

Dated: June 12, 1996.

Mary Jo Yoas,

*Chief, Lands and Minerals Adjudication
Section.*

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National Park Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft Development Concept Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement for the Entrance Area/Road Corridor, Denali National Park and Preserve

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Draft Development Concept Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Entrance Area/Road Corridor, Denali National Park and Preserve.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service announces the availability of a Draft Development Concept Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DCP/EIS) for the Entrance Area/Road Corridor (Front Country) of Denali National Park and Preserve. The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and three other action alternatives for visitor facilities and services. A no action alternative also is evaluated. This notice announces the dates and locations of public hearings to solicit comments on the draft DCP/EIS.

DATES: Comments on the draft DCP/EIS must be received no later than August 19, 1996. Hearing dates, times, and locations are listed under Supplementary Information, below.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the draft DCP/EIS should be submitted to the Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, Post Office Box 9, Denali Park, Alaska 99755. Copies of the draft DCP/EIS are available by request from the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Tranel, Denali National Park and Preserve. Telephone: (907) 683-9552 FAX: (907) 683-9612.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service, has prepared a draft DCP/EIS for proposed visitor facilities and services on the front country Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. Information meetings and public hearings are scheduled in Alaska on the dates and at the times and locations indicated below.

- August 5 (Monday), Anchorage, Egan Center, Room 56, 6:30 to 10:00 pm.

- August 6 (Tuesday), Talkeetna/Trapper Creek, Upper Susitna Valley Senior Center, 6:30 to 10:30 pm.

- August 7 (Wednesday), Healy, Tri-Valley Community Center, 6:30 to 10:00 pm.

- August 8 (Thursday), Fairbanks, Westmark Hotel, 6:30 to 10:00 pm.

- August 13 (Tuesday), Cantwell, Community Hall, 6:30 to 10:00 pm.

- August 14 (Wednesday), Denali Park, Denali Park Hotel, 6:30 to 10:00 pm.

The first hour of each meeting will be a discussion session. Representatives of the NPS planning team will be available to answer questions and hear your comments in a more informal setting. The rest of the meeting will be a public hearing; a brief introduction by the planning team will be followed by public testimony on the plan.

The draft DCP/EIS includes five alternatives for providing for visitor use and resource protection and related facility development in the front country of Denali National Park and Preserve. The front country includes all non-wilderness areas along the Parks Highway, the Riley Creek/headquarters area, and the park road corridor to the Kantishna airstrip. The five alternatives include a no action alternative and four action alternatives. The proposed action is based on the recommendations of the Denali Task Force, a committee formed at the request of the Secretary of the Interior in 1994, on proposals received during public scoping, on previous plans, and on planning team work and impact analysis.

Facilities and services considered in the proposed action and in each alternative include visitor accommodations, campgrounds, camper conveniences, interpretive facilities, transportation, parking, bus tours, bicycle use, rest and picnic areas, concessions, road maintenance, trails, employee housing, administrative and support facilities, airstrips, and utility systems. The alternatives differ in construction costs, extent and location of visitor facilities, and corresponding environmental, social, and economic impacts.

The Proposed Action (Alternative D) would provide visitor facilities and services in the front country to meet a wide range of visitor needs and interests. Front country developments would be limited to actions in which the NPS has traditionally specialized, such as interpretive centers, environmental education opportunities, trails, and campgrounds. The park hotel would be closed, and the NPS would encourage the private sector to develop visitor service facilities

(accommodations, food service, and other commercial services) outside the park. The existing Visitor Access Center would be remodeled and expanded to serve as an interpretive/science center, and a new visitor services building and parking would be constructed nearby. Camper convenience services would be provided in this same area and the existing store and temporary shower building removed. Some buildings in the former hotel area would be adaptively used to provide an environmental education facility. New permanent rest areas would be constructed at Savage and Toklat. Additional trails would be constructed primarily in the Nenana River and Savage River areas. New campsites would be developed in the entrance area, the Nenana River corridor, and in the Kantishna area. Road maintenance and repair would be upgraded to address safety concerns and major structural failures along the park road. These actions would be phased in over the 15- to 20-year life of the plan.

Alternative A (No Action—Continue Current Management Direction) represents no change from current management direction. With the exception of development concepts not yet implemented, it continues the present course of action set forth in existing management plans and guidance documents including the Statement for Management (1995) and the General Management Plan/Land Protection Plan/Wilderness Suitability Review (1986). This alternative represents the existing situation in the park, so existing facilities and services would remain. For example, the temporary park hotel would be rehabilitated as funds allow, adaptive use of historic structures and overcrowding of administrative space would continue, campgrounds would not be expanded, and no new trail construction or additional trail maintenance would be done.

Alternative B (Implement Development Concepts from Previous Plans) would fully implement previous planning decisions and development concepts contained in approved plans such as the 1986 General Management Plan and the 1992 Amendment to the 1983 Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment for the park road corridor and 1987 addendum (1992 Riley Creek Amendment). These documents not only propose additional facilities throughout the park to support NPS operations; they also propose increased visitor services and facilities within the park entrance area. Examples of new facilities proposed include a new hotel and camper convenience center to

replace existing temporary facilities, a hostel in the entrance area, a new interpretive center with additional administrative space, a 50-site expansion to Riley Creek campground, and upgraded trail maintenance in the entrance area.

Alternative C (Reduce Facilities and Services Inside Park) would reduce the level of development and visitor services inside the park and encourage the private sector to provide necessary new facilities such as overnight accommodations, campgrounds, and camper conveniences outside the park boundary. Major new park facilities such as an interpretive center and an environmental education center would be constructed outside the park as well. The park entrance area would function primarily as a staging area for trips farther into the park rather than as a destination in itself. This alternative allows for minimizing resource impacts and therefore maximizing resource protection inside the park.

Alternative E (Emphasize Visitor Services and Recreational Opportunities Within the Park) would significantly enhance the visitor experience by concentrating new development inside the park and providing a diversity of visitor facilities and services in the front country to meet a wide range of visitor needs and interests. The NPS would take the leading role in providing new visitor services. A new hotel would replace the existing temporary building, and a hostel or similar low-cost accommodations would be constructed at a separate location. A new interpretive center, a camper conveniences center, and an environmental education facility would be constructed just north of Riley Creek Campground. Additional campsites would be developed throughout the front country. New permanent rest areas would be constructed at Toklat and Savage, and trails would be upgraded and expanded at several locations. Road maintenance and repair along the park road would be upgraded to address documented structural problems as well as safety concerns and actual structural failures.

Dated: June 6, 1996.

Robert D. Barbee,

Field Director, Alaska Field Office.

[FR Doc. 96-15451 Filed 6-18-96; 8:45 am]

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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Notice of Proposed Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing its intention to request approval for the collections of information for 30 CFR parts 886 and 887.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by August 19, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: . Comments may be mailed to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave, NW., Room 120-SIB, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact John A. Trelease, at (202) 208-2783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8 (d)). This notice identifies information collections that OSM will be submitting to OMB for extension. These collections are contained in 30 CFR part 886, State and Tribal Reclamation Grants; and part 887, Subsidence Insurance Program Grants.

OSM has revised burden estimates, where appropriate, to reflect current reporting levels or adjustments based on reestimates of burden or respondents. OSM will request a 3-year term of approval for each information collection activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) the need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of

automated means of collection of the information. A summary of the public comments will be included in OSM's submissions of the information collection requests to OMB.

The following information is provided for each information collection: (1) title of the information collection; (2) OMB control number; (3) summary of the information collection activity; and (4) frequency of collection, description of the respondents, estimated total annual responses, and the total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for the collection of information.

Title: State and Tribal Reclamation Grants—30 CFR 886.

OMB control Number: 1029-0059.

Summary: States and Indian tribes participating in the Abandoned Mined Land Reclamation Fund (AMLR) Program are requested to cooperate with OSM in developing budget information for use by the Director, OSM, in the preparation of his request to Congress for appropriation of monies from the AMLR as authorized by section 405(f) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

Bureau Form Number: OSM-49.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Description of Respondents: State and Tribal reclamation authorities.

Total Annual Responses: 26.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 130 hours

Title: Subsidence Insurance Program Grants—30 CFR 887.

OMB Control Number: 1029-0107.

Summary: States having an approved reclamation plan may establish, administer and operate self-sustaining state-administered programs to insure private property against damages caused by land subsidence resulting from underground mining. States interested in requesting monies for their insurance programs would apply to the Director of OSM.

Bureau Form Number: None.

Frequency of Collection: Once.

Description of Respondents: States with approved coal reclamation plans.

Total Annual Responses: 0.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 1.

Dated: June 14, 1996.

Gene E. Krueger,

Acting Chief, Office of Technology Development and Transfer.

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