix F).

NPS Operations Themes:

Values of the Frontcountry

- Diverse visitors feel welcomed and supported in “finding their park” through meaningful experiences of the park’s extraordinary natural and cultural heritage.
- Sustainable and efficient operations are adapted to a remote setting and the dynamic environment (e.g., isostatic uplift, vegetative succession, precipitation, tides).
- Minimize operational impacts on resources and visitors.

Vision for the Frontcountry

- Leverage capacity and partnerships, both inside and outside the park.
- Be an example: model stewardship, best practices, cost-effective operations, and exemplary customer service.
- Continue the good work.

Additional Services and Facilities

- Employee housing (NPS/Lodge)
- Rehabilitate the Lagoon Island Cabin
- Functional space planning to consolidate, address deficiencies, and enhance operational efficiency (NPS, concessions, private):
 - Combine the visitor information station and visitor center
 - Public dock/mooring
 - Parking, alternative transportation
 - Guiding/excursion operations
 - NPS, concessions, and private equipment storage (kayak, boat trailers, bikes, etc)
 - Emergency response
 - NPS indoor-outdoor storage
 - Lodge housekeeping and operations



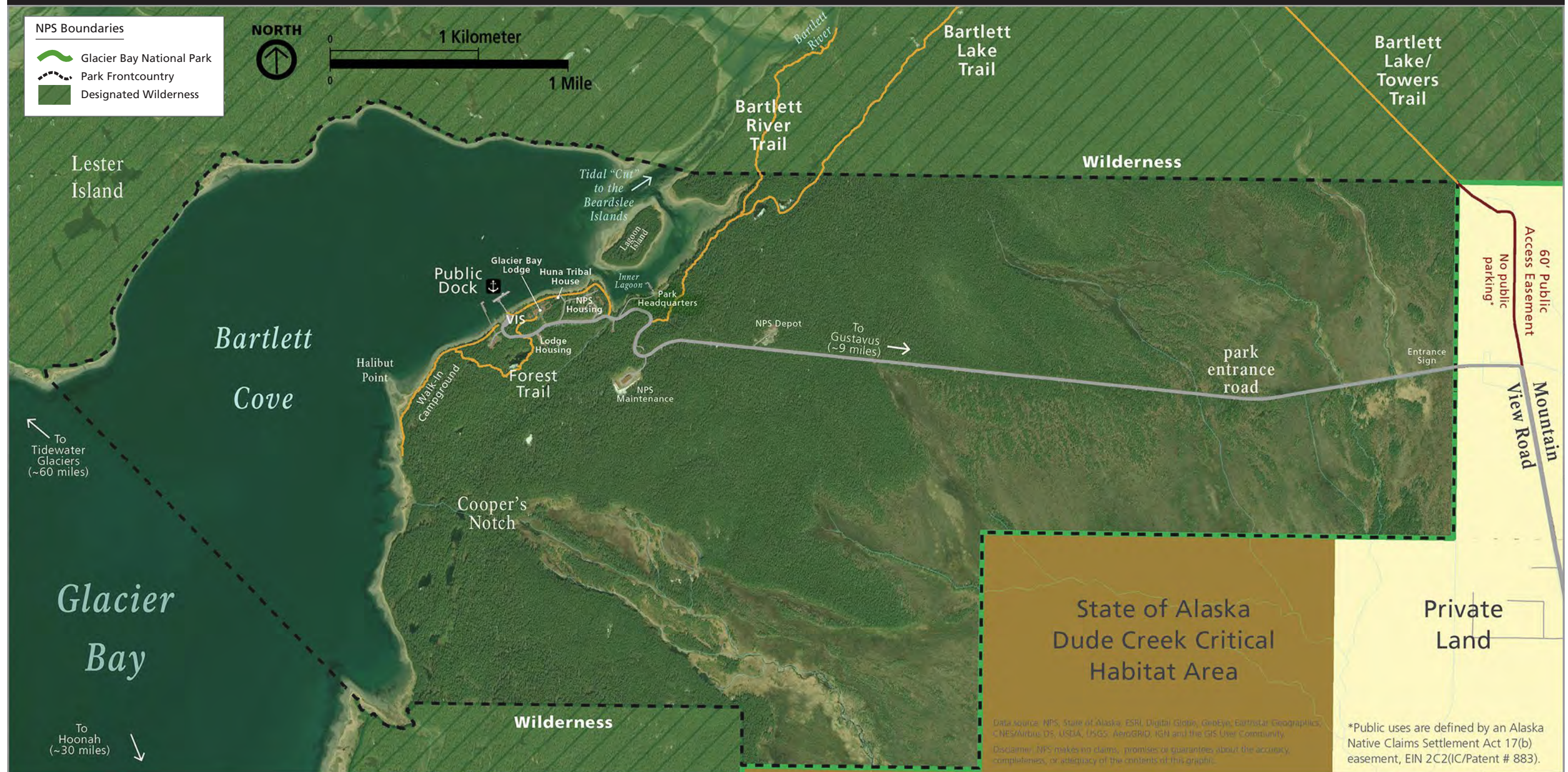
Frontcountry Trail Network

- 1** Bartlett River Trail
- 2** Inner Lagoon Trail
- 6** Cooper's Notch Trail
- 8** Bartlett Lake Trail
(via Bartlett River Trail connector, see figure 13)

FIGURE 15. ADMINISTRATIVE CORE AREA SITE CONCEPT



Frontcountry Existing Conditions Map



SETTING Glacier Bay's frontcountry is located in a remote Alaskan setting, centered around Bartlett Cove. The 7,120-acre area includes some of the Park's most biologically rich, culturally significant, and scenic coastal areas near Gustavus, Alaska.

ZONING The 1984 General Management Plan set aside this area as a development zone for concentrated visitor use and development, "to a high quality of design that harmonizes with the park's history and atmosphere to minimize impacts on visitors and resources."

BOUNDARY This plan updates the Bartlett Cove Developed Area 36 CFR 13.65(b)(1) boundary to: 1) Exclude designated Wilderness areas, managed for the highest conservation protection our country affords, and 2) Include higher intensity visitor use and commercial group management zones in a Frontcountry Management Area.

FIGURE 16. FRONTCOUNTRY EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP