

Fact Sheet

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
PO Box 439, Copper Center, AK 99573
www.nps.gov/wrst

Superintendent Ben Bobowski

Established December 1, 1978 Designated National Monument
October 24, 1979 Designated World Heritage Site
December 2, 1980 Designated National Park and Preserve

Size Largest national park in the United States

Park	8,323,148 acres	13,004.9 square miles	(33,683 square kilometers)
Preserve	4,852,753 acres	7,582.4 square miles	(19,637 square kilometers)
Total	13,175,901 acres	20,587.3 square miles	(53,602 square kilometers)

Wilderness	9,431,741 acres	14,737.1 square miles	(38,169 square kilometers)
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Visitation Approximately 87,000 people per year

NPS Staffing Permanent: approximately 40
Seasonal: approximately 75

Park Roads Nabesna Road: 42 miles (68 kilometers) in length, gravel
McCarthy Road: 59 miles (98 kilometers) in length, gravel

Landmarks	Elevation above Sea Level	
Copper Center Visitor Center	1150 feet	350.5 meters
Kennecott Mines Nat. Historic Landmark	2000 feet	609.6 meters
Slana Ranger Station	2198 feet	670.0 meters
Yakutat District Office	33 feet	10.0 meters
Mt. St. Elias	18,008 feet	5488.8 meters
Mt. Bona	16,421 feet	5005.1 meters
Mt. Blackburn	16,390 feet	4995.7 meters
Mt. Sanford	16,237 feet	4949.0 meters
Mt. Churchill	15,638 feet	4766.5 meters

Flora Vascular Plants: 1318 taxa documented
Tree Species: 8
Lichens: 133 species documented
Bryophytes (mosses and liverworts): 187 documented

Wildlife Species Mammals: 54
Birds: 239
Fish: 88
Amphibians: 2 (wood frog and boreal toad)
Reptiles: 0
Insects: 56

The Copper River Length: 290 miles (467 km)
Elevation drop: 3,600 feet (1,097 meters) from source to sea
Discharge: estimated at 61,000 cubic feet (1,727 cubic meters) per second
Daily Sediment Load: 750,000 cubic feet (21,238 cubic meters)
Fourth siltiest river in the world
Only major river to penetrate the Chugach Mountain Range.
Spawning corridor for famous Copper River Sockeye and Chinook Salmon

Mountain Ranges Alaska Mountain Range
Chugach Mountain Range
Wrangell Mountain Range
St. Elias Mountain Range (highest coastal range in the world)

Volcanoes 12 volcanoes in the park (The Wrangell Volcanic Field)
Highest and largest active volcano outside of Hawaii in the United States:
Mt. Wrangell at 14,163 feet / 4,317 meters) elevation and composed of 250
cubic miles (1,042 cubic km) of lava

Glaciers Greatest concentration of glaciers in North America.
3.3 million acres (13335 sq km), or 33%, of Wrangell-St Elias is covered by glacial ice
Longest valley glacier in North America:
Nabesna Glacier at 54 miles (87 km) in length
Largest piedmont glacier in the world:
Malaspina Glacier at 1,500 square miles (3,885 square km) in area
Largest sub-polar icefield in North America:
Bagley Icefield at 127 miles (204 km) in length
Longest tidewater glacier in North America:
Hubbard Glacier at 76 miles (122 km) in length

Weather

Winter

Average January minimum temperature	-13.9 F	-25.5 C
Record January minimum temperature	-65.0 F	-53.9 C

Summer

Average July maximum temperature	68.0 F	20.0 C
Record July maximum temperature	91.0 F	32.8 C

Rain

Average annual rainfall	10.9 in	27.7 cm
Record annual rainfall	14.9 in	37.8 cm

Snow

Average annual snowfall	50.4 in	128.0 cm
Record annual snowfall	93.9 in	238.5 cm

(Weather data collected from Gulkana Airport.)