

Glacier Bay

Question:

Mr. Horn, why do you think Congress added this park/preserve area to the "old" Glacier Bay National Monument?

Answer:

According to the Senate Energy Committee, "the 120-mile stretch of beach between Lituya and Yakutat Bays is a rich biological island," that is closely guarded by coastal mountain ranges and is accessible only through the Alsek River valley. This "Alsek Addition," according to the Committee, is closely related to the ecology of the old Glacier Bay Monument. The Alsek Addition was viewed by the Committee as a "vital segment" for addition to the park in order to protect "prime habitat" for moose, bears and wolves.

Question:

How much of the park/preserve addition is park land that can be used by people and wildlife?

Answer:

Of the 580,000 acres, only about 20% is usable. The rest lies in the Fairweather Mountain Range, which consists of towering ice-clad peaks and glaciers. Usable habitat consists of the Alsek River valley (park) and the Dry Bay area (preserve), and a thin strip of park extending south along the coast to the "old" park boundary.

Question:

Doesn't S. 49 eliminate the protected park status that Congress and the Senate Energy Committee gave to the Alsek River valley in Alaska Lands Act?

Answer: Yes.

Question:

How much subsistence hunting occurs in the park addition?

Answer:

None. The area was closed to subsistence hunting by the Alaska Lands Act. Some subsistence hunting may occur in the existing preserve area, but most wildlife harvest consists of commercial and subsistence salmon fishing in the existing preserve. Subsistence hunting occurs mostly north of the Alsek River on national forest lands and on other park lands.

Question:

In your statement you say that no significant visitation exists in this area. It is my understanding that the Alsek-Takenshini River trip is one of the most popular in Alaska and is considered one of the world's outstanding river trips. Already the Park Service has had to limit Commercial raft outfitters to pre-ANILCA levels. How many people are making the trip annually?

Answer:

Mr. Horn will have to research the question, but hundreds of people are making the run each year.