



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Natural Resources**  
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

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February 20, 2024

Brooke Merrell  
Superintendent  
Denali National Park and Preserve  
PO Box 9  
Denali Park, AK 99755

Submitted via email to [brooke\\_merrell@nps.gov](mailto:brooke_merrell@nps.gov)

Re: Proposed Changes to the 2024 Denali National Park & Preserve Superintendent's Compendium

Dear Ms. Merrell,

The State of Alaska (State) reviewed the proposed changes to the 2024 Denali National Park and Preserve Superintendent's Compendium. The following comments represent the consolidated views of state resource agencies and are provided to elaborate on the bulleted comments we submitted on the Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website on February 16, 2024.

The State appreciates the time spent with regional staff going over the proposed Compendium at the annual Compendium meeting. Sitting down with park staff gave us a better understanding of the intent behind the proposed changes.

During the annual compendium meeting in December 2023, park staff indicated the annual Road Lottery is temporarily on hold during the construction activities at the Pretty Rocks landslide area. We can appreciate the need to cease the Lottery during these activities but reiterate our overall support for the annual lottery. The State supports public access and responsible enjoyment of public lands, and the Road Lottery is very popular among Alaska residents as a unique way to experience park lands. After repairs to the Denali Park Road are completed, we strongly recommend re-instituting this popular program as soon as possible.

We question the need to expand the distance requirements between backcountry campsites and food stored in a bear resistant container (BRC). We note that BRC distance requirements, consistent with 36 CFR 2.10, are currently standardized across the other park units in Alaska:

*(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—*

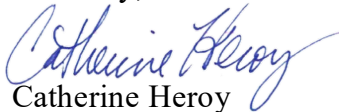
- Within a hard sided building;*
- Within lockable and hard sided section of a vehicle, vessel, or aircraft; or*
- By caching a minimum of 100 feet from camp and suspending at least 10 feet above the*

*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.*<sup>1</sup>

We request further discussions on this topic with park staff.

We appreciate the work by the park to provide for the safety and enjoyment of park users. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these changes; please contact me at (907)269-0880 or by email at [Catherine.heroy@alaska.gov](mailto:Catherine.heroy@alaska.gov) to coordinate any follow up discussions.

Sincerely,



Catherine Heroy  
Federal Program Manager and ANILCA Coordinator

Ecc: Miriam Valentine, External Affairs Lead, Denali National Park

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/locations/alaska/current-compendiums.htm>