



Plan Overview

The fall, winter, and spring in Denali National Park are special times of year that provide a contrast to the heightened activity, constant daylight, and crowds of summer. Visitors during the winter and shoulder seasons have valued these distinctions and the opportunity to experience Denali at a different pace, when the quiet, solitude, and freedom offered by the park can seem more apparent.

The Winter and Shoulder Season Plan aims to preserve this special character of these seasons in Denali, and the contrast that they provide to the summer.

Denali's Role

Denali's winter tourism role is characterized by non-motorized wilderness recreation. Relatively easy access to an area without motorized winter recreational use is rare in Alaska and is part of what makes Denali unique during these seasons. Affordable and straightforward access to wilderness and associated self-reliant recreation opportunities defines Denali's role in visitor services during the winter and shoulder seasons.

Goals

- Anticipate and manage growth and diversification of off-season visitation by providing visitor opportunities and facilities that the park can sustain, regardless of uncertain changes to visitation and factors beyond the control of the NPS
- Provide adequate and appropriate access to the park
- Provide for diverse visitor skill levels, interests, and populations
- Concentrate development and services near the entrance area
- Foster safety in both the work environment and visitor experience by modifying park procedures, facilities, or messaging rather than the wilderness character or environment of the park
- Provide visitor opportunities that are consistent with park principles and values, including education, history, the NPS tradition, direct experiences of the natural world, and resource protection

Desired Conditions

Previous park planning documents have established desired conditions for backcountry areas of the park as well as the Park Road corridor and other frontcountry locations. Desired conditions outlined in the Winter and Shoulder Season Plan are intended to add seasonally-appropriate nuance to previously-established desired conditions, not replace the pre-existing guidance.

