



Alagnak

Aniakchak

Katmai

Kenai Fjords

Lake Clark

2016 Spring Update: KEFJ

Marine Nearshore Monitoring

During a low tide in June, the nearshore marine monitoring crew will be along the KEFJ coastline on the USGS R/V Alaskan Gyre. This crew will be completing data collection for the summer season. During this trip, the vessel will also provide support to a sea otter aerial survey crew. Sea otters in KEFJ were last surveyed in 2010. Results from 2010 indicate a stable population since 2002. We are eager to see what this population's status is now.



2016 SWAN Field Schedule

All dates are flexible and subject to change based on weather and other conditions.

May

Bald Eagle Surveys-Nest Initiation
Dates: May 14 - 6, 16 - 18
Contact: Tammy Wilson

Climate Station Maintenance
Pederson Lagoon
Dates: May 18 - 20, M/V Serac
Contact: Peter Kirchner

June

Marine Nearshore Monitoring
Dates: June 16 - 25, R/V Alaskan Gyre
Contact: Heather Coletti

Sea Otter Aerial Surveys
Dates: June 16 - 25, R/V Alaskan Gyre
Contact: Heather Coletti

July

Climate Station Maintenance
McArthur Pass and Harding Icefield (helicopter)
Dates: July 17 - 24 (2-3 days)
Contact: Peter Kirchner

Nunatak Vegetation Monitoring (helicopter)
Dates: July 17 - 22
Contact: James Walton, Amy Miller

Bald Eagle Surveys-Productivity
Dates: TBD; late July
Contact: Tammy Wilson



Nunatak Monitoring

In late July, we will survey nunatak vegetation communities at four sites established on the Harding Icefield in 2005. Nunataks are of interest due to their geographic isolation and because they may have supported populations that survived the Last Glacial Maximum, approximately 20,000 years bp. In addition to harboring regionally or globally rare species, nunataks are sensitive to subtle changes in climate. They may also play an important role in the re-establishment of plant and animal species in recently deglaciated areas. Original baseline surveys in KEFJ revealed a number of rare and disjunct vascular plant species. This summer will mark the first resurvey since 2005, and will include a survey for lichens and bryophytes with Oregon State University cooperator, Dr. Bruce McCune.

Weather/Climate Monitoring

Maintenance and upgrades to the SWAN weather stations will occur throughout the spring and summer. In early May, we will visit the Pederson Lagoon station to troubleshoot and repair a data transmission problem to ensure that data are available in real time. In late July, we will service the McArthur Pass and Harding Icefield stations via helicopter from Seward and Homer airports, in conjunction with the nunatak monitoring. At the Harding Icefield station, we will assess the condition of the precipitation gauge and plan for its replacement with a new gauge in 2017.

