

STATE OF ALASKA

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ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

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March 5, 2004

Joe Fowler
Superintendent
Katmai National Park and Preserve
Post Office Box 7
King Salmon, Alaska 99615

Dear Mr. Fowler:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the February, 2004 Environmental Assessment addressing the Alaska Volcano Observatory's proposal to install and maintain volcano seismic stations on national park lands in Katmai, Lake Clark and Aniakchak park units. This letter represents the consolidated views of the state's resource agencies.

The State of Alaska wholeheartedly supports the proposal outlined in the preferred alternative. The expanded and upgraded seismic monitoring stations are clearly important in advancing public safety and research in this region of high volcanic activity. We appreciate that the Alaska Volcano Observatory and the National Park Service have sufficiently considered the potential impacts of this project and adopted appropriate measures to mitigate these impacts. In particular, we appreciate that the Service recognizes the dependence of this project on helicopter access to reach these very remote sites every few years. The long term public benefits of this project far outweigh the very minor site-specific impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please call me at 907-269-7477.

Sincerely,

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Sally Gibert
State ANILCA Coordinator

cc: Joel Hard, Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
Helen Lons, Katmai National Park and Preserve
Bud Rice, NPS Alaska Support Office
Chris Nye, Alaska Volcano Observatory
Terry Smith, SOA Div of Homeland Security and Emergency Management