



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Katmai National Park & Preserve
P.O. Box 7
King Salmon, Alaska 99613-0007
Phone (907) 246-3305
Fax (907) 246-2116



To be available for public review at the Brooks Camp Visitor Center, park headquarters and made digitally available on Katmai National Park and Preserve's public facing website.

Memorandum

Effective date: July 1, 2022

To: Visitors to Katmai National Park

From: Mark Sturm - Superintendent /s/

Subject: **Brooks River Corridor Backcountry Permit Justification and Public Information**

In 1931, the area that includes Brooks Camp was added to then Katmai National Monument "...for the protection of the brown bear, moose and other wild animals."

Visitation to the Brooks Camp area of Katmai National Park has more than doubled over the past decade. In addition, the types of activities today's visitors to Brooks Camp engage in have changed in fundamental ways. These changes are particularly noticeable in the Brooks River Corridor where photographers and wildlife viewers have joined anglers in unprecedented numbers. Consequently, the NPS has identified visitor safety concerns as well as concerns over impacts to park resources, resulting from these changes. These concerns include large numbers of visitors frequently impacting bear movements and bear access to river resources, visitors putting themselves in unsafe proximity to bears or bears acquiring fish off an angler's line or obtaining unattended items left in the river corridor. There are also known and sensitive cultural resources of national importance in the river corridor that are increasingly being exposed to visitor impacts. Due to the concerns identified here, Katmai National Park has established a permit system for visitor's wanting to conduct activities the Brooks River Corridor.

36 CFR Section 13.1242 authorizes the Superintendent of Katmai National Park to prohibit or otherwise restrict activities in the Brooks Camp Developed Area to protect public health and safety or park resources. Therefore, at this time, visitors who wish to conduct activities in the Brooks River Corridor beginning July 1, 2022 until October 31, 2022 must first obtain a permit to do so. Katmai National Park held a corresponding public meeting on February 14, 2020 about potentially implementing a permit system. This document hereby serves as written determination justifying this action and will be maintained available for review at the park's visitor centers, headquarters as well as online at www.nps.gov.

The requirement to obtain a permit ensures that visitors conducting activities in the Brooks River Corridor are fully informed of the rules that must be followed while in the corridor to enhance public safety and resource protection.

Process for obtaining a Brooks River Corridor permit:

Brooks River Corridor permits will be issued online at the recreation.gov website. Permits are valid for seven consecutive days and each permit is good for groups of between 1 and 6 individuals. Permits are unlimited and are available upon demand between June 28, 2022 and October 31, 2022.

Individuals wishing to obtain a Brooks River Corridor permit while at Brooks Camp may do so by stopping by at the Brooks Camp Visitor Center during operating hours where they will be able to access recreation.gov. Visitors wishing to obtain a permit will need to review the permit conditions and agree to its terms. Upon completing this process a permit will be issued. A \$6 expanded amenity recreation fee will be charged by recreation.gov at the time a permit is issued. Visitors arriving after NPS business hours each day may have to wait until the following morning to obtain a permit.

Brooks River Corridor Definition And Additional Information:

The permit is required to conduct activities within the Brooks River Corridor between July 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, with the exception of redbird fishery subsistence activities. The Brooks River Corridor includes the river itself plus 50 yards from the water's edge on either side along the banks from the inlet at Lake Brooks downstream to the elevated bridge and boardwalk.

A permit is not required on Brooks Camp Developed Area graveled roads and trails, boardwalks or viewing platforms.

A permit is also not required to conduct activities in the segment of the Brooks River downstream from the elevated bridge and boardwalk.