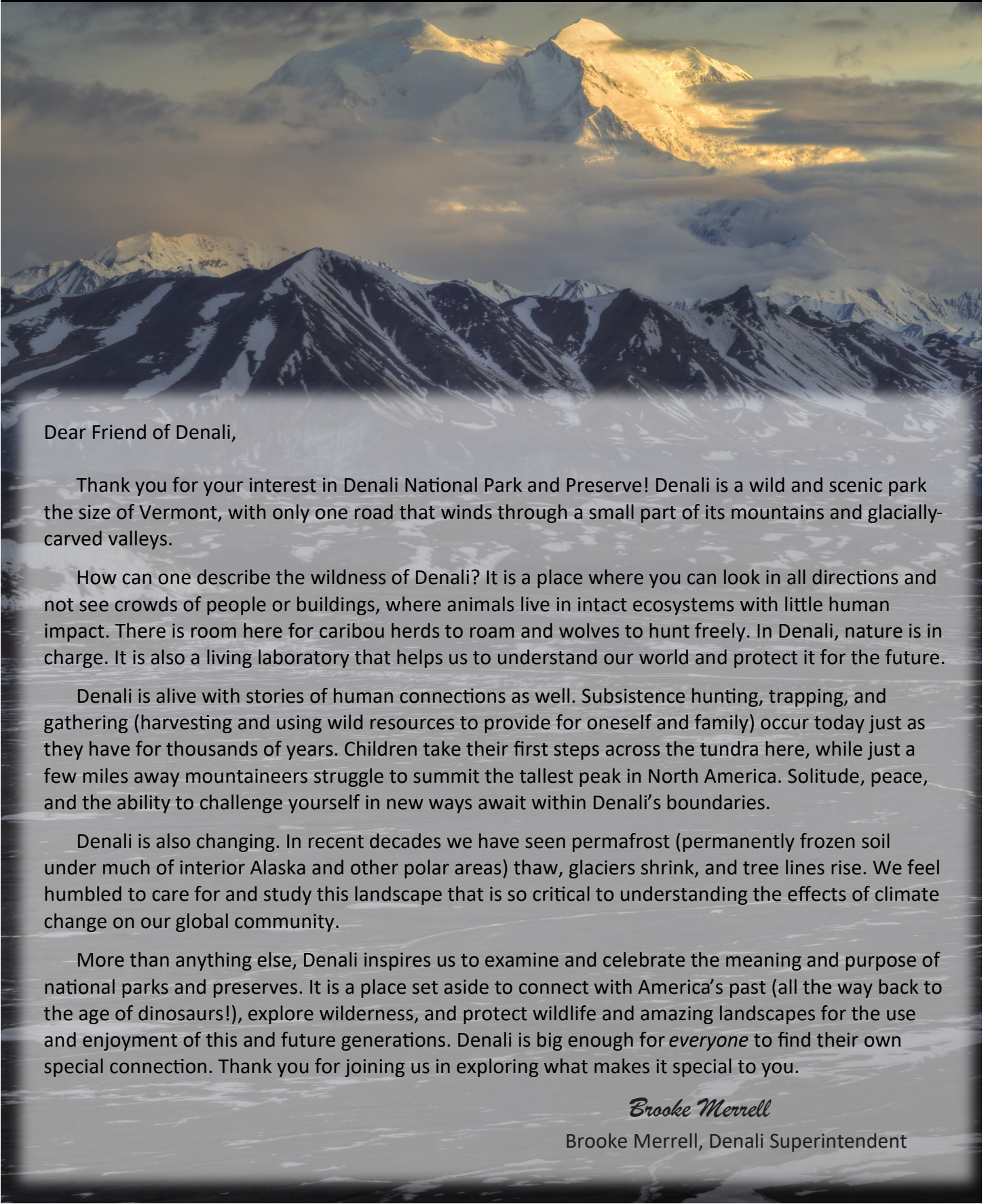


Denali National Park and Preserve

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Dear Friend of Denali,

Thank you for your interest in Denali National Park and Preserve! Denali is a wild and scenic park the size of Vermont, with only one road that winds through a small part of its mountains and glacially-carved valleys.

How can one describe the wildness of Denali? It is a place where you can look in all directions and not see crowds of people or buildings, where animals live in intact ecosystems with little human impact. There is room here for caribou herds to roam and wolves to hunt freely. In Denali, nature is in charge. It is also a living laboratory that helps us to understand our world and protect it for the future.

Denali is alive with stories of human connections as well. Subsistence hunting, trapping, and gathering (harvesting and using wild resources to provide for oneself and family) occur today just as they have for thousands of years. Children take their first steps across the tundra here, while just a few miles away mountaineers struggle to summit the tallest peak in North America. Solitude, peace, and the ability to challenge yourself in new ways await within Denali's boundaries.

Denali is also changing. In recent decades we have seen permafrost (permanently frozen soil under much of interior Alaska and other polar areas) thaw, glaciers shrink, and tree lines rise. We feel humbled to care for and study this landscape that is so critical to understanding the effects of climate change on our global community.

More than anything else, Denali inspires us to examine and celebrate the meaning and purpose of national parks and preserves. It is a place set aside to connect with America's past (all the way back to the age of dinosaurs!), explore wilderness, and protect wildlife and amazing landscapes for the use and enjoyment of this and future generations. Denali is big enough for *everyone* to find their own special connection. Thank you for joining us in exploring what makes it special to you.

Brooke Merrell

Brooke Merrell, Denali Superintendent

Learn More

The best way to explore Denali from home is on our website,
www.nps.gov/dena
We recommend getting started on the pages below.

Wildlife

Denali helps protect 39 species of mammals, 169 species of birds, and one amphibian! Have you heard of Denali's "Big Five" mammals? Discover your favorite five Denali animals and learn about the health of their populations at:

go.nps.gov/denali_wildlife



Wilderness

Denali is a rare place where you can experience wilderness, a natural and intact landscape protected from modern development. Some of the land within its boundaries is well known and studied, but much of it is full of mystery. What does wilderness mean to you?

go.nps.gov/denali_wilderness

Mountaineering

Mount McKinley is the tallest mountain in North America, at 20,310 feet tall. It is a particularly difficult mountain to climb because of its frigid temperatures and punishing weather. What does it take to climb The Great One? Would you want to try?

go.nps.gov/denali_mountaineering



Sled Dogs

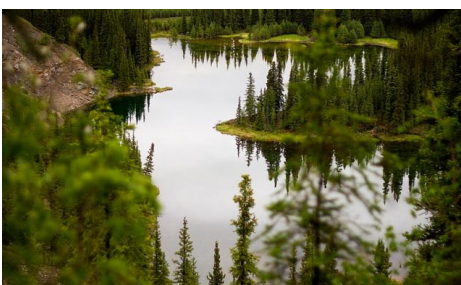
For over a century, Denali has used sled dogs to preserve Alaskan traditions and protect the wilderness from degradation. Denali's huskies are born to love running and travel over a thousand miles each winter. What traits make a Denali sled dog different than most pet dogs?

go.nps.gov/denali_sleddogs

Geology

Did you know that Denali protects fossils from the age of dinosaurs and massive, valley-carving glaciers? Learn about earthquakes, the Alaska Range, permafrost, and the largest creatures ever to roam Denali:

go.nps.gov/denali_geology



Plants

Vascular plants, mosses, and lichens provide food and shelter for wildlife in Denali. They also add to the immense beauty of the park's tundra and taiga ecosystems. Discover the largest of spruce trees and the smallest of bluebells... and everything in between!

go.nps.gov/denali_plants