Appendix Q: Backcountry Use Guidelines

Denali National Park and Preserve
Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan
June 2003

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Getting Started

This brochure contains information vital to the success of your backcountry trip in Denali National Park and Preserve. The following sections represent the steps required to ensure your trip, and some important tips for a patient and enjoyable wilderness experience.

1. Location of Denali National Park and Preserve

The park is located in the Alaska Range, near the town of Wonder, Alaska. It is accessible by road or air from Anchorage. The park is open year-round and is serviced by several visitor centers, including the Tok Cutoff Visitor Center, Wonder Lake Visitor Center, and the Denali Park Village Visitor Center.

2. Planning Your Trip

A Backcountry Use Permit is required for any backcountry trip in Denali National Park and Preserve. Permits can be obtained at the park’s visitor centers or online through the park’s website. The permit requirements include a description of your itinerary, including the backpacking area you will visit and the number of days you will spend in the backcountry. The permit application must be submitted at least 14 days before the start of your trip.


Denali National Park and Preserve is known for its large populations of grizzly and brown bears. To minimize conflicts between bears and humans, the park has developed a comprehensive bear management program. This program includes regulations on bear proofing, the use of bear spray, and guidelines for interacting with bears.

4. Off-Site Use

Denali National Park and Preserve is a wilderness area, and visitors are encouraged to follow Leave No Trace principles. This includes minimizing impact on the environment, dispersing camp and fire sites, and packing out all trash.

5. Wildlife Information

Denali National Park and Preserve is home to a variety of wildlife, including grizzly and black bears, wolves, moose, caribou, and Dall sheep. The park is also home to a variety of bird species, including bald eagles, golden eagles, and Canada geese.

6. Bear Safety Tips

When you are in the backcountry, you must be aware of the potential for bear encounters. Follow the park’s guidelines on bear safety, and always be prepared to protect yourself and your group.

7. Contact Information

For more information, contact the Denali National Park and Preserve backcountry use permit office at (907) 683-8430 or visit the park’s website at http://www.nps.gov/dena/.