



### **Boreal Forest Ecology**

Denali National Park and Preserve

May 31 – June 2, 2024

#### **Course Description**

Explore the forests of Denali to better understand how they function, thrive, and handle challenges such as insect outbreak or fire. Wander in and out of the woods observing changes in plant communities and variation in forest structure across otherwise subtle boundaries of soil condition. With Denali National Park Fire Ecologist Sarah Stehn, we'll meet and greet several key players (e.g., plant species) in forest function, both at the ragged edge and in the heart of subarctic forest ecosystems. We'll investigate the interconnections between the biotic (plants and animals) and abiotic (soils and topography) worlds and learn more about how forests change over time and space.

#### **Hiking Distances and Physical Fitness**

Field courses are active learning experiences and take place off trail in Denali's wilderness. Hiking may be moderately strenuous over uneven tundra, forest, and river bar terrain, covering distances of up to 3 - 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 Denali Park Road. Check-in starts at 6:00pm on Friday. The course begins at 6:30pm and will return to the park entrance area around 4pm on Sunday.

#### **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 outhouses. Meals are simple and healthy.

#### **Accreditation**

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) offers one professional development credit (level 500) for an additional \$79 fee. You must register for the credit directly with UAA. Please see our website for registration directions.

#### **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@akgeo.org](mailto:courses@akgeo.org) or by calling (907) 683-6432.

