

# STATE OF ALASKA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

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**GOVERNOR**

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June 17, 2003

Robin West  
Refuge Manager  
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 2139 Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Mr. West:

State agencies noted with interest that the June 13, 2003, article in the Anchorage Daily News regarding the loss of the Finger Lake Cabin contained a brief reference to a cabin management plan that is underway. The State of Alaska is concerned that we have received no notification of such a plan, and we request opportunities to be involved.

As you know, use of refuge-managed cabins is integral to many public uses of the refuge, including hunting, fishing, trapping and other pursuits. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act stresses routine State consultation in refuge management plans and their revisions. Section 304(g)(2)(C) also required the Service to identify and describe "areas within the refuge that are suitable for use as administrative sites or visitor facilities, or for visitor services, as provided for in sections 1305 and 1306 of this Act;" as part of the comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) process. Any CCP revisions addressing these are expected to similarly include the state's participation. In addition to various agreements to coordinate management decisions that affect our respective responsibilities, Director's Order #148 requires close cooperation with state fish and wildlife agencies.

To help us get up to speed on Kenai Refuge cabin management and planning, we request the following information at your earliest convenience:

- Any refuge cabin inventories, particularly since passage of ANILCA
- Existing refuge cabin policy(s) for public and administrative use
- Existing public information regarding location and use of refuge-managed cabins
- Scope and status of the cabin management plan that is underway

Thank you for attention to this request. I will be out of the office the rest of this week, returning on Monday June 22. If you have any questions, please call 907-269-7477 after that date.

Sincerely,

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Sally Gibert  
State ANILCA Coordinator