



Park Specific Guidance for Scientific Research and Collecting Permit

Research conducted on lands managed by the National Park Service (NPS) is valuable to park managers, educators, and the larger scientific community. We appreciate your interest in working on these lands. The NPS Organic Act articulates that our “purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” The following guidance helps ensure that research is conducted in a sensitive and safe manner that is mutually beneficial for all.

Park Contacts

KATM/ANIA/ALAG Dispatch: 907-246-2113

Research Permit Coordinator: Whitney Rapp - 907-246-2145 or whitney_rapp@nps.gov

Chief of Natural Resources: Troy Hamon - 907-246-2121 or troy_hamon@nps.gov

Acting Chief of Cultural Resources: Dale Vinson - 907-644-3632 or dale_vinson@nps.gov

Collections Manager: Katie Myers - 907-644-3631 or kathryn_myers@nps.gov

Superintendent: Diane Chung - 907-246-3305 or diane_chung@nps.gov

Address for sending hard copies of reports and/or specimens/artifacts to the Collections Manager:

Katie Myers - ANIA/ALAG/KATM/LACL Collections Manager 240 West 5th Avenue, Suite 236 Anchorage, AK 99501

General

- Field crews must carry a copy of the research permit while conducting studies within the park.
- Logistical arrangements (transportation, housing) are the responsibility of the Permittee/Principal Investigator (PI), except where explicit arrangements have been agreed to by Park staff.
- The PI agrees to reimburse any costs incurred by the National Park Service to correct damages or actions caused by failure to comply with the provisions stated in the permit.
- The issuance of a research permit does not provide the PI with preferential rights, nor does it assure future approval of similar research projects. Permits may be revoked or not renewed if any conditions are violated.
- Field work conducted under authority of the permit shall be carried out in such a way as not to impede other legitimate uses of the park, except when special provision has been made by the National Park Service.
- The PI will follow the general conditions applicable to all NPS permits (available at <https://science.nature.nps.gov/research/docs/condition.doc>) and park specific guidance listed below. Additional project-related specific conditions or exceptions may be provided in the research permit. If this is the case, the project-related condition(s) provided in the permit shall take precedence over the specific conditions provided here. Examples would include approvals to land helicopters, approach wildlife, and camp in sensitive areas.

Regulations

The PI will comply with all Federal regulations, including the park Compendium (available at http://www.nps.gov/akso/management/current_compendiums.cfm).

Other Permits, Approvals, and Authorizations

The PI is responsible for ensuring that all resource agency regulatory permits, approvals, and authorizations are obtained prior to initiation of fieldwork with copies provided to Research Coordinator. Examples include, but are not limited to, Alaska Department of Fish & Game scientific permits, Army Corps of Engineer permits, US Fish and Wildlife permits, National Marine Fisheries permits, and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review.

The PI is responsible for obtaining permission to access all non-NPS lands, including Alaska Native, private, state, and other federal agency areas.

Deliverables - Reports/Data/Outreach

Your research is extremely valuable to us! Research conducted on NPS lands helps guide management decisions, inform the public through interpretive and educational opportunities, and fulfill records management and curatorial requirements.

As a condition of the permit, the PI will:

- 1) Complete an Investigator's Annual Report (IAR) by March 31 for the previous calendar year's work in the Research Permit and Reporting System (RPRS) website (<https://science.nature.nps.gov/research/ac/ResearchIndex>). An email reminder will be sent at the end of each year. The IAR should include when and where field work occurred; what, where, and how many specimens/artifacts were taken; and summary of the research results to date, even if preliminary.
- 2) Provide reports (annual, periodic, and final), proceedings, thesis, posters, or related publications using data collected under this permit within a year of publication. Two hard copies should be sent to the Collections Manager for the park archives. Additional electronic or hard copies should be sent to the Research Permit Coordinator. Note: All specimens cited in a publication must include the NPS catalog number.
- 3) Provide logs of all installations and/or helicopter activity to the Research Permit Coordinator within 30 days of activity.
- 4) Complete all obligations associated with the curation of collections within a year of obtaining the specimens, unless other specific terms are authorized by the Collections Manager.

While not required, the PI is encouraged to:

- 1) Call the Chief of Natural and/or Cultural Resources annually to provide an update on how research has gone, what results have been found, and what future work is desired.
- 2) Provide relevant project documentation, such as field notes, databases, maps, correspondence, photos, etc. to the Collections Manager. Preferred software includes Microsoft Office applications or Adobe Acrobat. Spatial data should be in ESRI ArcGIS format, preferably in North American Datum 1983 (NAD83), and include complete Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) metadata. Datasets come in a wide variety of formats, but often with minor modifications, your data can easily interface with existing NPS databases.
- 3) Provide 3 representative, high-resolution public-domain digital photographic images of the research to the Research Coordinator for use in publications and interpretation.
- 4) Provide a general audience project summary in Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat format to the Research Permit Coordinator that does not exceed two 8.5x11" pages to be printed and used for interpretation, the general public, and other park staff and may be used on park website.
- 5) Schedule times for informal or formal presentations to park staff, local communities, and visitors to relay information gathered through research activities.

Cultural Resources

For cultural resources protection, no disturbance of historic or cultural features will occur; no artifacts will be collected; no camping will be done on cultural sites; and if archeological or historic resources are discovered, work will stop at the discovery site, the discovery will be protected as required and the park Superintendent, Chief of Cultural Resources, or Park Archeologist will be notified as soon as possible. Information and photographs regarding the location (including geographic coordinates), size, and nature of the discovery should be provided, if possible. Camping sites and any proposed ground disturbing activities will be reviewed for possible effects to cultural resources. With the exception of personal catholes, about 6" deep for the disposal of human waste, no sub-surface disturbance of any kind will be conducted anywhere, except where provided by the conditions of the permit.

Camping

Camping is not permitted in areas closed by park regulations, compendium, or temporarily for special concerns, such as rare plants, cultural resources, or wildlife issues.

Specimens/Artifacts Collected

Research applications need to specify whether any specimens or artifacts will be collected, regardless of whether they will be released, destroyed through or discarded after analysis, or retained and maintained at either an NPS or non-NPS repository. For any specimen/artifact to be retained at one or more non-NPS repositories, a signed copy of Appendix A of the research application must be submitted to the Research Permit Coordinator before a permit will be issued.

Collections are limited to the type and number described in the Collection section of the permit. Please collect in a manner that will not impair the resource and only as many specimens as are necessary to perform the research permitted. An inventory of what specimens were collected, including those consumed/destroyed in analysis, will be provided to the park by the PI.

Regardless of where they are stored, specimens/artifacts that are retained remain federal property, and must be accessioned and cataloged into the National Park Service's Interior Collections Management System and must bear NPS accession and catalog numbers. The NPS reserves the right to designate the disposition of all specimens removed from the park. No specimens shall be retained, destroyed or discarded by a researcher without prior NPS permit authorization.

It is the responsibility of the PI to contact the Collections Manager to determine attributes required for curation; report collections made; obtain accession and catalog numbers; and complete loan documents for non-NPS repositories.

Natural Resources

Leave No Trace: Field crew should practice "Leave No Trace" principles during field activities. Use existing campsites or areas with barren ground when available. Avoid trampling vegetation around camp and other work areas. Minimize the use and impact of fires by using existing fire rings and use of dead or downed wood only. Pack out all trash. Do not rely on burning trash as a method of disposal since trash, particularly wet food, remaining unburned serves as a bear attractant. Additional information may be found on the Leave No Trace website (<http://www.lnt.org/>).

Human waste: Burying human feces is usually a suitable solution if carrying out waste is not feasible. Avoid pollution of water sources, by digging about 6" deep catholes (individual use latrine holes) at least 100 feet from the ordinary mean high water mark of coasts, rivers, and lakeshores. Pack out or thoroughly burn all toilet paper and other sanitary products.

Invasive Species: To prevent the potential introduction of invasive species, all clothing, footwear, gear, and modes of transportation should be visually inspected and washed if necessary prior to field activities. Felt soled boots should not be worn in freshwater systems.

Bear safety: Store food, trash, and other scent attractants in approved bear resistant containers (BRC) at all times, which are available for temporary check-out, free-of-charge at the King Salmon and Brooks Camp Visitor Centers. Other means of food storage, must be approved by the Superintendent. Do not plan on hanging food as a method of storage since trees can be sparse in many areas. Keep your belongings with you: a pack or clothing left unattended invites curious bears. Not only will your belongings likely be destroyed, but the bear may also learn to associate such items with interesting smells or, even worse, food. Kitchen areas should be sited approximately 100 meters downwind from campsites. Keep tents, sleeping bags, and personal gear free of food odors. The carrying of EPA-approved pepper spray and installing electric fences around field camps are recommended as additional precautions. Report all human-bear conflicts to Park staff as soon as possible. Additional information may be found in the [Bear Safety in Alaska's National Parklands](#) brochure (<http://www.nps.gov/katm/planyourvisit/upload/bearsafe-2.pdf>).

Wilderness

Most lands within KATM are designated wilderness. Additional lands in ANIA and KATM are suitable wilderness. All studies and research activities in designated and suitable wilderness are subject to "minimum requirements" analyses as described in the Wilderness Act. For areas managed as wilderness, specific restrictions may affect the approval of transportation methods, field work timing and frequency, group size, base camp locations, installations or structures, and the use of motorized tools. Activities should be limited to the minimum necessary to meet the objectives of your approved proposal. For more information, please refer to the [Wilderness Research in Alaska's National Parks](#) at <http://www.nps.gov/akso/science.html>.

Transportation

Fixed-wing Aircraft - Aircraft use will comply with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and guidelines. All research activities involving aircraft use should maintain a minimum altitude of 1,000 feet above ground level, except during takeoff, landing, or when required for safe operations. This is to reduce any potential interference or impact on wildlife, visitor uses, and sensitive resource areas. As much as possible, flights should use minimum distances between points within the park. Other restrictions or permissions may be identified within the permit (for example: avoidance of critical areas or low-altitude surveys). Non-NPS researchers who make advance arrangements to utilize NPS owned or contracted aircraft must meet NPS aviation training requirements.

Helicopter - Helicopter use requires advance approval from the Superintendent. Helicopter flights will be kept to the minimum number required to accomplish field activities. All helicopter activity will be logged (day, time, coordinates of landing site(s)) with data sent to the Research Permit Coordinator within 30 days of activity. The PI is required to contact park dispatch and provide exact dates, times, and locations of helicopter activities as well as helicopter identification information (tail number and description). Flight following may be available with advance notice.

Watercraft - Operation of all watercraft within Park boundaries will be in accordance with United States Coast Guard (USCG) regulations. Vessels used in the study will meet or exceed the minimum safety standards for vessels and associated equipment, including personal floatation devices (PFD's), lights, flares, spill kits, and fire extinguishers.

Snowmachines – Snowmachines may be authorized when adequate snow cover or ice exists.

Other Methods - Conditions will be authorized in the permit.

Fuel Caching – No fuel caching will occur on park lands, except when authorized by the Superintendent in the research permit.

Installations and Field Equipment

All equipment left in the field must be specifically authorized in advance. Authorized installations need to be reported with GPS coordinates to the Research Permit Coordinator within 30 days of activity. A legible label including the researcher's name, study number, and date of installation is required. Labeling the actual installation with a paint pen or engraving is preferred over any form of removable label. Installations should be as unobtrusive as possible and should not interfere with visitor enjoyment of the park. Park staff have the authority to remove unlabeled/unreported installations as abandoned property.

Hazardous Materials

The proper use, care, and disposal of hazardous materials, such as chemicals, preservatives, batteries, and refrigerants, brought into the park remain the responsibility of the PI. Specific authorization must be obtained before using hazardous materials in the park. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the hazardous materials may be requested by the Research Permit Coordinator prior to entering the Park. The PI will properly contain, dispose of, and remove all hazardous materials from the Park by the end of the permitted period. Any hazardous material spill must be reported to Park personnel. Spills will be cleaned up in accordance with all applicable state and federal environmental quality laws.

Hunting & Fishing

When encountering people engaged in sport or subsistence pursuits, such as fishing or hunting, do not approach unless invited to do so. Do not interfere with their activities or take actions that could spook fish or game or otherwise prevent them from being successful in their endeavors. An Alaska sport fishing or hunting license is required for activities within certain parklands. It is the responsibility of the PI to know what regulations apply in different parts of each park unit, as well as bag and possession limits.

Safety

PIs should ensure field operations are conducted safely. PIs should brief their team regarding potential hazards, mitigations (such as personal protective equipment), and communications. If the PI needs additional information about park hazards, please contact the Research Permit Coordinator. All projects with NPS staff involvement must submit a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) to the research permit coordinator annually.