



Memorandum

To: Files

From: Superintendent

Through: Park Interdisciplinary Compliance Team

Subject: Administrative use of snow machines

Description of the Action

This memorandum designates where administrative use of snowmachines (i.e., snowmobiles) may be allowed. Per 36 CFR 2.18, snowmobiles are prohibited in national parks except where designated, and only when their use is consistent with the park's natural, cultural, scenic and aesthetic values, safety considerations, and park management objectives. If use is designated, it must not disturb wildlife or damage park resources. In the "Old Park" portions of Denali National Park and Preserve, this regulation allows use for safety considerations and to meet park management objectives. The decision has been made that to meet park management objectives, grooming of ski trails using snowmachines is permitted at designated entrance area locations. Please see the attached map for the location of permitted grooming.

This memo continues the use of snowmachines for ski trail grooming that was authorized by a previous memo for the 2017-2018 season. Continued use of snowmachines for grooming ski trails is permitted in the designated locations while a Winter and Shoulder Season Plan is in development. This plan will guide more permanent decisions regarding administrative use of snowmachines, and will supersede this memo when adopted.

Background

The Final Rule (2000) for the *Permanent Closure of the Former Mt. McKinley National Park Area of Denali National Park and Preserve to the Use of Snowmachines* implemented the finding that snowmachine use in the Old Park would be detrimental to the resource values of the area and that snowmachine use for travel to and from villages and homesites and for traditional activities did not occur in the Old Park prior to the enactment of ANILCA. Thus, traditional as well as recreational snowmachine use is prohibited (36 CFR section 13.952). As of this 2000 Final Rule, snowmachine use in the Old Park is only allowed for designated administrative purposes.

Snowmachine use in the park and preserve additions includes administrative use pursuant to patrolling and monitoring park resources. Once adequate snow cover is determined, snowmachine use by the public is permitted in the 1980 ANILCA park and preserve additions for subsistence activities and traditional activities that are permitted by ANILCA and for travel to and from villages and homesites and other valid occupancies (43 CFR 36.11)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna Swanke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

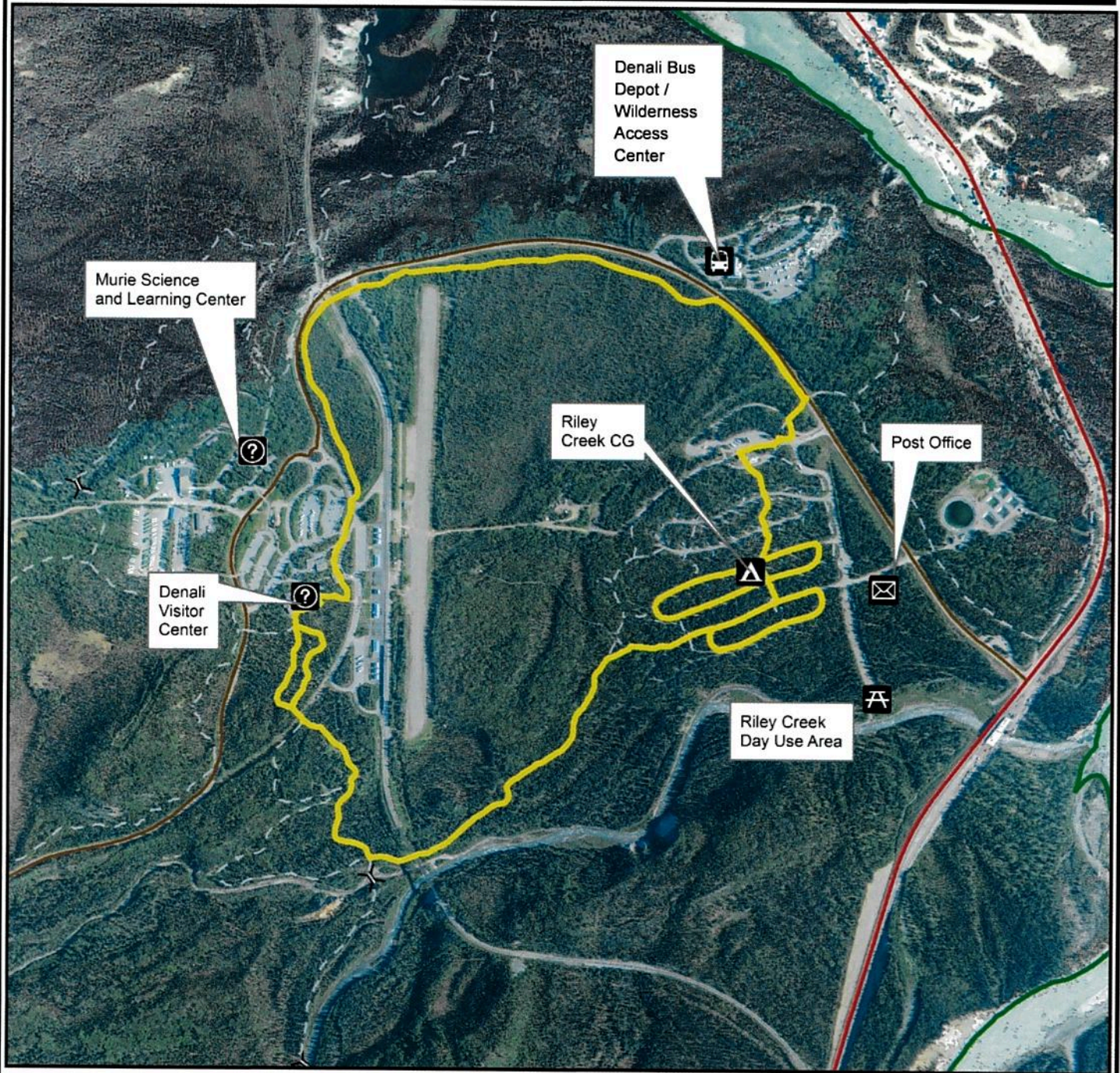
A handwritten word "for" in blue ink, written in a cursive style, positioned to the left of the typed name.

Don Striker, Superintendent

Administrative Use of Snowmachines

Denali National Park and Preserve

Alaska Region
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

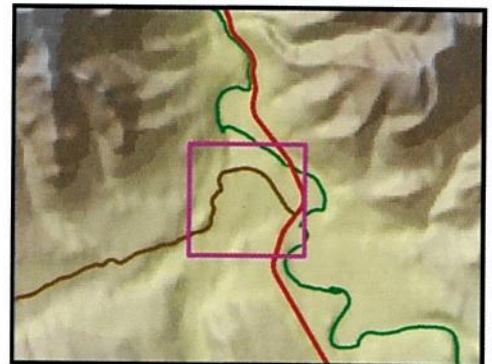


Roads

- Park Road
- George Parks Highway
- Talkeetna Spur
- Winter Trails Zone and Park Boundary

Trails

- Groomed Trail
- Non-Motorized Trail
- Motorized Trail
- Bridge



Date: 11/28/2017