Fact Sheet

Byers Lake Public Use Cabins Denali State Park

Alaska Department of NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
May 2014

There are three cabins on Byers Lake in Denali State Park which rent for $70 per night. Cabin #1 is road accessible in the summer months (it is right next to the parking lot); Cabin #2 and #3 are a half-mile walk or via canoe. Cabin #3 is about 70 yards south from Cabin #2.

During the winter months, you will need to park at the Veteran's Memorial Parking Lot. Parking in the winter months adds about ½ mile to the cabins access which is by snowshoes, skis or snowmachine due to the lack of complete snow removal Byers Lake Campground is just a ¼ mile from Cabin #1 and the area has many hiking trails. Byers Lake is a pleasant place to fish - but not a particular good place to catch fish.

All cabins have minimum amenities: sleeping platforms, a counter for food preparation, a wood stove, an outdoor picnic table, and a fire ring. Cabin #3 is wired for electricity, but you will need to bring your own generator. It is also recommended you bring your own light bulbs.

The cabins have hasps on the outside of their doors, so you can bring a lock to secure your belongings while you are off exploring the park - just be sure to remove it when you go. There is a fair amount of rain and mosquitoes in this area, so you should be prepared with proper attire, bug repellent, mosquito coils and dry wood. During the summer months, you should be alert for bears.

Reservations can be made on line at www.alaskastateparks.org, in person at our Public Information Center offices located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau or at the nearest State Park office. Alaska residents can make reservations 7 months to the day in advance of the first night stay and non-residents 6 months to the day in advance, Monday through Friday beginning at 10:00 a.m. Alaska time. Advance reservations cannot be made on weekends or State holidays, but can be made the next business day. All other cabin reservations can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Reservations are from noon to noon.

Reservation requests can also be mailed or faxed. Credit cards (MasterCard/Visa/Discover) are accepted for payment when making reservations on line, mailing or faxing reservation requests or when paying in person at our Anchorage, Fairbanks or Juneau offices.

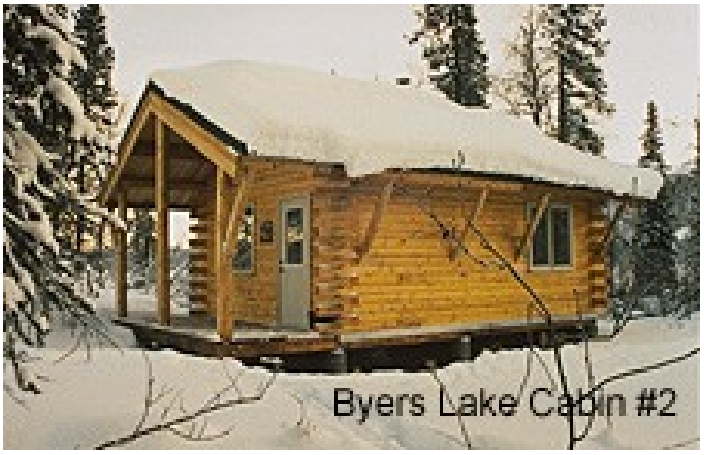
Reservations are not accepted over the phone. However, changes or cancellation can be done by phone or in person. A change to or cancellation of a reservation for a Public Use Cabin must be done at least 48 hours in advance of the start of the reservation in order for the customer to receive a credit. If making a change or cancellation by phone, the cabin reservation number must be provided. If done in person, the original reservation must be presented. If the cancellation or change of a cabin reservation is due to a family emergency or severe weather conditions, the 48 hour notification requirement may be waived. Otherwise, without the 48 hour notification, a reservation cannot be cancelled or changed and a credit issued. Cabin credits are good for one year from date of issue. Refunds are not issued.

Byers Lake #1 was originally built as a small visitor center. It was built of large scribed logs, and has a porch with two built-in burl seats. The door is very heavy, so don't be surprised at needing a little extra effort to open it. You will need to bring a lantern or other light source

because the cabin is dark, especially when the blinds are pulled down for privacy. The cabin is very near the main road and interpretive displays. Although the cabin displays a “public use cabin - do not disturb occupants” sign and has an “occupied” sign that can be displayed in the window, these signs are sometimes ignored. Because the cabin is smaller than many of our other cabins, it does not have an interior table/chair set-up. It has two double-sized sleeping platforms, an upper (single-size) platform, a cooking counter, and a flat-topped, glass front heating stove. The latrine for Byers Lake Cabin #1 is across the parking lot from the cabin.

You can reach Byers Lake #2 and #3 by parking in the campground overflow parking lot and walking the ½ mile trail to the cabin or via canoe across the lake. Parking during the winter months is a little further away, and skis, a snowmachine, or snowshoes will likely be required. There is a short trail from the cabin to the lake, which is very shallow in this area to about 15 feet out. If you are using a canoe, you need to be prepared to get out and drag the canoe to shore.

The front window of Cabin #2 looks directly at Mt. McKinley, and when the weather permits, offers a spectacular view of the mountain. The setting is quiet, with plentiful wildflowers in the summer months. The cabin has a porch and is equipped with a table that fits up next to the two single sleeping platforms which would then double as seating, a double bed platform, heating stove, cooking shelf, and a loft.


Byers Lake Cabin #2

Byers Lake Cabin #3