



**SUSITNA BASIN PLANNING
BACKGROUND REPORT**

***Scenic Resources
along the
Parks Highway***

***Inventory and Management
Recommendations***

LAND AND RESOURCE PLANNING SECTION
DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

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The scenic resources along the Parks Highway were inventoried by this Department during the summer of 1978; the results of this study and corresponding management recommendations have been compiled into a 600 page report. Due to the prohibitive costs of printing the complete document, we have copied those portions of the report which we feel will be most useful as a tool for visual resource management along the highway corridor. The introduction explains what data was collected at each assessment unit; if you feel that you have a use for a portion of the report which is omitted, contact us.

Visual Resources are important along the Parks Highway. Please make an attempt to put the enclosed information to good use. If you have any questions concerning the content or application of the report, feel free to contact us.

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HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This report concerns the identification and management of the scenic resources along the George Parks Highway in southcentral Alaska. This highway connects Alaska's two largest urban areas and passes through some of the state's most spectacular scenery as well as lands richly endowed with natural resources and under intense demand for a variety of human uses. This report has been divided into five district parts -- each of which deals with a particular aspect of scenic resource description, and management. A short synopsis of each part follows to aid the reader in determining which part(s) are of particular interest. Those readers unfamiliar with scenic resource concepts would benefit from reading the first four parts in the order presented.

PART ONE

Part one describes a methodology developed to describe and evaluate the scenic resources along the George Parks Highway. Since scenic resource inventory techniques may be new to some people using this report, part one goes to considerable detail with respect to the definition of terms and description of concepts. The inventory system described here was designed specifically for conditions in Alaska. This system incorporates many techniques currently employed nationally in scenic resource evaluations. Consequently, part one may be viewed as a good introduction into some of the underlying concepts regarding the evaluation and value of scenery as a natural resource.

PART TWO

Part two describes some of the ways that scenic resource information can be evaluated and displayed. This part suggests ways that this type of data might be used in conjunction with other resource data -- particularly through overlay mapping. The evaluation techniques described in this part were used to develop the management recommendations found in part three.

PART THREE

Part three should be considered the most important part of this report. It describes recommendations specific to the management of the scenic resources found along the George Parks Highway.

PART FOUR

Part four identifies the additional need to incorporate this data and recommendations into other land and resource management plans and studies currently being conducted in southcentral Alaska, as well as pointing out the need for further effort regarding scenic resource educational programming and management implementation strategies.

PART FIVE

Part five contains the George Parks Highway scenic resource inventory data sheets. This is the field data used to develop the recommendations found in part three of this report. Readers interested in site specific scenic resource information for a particular portion of the George Parks Highway can consult the appropriate assessment unit inventory sheet. Part five also contains a narrative description of the thirteen character types (prototypical landscapes) through which the George Parks Highway passes.