

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **Executive Summary**

<b>Chapter 1: Purpose and Need .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction.....	1
Purpose of Plan .....	3
Need for Plan .....	3
Planning History for the South Denali Region .....	4
Denali State Park Purposes .....	9
Significance of the South Denali Region .....	9
Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Plans.....	10
Issues and Impact Topics .....	13
Permits and Approvals Necessary to Implement the Plan .....	16

<b>Chapter 2: Alternatives .....</b>	<b>17</b>
Alternative A – No Action Alternative.....	17
Actions Common to All Action Alternatives .....	18
Alternative B – Peters Hills .....	22
Alternative C – Parks Highway, Preferred Alternative .....	26
Alternatives Considered but Dismissed from Further Consideration .....	31
Environmentally Preferred Alternative .....	33
Plan Implementation .....	34
Mitigation.....	34
Summary Table of Alternatives.....	40
Summary Table of Environmental Consequences .....	45

### Color Section

Figure 2-1	Overview Map
Figure 2-2	Mile 121.5 - 122 Parking Area/Wayside
Figure 2-3	Rabideux Parking Area
Figure 2-4	Forks Campground
Figure 2-5	Mile 12.8 Pullout
Figure 2-6	Mile 16.3 Pullout
Figure 2-7	Peters Hills Overview
Figure 2-8	Peters Hills Nature Center
Figure 2-9	Peters Hills Parking
Figure 2-10	Parks Highway Overview
Figure 2-11	Parks Highway Visitor Center
Figure 2-12	Parks Highway Parking
Figure 2-14	South Denali Land Status
Figure 3-1	South Denali Geographic Area – Wildlife
Figure 4-1	Wetlands – Peters Hills Access Road

Figure 4-2	Wetlands – Peters Hills Nature Center
Figure 4-3	Wetlands – Parks Highway Parking Areas
Figure 4-4	Wetlands – Petersville Road
Figure 4-5	Wetlands – Peters Hills Transportation Center
Figure 4-6	Wetlands – Parks Highway Alternative
Figure 4-7	Vegetation – Peters Hills Access Road
Figure 4-8	Vegetation – Peters Hills Nature Center
Figure 4-9	Vegetation – Peters Hills Transportation Center
Figure 4-10	Vegetation – Parks Highway Access Road
Figure 4-11	Vegetation – Parks highway Visitor Center
Figure 4-12	Vegetation – Parks Highway Transportation Center

Color Photographs of Peters Hills and Parks Highway sites

<b>Chapter 3: Affected Environment .....</b>	<b>51</b>
Soils.....	51
Water Quality, Aquatic Resources, and Fish.....	56
Wetlands.....	64
Vegetation .....	71
Wildlife .....	78
Cultural Resources .....	89
Socioeconomics .....	99
Visitor Opportunity .....	121
<b>Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences .....</b>	<b>127</b>
Methodology .....	127
Assumptions.....	128
Background for Analysis of Cumulative Impacts.....	129
Soils.....	131
Water Quality .....	139
Aquatic Resources and Fish.....	147
Wetlands.....	155
Vegetation .....	166
Wildlife .....	182
Cultural Resources .....	191
Socioeconomics .....	196
Visitor Opportunity .....	220
Sustainability.....	235
<b>Chapter 5: Consultation and Coordination.....</b>	<b>237</b>
Public Involvement .....	237
Consultation with Federal Agencies .....	237
Consultation with State and Local Governments.....	238
Consultation with Native Tribal Governments .....	238
Additional Consultation .....	239
Summary of Major Issues Raised during Scoping.....	239

Existing Cooperative Agency Mechanisms .....	241
List of Agencies/Organizations/Businesses .....	242
Preparers .....	243
Response to Comments from Agencies .....	246
Response to Comments from Individuals and Organizations.....	247
<b>Chapter 6: Public Comments and Response .....</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>Appendices.....</b>	<b>279</b>
Appendix A: Summary of Actions and Plans that Apply to Lands along Petersville Road .....	279
Appendix B: ANILCA Section 810(a) Summary of Evaluations and Findings .....	283
Appendix C: Plan Implementation.....	289
Appendix D: Cost Analysis.....	299
Appendix E: Visitor Projection .....	309
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>Index.....</b>	<b>339</b>

## **List of Tables**

Table 3-1	Soil Characteristics
Table 3-2	Catalogued Anadromous Streams
Table 3-3	Baseline Wetlands
Table 3-4	Plant Species of Concern
Table 3-5	Baseline Terrestrial Species
Table 3-6	Mammal Species
Table 3-7	Bird Species
Table 3-8	Cultural Resources Reported along Petersville Road
Table 3-9	Cultural Resources Reported along Parks Highway
Table 3-10	Selected Economic Characteristics
Table 3-11	Residential Sales
Table 3-12	Unimproved Lot Sales
Table 3-13	Vacancy Rates
Table 3-14	Land Ownership, Petersville Road
Table 4-1	Impacts to Wetlands under Alternative B
Table 4-2	Summary of Alternative B Cumulative Impacts to Wetlands
Table 4-3	Impacts to Wetlands under Alternative C
Table 4-4	Summary of Alternative C Cumulative Impacts to Wetlands
Table 4-5	Impacts to Vegetation under Alternative B
Table 4-6	Summary of Alternative B Cumulative Impacts to Vegetation
Table 4-7	Impacts of Alternative C to Vegetation
Table 4-8	Summary of Alternative C Cumulative Impacts to Vegetation
Table 4-9	Criteria for Determining Magnitude of Effects on Socioeconomics

Table A-1	Visitation for Select Alaskan National Park Units, 1997 - 2004
Table A-2	Visitation Scenarios for South Denali Visitor Center for 2010 and 2015
Table A-3	Total Arrivals and Departures on Alaska Railroad into Denali Station 2000-2004
Table A-4	Traffic Projections for Petersville Road
Table A-5	Recreational Visitation for Denali National Park and Preserve, 1985-2004
Table A-6	Monthly Visitation for Denali National Park and Preserve, 2003-2004

## **List of Figures (that are not included in the Color Section at the end of Chapter Two)**

Figure 2-13	Alternatives Considered but Dismissed
Figure 3-1	Reconnaissance Map of Yentna District
Figure 3-2	Cabins and Trails in the Yentna Region
Figure 3-3	MLS Map