

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CHANGES
SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED COMPENDIUM
2009**

**WESTERN ARCTIC NATIONAL PARKLANDS
Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
Cape Krusenstern National Monument
Kobuk Valley National Park
Noatak National Preserve**

Western Arctic National Parklands is seeking public comment on the park's proposed 2009 Superintendent's Compendium. The attached proposed compendium is a written compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the Superintendent's discretionary authority. After review and consideration of the need for annual updates, no changes are proposed.

WESTERN ARCTIC NATIONAL PARKLANDS
Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
Cape Krusenstern National Monument
Kobuk Valley National Park
Noatak National Preserve

COMPENDIUM
2009

National Park Service (NPS) regulations applicable to the protection and equitable public use of units of the National Park System grant specified authorities to a park superintendent to allow or restrict certain activities. NPS regulations are found in Titles 36 and 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and created under authority and responsibility granted the Secretary of Interior in Titles 16 and 18 of the United States Code. The following compendium comprises a listing of NPS regulations that provide the Superintendent with discretionary authority to make designations or impose public use restrictions or conditions in park areas. The applicability and scope of the compendium is articulated in 36 CFR Sections 1.2 and 13.2, and 43 CFR Section 36.1.

A complete and accurate picture of regulations governing use and protection of the unit can only be gained by viewing this compendium in context with the full body of applicable regulations found in Titles 36 and 43 CFR. *Please contact Western Arctic National Parklands, P.O. Box 1029, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 or call (907) 442-3890 for questions relating to information provided in this compendium.*

TITLE 36 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

PART 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.5 Closures and public use limits

(a)(1) Visiting hours, public use limits, closures

See specific sections in this document for additional information regarding visiting hours, public use limits, and closures.

(a)(2) Designated areas for specific use or activity or conditions

See specific sections in this document for additional information regarding designated areas and conditions for engaging in certain activities.

1.6(f) Compilation of activities requiring a permit

- Scientific research, 1.5
- Collecting research specimens, 2.5
- Operating a power saw in developed areas, 2.12(a)(2)
- Operating a portable motor or engine in undeveloped areas, 2.12(a)(3)
- Operating a public address system, 2.12(a)(4)
- Air delivery, 2.17(a)(3)
- Noncommercial soliciting, 2.37

- Using, possessing, storing, or transporting explosives, blasting agents, or explosive materials, 2.38(a)
- Using or possessing fireworks and firecrackers, 2.38(b)
- Special events, 2.50(a)
- Public assemblies and meetings, 2.51(a)
- Sale and distribution of printed matter, 2.52(a)
- Grazing, 2.60(a)(1),(2); reindeer grazing, 2.60(a)(1), re: 16 USC 410hh, 25 USC 500
- Residing on federal lands, 2.61(a)
- Installing a monument or other commemorative installation, 2.62(a)
- Towing a person using a parasail, hang glider, or other airborne device, 3.12(b)
- Removing sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels, 3.14(a)
- Operating a submersible, 3.19
- Commercial notices or advertisements, 5.1
- Commercial operations, 5.3
- Commercial photography or filming, 5.5
- Construction or repair of any building, structure, facility, road, trail, or airstrip on federal lands, 5.7
- Mining operations (9.9(a)) or an approved Plan of Operations (in lieu of permit))
- Cabins on federal lands, 13.100-13.188
- Subsistence use in Kobuk Valley National Park or Cape Krusenstern National Monument by person who does not live within the boundary or a resident zone community of those park areas, 13.440(a)
- Using aircraft access for subsistence activities in the Park, 13.450(a), 13.450(b)(1)
- Cutting of live standing timber greater than 3 inches in diameter for non-commercial subsistence uses, 13.485(a)(1)
- Use of an off-road vehicle in support of reindeer grazing in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, 13.702(a)
- Access to inholdings where access is not made by aircraft, snowmachine, motorboat or non-motorized surface transportation, 43 CFR 36.10(b)
- Salvaging, removing, possessing aircraft, 43 CFR 36.11 (f)(3)(ii)
- Helicopter landings, 43 CFR 36.11(f)(4)
- Off-road vehicle (ORV) use, 43 CFR 36.11(g)(2)
- Temporary access across federal land for survey, geophysical or exploratory work, 43 CFR 36.12(c)

PART 2. RESOURCE PROTECTION, PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION

2.1(a)(4) Designated areas for collection of dead wood on the ground for firewood
Superseded by 13.35(c)(4), 13.35(d), and 13.485(b).

2.1(a)(5) Designated areas and conditions for walking on, climbing, entering, ascending, descending, or traversing an archeological or cultural resource, monument, or statue

No designated areas or conditions.

2.1(b) Designated trails

No restrictions on walking or hiking.

2.1(c)(1)-(3) Designated fruits, nuts, berries, and unoccupied seashells to harvest by hand and collection restrictions

Superseded by 13.35(c) and 13.485(b).

2.2(d) Established conditions and procedures for transporting lawfully taken wildlife through park areas

See also 13.40(d)(5).

2.2(e) Designated areas for wildlife viewing with artificial light

No areas designated for closure.

2.3(d)(2) Fresh waters designated as open to bait fishing with live or dead minnows or other bait fish, amphibians, nonpreserved fish eggs or fish roe

No waters are designated as open to fishing with the types of bait identified above. Other types of bait may be used in accordance with state law. Subsistence fishing by federally qualified rural residents is allowed in accordance with 36 CFR part 13 and 50 CFR part 100.

2.3(d)(8) Designated areas open for fishing from motor road bridges and public boat docks

All areas are designated as open for fishing from motor road bridges and boat docks.

2.4(a)(2)(i) Carrying, using, or possessing weapons at designated locations and times

See also 13.50(b)-(f).

2.10(a) Camping: conditions and permits

Superseded in part by 13.25.

2.10(d) Food storage: designated areas and methods

(1) Definition: A *bear resistant container* (BRC) means an item constructed to prevent access by a bear. BRC's include—

- Items approved by the Department of Interior and Agriculture's Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (<http://www.igbconline.org/html/safety.html>);
- Any additional items listed by the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation (<http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bears.containers>), with the concurrence of the Superintendent; and
- Items or methods approved by the Superintendent.

(2) Throughout the park, all food (except legally taken game) and beverages, food and beverage containers, garbage, harvested fish and equipment used to cook or store food must be stored in a bear resistant container (BRC) or secured—

- Within a hard sided building;
 - Within lockable and hard sided section of a vehicle, vessel, or aircraft; or
 - By caching a minimum of 100 feet from camp and suspending at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet horizontally from a post, tree trunk or other object on a line or branch that will not support a bear's weight.
- (3) This regulation does not apply to—
- Food that is being transported, consumed or prepared for consumption; and
 - Clean dishes and cooking equipment free of food orders.

The intent of these designations is to prevent bears and other wildlife from obtaining and habituating to food and garbage, thus protecting wildlife and park visitors alike. We strongly recommend that dishes and cooking equipment be securely stored; but clean and odor free items are not required to be stored in secure containers. Ice chests and coolers, tents, dry bags or stuff sacks, plastic packing boxes (Totes, Action Packers, etc) and unmodified kayaks are not generally approved as BRC. The park offers bear resistant containers for temporary use to the public. The containers are free of charge and can be picked up at the park's visitor center in Kotzebue, AK.

2.11 Picnicking: designated areas

Superseded by 13.26.

2.13(a)(1) Fires: designated areas and conditions

Campfires are authorized in all areas without a permit. All trash (foil, burnt food, glass, and cans) must be removed from the fire site after use.

2.14(a)(2) Sanitation and refuse: conditions using government receptacles

No conditions established at present. Dumping commercial, household, or industrial refuse, brought in from private or municipal property, in government receptacles is prohibited.

2.14(a)(5) Sanitation: designated areas for bathing and washing

Bathing is permitted in the Serpentine Hot Springs Bathhouse.

Unless otherwise allowed by the Superintendent, bathing and washing of cooking utensils, food and other property at all public water outlets, fixtures, or pools is prohibited.

2.14(a)(7) Sanitation: designated areas for disposal of fish remains

There are no designated areas.

Fish remains may not be disposed of on either land or water within 200 feet of public boat docks or designated swimming beaches, or within developed areas for reasons of public health and safety.

2.14(a)(9) Sanitation: designated areas for disposal of human waste in undeveloped areas

Solid human waste will either be removed as trash or deposited in cat-holes dug at least 100 feet from any surface freshwater source, shoreline, campsite or trail. Cat-holes must be between six and eight inches deep and four to six inches in diameter.

The intent of these conditions is to protect the public from exposure to health, safety, and disease risk; maintain pristine water quality; and minimize impacts to cultural resources.

2.14(b) Sanitation: conditions concerning disposal, carrying out of human waste

Toilet paper will either be burned or carried out as trash.

2.15(a)(1) Areas designated as closed to pets

No designated areas. Pets must be leashed or physically restrained at all times.

2.15(a)(3) Conditions for leaving pets unattended and tied to an object

No conditions at present.

Leaving pets unattended and tied to an object is prohibited.

2.15(a)(5) Pet excrement disposal conditions

No conditions at present.

2.15(b) Conditions for using dogs in support of hunting activities

No conditions at present.

2.16 (a)-(c) Horses and pack animals

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(e).

Access for subsistence purposes under 36 CFR 13.460(a) supersedes this section.

2.17(a)(1) Aircraft operation

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(f)(1).

Use of aircraft in the Park for subsistence purposes is prohibited under 36 CFR 13.450.

2.17(a)(2) Aircraft operation near docks, piers, swimming beaches and other designated areas

No areas prohibited.

2.17(c)(1) Conditions for removing downed aircraft

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(f)(3)(ii).

2.18(c) Snowmobiles: designated areas for use

No areas designated for snowmachine use.

Superseded in part by 43 CFR 36.11(c).

Superseded by 36 CFR 13.460 for subsistence uses.

2.19(a) Winter activities on roads and in parking areas: designated areas

Roads and parking areas open to vehicle traffic in the winter are designated as open to winter activities.

2.19(b) The towing of persons on skis, sleds, or other sliding devices by motor vehicle or snowmobile is prohibited, except in designated areas or routes

No designated areas or routes.

2.20 Skating and skateboards

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(e).

2.21 Smoking

All park offices and visitor facilities are closed to smoking.

Smoking is prohibited within 100 feet of the park fuel and aviation gas storage facility.

These restrictions are intended to protect public safety from fire or explosion around fuel storage and dispensing facilities.

2.22 Property: leaving property unattended for longer than 24 hours

Superseded by 13.45.

2.35(a)(3)(i) Alcoholic beverages: areas designated as closed to consumption

No areas designated as closed.

2.38(b) Fireworks: permits, designated areas, and conditions

No areas designated for use of fireworks.

2.51(e) Public assemblies/meetings: designated areas for public assemblies

All areas open to public assembly with a permit from the superintendent.

2.52(e) Sale and distribution of printed matter: areas designated for such use

All areas are open to distribution with a permit from the superintendent.

2.60(a)(3) Designated areas for grazing

Grazing of pack or saddle animals by private parties, not to exceed 14 days, is authorized without a permit within the Monument, Park, and Preserve. Reindeer grazing is authorized in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve under 36 CFR

2.60(a)(1), 16 USC 410hh, and 25 USC 500 pursuant to a permit from the Superintendent.

These restrictions seek to lessen the impact of extended camps on vegetation.

2.62(b) Memorialization: designation of areas for scattering ashes

All areas are open to scattering of ashes without a permit.

PART 3. BOATING AND WATER USE ACTIVITIES

3.3 Permits

No permits required at present.

3.7 Personal Flotation Devices: designated times and/or activities

No designated times or activities. PFDs must be worn in accordance with 33 CFR part 175.

3.8(a)(2) Boating, prohibited operations: designated launching areas

All areas are open to launching of boats.

3.8(a)(4) Operating a vessel in excess of designated length, width, or horsepower

No designations at present.

3.8(b)(3) Operating a vessel in excess of flat wake speed in designated areas

No designated areas.

3.12(a) Water skiing: designated waters

No areas designated open.

3.14(a) Conditions for removing sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels

A permit is required from the Superintendent before sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels may be removed from the park; violation of the terms and conditions of the permit is prohibited.

This requirement allows the Superintendent to establish terms and conditions for salvage operations as necessary to protect resources, provide for public safety, and minimize impacts on visitors.

3.16 Swimming and wading: areas designated as closed

All areas are open to swimming and wading.

3.17(a) Designated swimming areas and beaches

No designated areas.

3.17(c) Use or possession of flotation devices, glass containers, kites, or incompatible activities in swimming areas or beaches

No restrictions at present.

3.18(a) SCUBA and underwater diving: closures and restrictions

No closures or restrictions at present.

PART 4. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

4.10 Routes or areas designated for off-road motor vehicle use in Preserves

No routes or areas designated.

See also 43 CFR 36.11(g), and 13.702(a) for ORV access for reindeer grazing in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

4.11(a) Load weight and size limits: permit requirements and restrictive conditions

No restrictions at present.

4.21(b)-(c) Speed limits: designation of a different speed limit

No designations necessary at present.

4.30(a) Routes designated as open to bicycles

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(e).

4.30(d)(1) Wilderness closed to bicycle use

Superseded by 43 CFR 36.11(e).

4.31 Hitchhiking: designated areas

All areas are open to hitchhiking.

PART 5. COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE OPERATIONS

5.7 Construction of buildings, roads, trails, airstrips, or other facilities

Maintenance of established landing strips utilizing non-motorized hand tools is not considered construction or repair and no permit is required.

PART 13. ALASKA REGULATIONS

13.25(a) Temporary closures and restrictions to camping

No closures or restrictions at present.

13.25(b) Site time limits: authorization to exceed 14 day limit at one location

No general exceptions at present.

13.25(c) Designated campgrounds: restrictions, terms, and conditions

No designated campgrounds at present.

13.26 Picnicking-areas where prohibited or otherwise restricted

No restrictions at present.

13.50(b) Temporary closures or restrictions to carrying, possessing, or using firearms

There are no additional restrictions.

13.35(d) Collection of dead standing wood: areas designated as open and conditions for collection

No designated areas at present.

13.35(f)(1) Natural features: size and quantity restrictions for collection

No restrictions at present.

13.35(f)(2) Natural features: closures or restrictions due to adverse impacts

No closures or restrictions at present.

13.40(c) Restrictions on activities related to commercial fishing rights or privileges in Cape Krusenstern

No restrictions at present.

13.40(e) Temporary closures or restrictions to the taking of fish and wildlife

No closures at present. See applicable State of Alaska hunting regulations. Sport hunting is prohibited in Kobuk Valley National Park and Cape Krusenstern National Monument. See 50 CFR 100.26 for applicable subsistence hunting regulations.

13.45(b)(1)-(6) Exceptions to unattended or abandoned property

Superintendent authorizations for exceptions for unattended or abandoned property are made on a case by case basis. Contact park headquarters for more information.

13.45(c) Designated areas where personal property may not be left unattended for any time period, limits on amounts and types, manner in which property is stored

No designated areas.

13.50(h) Facility closure and restrictions

No restrictions at present.

13.122 Established conditions for removal of cabin for which a cabin permit has been denied, expired, or revoked

No conditions established at present (may require access permit).

13.160 Designated existing cabins, shelters or temporary facilities that may be shared for subsistence uses without a permit

No designations, but all cabins, not otherwise under NPS permit, are open for short term public use in accordance with 13.17(e)(5)(i) and are available for subsistence uses. The following NPS cabins are exclusively for government business and are excluded: Anigaaq Ranger Station cabins in Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kelly River Ranger Station cabins in Noatak National Preserve and the Giddings Cabin at Onion Portage in Kobuk Valley National Park.

13.166 Established conditions and standards governing the use and construction of temporary structures and facilities for subsistence purposes, published annually

No conditions or standards established at present.

13.170 Designated cabins or other structures for general public use

No designations, but all cabins, not otherwise under NPS permit, are open for short term public use. The following NPS cabins are exclusively for government business and are excluded: Anigaaq Ranger Station cabins in Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kelly River Ranger Station cabins in Noatak National Preserve and the Giddings Cabin at Onion Portage in Kobuk Valley National Park.

13.172 Established conditions and allocation system to manage the use of designated public use cabins

Not applicable.

13.188(b) Established conditions for removal of temporary facility used in excess of 14 days

Individuals must remove facility, all personal property, and return the site to its natural condition.

These conditions are intended to protect the park from impacts to vegetation and soil and to ensure that personal items are not left in the park.

13.460 Closures or restrictions to the use of snowmobiles, motorboats, dog teams, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed by local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses

See also 36 CFR 2.16, 2.17, 2.18, 3.6, 4.10, 4.30, 13.40(c), 13.702(a); 43 CFR 36.11(c)-(e).

13.485(a)(1) Permit specifications for harvesting standing timber greater than 3” diameter for subsistence purposes (house logs & firewood)

The superintendent may allow subsistence harvest of trees greater than 3” subject to the terms and conditions of a permit issued by the superintendent.

The above restriction serves to minimize impact to park resources and protect against overharvest.

13.485(a)(2) Restrictions on cutting of timber less than 3" in diameter for subsistence purposes

No restrictions at present.

43 CFR, PART 36 TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY SYSTEMS (Access Regulations)

36.11(c) Temporary closures to the use of snowmachines for traditional activities

No closures at present.

See also 2.18.

36.11(d) Temporary closures to the use of motorboats

No closures at present.

See also 3.3, 3.6.

36.11(e) Temporary closures to the use of non-motorized surface transportation

No closures at present.

See also 2.16, 3.3, 3.6.

36.11(f)(1) Temporary closures to landing fixed-wing aircraft

No closures at present.

36.11(f)(3)(ii) Established procedure for salvaging and removing downed aircraft

A permit is required from the superintendent before downed aircraft may be salvaged and removed from the NPS lands; violation of the terms and conditions of the permit is prohibited.

This requirement allows the superintendent to establish terms and conditions for salvage operations as necessary to protect resources, provide for public safety, and minimize impacts on visitors.

36.11(g)(2) Use of off-road vehicles (ORV) on existing trails

No designated trails. See also 4.10 and 13.61(a).

This compendium is approved and rescinds all previous compendiums issued for Western Arctic National Parklands.

Superintendent

Date

Attachment: 2.10 Food storage determination

Attachment: 3.14 Conditions for removing sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels

Determination of Need for a restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Food Storage

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 1.5 (c) and 2.10 (d), the Superintendent of Western Arctic National Parklands has determined that in order to protect public safety and prevent adverse impacts to wildlife, conditions are placed on storage of food, garbage, lawfully taken fish or wildlife, and equipment used to cook or store food throughout the park.

The reasons for this restriction are as follows:

1. Wildlife in a natural ecosystem is adapted to exist on natural food source. Obtaining human food may adversely affect behavior and nutrition of wildlife.
2. Both black and brown bears are common throughout the parklands and are readily attracted to even small quantities of human food. They are very curious and intelligent, and will commonly open or enter containers, tents, and structures.
3. Bears are extremely susceptible to conditioning to human food sources. Once they have learned to associate a site or item (e.g. tent, kayak, boat, etc.) with acquisition of food, they may return to that source repeatedly for further food rewards.
4. It does not matter whether the material is fresh, dry, powdered, canned, etc. Once a curious bear has obtained a positive food reward, it will return and / or continue to seek out further rewards in similar situations.
5. Any impact to nutrition may manifest itself in reduced reproductive success and life expectancy.
6. While nutritional impact on wildlife may vary depending on a number of factors, notably the percentage of the overall diet of the animal is made up of non-natural food and during what time of year, no impact is acceptable under National Park Service management policies.
7. Bears which become conditioned to human food in this area are likely to be killed by humans in defense of life or property inside the parklands or on adjacent lands.
8. Humans are at risk of injury or death when bears attempt to obtain food from tents, packs, vessels, or other similar areas.
9. The park does not consider Ursacks or Bear Vaults appropriate bear resistant containers as they have shown to be insufficient deterrents to bears gaining access to the contents.

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

1. Educational efforts regarding proper food storage and disposal of food and garbage have been undertaken by state and federal agencies in Alaska and in other western states for many years. These efforts have doubtless improved the situation and reduced wildlife/ human conflict and impacts.

2. Recognizing that variations in the environment and recreational activity require multiple food storage options, park managers have undertaken the following to assist visitors and make these conditions less onerous:
 - Park supplied bear resistant food storage containers (BRFC) are available at park headquarters.
3. Despite these efforts, park managers repeatedly encounter situations in which food or garbage is improperly stored throughout the parklands.
4. The food storage conditions imposed under this section allow for a wide variety of storage options, including free loans of portable BRFC units, to make compliance less onerous.
5. We have considered the use of the Alaska State Administrative Code 5 AAC 92.230 which reads:

A person may not intentionally feed a moose (except under terms of a permit issued by the department), bear, wolf, coyote, fox, or wolverine, or negligently leave human food, pet food, or garbage in a manner that attracts these animals. However, this prohibition does not apply to use of bait for trapping fur bearers or hunting black bears under 5 AAC 84-5 AAC 92.

- Park employees lack authority to enforce this regulation directly, and would rely on state officers. Given limited state staffing in this area and other priorities, enforcement would be severely hampered.
 - If we adopted the language of the state regulation into a park condition under this section, we would unreasonably force our enforcement officers to prove “negligence” in court. The threshold we seek to enforce is lower given our specific legal mandate to protect wildlife.
6. Given the lack of complete compliance with educational efforts, the flexibility in compliance options, and the effort made by park managers to provide free equipment to promote compliance, these conditions are the least restrictive required to fulfill the parklands mission of protecting wildlife and human safety.

Determination of Need for a Restriction, Condition, Public Use Limit, or Closure

Subject: Conditions for removing sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels

Pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 1.5(c) and 3.14(a), the Superintendent is requiring a permit before sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels may be removed from the park.

The reasons for this restriction are as follows:

- This requirement allows the Superintendent to establish terms and conditions for salvage operations as necessary to protect resources, provide for public safety, and minimize impacts on visitors.

The reasons less restrictive measures will not be effective are as follows:

- How to protect park resources, public safety, and minimize visitor impact when removing a disabled vessel needs to be addressed on a case by case basis since the circumstances involved in each incident is unique. A permit allows the park and the boater maximum flexibility to address the specific circumstances at hand when removing disabled vessels.