

Anchorage

Results of South Denali Interpretive Master Plan Community Meeting – September 29, 2007

What stories would you share with an out-of-town visitor? About your community... About Curry Ridge and this region...

- Sydney Lawrence, artist... boat that would take tourists to cabin
- Parks Highway people built a trail along the Ridge to Byers Lake... 8 mile trail... develop a trail system (could be more bear activity at this location)
- One of the few native groups that were not nomadic... caribou access... try museum in Talkeetna
- Climbing/Mountaineering... Denali... adventures... Sourdough expedition... Cook
- History of town of Curry
- Rebuild the town and put a suspension bridge across the river... hike to the top of the Curry Ridge... testimony from people... railroad is mining behind Curry... stabilize the original lookout (grants are being secured to stabilize historic structure)
- Consider an alternative to "shuttle bus" designation that would be more usable for Alaskan residents... environmentally friendly and quiet (electric, propeller, single-track tram, gondola)
- Traditionally, the area has always been used by snow machiners. All types of recreation should be allowed.
- History of mining
- Homesteading
- Mary Kerry... applied for 5 acres on top of the Ridge... quite a character

What effects do you foresee the South Denali facility having on the region, your community, or Curry Ridge? Potential benefits... Concerns...

- Airport has been proposed for the area... concern... airport already exists in Talkeetna... would affect the quiet atmosphere and the quality of life for residents
- Powering the site (generators near the Parks Highway). Bury lines. Wind turbines would provide alternative energy
- Changing an environment that will provide more access to non-motorized use... inviting conflict between two user groups... proper planning now will help to avoid conflict in the future
- Concern about noise from snow machines
- Center should be something for all Alaskans, not just specific user groups
- Concern about further developments along the highway... "Glitter Gulch"...

- Concern about allowing private vehicles up to the site during shoulder seasons. Would impact experience especially during fall.
- Trapper Creek would benefit greatly from the increased traffic and commerce
- Concern about damage to tundra vegetation on the top of the ridge... will be a challenge to keep visitors on the trail system... route the trails correctly... education of visitors about sensitivity of tundra travel
- Concern about the increased number of people accessing the ridge.
- Historic numbers of people accessing the ridge during the Curry days?
- Concern about litter problem of increased visitors and impact on wildlife. Standard litter patrol will be needed.
- Boy Scouts trails into the state park area (state parks would be building the trails, other sites away from public use areas)
- Concern about state park funding (will be a variety of funding sources: state, federal, private... operations plan will be developed after interpretation plan)

**How can the South Denali facility be developed to benefit Alaska residents?
Specific features of the visitor center Specific features of the site**

- Could convert the visitor center to a “lodge-type” facility as a warming area for visitors
- Use Alaskan contractors to build the visitor center
- Keep the facility open year-round... let the Alaskans use the center as well
- Discount for Alaskans for user fees

What/who are some resources that we can investigate or interview to learn more about this area?

- Talkeetna museum... information about railroads, native tries
- Alaska railroad
- Locals in Talkeetna... Hudsons, Roberta Sheldon, Carol Young (served on implementation committee),
- Randy Crosby, Trapper Creek
- Ken Marsh, Trapper Creek Museum
- Wal-Mike
- National Archives and Records Administration, Anchorage
- Natural History Museum, Anchorage, library
- Alaska Lost Ski Area, Curry, Lookout, names, website
- Ken Marsh’s book on Curry
- Retired state parks people: Dave Johnston, Dan Elliot, Mary’s family

Do you have other questions or comments concerning the interpretive plan for the South Denali Visitor Facility?

- Should read through the Implementation Plan for South Denali

- May be some confusion with the conceptual drawings... need to emphasize that they are only conceptual

If you have more information to add, see any errors in this report, or if you have questions about this project, contact:

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