

Planning and NEPA Compliance Process

Denali National Park and Preserve will be using the following phased approach to honor the intent of [Secretarial Order 3355 \(SO\)](#) and the current guidance of the [National Park Service \(NPS\) NEPA Handbook](#). This process separates the visionary planning document from any NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) compliance required for implementation.

PLANNING (Pre-NEPA)	<p>Phase 1 – A need is identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the appropriate internal questions • Determine if a non-NEPA visionary planning document is needed to be successful <p><u>Public engagement:</u> General comments to the park via comment cards or other means may initiate this phase.</p>	
	<p>Phase 2a – Gather Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect information, investigate issues, define issues to be addressed • Section 106 Surveys (National Historic Preservation Act), Consultation, wetland delineations, and Minimum Requirement Analysis and other investigations/research contribute to further defining issues • Develop and evaluate concepts for addressing identified issues <p><u>Informal Public engagement:</u> NPS facilitates public outreach on issues and concepts to be addressed.</p>	<p>Phase 2b – Synthesize Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS drafts a visionary document describing management intent, issues addressed, recommended implementation, and other relevant discussions • Determine what NEPA compliance documents may be needed <p><u>Informal Public engagement:</u> NPS solicits public review of the draft plan, especially if the plan recommends an action. Comments may be incorporated into a final plan and resulting compliance documents.</p>
NEPA COMPLIANCE	<p>Phase 3a – Categorical Exclusion Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS discusses impacts of the action • Categorical exclusions can be completed to implement appropriate actions <p><u>Public engagement:</u> Categorical Exclusions do not require public engagement but may be posted to the public PEPC site as notification that NPS has concluded that no significant effects would result from the proposed action.</p>	<p>Phase 3b – Environmental Assessments (EA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS develops appropriate alternatives in any EA or EIS documents • Timelines in Secretarial Order 3355 apply <p><u>Public engagement:</u> The public will have the opportunity to review and provide comments on any EA or EIS as required by NEPA.</p>