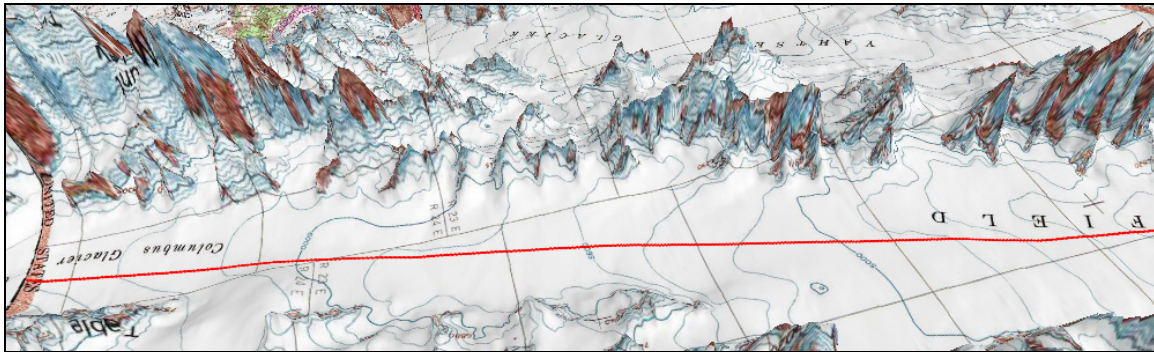




Known as the “mountain kingdom of North America” the 13.2 million acre Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve is the largest National Park in North America, has the highest coastal mountains in the world and offers endless opportunities for exploration. During the first three weeks of April, a team of four friends will use traction kites to cover miles of vast open terrain between pristine skiing objectives.



Goals: After getting dropped off at the USA/Canadian border directly north of Mount Saint Elias, we will work our way west on the Bagley Icefield. The St. Elias Mountains and Waxell Ridge beyond them extend for a combined 90 miles of pristine Alaskan peaks. Our plan is to travel by kite when wind and conditions allow, then ski as many first-descents as possible along the way.

The Team: A group of ski mountaineers and snowkiters from three different states.



Ben Ditto, Salt Lake City, Utah – Photographer, skier, snowboarder, rock and alpine climber. Returning to the Wrangell-St. Elias Mountains for second time. Kite skiing experience on the Southern Patagonia Ice Cap.



Armond DuBuque, Leavenworth, Washington – Entrepreneur, skier, snowkiter and inventor of the Ultimate Telemark Binding (UTB). First descent of Mt. Hunter in Alaska.



Lorne Glick, Silverton, Colorado – Helicopter pilot, skier, snowkiter and veteran of numerous first descents of major Alaskan Peaks. First ski descent of Mt. Saint Elias.



Andrew McLean, Park City, Utah – Professional Ski Mountaineer, writer, photographer and designer. Returning to the WSE for the second time. Kite skiing expeditions to Baffin Island and Patagonia.

22 Day Itinerary:

Mar 29 – Depart

Mar 30/31 – Arrive in Alaska, pick up supplies, transfer to Chitina

April 1 through 16 – Wrangell-St. Elias Mountains

Apr 17 Return to Chitina

Apr 18 – Transfer back to airport

Apr 19 – Return flight home

Expenses per person:

Airfare	\$750
Ground Transportation	\$300
Air Taxi to the Bagley Icefield	\$750
Food	\$250
Misc	\$250
<hr/>	
Total	\$2,300

Logistics:

Ultima Thule Outfitters – Paul Claus. Ultima Thule is the premier air taxi service in the Wrangell-St. Elias Mountains. We will fly 72 miles from Chitina to the Ultima Thule Lodge, then fly 141 miles to the Bagley Icefield drop-off point. On reaching the end of the Bagley, we will call for a pick up and return to Chitina. Along with topo maps, we will carry a satellite phone for communications and GPS units for navigation.

Support – Once we are dropped off, the entire trip will be self support. We will carry all of our own food and supplies and expect to move camp every few days.

Equipment – We will use Ozone foil kites and NASA parawings for travel on the Bagley Icefield. Each person will have two sleds which can be rigged side-by-side or front-to-back depending on the terrain. The ski equipment will be a mixture of Alpine Touring and telemark gear. Our tent set up will entail two sleeping tents and a communal cook tent. For stoves, we will bring a MSR XGK for melting water and a Whisperlite for general cooking.

Emergencies – Each team member has extensive backcountry skiing and glacier travel experience as well as basic First Aid training or above. We also have experience with avalanche avoidance and forecasting.

Documentation – Ben Ditto is a professional photographer by trade and Andrew McLean has written for numerous skiing publications. If the weather and logistics cooperate, there is potential for excellent stories and photography.

Sponsored in part by:

