

WESTERN ARCTIC NATIONAL PARKLANDS
2026 SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPENDIUM
Cape Krusenstern National Monument
Kobuk Valley National Park
Noatak National Preserve

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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 54 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

1.6(f) Compilation of activities requiring a permit

- 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)
- Demonstrations involving 26 or more persons, 2.51
- Sale and distribution of printed matter for First Amendment purposes by groups of 26 or more persons, 2.52
- 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
- Some filming, still photography, and audio recording (depends upon the facts and circumstances; contact the park for more information). 36 CFR 13.50 and 54 U.S.C. 100905
- 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)
- Scientific research, 13.50
- Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft, 13.50
- 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 standing timber greater than 3 inches in diameter for non-commercial subsistence uses, 13.485(a)(1)
- 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 use, 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 13.42(e).

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

No areas designated for closure.

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

Individuals are authorized to possess firearms in NPS areas in accordance with applicable state and federal law. With the exception of public use cabins, possession of firearms is prohibited in Federally owned or leased buildings. The laws regarding discharge of firearms remain unchanged.

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: https://grizzlybear.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/211116_Certified_Products_List.pdf
- Additional items listed by the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearcontainers>, with the concurrence of the Superintendent;
- 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.
- The Superintendent may, upon request, waive or modify food storage requirements in circumstances where compliance with these requirements is not possible, overly burdensome, and is consistent with public safety and wildlife conservation interests.

- (3) This provision does not apply to—
- Food that is being transported, consumed or prepared for consumption; and
 - Clean dishes and cooking equipment free of food odors.
 - Bait which is being lawfully used for trapping or hunting in accordance with applicable state or federal is not considered food subject to the provisions in this section.

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

- State or local fire burn bans are automatically adopted under this section unless the superintendent determines the ban is not necessary in park areas.
- Fires are authorized in all areas of Western Arctic National Parklands without a permit, except within 200' of any NPS managed structure, historic object or other NPS facilities. All trash (foil, burnt food, glass, and cans) must be removed from the fire site after use.
- Superintendent may close areas to campfires during periods of high fire danger.
- A fire may be ignited and maintained only by using fuel sources designed and commonly used for warmth or the preparation of food, such as charcoal briquettes or natural firewood. Lighting or maintaining a fire with other materials including, but not limited to, flammable liquids, garbage, fireworks, plastics, aerosol canisters, batteries, or other manufactured or synthetic materials, is prohibited*

**This action is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, and the implementation of management responsibilities. Materials other than approved combustibles – especially fire accelerants and substances prone to wind transport or explosion – creates serious risks when used to light or maintain fires. These*

combustibles can ignite or spread wildfires that directly threaten people and valuable resources and assets. The burning of manufactured or synthetic materials can contribute to air pollution, contaminate soil and water, and be toxic to humans and the environment. Less restrictive measures, such as an education campaign informing visitors of the risks of using certain materials to light or maintain a fire, would not be commensurate with the substantial risks associated with those activities and could lead to adverse outcomes that might be prevented by establishing an enforceable condition.

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

No designated areas. The area does not have any public water facilities.

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), 2.14(b) Sanitation: disposal of human waste

When the ground is not frozen, human feces must be either packed out or deposited in a “cat hole” dug 6-8 inches deep in soil at least 100 feet from any water source, shoreline, campsite or trail. When the ground is frozen, human feces must be disposed over at least 100 feet from any water source and covered with snow or packed out.

Tissue paper and sanitary items should be packed out or burned when fire hazard is low.

The intent of these conditions is to provide for healthy, sanitary and visually aesthetic environments as well as to protect natural resources.

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

Sled dogs used as transportation may be left unattended for up to 24 hours when afforded adequate shelter, food and water.

Leaving pets unattended or unattended tied to an object or unattended inside a public use cabin for any length of time is prohibited.

The intent of these requirements is to help ensure pets aren't lost or injured, don't harass wildlife, cause predation, endanger people, or damage resources

2.15(a)(5) Pet excrement disposal conditions

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 parks or monuments 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.

See also, 43 CFR 36.11(c) regarding snowmachine use for traditional activities and 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

The towing of persons on sleds by dog team or snowmobile is authorized in all areas of Western Arctic National Parklands.

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. Electronic cigarettes, or e-cigs, are included in the above restrictions.

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 First Amendment Demonstrations

All areas are designated as open to public demonstrations that involve 25 or fewer persons without a permit. Demonstrations involving twenty-six or more individuals must have a permit issued by the superintendent.

2.52 Designated areas for sale and distribution of printed matter for First Amendment purposes

All areas are designated as open to sale or distribution of printed matter by groups involving 25 or fewer persons without a permit. Printed matter is limited to message-bearing textual printed material such as books, pamphlets, magazines, and leaflets, provided that it is not solely commercial advertising. Distribution involving twenty-six or more individuals must have a permit issued by the superintendent.

2.60(a)(3) Designated areas for grazing

Individuals may allow authorized pack or saddle animals to graze in NPS areas without a permit for less than 14 days in a calendar year under the following conditions:

1. Grazing is in conjunction with the animals being used as pack or saddle animals in NPS areas.
2. Any feed brought in must be weed free.

Grazing in support of commercial operations is only allowed under permit from the superintendent.

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

See also section 1.5(a)(1) of this document which prohibits certain domestic animals in NPS areas.

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 waters within NPS administered areas except when the operator is able to remove or repair the vessel on site safely and without potential for damage to resources.

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

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).

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).

4.30(i)(1) Designated roads, parking areas, and trails open to electric bicycles, or specific classes of electric bicycles

No Areas Designated

4.30(i)(7) Electric bicycle use restrictions/conditions

No additional restrictions or conditions in areas designated as open to electric bicycle use. See 36 CFR 4.30(i) for more information.

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) Closures and restrictions to camping

No closures or restrictions at present.

Camping is authorized in park areas except where such use is prohibited or otherwise restricted by the Superintendent in accordance with this section or the provisions of 36 CFR 13.50

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

No general exceptions at present.

Camping is authorized for 14 consecutive days in one location. Camping is prohibited after 14 consecutive days in one location unless the camp is moved at least 2 miles or unless authorized by the Superintendent. A camp and associated equipment must be relocated immediately if determined by the Superintendent to be interfering with public access or other public interests or adversely impacting park resources.

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

No designated campgrounds at present.

Camping is authorized on all federally managed lands within the boundary of the

park, preserve or monument.

13.26 Picnicking-areas where prohibited or otherwise restricted

No restrictions at present.

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.

13.45(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 Closure and restrictions

Filming, still photography, and audio recording activity may require a permit, consistent with 54 U.S.C. 100905.

- Filming, still photography, and audio recording activity that occurs in closed areas, requires exclusive use of a site or area, or involves a set or staging equipment other than handheld equipment (such as a tripod, monopod, and handheld lighting equipment) requires a permit, unless the activity is affiliated with an activity or event that has been allowed under a written authorization, such as a special use permit.
- Filming, still photography, and audio recording that involves more than eight individuals requires a permit, unless the NPS has specifically notified an individual or group that a permit is not required, or if the activity is affiliated with an activity or event that has been allowed under a written authorization, such as a special use permit.
- If a permit is required for the reasons stated above, or if the NPS otherwise determines and then notifies an individual or group that a permit is required for a filming, still photography, or audio recording activity, then engaging in that activity without a permit is prohibited. Violating a term or condition of a permit issued by the NPS for a filming, still photography, or audio recording activity is prohibited, and may result in the suspension or

revocation of the permit, in addition to any penalties that may apply under 36 CFR 1.3.

Federal law at 54 U.S.C. 100905 states that permits and fees are not required for filming, still photography, or audio recording in park areas if certain requirements are met. These requirements address various topics, including, but not limited to, group size, location, equipment, potential impacts to resources and visitors, and the likelihood that the NPS will incur related administrative costs. If any of these requirements are not met, the law allows the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the NPS, to require a permit for the subject activity. Permit requirements are imposed by the superintendent under discretionary authority provided by 36 CFR 13.50, which allows the superintendent to restrict activities in NPS areas in Alaska. The general regulations for permits in 36 CFR 1.6 and 13.55 do not apply to permits issued for filming, still photography, and audio recording, which instead are governed by the statutory provisions in 54 U.S.C. 100905. The imposition of permit requirements, on a case-by-case basis, for filming, still photography, or audio recording does not require rulemaking under 36 CFR 13.50(c). Requiring a permit with reasonable terms and conditions in accordance with statutory requirements at 54 U.S.C. 100905 will not result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern of the area, will not adversely affect the area's natural, aesthetic, scenic or cultural values, or require a long-term or significant modification in the resource management objectives of the area, because the permit requirement is limited in time and scope to the specific activities authorized by the permit, which contains terms and conditions that protect the values, resources, and visitors of the area.

Unmanned Aircraft.

Launching, landing, or operating an uncrewed or remotely piloted aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Western Arctic National Parklands is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.

This restriction is required for the protection of wildlife, sound scape, Wilderness character, and visitor enjoyment. This restriction does not affect the primary jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration over the National Airspace System.

Domestic Goats and Sheep

Use or possession of domestic goats or sheep within NPS administered areas is prohibited.

Llamas, Alpacas, and other Members of the Camelidae or Bovidae Family

Use or possession of llamas, alpacas, or any other domestic animal of the Camelidae or Bovidae Family within NPS administered areas is prohibited except as pack animals in accordance with written authorization from the superintendent.

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), 13.50, 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 13.50, 2.16, 3.3, 3.6, 13.50.

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).