

scheduled for September 19–21, 1995 by a notice published on August 30, 1995 (60 FR 45111). The meeting will be rescheduled at a later date.

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This document was prepared under the direction of Joseph A. Dear, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210, pursuant to section 3 of the Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1990, 104 Stat. 4969, Title 5 U.S.C. 561 et seq.; and Section 7(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, 84 Stat. 1597, Title 29 U.S.C. 656.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 7th day of Sept., 1995.

Joseph A. Dear,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 95-22690 Filed 9-12-95; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

36 CFR PART 13

RIN 1024-AC31

Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed Rule.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing regulations to require mountain climbers to register a minimum of 60 days before any climb on Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker in Denali National Park, Alaska. Mountaineering in the park has increased dramatically over the last ten years. The number of climbers on Mount McKinley has risen from 695 in 1984 to 1277 in 1994 and 1,220 in 1995. Climbing-related injuries and deaths have correspondingly increased. By requiring advance registration, the Denali park staff will be able to provide information to prospective mountaineers in advance of their climb. This may include information on the

specific dangers they may face, how to prepare and equip, other safety related issues, and requirements concerning resource protection issues such as litter removal and human waste disposal. Currently, climbers are required to register, but may do so as late as the day they depart for the mountain.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted through November 13, 1995.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, PO Box 9, Denali National Park, AK 99755.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Martin, Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 9, Denali National Park, AK 99755.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Denali National Park was first established as Mt. McKinley National Park on February 26, 1917. A separate Denali National Monument was proclaimed on December 1, 1978. These two park areas were combined, reconfigured and established as Denali National Park and Preserve on December 2, 1980, encompassing approximately 6.5 million acres. Prior to achieving its current configuration, the land the park now encompasses was recognized for its unique ecological value and designated an International Biosphere Reserve in 1976. That designation has since been expanded to encompass the entire 6.5 million acre park and preserve. The park contains North America's highest mountain, 20,320 foot Mount McKinley. Mount Foraker, at 17,400 feet, and numerous large glaciers of the Alaska Range are also a part of this park's subarctic ecosystem. Wildlife includes caribou, Dall sheep, moose, grizzly bears and wolves.

The first ascent of Mount McKinley occurred in 1913. Climbing continued to be a popular activity, although on a small scale, after the park was established. However, during the last ten years, mountaineering in the park has increased dramatically. The number of Mount McKinley climbers has risen from 695 in 1984 to 1277 in 1994 and 1,220 in 1995. With the numbers of climbers increasing, the number of accidents, rescues and resource related problems have also increased. Since 1932, a total of 85 mountaineers have perished on the slopes of Mount McKinley; 28 percent of these deaths (24) have occurred since 1990. Recent years have also seen an increase in climbing related deaths on Mount Foraker and the other Alaska Range peaks located in the park. In 1990, eight

mountaineers were rescued on Mount McKinley. In sharp contrast, the number of mountaineers rescued increased to 28 in 1992, 27 in 1994 and 21 in 1995. Studies by the NPS showed that the major reason climbers got into trouble on the mountain and required rescue was their unfamiliarity with the hazards unique to Mount McKinley. Specifically, extreme weather conditions, weather changeability and the other hazards associated with climbing in such northerly latitudes caught the climbers unprepared. The NPS determined that climbers need better education and information prior to their climbs and that an appropriate time frame was necessary to convey this information to the climbing community. Climbers from 38 countries registered to climb Mount McKinley in 1995. With so many climbers seeking permits, adequate lead time required to fulfill the requests lengthens. The 60 day pre-registration period will provide sufficient opportunity for the Denali park staff to provide the necessary information to prospective mountaineers on the dangers they may face climbing in the park, how to prepare and equip themselves for the climb, other safety related issues and requirements concerning resource protection issues such as litter removal and human waste disposal.

When this proposed rule becomes final, it will replace the interim rule that was published on March 31, 1995, in the **Federal Register**. (60 FR 16579).

Public Participation

The policy of the National Park Service is, whenever practicable, to afford the public an opportunity to participate in the rule making process. Accordingly, interested persons may submit written comments regarding this proposed rule to the address noted at the beginning of this rule making. Comments must be received on or before November 13, 1995. The NPS will review all comments and consider making changes to the rule based upon a thorough analysis of the comments.

Drafting Information

The primary authors of this rule are Dennis Burnett, Washington Office of Ranger Activities and Brenda Bussard of Denali National Park and Preserve, National Park Service.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain information collection requirements which require approval by the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

Compliance With Other Laws

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866. The Department of the Interior determined that this document will not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 USC 601 *et seq.*). The economic effects of this rulemaking are local in nature and negligible in scope.

The NPS has determined that this proposed rulemaking will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, health and safety because it is not expected to:

- (a) Increase public use to the extent of compromising the nature and character of the area or causing physical damage to it;
- (b) Introduce incompatible uses which compromise the nature and character of the area or causing physical damage to it;
- (c) Conflict with adjacent ownerships or land uses; or
- (d) Cause a nuisance to adjacent owners or occupants.

Based on this determination, and in accord with the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and by Departmental Regulations in 516 DM 6, (49 FR 21438) an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared.

List of Subjects in 36 CFR Part 13

Alaska, National Parks, reporting and record keeping requirements.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is proposed to amend 36 CFR chapter I, part 13 as follows:

PART 13—NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM UNITS IN ALASKA

Subpart C—Special Regulations—Specific Park Areas in Alaska

1. The authority citation for part 13 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1, 3, 462(k), 3101 *et seq.*; § 13.65(b) also issued under 16 U.S.C. 1361, 1531.

§ 13.63 [Amended]

2. Section 13.63 is amended by revising paragraph (f) to read as follows:

* * * * *

(f) *Mountain climbing.* Climbing on Mount McKinley or Mount Foraker without registering, on a form provided by the Superintendent, at least 60 days in advance of any climb is prohibited.

Dated: August 23, 1995.
George T. Frampton, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.
 [FR Doc. 95-22749 Filed 9-12-95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 955

Rules of Practice Before the Board of Contract Appeals

AGENCY: Board of Contract Appeals, Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document contains proposed revisions to certain rules of practice of the Postal Service Board of Contract Appeals (Board). These revisions would implement provisions of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, which amended the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, under which the Board adjudicates contract disputes. These revisions would increase the maximum amount that may be in dispute for appeals to qualify for consideration under the small claims and accelerated procedures of boards of contract appeals.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 13, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed or delivered to the Judicial Officer Department, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260-6100. Comments received will be available at the above address for inspection and photocopying between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis E. Wiessner, Jr., or J. Brett Golden, 202-268-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This document contains proposed revisions to the rules of practice of the Postal Service Board of Contract Appeals (Board). These revisions would implement certain provisions of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-355) (FASA), which amended sections 8(f) and 9(a) of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601-613), under which the Board adjudicates contract disputes. These revisions would increase the maximum amount that may be in dispute for appeals to qualify for consideration under the small claims and accelerated procedures of boards of contract appeals.

The Postmaster General has delegated to the Board the authority to adopt and issue rules necessary to resolve contract disputes under the Contract Disputes Act of 1978. 39 CFR 955.1(d).

Effective Date

Pursuant to sections 10001 and 10002 of the FASA, the Board proposes to make the revised rules, as well as sections 2351(c) and (d) of the FASA, applicable to all pending appeals and to those appeals filed on or after October 1, 1995. However, comments will be considered for November 13, 1995.

Proposed Changes

The monetary limit of the eligibility requirement for the small claims (expedited) procedure is increased from \$10,000 to \$50,000 (39 CFR 955.13(b)(1), (c)(1)). The monetary limit of the eligibility requirement for the accelerated procedure is increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 (39 CFR 955.13(b)(2), (d)(1), (d)(3)).

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 955

Administrative practices and procedure, Postal Service.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Postal Service proposes to amend 39 CFR part 955 as follows:

PART 955—RULES OF PRACTICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 955 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401; 41 U.S.C. 607, 608.

2. Section 955.9 is amended by revising the second sentence to read as follows:

§ 955.9 Hearing election.

* * * In appropriate cases, the appellant shall also elect whether he desires the optional small claims (expedited) procedure or accelerated procedure prescribed in § 955.13.

§ 955.13 [Removed]

3. Section 955.13 is removed.

§ 955.36 [Redesignated as § 955.13]

4. Section 955.36 is redesignated as § 955.13 and amended by revising the first sentence of paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2); by revising paragraph (c)(1) and the first sentence of (c)(2)(ii) and the fourth sentence of paragraph (c)(4); by revising paragraph (d)(1) and the third sentence of (d)(3); by revising paragraph (e); and by adding paragraph (f), as follows: