



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
13-5003

February 15, 2013

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: USFWS Announces New Visitor Center in Soldotna

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently in the design phase for a new Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, located in Soldotna, Alaska. The contract for design and construction of the building was awarded in September 2012 to SIKU Construction, LLC, of Anchorage.

Ground-breaking is scheduled for spring of 2013 for the approximately 6,500 square-foot facility, which will be situated just southwest of the existing Refuge Headquarters building on Ski Hill Road. Completion and opening of the building is planned for fall of 2014. The total project cost is \$9.9 million which will also cover a renovation of the existing Headquarters.

The new visitor center will include an 1,800 square-foot exhibit hall, a multi-purpose room with a capacity for 80 people, a lobby with a sales outlet and three administrative offices for volunteers and Refuge Visitor Services staff.

The new center will provide expanded opportunities for integrating community volunteers and enhancing partnerships in order to best serve both visitors and local residents. The exhibit hall will hold state of the art interactive exhibits that will interpret the wealth of

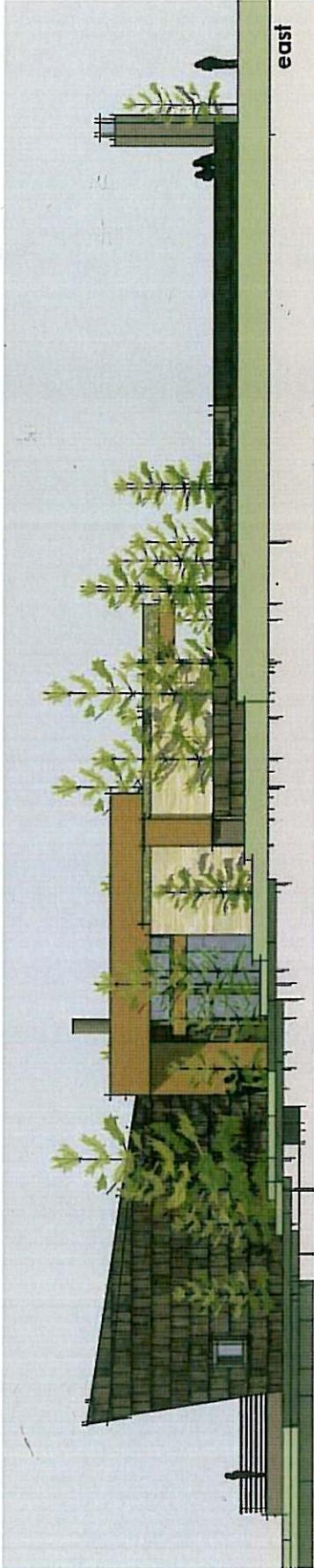
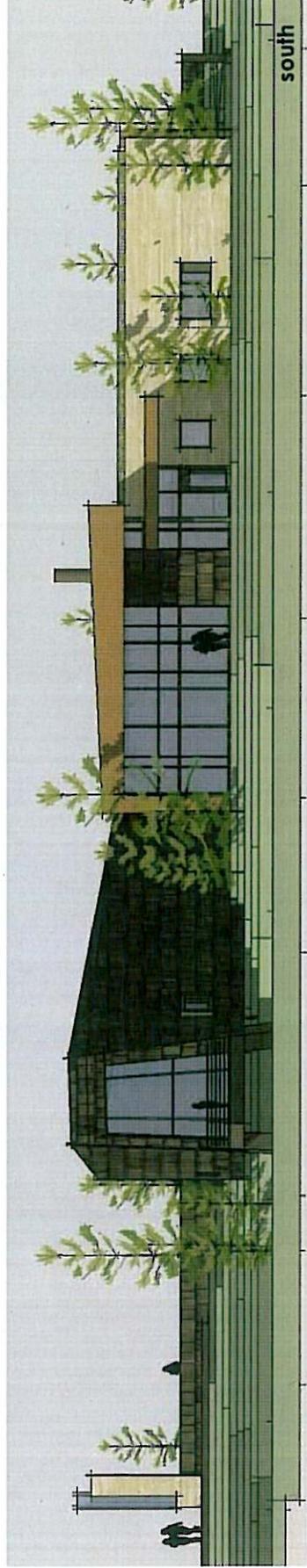
natural and cultural history of the Refuge and the Kenai Peninsula, while the multi-purpose room will host visitors for popular films featuring wildlife and wild lands and provide meeting space for community events and gatherings. The increased sales outlet area will allow the Alaska Geographic Bookstore to provide additional wildlife, educational and recreational items to enhance visitor experience.

The project design includes site planning and development to interface with the existing Refuge hiking, cross-country skiing and interpretive trails. A longer term goal of the Refuge is to link Refuge trails and the new facility with existing community trails. Please contact the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters on Ski Hill Road in Soldotna, (907) 262-7021, for further details.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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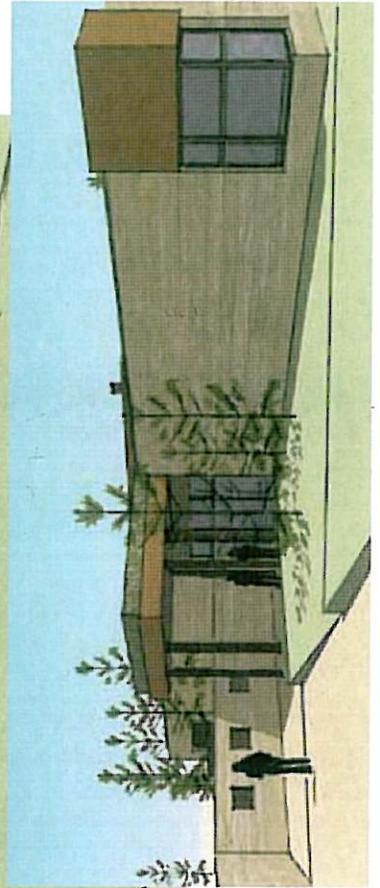
exterior design



Kenai national wildlife refuge
visitor center design



exterior design



Kenai national wildlife refuge
visitor center design

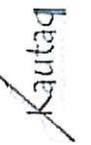
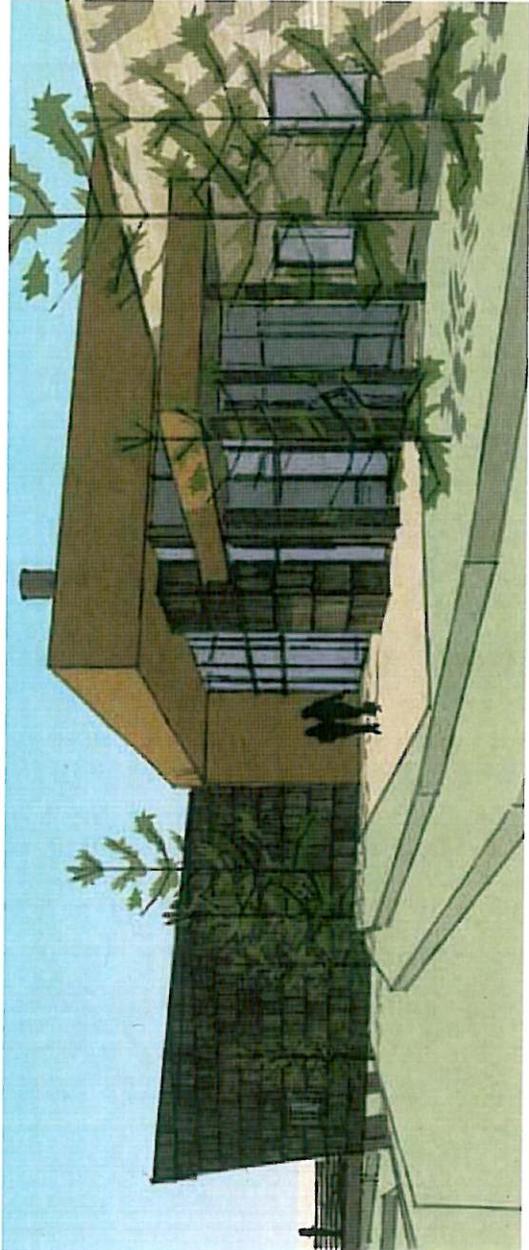
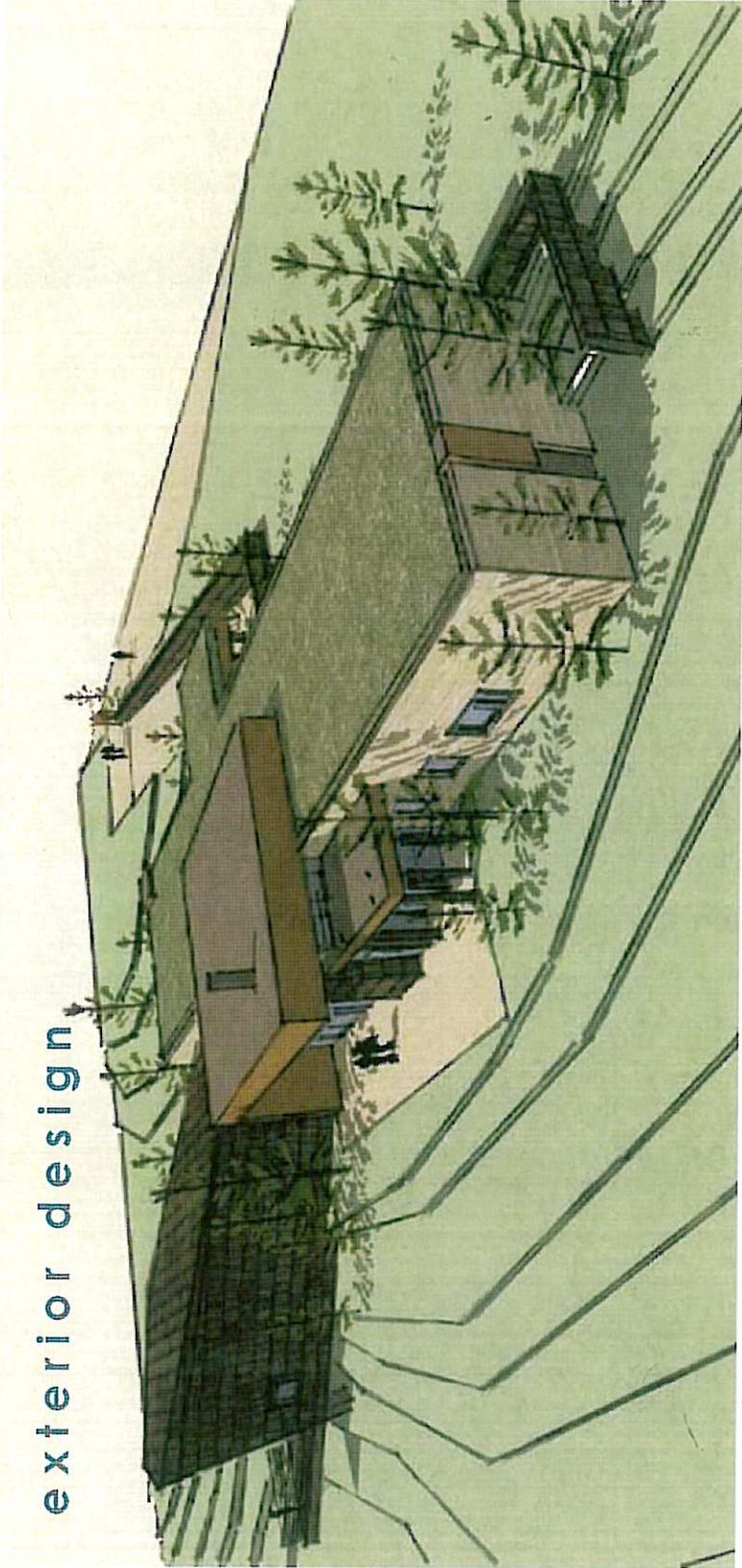


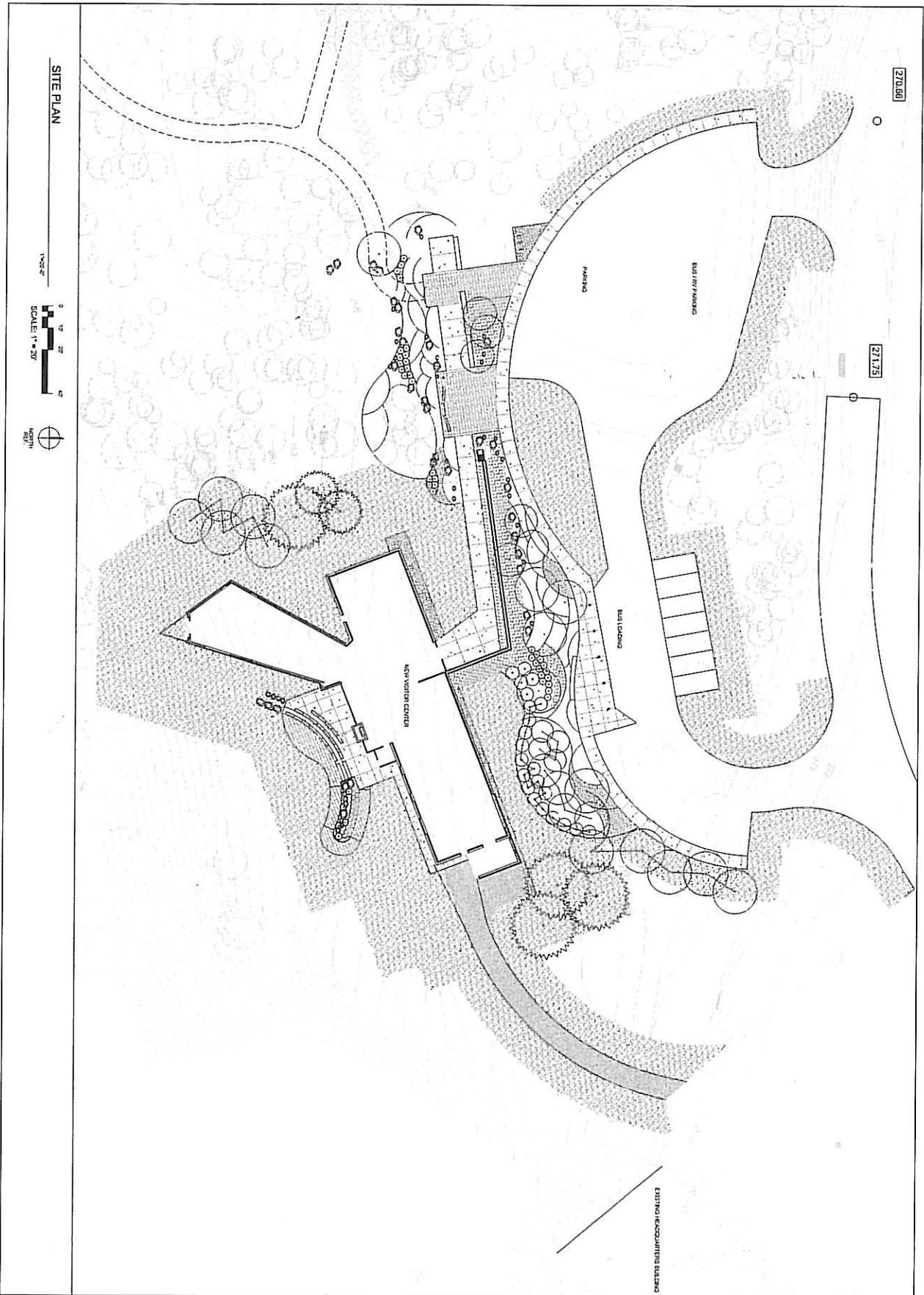


Kenai national wildlife refuge visitor center design



exterior design





SITE PLAN



SHEET



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60% OWNER REVIEW

USFWS KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
VISITOR CENTER
 SOLDOTNA, AK 99669

REVISIONS: