



# United States Department of the Interior



## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Denali National Park & Preserve  
Mile 237 Parks Highway  
P.O. Box 9  
Denali Park, AK 99755

S7215

Denali Citizens Council  
PO Box 78  
Denali Park, AK 99755

November 27, 2018

Dear Board of Directors,

Thank you for your October 22, 2018 letter outlining your concerns regarding the Vehicle Management Plan (VMP) and traffic on the Denali Park Road. The following information is in response to your inquiries.

Denali is in the process of implementing a new method in 2019 to record and store road use data from the Savage Check Station (SCS) in an effort to improve the park's ability to analyze SCS data more efficiently. It is anticipated that the new method will allow SCS data to be "near-time", allowing park staff to analyze pre quality controlled data within days of its collection. The new method will likely decrease the time investment required to verify the SCS dataset, with an anticipated increase in the park's ability to use and report information.

The 2017 Vehicle Management Plan (VMP) report is delayed in being publicly available. Denali park management has reviewed and approved the final document and it is in the queue to be published to the NPS Integrated Resource Management Applications (IRMA) website. Denali is committed to timely reporting of the science that helps inform management decisions and is forwarding a pre-publication copy of the 2017 VMP report along with the 2018 VMP Score Card. Our goal remains to publish annual VMP results in the spring following the year of its collection.

Budget constraints and staffing directly affected the park's ability to quality control and verify the large amount of data collected at the SCS. The 2017 SCS data were verified in October 2018 (and are presented in the 2017 VMP report). We have hired a contractor to verify 2018 data, which should be completed by January 2019. Statistics related to *36 C.F.R. 13.932* (up to 2017) are reported below. Additional requests for SCS datasets can be sent to the Superintendent.

The park's transportation concessionaire provides ridership reports each year, which include bus capacity statistics. A typical bus holds 48 passengers. Tundra Wilderness Tours had fewer available seats in 2018 than in 2017.

2018:

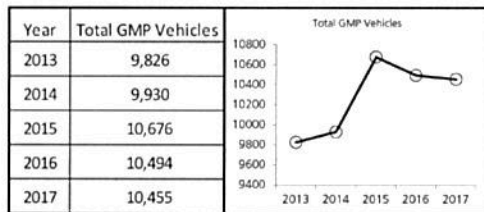
- There were 2,813 TWTs;
- Average of 46.2 passengers ticketed;
- Average of 45.1 actual passengers (some tickets holders fail to use their ticket).

2017:

- There were 2,705 TWTs;
- Average of 45.9 passengers ticketed;
- Average of 44.6 actual passengers.

Sheep gap compliance is a primary concern of park management. Analyses have been presented to the management team and relayed to park stakeholders and road users. As forecasted in the VMP, it will take an adaptive management framework and a multilateral approach to meet specific and cumulative standards for desired conditions.

Total vehicles from 2013-2017 do not reflect a continued increase in vehicle traffic:



The Denali Commercial Services program is currently coordinating with the JV to update the central booking site ([reservedenali.com](http://reservedenali.com)) to inform visitors of all transportation options. This will be complete by December 1, 2018 for the 2019 summer season.

Sincerely,

Don Striker, Superintendent