

#### "Re-imagining" the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center

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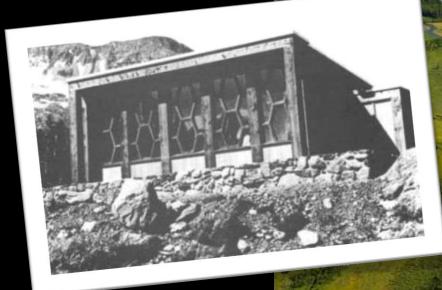
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### Historically popular destination:

- Just 45 minutes from Anchorage
- Accessible by car
- Magnificent glacially carved valley
- "Touch" a glacier







### Our New Reality...

A changing glacier

### Our New Reality...

#### A changing visitor



### **Our New Reality...**

Increase in fees charged at visitor center



### Our New Reality...

Aging facility + Extreme weather conditions = Increased maintenance costs





## So, what do we do...

We could just wait for our proverbial iceberg to melt and then most likely close the facility, or...

## Or get a little creative...

We talked to our stakeholders and asked them what's their vision for Portage Valley and the visitor center.



### Out of these conversations...

Several partners stepped forward interested in partnering with the Forest Service.



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#### New Challenges...

We were looking to partner in ways that hadn't really been done before.



#### **New Challenges...**

The state budget took a big hit... our two primary partners are heavily dependent upon state funding.





# So, where do we go from here...

- Re-evaluate other potential partners
- Accept that things might get messy and small steps forward are OK.

### Thoughts, questions, fabulous ideas to share....

Send them my way - aheckart@fs.fed.us

