



United States Department of Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709



Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council Meeting October 5-6, 2022

- **Superintendent Introduction:** Mark Dowdle is the new Superintendent for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Mark is a 22-year veteran of the National Park Service and prior to this appointment, he served in several leadership roles including most recently as the Deputy Superintendent of the Outer Banks Group national park sites in eastern North Carolina, where he worked closely with a large variety of communities, partner groups, and surrounding federal, state, and local agencies. Mark recently served as the acting Superintendent of Western Arctic National Parklands in Alaska.
- **Moose Monitoring Program Update:** This is the third year of the moose project for the Preserve. This spring, biologists deployed collars on 4 adult, female moose, and we currently have 30 active collars in the Preserve's population. Mortality was up over this winter, with 3 adults dying before May and 3 more dying from May – August. This resulted in a survival rate of 81% in the last year (fall 2021 to fall 2022). For comparison, we had no mortalities the previous year. We completed two radio tracking flights to measure calf survival for those born in 2021 and we had 24% of calves born in the spring of 2021 survive through the first year and recruit into the population. Calving was up this year: our parturition rate was 71% and the twinning rate was 50%. Calving was generally later this year – the average calving date was 5/23 this year compared to 5/20 in 2021 and 5/19 in 2020. We plan to complete radiotracking flights in late October and in the spring to track survival of this year's calves. This project is part of a broader collaboration between BLM and FWS to understand the relationships between moose population dynamics, movement, habitat, and diet in the northeastern area of Alaska, and the patterns in calf production and survival were comparable between the Preserve and the populations to the north.

We are also planning to conduct a moose population survey of the Preserve in November this year, based out of Coal Creek and Eagle. The last survey was conducted in 2019 and found the population to be relatively stable but slightly down since the 2015 survey.

Contact: Matthew_Cameron@nps.gov



- **Wolf Monitoring Program Update:** We are currently monitoring 7 packs within the Preserve and all packs denned during the summer. The spring pack count averaged 5.6 wolves, nearly equal to the long-term average of 5.7 wolves, and above last year's spring count of 3.5 wolves. Over the 2021 biological year (May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021), we tracked 27 GPS collared wolves. Of the 27 wolves, 9 died and 1 dispersed. This year marks the 29th year of monitoring the wolf population in Yukon-Charley Rivers NP.

Last spring, NPS biologist deployed video/GPS combination collars on wolves. The cameras were set to collect 30-second video clips every daylight hour in March and again in June. The goal of the project is to collect data on spring and summer diets, behaviors, and record social behaviors during the early pup-rearing season. The collars have been retrieved and are currently being reviewed. Contact: Mathew_Sorum@nps.gov

- **Dall's Sheep Update:** We were unable to conduct a sheep survey of the Preserve this year, but we're planning to conduct one next year.
- **White Sweet Clover Removal:** From July 12 to 16, an invasive plant management crew consisting of employees from Denali National Park, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, the NPS Alaska Regional Office, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, went down the Yukon River and hand-pulled known infestations of *Metilotus albus* (white sweetclover). A total of 155 pounds of sweetclover was removed from 4 islands. Contact: Anna_Obrien@nps.gov
- **Science Outreach:** Frontiers for Young Minds: Science for Kids Frontiers for Young Minds is an international, online science journal for kids that involves kids in the article review process. The National Park Service Inventory & Monitoring Division has a collection (special issue), Taking the Pulse of US National Parks, that features a variety of insights and concepts from monitoring in parks. Articles are just starting to be published online, many from Alaska NPS scientists, and the collection already has over 60,000 online views! (And even though the articles are written for kids, they are fun for adults to read, too!) Contact: Nina_Chambers@nps.gov

The recovery of the American peregrine falcon in Alaska, coauthored by Dave Payer and Mel Flamme, describes how peregrine populations have rebounded along the Yukon River after the bird was listed as endangered in 1973.

[The Recovery of the American Peregrine Falcon in Alaska · Frontiers for Young Minds \(frontiersin.org\)](https://frontiersin.org)