



## Commenting on the Denali Park Road Vehicle Management Plan

### Get Involved

You can make an important contribution to the future of Denali National Park and Preserve by becoming involved in the Denali Park Road Vehicle Management Plan and EIS.

During the formal planning process there are two opportunities when the planning team will seek the broadest possible public participation: during the initial “scoping” stages of a project (July–September 2008) and upon the release of a draft document (Spring 2010).

### Comments During Scoping

Scoping comments will be most useful if submitted by **September 30, 2008**. The primary goal of scoping is to identify issues and determine the range of alternatives to be addressed. The public is asked to submit comments, concerns, and suggestions relating to these goals. The most useful scoping comments address the following:

- Alternative approaches and ideas for accomplishing project goals
- The range of environmental and socioeconomic issues that need to be considered
- Other potential projects that might affect or be affected by this project
- Information that needs to be considered (such as related research) and why it should be included
- Information on how you use the park and how a project might affect that use
- Your concerns about conditions or activities in the park (related to the planning project) and suggestions for improvement

### Project Goals

The National Park Service (NPS) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to develop and implement a plan to manage vehicles along the Denali park road, including carrying capacity (the maximum number of vehicles that can be accommodated on the Denali park road May-September).

The goal of the plan is to provide a high quality experience for visitors while protecting wilderness resource values, scenic values, wildlife, other park resources, and maintaining the unique character of the park road.

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### Developing Alternatives

The EIS will evaluate a no action alternative of maintaining the existing vehicle management system on the Denali park road including current bus schedules, vehicle allocation, and road capacity. Action alternatives will consider potential changes to transportation system components including road capacity (traffic volume and patterns), and allocation of vehicle use among shuttle buses, tours, inholders, professional photographers, and administrative vehicles. It will also consider changes to bus scheduling and spacing; the size and type of buses; tour services; educational opportunities and interpretive services; and wildlife viewing opportunities.

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### Why We Are Doing the Project

Denali is now one of the most visited subarctic national parks in the world, with the vast majority of visitation focused along the 90-mile park road. There is a growing demand for the park road experience and trends indicate that visitation to Alaska and the Denali area will continue to increase. By evaluating the park road capacity now, we will be able to more effectively handle the projected growth rate in the future. The changes we've seen in visitor demographics, interests, and needs warrant a more thorough analysis of the park road experience. The shuttle bus part of the transportation system has been in place since 1972. We must ask ourselves: Are we providing the best transportation system possible -- one that provides the highest quality visitor experience and protects park resources? It is time to take a harder look at that question.

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### Project Timeline

Public scoping will continue until September 30, 2008. We will hold public scoping meetings toward the end of summer in Anchorage, Susitna Valley, Denali Park, and Fairbanks. A draft EIS is expected to be released for public review in 2010.

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### Submit Your Comments

We request that comments be submitted at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> Select Denali National Park and Preserve and scroll down to the Denali Park Road Vehicle Management Plan.

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For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/dena/parkmgmt/currentprojects.htm>