

COMMENT CLOSES OCT 31 FOR DENALI NATIONAL PARK TRAILS PLAN

People still have a chance to comment on the vision of Denali National Park and Preserve managers regarding future trails management.

Not everyone agrees with how trails have been managed in the park or might be managed in the future. Recently Frank Keim, a Fairbanks-based wilderness advocate, sent some documents regarding the issue. He sent an alert titled "Denali Wilderness Threatened By Trail Construction: Your Help Is Needed," as well as two responses to the possibility of new trails in the park. Mr. Keim is a fierce advocate for wilderness and supports trails in the park on a very limited basis.

The editor of this newsletter (Eric Troyer) has a different view, more supportive of expanding the trail system in the park, and also submitted his response to park management.

In the interest of sparking thought about the issue, these documents have been posted online for people interested in seeing these two points of view. The park management also addresses the issue on its Wilderness page under the headline "Balancing Wilderness, Trails and the Denali Park Road." Links to these and other relevant sites are below.

If trails management in Denali National Park and Preserve is an issue that stirs you, please remember to comment at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/denalitrailsplan>. The comment period closes Saturday, Oct 31.

- Denali Wilderness Threatened By Trail Construction: <http://tinyurl.com/nt4or2s>
- Frank Keim's response to trails scoping: <http://tinyurl.com/q2mmntd>
- Another Keim response to new trails in Denali National Park: <http://tinyurl.com/pvxy97x>
- Troyer's response: <http://tinyurl.com/nhq2zqp>
- Compilation of Trails Management Planning and Policy in Denali: <http://tinyurl.com/onc7z8d>
- Map of Denali Park area designated as Wilderness: <http://tinyurl.com/o249zc4>
- Wilderness page of Denali Park website: www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/wilderness.htm