

2007 Fact Sheet

Superintendent Paul R. Anderson

Established February 26, 1917 (as Mount McKinley National Park)

December 2, 1980 (increased in size and name changed to Denali National Park and Preserve)

Denali is the Athabaskan name for Mount McKinley, and means "The High One." Although McKinley is

the mountain's official name, "Denali" is the name favored by most Alaskans.

Size Park 4,740,912 acres 7,407.68 sq. miles

Preserve <u>1,334,118 acres</u> <u>2,084.56 sq. miles</u> 6,075,030 acres 9,492.24 sq. miles

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(For comparison: State of New Hampshire = 9,351 sq. miles, Vermont = 9,615 sq. miles and Massachusetts = 10,555 sq. miles)

Wilderness designation (most of original Mount McKinley National Park):

2,126,101 acres or 3,321.4 sq. miles

Perimeter (boundary, including new park and preserve): 605 miles or 974 kilometers

Visitation 2006: 415,935 visitors

2005: 403,520 2004: 404,234

Base Budget \$10,644,000 (approximate), not including non-recurring research and construction projects

NPS Staffing Permanent 99

Term 22 Seasonal 141

Volunteers (2006) 324 (contributed 39,253 hours of work)

Campgrounds RVs and/or tents: 3 campgrounds (232 sites)

Tents only: 3 campgrounds (42 sites)

Park Road Total length: 92 miles 148 kilometers

Paved section: 14.8 miles 23.8 kilometers

Landmarks and Elevations

	Elevations above sea level	
Denali Visitor Center	1,746 feet	532 meters
Highway Pass (highest point on road)	3,980	1213
Eielson Visitor Center	3,733	1138
Wonder Lake Campground	2,090	637
Mt. Foraker	17,400	5303.5
Mt. McKinleySouth Peak (highest point	20,320	6193.5
in North America)		
North Peak	19,470	5934
Lowest point (Yentna River at boundary)	200	61

Wildlife Species Amphibians 1 (wood frog)

Mammals 39

Birds 168 species recorded; 116 documented as breeding and 15 recorded as accidental

Flavations above sea level

Fish 14 (including 3 salmon species)

Reptiles 0

Flora Vascular plants: 754 species documented

Tree species: 8

Approximately 600 species of mosses, lichens and liverworts currently listed

Lakes and Streams

Largest is Chilchukabena Lake: 2.6 miles long, 2 miles wide, 2079 acres

Wonder Lake: 2.6 miles long, 1/2 mile wide, 649 acres, 280 feet maximum depth

Approximately 12,130 lakes and ponds in the park and preserve

Miles of streams: 18,679

Glaciers 17% of park's land area is covered with glaciers.

Largest glaciers are on south side of Alaska Range: Kahiltna, Ruth, Eldridge, Tokositna and Yentna

(35-40 miles in length).

Largest glacier on north side of Alaska Range is the Muldrow Glacier (34 miles long).

Deepest measured glacier: Ruth Glacier, 3805 feet or 1160 meters. The surface ice of the Ruth Glacier moves about 0.95m (3.1 ft) per day.

Earthquakes

Number per year: about 700

Average magnitude: 2.0. The 7.9 quake on November 3, 2002 was largest interior Alaska earthquake in

state history.

Depth: Over 50% between 0-15 km, but 32% between 90-130 km

Location: most events occur within the Kantishna seismic cluster, in the northern foothills of the Denali

range.

Weather

Average annual precipitation = 15 inches (park headquarters)

Wettest months are June, July and August.

Average annual snowfall = 80 inches (park headquarters)

Coldest temperature recorded at headquarters: -54° F, February 5, 1999 Highest temperature recorded at headquarters: 91° F, June 22, 1991

Average January temperature = $2^{\circ}F$ Average July temperature = $55^{\circ}F$

Shortest day (December 21) = 4 hours, 21 minutes of daylight Longest day (June 21) = 20 hours, 49 minutes of daylight

Number of years in cooperation with the National Weather Service: 82

Sled Dog Kennels

Kennels building constructed in 1929

Number of adult dogs: 30 (14 females and 16 males) Miles patrolled by sled per winter (average): 3,000 Sled dog demonstrations inaugurated in 1939 2006 dog demonstration attendees: 36,171

Mt. McKinley Mountaineering Statistics (2006) Number of climbers: 1,154 (record was 1,340 in 2005) Number of climbers who reached top or "summit": 582 Summit percentage: 50% (Average summit percentage: 52%)

Rescues: 17

Fatalities: 1 (Total number of fatalities since 1932: 96)

Notable Ascents

First summit of South Peak (true summit): June 7, 1913; Harper, Karstens, Stuck, Tatum

First summit of North Peak: April 3, 1910; Anderson, Taylor First woman to summit: June 6, 1947; Barbara Polk Washburn

First solo ascent: August 26, 1970; Naomi Uemura

First winter ascent: February 28, 1967; Johnston, Davidson, Genet First solo winter ascent: February 12, 1984; Uemura (died on descent) First successful winter solo ascent completed: March 7, 1988; Tejas

Oldest person to summit: June 15, 2005; Sadao Hoshiko, 74

Youngest person to summit: June 17, 2001; Galen Johnston, 11 years old