



Approachable Experiences

Concept 4

Compared to current conditions, the park places greater emphasis on providing maximum access via the easiest means possible. The frontcountry is devoted to introductory and comfortable experiences for visitors, and the road provides as much vehicle access as possible.

The core of Denali remains wild, and the frontcountry, road corridor, and other access portals are focused on providing access for wilderness and non-wilderness experiences and easing people into a taste of winter. The road corridor provides a ramp or “telescope” into the wilderness of the park – the entrance area offers a relatively tame, controlled experience; Mountain Vista offers somewhat less structure; and points farther west feel as wild as a road corridor can. The park also strives to provide as much park presence and visitor support as possible in other areas, contingent on community desires (e.g., Windy Creek, Stampede corridor).

The shoulder seasons are shared by independent visitors, commercial operations, and summer-style tours. Changes from present conditions focus on increasing facilities and services, and better accommodating visitors who primarily wish to sightsee or have introductory experiences.

Winter Road Plowing

- Plow to Teklanika Rest Stop through October 15
- Plow to Mountain Vista year-round
- Open the road to Teklanika for all traffic on or as soon after April 10 as possible

Road Access

- Winter
 - Private vehicles and commercially-operated tours
 - Commercially-operated shuttles could be considered if demand is present
- Shoulder seasons
 - Road is shared by private vehicles and commercial groups operating the length of the open road
 - Summer tours may run as long as the road can safely handle the traffic

Visitor Facilities

- Visitor center: Build a new facility near the Denali Visitor Center campus or renovate DVC for winter use
- Heated warming shelters or domes possible at Mtn. Vista

Winter Public Use Shelters

- The park may choose to conduct a trial with a few shelters in the frontcountry or on the road corridor
- Possible public use of park patrol cabins
- Maximum = public use shelters at most or all of the developed sites along the road corridor, possible public use of park patrol cabins

Trails

- Continued grooming of the McKinley Station – Riley campground loop
- Additional year-round grooming in the frontcountry area
- Mountain Vista trails are groomed and have clear signage separating users.
- Ensure mushing access from Mountain Vista is adequate enough to safely pass teams
- Creation of a year-round, multi-purpose trail between headquarters and at least mile 9 of the park road (and no farther than Mountain Vista) that can safely accommodate multiple winter uses, passing, and public use
- Winter fat-tire biking on the road and the new multi-purpose trail
- Possibly increase presence (e.g., signs, parking areas) at other popular access points (Windy easement trail, Stampede trailhead)