

Desired Conditions

Winter: weather closure of Park Road – spring opening of Park Road past Mtn. Vista	Shoulder Seasons: Immediately following road lottery – weather closure of Park Road & Spring opening of Park Road Past Mtn. Vista – May 15
---	---

	Winter	Shoulder Seasons
Entrance – HQ & MP 231 / Nenana River Trails		
Overview	<p>This area serves as a relatively structured gateway to other, wilder portions of the park. Compared to other areas in the park, this area most heavily mediates and moderates visitor interactions with the Alaskan winter through the availability of services, information, and facilities. Visitors can also find elements of a wild winter experience here. Facilities and trails are relatively easy to navigate, and the entrance area is a welcoming place for people with varying degrees of skill, available time, and desire to interact directly with the winter park experience.</p>	<p>In the shoulder seasons, the entrance area feels and functions like a quieter, less active version of what occurs here in summer. Visitors can spend their time exploring the area, or pass through on their way to other adventures in the park. Administrative presence is high, and facilities and trails are relatively easy to navigate. Trails may be closed seasonally, especially during the spring thaw, to prevent damage.</p>
Visitor Experience	<p>A variety of visitor opportunities that accommodate a diversity of skill levels is easily accessible in this area, including indoor time at the visitor center, on-trail experiences, and the opportunity to independently venture off-trail. Visitors are equally well-served by this area whether it is their sole destination or the beginning of a longer experience that includes other areas of the park.</p>	<p>The entrance area provides a gateway to the park as well as an interesting destination in its own right during the shoulder seasons. Although many of the amenities of summer may not be available (e.g., baggage claim, large bookstore, extensive food service), visitors can expect information, interpretation of park resources, and reasonable comfort here. Hiking, biking, and other recreational opportunities that are available here in the summer are available in the shoulder seasons, although some trails may be closed for portions of the season.</p>
Resources	<p>Although sounds of human use (vehicles, large groups) are present, the soundscape is often in its natural state, and visitors have the opportunity to experience stretches of silence, especially as distance from roads and facilities increases. This area of the park has the highest concentration of artificial light. Even so, artificial light sources are kept to a minimum to provide for visitor and employee safety. Night skies are clearly visible, though perhaps to a lesser extent than the pristine skies of other areas in the park. Wildlife that exists in this area is largely undisturbed by visitor activity, and human-wildlife interactions are minimal. Visitor use of off-trail areas beyond existing winter travel routes has minimal to no negative impact on vegetation.</p>	<p>Although sounds of human use (vehicles, large groups) are present, the soundscape is often in its natural state, and visitors have the opportunity to experience stretches of silence, especially as distance from roads and facilities increases. Wildlife that exists in this area is largely undisturbed by visitor activity, and human-wildlife interactions are minimal. Management actions, including temporary closures, may be instituted when necessary to protect wildlife and visitor safety.</p>

Desired Conditions

Winter: weather closure of Park Road – spring opening of Park Road past Mtn. Vista	Shoulder Seasons: Immediately following road lottery – weather closure of Park Road & Spring opening of Park Road Past Mtn. Vista – May 15
---	---

	Winter	Shoulder Seasons
Plowed / Open Section of Park Road	Portion of road plowed west of HQ	Portion of road accessible to private vehicles
Overview	The plowed portion of the park road provides vehicular and non-motorized (pedestrian, bicycle) access to the park. The road is open only when safe driving conditions are present. The emphasis is on viewing wildlife and scenery as well as providing access for non-motorized excursions off the road corridor.	Visitors in their private vehicles are a primary user group of the open portion of the park road in the shoulder seasons, and affordable, sustainable access is a priority. Although commercial users and / or shuttles may be operating, access for private vehicles remains important, and vehicular road traffic west of the Savage River is dominated by private vehicles to a greater extent than during the summer season. Limits on the number of vehicles allowed past Savage or other management actions affecting vehicle access may be instituted in order to provide for wildlife safety and visitor experience.
Visitor Experience	The plowed portion of the park road offers relatively easy access into the park for visitors wishing to view wildlife and scenery or begin an overnight or day trip into the backcountry. Other visitors are frequently encountered, including independent travelers and commercial groups. Visitors can expect the road to be closed when safe driving conditions cannot be maintained.	Visitors are able to independently explore this section of road which is normally closed to most private traffic. Visitors may travel in an unhurried, uncrowded manner. Encounters with other visitors are common, but the road has an open, remote quality, and there is not the sense of being “in traffic” or on a road in an urbanized area.
Resources	The natural soundscape of the plowed road is frequently disturbed by vehicle traffic. Although there may be long stretches of time without the presence of vehicles, vehicle traffic and its associated noises can be present any time the road is open. Night skies are generally pristine. The NPS does not provide any artificial light installations. Wildlife on the road are treated in much the same manner as they are during the summer, with little to no disruption of wildlife movement, feeding, or other behaviors.	The natural soundscape of the open section of the road is frequently disturbed by vehicle traffic with portions of time when natural sounds dominate. Wildlife on the road are treated in much the same manner as they are during the summer, with little to no disruption of wildlife movement, feeding, or other behaviors.

Desired Conditions

Winter: weather closure of Park Road – spring opening of Park Road past Mtn. Vista	Shoulder Seasons: Immediately following road lottery – weather closure of Park Road & Spring opening of Park Road Past Mtn. Vista – May 15
---	---

	Winter	Shoulder Seasons
Unplowed / Closed Section of Park Road		
Overview	The unplowed park road provides non-motorized visitor access into the winter wilderness of Denali, as well as an easier-to-navigate winter route. From the visitor perspective, there is little that distinguishes the unplowed park road from the surrounding wilderness.	The closed section of the park road is essentially a trail for non-motorized recreational use in the shoulder seasons. Pedestrians and bicycles dominate the traffic, although administrative motorized traffic maintains a presence.
Visitor Experience	The unplowed section of the park road provides a backcountry experience for users of many ability levels. It is easy to access and its width and relatively gentle grades make portions of it suitable for beginner-level recreationists. For more experienced visitors and those desiring to go further into the park, the unplowed park road provides easier-to-navigate access. Multiple uses and a variety of ability levels may be accommodated simultaneously.	Visitors are encouraged to use non-motorized means to explore the park on the closed section of the park road. Although visitors may encounter many other recreationists on the road and occasional motorized administrative use, crowding does not negatively impact the visitor experience which shares many characteristics of a wilderness experience. Visitors have the opportunity to stay on the road, or hike and camp in the backcountry. Vault toilet restroom facilities at Igloo and Toklat are available for shoulder season use.
Resources	Resource conditions of the unplowed portion of the park road are nearly indistinguishable from resource conditions in surrounding wilderness. Silence and natural sounds dominate. The NPS does not provide any artificial light installations on the unplowed portion of the park road. Darkness is complete, and the night sky is pristine. Wildlife that exists in this area is largely undisturbed by visitor activity, and human-wildlife interactions are minimal.	Silence and natural sounds dominate the soundscape. Wildlife on the road are treated in much the same manner as they are during the summer, with little to no disruption of wildlife movement, feeding, or other behaviors.

Desired Conditions

Winter: weather closure of Park Road – spring opening of Park Road past Mtn. Vista	Shoulder Seasons: Immediately following road lottery – weather closure of Park Road & Spring opening of Park Road Past Mtn. Vista – May 15
---	---

	Winter	Shoulder Seasons
Winter: Mtn. Vista Shoulder Seasons: Teklanika	Mountain Vista Only relevant in scenarios where the road is plowed past HQ. Otherwise, this area would have conditions similar to the surrounding areas: wilderness and/or the unplowed road.	Teklanika
Overview	This area provides a wilderness threshold experience in concepts where the road is plowed to Mtn. Vista. Rest areas, parking areas, and NPS facilities are maintained. Winter trails and routes are available for visitors to explore. Established trails may have signage or wandering to improve visitor experience and increase safety, but are generally maintained to a lesser degree than winter trails near the entrance area. Visitors may use these areas as a portal into the park, and are largely left to their own devices beyond plowed parking areas and maintained facilities.	As weather allows during the shoulder seasons, the Teklanika rest stop area is the terminus of vehicle traffic and a gateway for further non-motorized exploration of the park. As a visitor hub, the area includes maintained restrooms, parking areas, and interpretive installations. NPS presence is higher here than at other points along the open portion of the road, but typically not at high as in the entrance area.
Visitor Experience	This area provides a gateway into the wilderness of Denali. Facilities exist, but are relatively minimal and the overall experience is not as managed and structured as the majority of the experiences visitors have at the entrance area. For many visitors unaccustomed to route finding and the Alaskan winter, this area will provide all the characteristics of a wilderness experience. For other visitors, this area will feel like the last development on the edge of a vast wilderness.	As the terminus of vehicle traffic on the Park Road, the Teklanika rest stop area is a visitor hub in the shoulder seasons, though to a lesser extent than the entrance area. Visitors can expect to encounter many vehicles and other people in this area but crowding does not negatively affect the visitor experience. Maintained restrooms and interpretive or educational signs and opportunities facilitate visitor use of the area although the overall visitor experience is not as structured as the majority of the experiences visitors have at the entrance area.
Resources	The soundscape in and around parking areas is impacted by vehicle noise. This impact diminishes with greater distance from the road and parking areas. Vehicles are not allowed to idle in parking areas. Night skies are generally pristine. The NPS does not provide any artificial light installations. Wildlife that exists in this area is largely undisturbed by visitor activity, and human-wildlife interactions are minimal. Visitor use of off-trail areas beyond existing winter travel routes has minimal to no negative impact on vegetation.	The soundscape in and around parking areas is impacted by vehicle noise and a relatively high concentration of people. This impact diminishes with greater distance from the road and parking areas. Wildlife that exists in this area is largely undisturbed by visitor activity, and human-wildlife interactions are minimal.

Desired Conditions

Winter: weather closure of Park Road – spring opening of Park Road past Mtn. Vista	Shoulder Seasons: Immediately following road lottery – weather closure of Park Road & Spring opening of Park Road Past Mtn. Vista – May 15
---	---

	Winter	Shoulder Seasons
Stampede Corridor / Northern Trails & Cantwell / Windy Area		
Overview	These areas provide a backcountry experience for motorized and non-motorized users alike. Administrative presence in the form of formalized trails, facilities, and services is lighter than at the park entrance area. The emphasis here is on access into the park for a variety of user groups. Although access to these areas is fairly easy, route-finding and winter travel skills are necessary.	During the shoulder seasons these areas are accessed by non-motorized recreationists and subsistence users in the Cantwell area who are allowed to use OHVs. These areas receive a lesser degree of visitation than the park road corridor, and provide a backcountry experience for visitors. The emphasis here is on access into the park for a variety of user groups.
Visitor Experience	Although this area is not designated wilderness, it shares characteristics of a wilderness experience for motorized and non-motorized users. The NPS does very little to actively manage conditions, and visitors must be prepared to be self-reliant with route-finding and winter travel skills.	Although this area is not designated wilderness, it shares characteristics of a wilderness experience for motorized and non-motorized users. The NPS maintains some access routes, particularly the 17b easement near Windy Creek, and NPS personnel is occasionally present. However, visitors must be prepared to be self-reliant with route-finding and wilderness travel skills.
Resources	Snowmachine use for traditional activities is allowed in this area, and sounds of this use can be heard. However, there are long stretches of time where natural sounds dominate. Light pollution from nearby communities is present at low levels, but does not greatly diminish the natural condition of the dark night sky. Wildlife is not impacted by motorized use or other visitor presence. Visitor use of off-trail areas beyond existing winter travel routes has minimal to no negative impact on vegetation.	Motorized use is allowed in portions of this area and on nearby state lands, and mechanized sounds can sometimes be heard. However, there are long stretches of time when natural sounds dominate. Wildlife is not impacted by motorized use or other visitor presence. OHV use, where allowed, occurs on established and designated routes.

Desired Conditions

Winter: weather closure of Park Road – spring opening of Park Road past Mtn. Vista	Shoulder Seasons: Immediately following road lottery – weather closure of Park Road & Spring opening of Park Road Past Mtn. Vista – May 15
---	---

	Winter	Shoulder Seasons
Wilderness Area		
Overview	The designated wilderness of Denali National Park is a pristine winter wilderness, maintaining its character much as it has for time immemorial. Non-motorized recreationists can experience day and overnight trips in a truly wild setting.	During the shoulder seasons, the designated wilderness of Denali National Park functions much the same as it does during the summer season. Visitor use is dominated by day hiking and overnight backpacking. Summer season backcountry unit quota limits may be instituted during the shoulder seasons if warranted to protect resources and manage visitor use.
Visitor Experience	The emphasis in this area is on genuinely wild experiences. Visitors must be prepared to be fully self-reliant, and trails, facilities, and NPS personnel are present at much lower levels than in other areas of the park. However, NPS staff do occasionally patrol and may informally create routes that may be followed. Visitors who put in the effort to experience this area are rewarded with an unsurpassed winter wilderness.	The visitor experience in the wilderness area of Denali during the shoulder seasons is largely similar to experience here in summer. In most areas, visitors can expect to see few, if any, other people and signs of modern human use are rare. Use is dominated by day hiking and overnight backpacking.
Resources	The soundscape is as close to natural as is possible in an area where non-motorized use is present. Silence and natural sounds dominate. Some regions close to areas where motorized use is allowed or close to the plowed portion of the Park Road are impacted by noise from those activities, but the vast majority of the wilderness area is silent. Night skies are pristine. Minimal light pollution from nearby communities and NPS facilities (HQ) affects small portions of the night skies in these areas, but the darkness is otherwise undisturbed. Wildlife are largely unaffected by human presence. Visitor use of off-trail areas beyond existing winter travel routes has minimal to no negative impact on vegetation.	The soundscape is as close to natural as is possible in an area where non-motorized use is present. Silence and natural sounds dominate. Some regions close to areas where motorized use is allowed are impacted by noise from those activities, but the vast majority of the wilderness area is silent. Wildlife are largely unaffected by human presence during these sensitive times of year.

Desired Conditions

Winter: weather closure of Park Road – spring opening of Park Road past Mtn. Vista	Shoulder Seasons: Immediately following road lottery – weather closure of Park Road & Spring opening of Park Road Past Mtn. Vista – May 15
---	---

	Winter	Shoulder Seasons
Kantishna		
Overview	This area provides a visitor experience that is largely similar to that of the areas that surround it (Stampede corridor / northern trails and designated wilderness). It shares many characteristics of a wilderness experience, but snowmachine use is allowed for traditional activities in the Kantishna area, and there are signs of development (e.g., buildings).	This area provides a visitor experience that is largely similar to that of the areas that surround it (Stampede corridor / northern trails and designated wilderness). It shares many characteristics of a wilderness experience, but there are signs of development (e.g., buildings).
Visitor Experience	The visitor experience in Kantishna is similar to that of the surrounding designated wilderness area and Stampede corridor / northern trails area. Because of the possibility of air taxi landings in Kantishna, motorized use in the area, existing facilities, and private development or commercial use, this area is experienced more as a cusp of wilderness than any other area that is likewise removed from the park boundary.	The visitor experience in Kantishna is similar to that of the surrounding designated wilderness area and Stampede corridor / northern trails area. Because of the possibility of air taxi landings in Kantishna, existing facilities, and private development or commercial use, this area is experienced more as a cusp of wilderness than any other area that is likewise removed from the park boundary.
Resources	Motorized use is present in the Kantishna area, but at relatively low levels. Usually, the soundscape is relatively undisturbed and there are long stretches of time where natural sounds dominate. Night skies are generally pristine. The NPS does not provide any artificial light installations. Wildlife are largely unaffected by human presence. Visitor use of off-trail areas beyond existing winter travel routes has minimal to no negative impact on vegetation.	The soundscape is relatively undisturbed, despite any private development in Kantishna. Natural sounds dominate the vast majority of time. Wildlife are largely unaffected by human presence during these sensitive times of year.