



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service Western Arctic National Parklands

P.O. Box 1029
171 3rd Ave.
Kotzebue, AK 99752



March 2026,

National Park Service Update

Western Arctic National Parklands is pleased to report that Jeanette Koelsch from Nome is serving as our acting Superintendent. We will share updates on new permanent hires as those occur.

The National Park Service recently published three documents called *Resource Stewardship Strategies* for Kobuk Valley National Park, Noatak National Preserve, and Cape Krusenstern National Monument. These booklets will serve as guides for project planning and long-term monitoring of natural and cultural resources for the next decades of park stewardship.

This spring NPS staff will have a few snowmachine operations in the parklands. These will include:

- Conducting controlled burn piles of brush near Giddings Cabin to prepare for the upcoming summer and potential fire season. Thank you to NANA for your participation.
- Staff just left town, and will be out on patrol at the Tutasraq Cabin for the Kobuk 440 this upcoming week to ensure the cabin is ready for teams coming through
- Staff will be working out at Anigaaq in Cape Krusenstern and continuing filming work for the Cape Krusenstern and Sisualik Oral History Project



NPS Photo/Emily Creek, Cape Krusenstern National Monument

Additionally in a funding partnership with the ADFG Division of Subsistence, NPS staff from Kotzebue and Fairbanks will participate in a Comprehensive Harvest Surveys for Shungnak.

Upcoming programs at the Northwest Arctic Heritage Center will include a ‘parts of a parka’ workshop. Interpretation and Education staff have also been able to do outreach in schools throughout the spring.

Summer is expected to be busy with a few exciting projects to note:

- Expansion of wolf den monitoring
- Kicking off a new project, an Ethnographic landscape inventory, at Feniak Lake with representatives from Noatak.
- Continued collaboration with Kiana Traditional Council and community on connections to important sites.
- NPS will be assisting at Kiana Elders Camp this year, we are excited for the invite!
- There will be wilderness character monitoring patrols, hunting patrols, and archeological surveys throughout the summer as well
- Finally, work will be taking place at Giddings Cabin, Anigaaq Ranger Station, and the Kelly River Ranger Station.

We are anticipating several seasonal staff to join our team this summer.

In other subsistence news, Emily Creek has joined the collaborative team working on “Caribou Trails” for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.



NPS Photo, Brendan Doucet/dog team ready to go in Kobuk Valley National Park

How to reach us!

In person in Kotzebue: Northwest Arctic Heritage Center, 171 Third Ave.

Starting today, April 1 our open hours will be 9-5pm Mon-Fri

We have a **NEW Phone number: 907 318-2230**

Caribou non-FQSU closure is still in effect. Please call our tip line if you suspect sport hunting in Noatak National Preserve above mean high water. 800-478-2724.

Parklands online: We update our websites frequently with new stories and info.

www.nps.gov/kova

www.nps.gov/cakr

www.nps.gov/noat

Facebook: Northwest Arctic Heritage Center | Kotzebue AK | Facebook

Instagram: @kobukvalleynps



NPS Photo/Emily Creek, Noatak National Preserve