



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

Denali National Park and Preserve

Date: 9/16/2019

Memorandum

To: Files

From: Superintendent

Through: Park Winter and Shoulder Season Planning Interdisciplinary Team

Subject: Shoulder season parking on the Denali Park Road, park entrance to Teklanika rest stop

Description of the Action

This memorandum designates where private vehicles may park on the Denali Park Road during the fall and spring shoulder seasons on the section of road open to general public vehicle traffic (park entrance – Teklanika rest stop). For the purposes of this memo, the fall shoulder season begins following the last day of Road Lottery (Road Lottery begins the second Thursday after Labor Day or September 15, whichever comes first), and ends when winter weather causes closure of the Park Road at headquarters and the road is not opened again after the weather event. The spring shoulder season begins when spring road opening plowing operations allow private vehicle access west of the Mountain Vista rest area and ends when private vehicles are restricted west of the Savage River and the summer season commences.

Per 36 CFR 4.13, parking a vehicle on a park road is prohibited, except as authorized by the superintendent. A vehicle is considered parked when passengers and/or driver have disembarked for an off-vehicle activity other than a temporary stop or wildlife viewing stop; typically this is for a walk or hike lasting for a few minutes to several hours. Unless specifically permitted, vehicles which receive authorization to park may not be parked for more than 12 consecutive hours.

This memorandum authorizes private vehicles to park on the sections of Denali Park Road open to general public vehicle traffic during the fall and spring shoulder seasons. Private vehicle parking on the Park Road is authorized while a Winter and Shoulder Season Plan is in development. This plan will guide more permanent decisions regarding shoulder season access to the Denali Park Road, and will supersede this memo when adopted.

Shoulder season parking on the Park Road is allowed under the following guidelines:

- Vehicles must be parked in a manner that does not obstruct traffic or cause unsafe driving conditions for other vehicles. Areas that comply with this requirement include wide gravel pullouts that completely remove the parked vehicle from the two lanes of traffic, inactive driveways that do not have a no parking sign, and rest stop parking lots. Parking on the road shoulder such that the vehicle is still partially in the lane of travel is not allowed.

- Posted no parking signs or other instructions affecting vehicle access to the Denali Park Road must be obeyed.
- Overnight parking and/or parking for longer than 12 consecutive hours is allowed only when the vehicle occupants have an active backcountry permit and are recreating in the backcountry.
- Additional restrictions or guidelines not described in this memo may apply to commercially-operated vehicles, vehicles operating under ANILCA (Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act) 1110(b) private property access rights, or vehicles operating under a special use permit.

Background

The fall and spring shoulder seasons have offered private vehicle access to the Denali Park Road as far west as the Teklanika rest area for the past several decades. In the past, this has included the ability for privately-operated vehicles to park along the Park Road. Without a shuttle service offered in the shoulder seasons, private vehicles are the only practical means of access for day and overnight trips in the park backcountry, and access to the backcountry adjacent to the Park Road necessitates parking along the Park Road. Restricting shoulder season vehicle parking further than described in this memo could concentrate use, in effect creating "trailheads" and possibly leading to resource damage. Allowing vehicles to park on the Denali Park Road as described in this memo provides shoulder season access to the park in a way that maintains traffic safety and protects park resources.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Striker", is written over a horizontal line.

for Don Striker, Superintendent