



Get Involved



Shape the future of the Park Road

Denali is now working on a Vehicle Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement that will guide management of the Park Road for the next 15 to 20 years. The plan will consider:

- Carrying capacity for vehicles on the Park Road
- Allocation of vehicles
- Transportation services and scheduling
- Bus type options
- Information, reservations, and booking
- Interpretation

To participate in the process, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/dena/parkmgmt/roadvehmgteis.htm. Current plans, environmental impact analyses, and related documents available for public input are posted on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at parkplanning.nps.gov.

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Background

For more than half a century, Mount McKinley National Park, as it was known at the time, was accessible only by train or an arduous overland route on the unimproved Denali Highway. In the year that followed completion of the George Parks Highway to Anchorage in October 1971, visitation doubled, from 44,000 to 88,000 people.

Anticipating such an increase, and its potential effects upon wildlife and scenery, park managers that year limited vehicle access to the 91-mile Park Road and implemented a mandatory visitor transportation system. It was one of the first in the national park system and it soon set the standard for other park units.

As years passed and visitation increased, the 1986 General Management Plan (GMP) established a limit of 10,512 motor vehicle trips annually on the Park Road. Over the succeeding 23 years, the system has allowed vehicle use levels below this threshold while providing greater numbers of visitors the opportunity to experience Denali along the road corridor. But with visitation approaching 450,000 people a year, and trends indicating continued increases, demand now exceeds capacity in some cases.

Park officials have launched a comprehensive plan to evaluate how best to manage vehicles on the Park Road, as well as how best to accommodate changing demographics, interests, and needs of visitors. The plan requires a thorough review of the current system and an evaluation of alternatives that will serve the needs of visitors while protecting park resources.

How do you think Denali should manage vehicles?

We invite you to get involved in the planning process and add to the vision of what the Denali Park Road experience will be over the next 15 to 20 years.