



## 2009 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.*  
Park was designated as an International Biosphere Reserve in 1976.

<b>Size</b>	Park	4,740,911.72 acres	7,407.68 sq. miles	1,918,582 hectares
	Preserve	<u>1,334,117.87 acres</u>	<u>2,084.56 sq. miles</u>	<u>539,899 hectares</u>
		6,075,029.59 acres	9,492.24 sq. miles	2,458,481 hectares

(24,584.79 sq. kilometers)

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

Wilderness designation (most of original Mount McKinley National Park):  
2,123,977 acres; 3,318.7 sq. miles; 8,595.4 sq. kilometers; 859,543 hectares

Perimeter (boundary, including new park and preserve): 606 miles or 975 kilometers

**Visitation**  
2008: 432,301 visitors  
2007: 458,307  
2006: 415,935

**Base Budget** \$11,910,000 (currently same as 2008, because federal 2009 budget has not been finalized)

**NPS Staffing**

Permanent	96
Term	21
Seasonal	170
Volunteers (2008)	263 (contributed 40,499 hours of work)

**Campgrounds**

RVs and/or tents:	3 campgrounds (232 sites)
Tents only:	3 campgrounds (42 sites)

**Park Road**

Total length:	92.0 miles	148.0 kilometers
Paved section:	14.8 miles	23.8 kilometers

<b>Landmarks and Elevations</b>	<u>Elevations above sea level</u>	
	feet	meters
Denali Visitor Center	1,746	532
Highway Pass (highest point on road)	3,980	1213
Eielson Visitor Center	3,733	1138
Wonder Lake Campground	2,057	627
Mt. Foraker	17,400	5303.5
Mt. McKinley--South Peak (highest point in North America)	20,320	6193.5
-- North Peak	19,470	5934
Lowest point (Yentna River at boundary)	200	61

**Wildlife Species**

Amphibians	1 (wood frog)
Mammals	39
Birds	169 species recorded; 116 documented as breeding and 16 recorded as accidental
Fish	14 (including 3 salmon species)

Reptiles 0

## Flora

Vascular plants: 756 species documented  
Tree species: 8  
Approximately 600 species of mosses, lichens and liverworts currently listed.  
*Erioderma pedicellatum*, a lichen discovered in 2007, was previously known only from very limited areas in Scandinavia and southeastern Canada. It is currently classified as Critically Endangered.

## Lakes and Streams

Largest is Chilchukabena Lake: 2.6 miles long, 2 miles wide, 2056 acres  
Wonder Lake: 2.7 miles long, 1/2 mile wide, 649 acres, 280 feet maximum depth  
Approximately 12,206 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  
Coldest year on record: 1956  
Highest temperature recorded at headquarters: 91° F, June 22, 1991  
Warmest year on record: 1926  
Average January temperature = 2°F (-1.9°F change in average Jan. temps from 1926-2007)  
Average July temperature = 55°F (+1.4°F change in average July temps from 1926-2007)  
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: 84

## Sled Dog Kennels

Kennels building constructed in 1929  
Number of adult dogs: 32 (15 females and 17 males)  
Miles patrolled by sled per winter (average): 3,000  
Sled dog demonstrations inaugurated in 1939  
2008 dog demonstration attendees: 44,089

## Mt. McKinley Mountaineering Statistics (2008)

Number of climbers: 1,272 (record was 1,340 in 2005)  
Number of climbers who reached top or "summit": 755  
Summit percentage: 59% (Average summit percentage: 52%)  
Rescues: 18  
Fatalities: 4 (Total number of fatalities since 1932: 102)

## 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 29, 2007; Michio Kumamoto, 76  
Youngest person to summit: June 17, 2001; Galen Johnston, 11 years old