

# Donoho Peak

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

National Park Service  
US Department of the Interior



**Access:** Begins as Root Glacier Trail, Kennecott Mill Town

**Distance:** 14 miles roundtrip from Kennecott to the summit.

**Time:** 1-2 days

**Maps:** McCarthy 1:250,000; McCarthy 1:63,360 (B-6), (C-5), (C-6)

**Difficulty:** Strenuous, with moderate route finding necessary. Crampons necessary for glacier crossing.

**Highlights:** Road accessible via McCarthy Rd, glacier travel, waterfalls, wildlife, fantastic views,



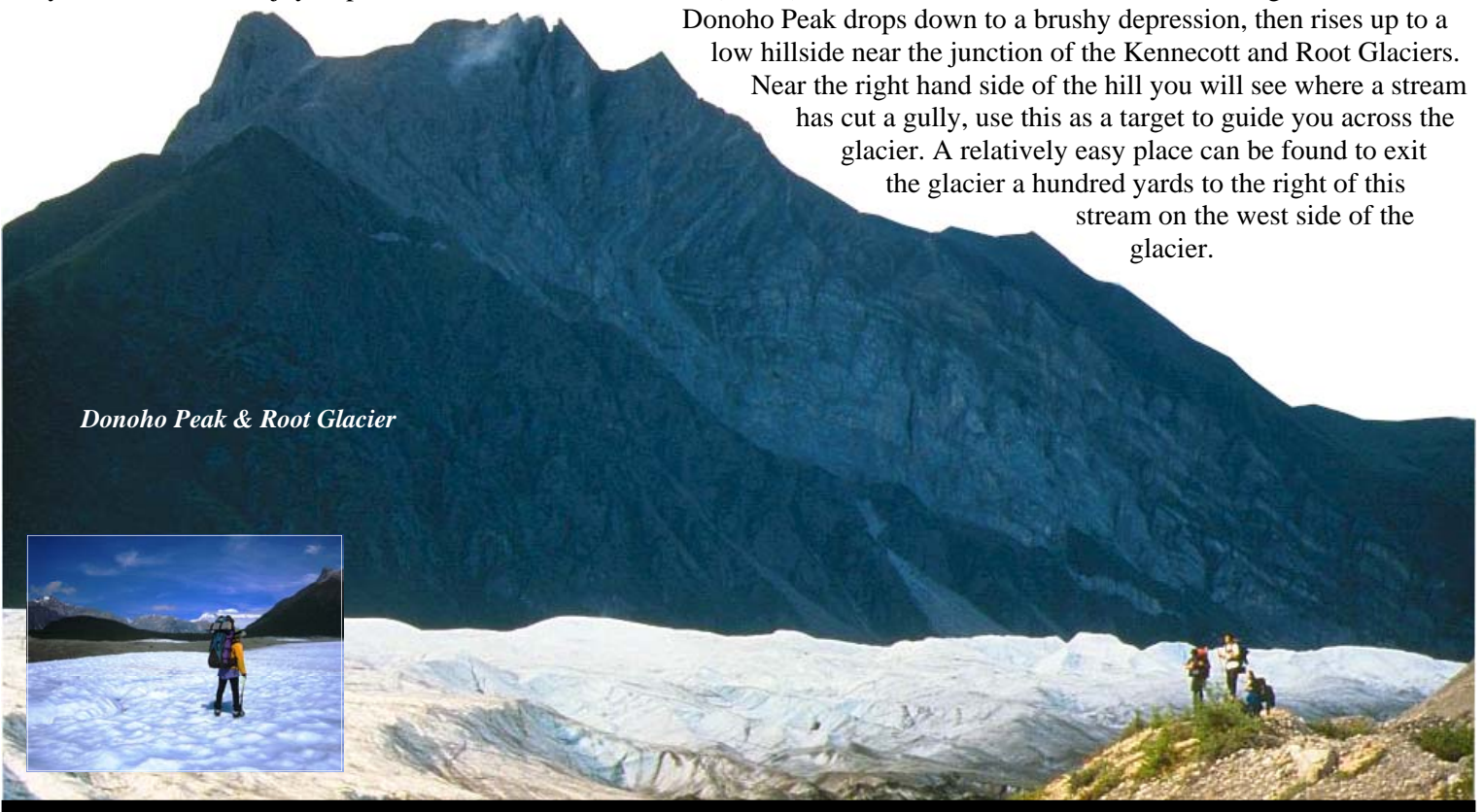
*Crossing Root Glacier*

## Crossing the Root Glacier

From the Kennecott Visitor Center, walk through the Kennecott Mill Town north towards the Root Glacier. About a half mile beyond the visitor center, the road will split. Take the left hand trail. The trail will soon cross over Bonanza Creek and then wind its way through the lateral moraines of the Kennecott and Root Glaciers. After about a mile the trail curves sharply to the right and uphill, follow the trail to cross Jumbo Creek on the footbridge. After approximately another 1/4 mile, the trail reaches the Root Glacier access trail. (Primitive campsites, along with an outhouse and food lockers, are available in this area.)

You will see a sign for Root Glacier where the trail forks; turn left at the sign and follow the trail as it winds down the moraine to the toe of the glacier. After donning crampons and carrying ice axe or trekking poles, set out across the rolling ice for the approximately 1.5 mile walk west northwest across the Root Glacier. You will need to negotiate morainal material and various non-technical snowy/icy slopes. Aim for the low spot between Donoho Peak and the 3,100' hill at the south end of the peninsula dividing the Root and Kennecott Glaciers.

As you cross the ice enjoy impressive views of Donoho Peak (6,696') and its southern flanks. The southern ridge line of Donoho Peak drops down to a brushy depression, then rises up to a low hillside near the junction of the Kennecott and Root Glaciers. Near the right hand side of the hill you will see where a stream has cut a gully, use this as a target to guide you across the glacier. A relatively easy place can be found to exit the glacier a hundred yards to the right of this stream on the west side of the glacier.



*Donoho Peak & Root Glacier*



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## Root Glacier to Donoho Lakes

Once at the western edge of the Root Glacier, find a good climbing route up to the top of the lateral moraine above you, using way trails and natural routes. Once atop the moraine, look for a marsh/meadow nestled against the hill on the western side of and below the moraine. The meadow stands out as being flat and without brush. The way trail across the Donoho peninsula and up Donoho Peak starts at the north end of this wetland/meadow, at N61°31.509', W142°56.982'. Near its beginning, at the north end of the wetland/meadow is a stone arrow pointing the way along the beginning of the trail, shortly after having dropped off the moraine rim. It is easy to otherwise miss the trail, as the various moraine trail(s) head north and south along the moraine, climbing and dropping everywhere.



Once on the way trail, be prepared to battle brush almost continuously at first, as the trail climbs up and along the northeast side of a small lake, then heads on over to border the northeast side of a second and larger lake. Be prepared to get your feet wet near the lakes. The main trail heads up to assault Donoho Peak. The trail which continues northwest across the Donoho peninsula toward the junction of the Kennicott and Gates Glaciers is vague and becomes more and more difficult to follow, until at the end the hiker may find themselves bushwhacking their own route. A nice campsite can be found in the sandy area near the Kennicott and Gates glacier junction.



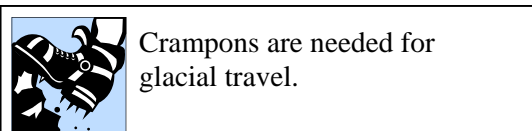
## Donoho Peak

You can scramble up Donoho Peak via the largest scree slope that cuts a deep gully on the south side of the peak. The gully can be accessed by bushwhacking to the base of the scree slope from the trail in the section between the first and second lakes. As you hike up the scree, you will cross remnants of the old mining trail that led up to the Regal Mine. The mine sits under the summit tower of Donoho Peak on the south side. There are parts of the building scattered down the hillsides from snow slides. Leave all historic objects in place for others to enjoy - it is illegal to move them. You can see copper ore scattered around the area. Ore from this mine was once carried across the glacier by horse-drawn wagons!

The summit of Donoho Peak offers excellent views of not only Mt. Blackburn, but on a clear day of the University Range to the southeast. To return to Kennicott from Donoho, backtrack your original route.

Many hikers continue onwards and cross the Kennicott glacier to explore the Hidden Lake area.

**Potential Hazards:** The trail is often difficult to follow and frequently encounters steep slopes to climb and slippery scree; use your best judgment regarding safety and current conditions. There is a glacier crossing, crampons are advisable - ropes not necessary. Travel with caution near and around glacial melt pools and river potholes.



Crampons are needed for glacial travel.



Bears frequent the Donoho Mountain area. Proper food storage is **required**. Bear Resistant Food Containers are available from the National Park Service.