Southwest Alaska Network
Inventory & Monitoring Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Alagnak **Aniakchak** **Katmai** **Kenai Fjords** **Lake Clark**

Overview

The Southwest Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Network (SWAN) is a small the National Park Service team dedicated to providing the scientific foundation for effective, long-term protection and management of natural resources in five units of the National Park System. SWAN consists of Katmai National Park and Preserve (KATM), Kenai Fjords National Park (KEFJ), Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (LACL), Alagnak Wild River (ALAG), and Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve (ANIA). Collectively these park units comprise approximately 9.4 million acres, and include a diversity of geologic features, ecosystems, wildlife and climatic conditions that are equaled few places in North America. Alaska's national parks are among the last remaining wilderness areas of the world – large enough to allow ecological processes and biological diversity to evolve and adapt naturally.

SWAN has identified approximately 30 different elements or "Vital Signs" within five project areas: weather and climate, landscape dynamics (vegetation), marine nearshore, freshwater flow systems (lakes, river, fish), and terrestrial wildlife. Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are currently under development for 21 core Vital Signs to determine the most practical, cost effective and sustainable methods to monitor them over time. Resource briefs have been prepared for these 21 vital signs where monitoring has been initiated. In addition, a resource brief has been prepared for lake sediments, which was tiered from a previous lake coring project. These briefs describe the importance of, and issues associated with, each vital sign.