

Denali's Alpine Wildlife and Climate Change

Denali National Park and Preserve

August 7 - 9, 2020

Course Description

The alpine tundra is home to many animals such as pikas, marmots, and Dall sheep that spend their entire lives above treeline. Yet recent evidence has shown rapid advance of shrubs and trees into the tundra. What might this, as well as rising temperatures and other consequences of climate change, mean for Denali's alpine wildlife? Join wildlife biologist Jedediah Brodie for a behind the scenes look at his current research to try to find out. We'll hike through the tundra and learn all about the animals that live there while looking for signs of their presence. We'll learn methods used by scientists to document the distribution of alpine wildlife and get hands on experience as citizen scientists by collecting data for the current study.

Hiking Distances and Physical Fitness

Field courses are active learning experiences and take place off trail in Denali's wilderness. Hiking will be moderately strenuous over uneven tundra, forest, and river bar terrain, covering distances of approximately 5 miles round trip with as much as 1,500 feet of elevation gain. We will likely encounter wet tundra / forest conditions and stream crossings with water levels that are above hiking boots. **Participants must be in good physical condition.** If you are uncertain about your physical ability for this course, please contact us for more information.

Times and Location

Participants meet at the Murie Science and Learning Center, located at mile 1 of the Park Road. This course begins at 6:30 pm on the first day and ends at 4:00 pm on the last day.

Lodging and Meals

This course is based out of the Murie Science and Learning Center Field Camp, located 29 miles inside Denali National Park along the Teklanika River. The Field Camp includes rustic tent cabins and a common dining tent. Family-style meals are simple and healthy.

Accreditation

The University of Alaska Anchorage offers one professional development credit (level 500) for an additional \$74 fee. The 10% membership discount does not apply to the credit fee.

Questions?

More detailed information about this course can be found by opening the other documents in the "course details" tab on the website.

If you have other questions, please contact the Murie Science and Learning Center by email courses@alaskageographic.org or by calling (907) 683-6432.