The Visitor & Resource Protection Division continues to advance partnerships with local communities and tribes, the NANA Trespass Program, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and other federal law enforcement agencies. This has led to improved coordination and leveraging of resources to better patrol, investigate violations, incorporate advice and concerns from the public, and protect subsistence and cultural resources, lands, and the public in the Northwest Arctic.

In 2021, Rangers utilized several fixed wing airplanes and one helicopter to patrol Noatak National Preserve primarily in September with an aim at contacting non-federally qualified subsistence hunters. Rangers were able to land and contact atleast 60 non-federally qualified caribou hunters. Ranger's coordinated with Alaska Wildlife Troopers, issued several warnings for minor hunting violations, and assisted in the investigation of one wanton waste case (which is ongoing). No violations of the various closures or areas restricting non-federally qualified caribou hunters were observed or reported.

Rangers are coordinating a project to study subsistence tree harvest issues in Cape Krusenstern National Monument. The Native Village of Kotzebue and U.S. Forest Service is assisting with this project. After concerns were raised by the local subsistence users, the project's aim is to determine if there are user conflicts or if over harvesting may be occurring in certain areas historically preferred by local subsistence users, and if so what next steps the NPS should consider in formulating a tree harvest management plan. Part of this project will document historical and traditional practices and uses of tree harvesting in the area. COVID restrictions have delayed this project, but the goal is to complete it in 2022.

Following requests from the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to have more rangers in the field, two full-time rangers are now stationed in Kotzebue, augmented by additional ranger/pilots during the fall hunting season. This will better enable the NPS to safely and effectively patrol parklands, as well as protect vital subsistence resources and the public.

Additionally during summer/fall 2022 the V&RP Division expects to utilize two volunteers whom will primarily live and work in the field. They will spend the first part of the summer in Cape Krusenstern National Monument, assisting in the completion of two new Ranger Station cabins at Anigaak as well as observing, and notifying Sisauliq Residents of Muskox movement and encroachment to Sisauliq. They will actively travel the Krusentern Coastline with ATVs, and utilize boats on some of the waterways.

During the fall non-resident hunting season, it is expected that these volunteers will remain in Noatak National Preserve, with the primary aim of observing and recording aircraft activity, for future potential study of the reported conflict between subsistence users, caribou migration, and aircraft related to hunting.
If this volunteer program and ttheir missions are successful, the NPS will look to expand the number of volunteers and/or other staff in the field, with an aim of enlisting local residents.

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