

STATE OF ALASKA

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Dave Mills
Superintendent
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
201 First Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Mr. Mills: *Dave*

The State of Alaska has reviewed the June 2005 Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing Installation of Climate Monitoring Stations in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. This letter represents the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies.

The State of Alaska supports the proposed installation of the climate monitoring stations. The gathering of scientific information is an important purpose of the National Park System (Section 202 of the National Park Service Omnibus Act Management Act of 1998). Furthermore, ANILCA recognized the scientific values of the Yukon-Charley unit in Section 201(10). We appreciate that the Service recognizes the importance of gathering climatological data in relation to the negligible effects on the resources and values of the unit.

While not affecting the decision proposed in this EA, the State objects to the statement in the middle of page 7: "*NPS policies require that the Wilderness Act Section 4(C) minimum requirements analysis applies for any such installation proposed in the Charley River basin as it is a wilderness study area.*" In particular, we are concerned that there is no recognition of ANILCA 1317(c) that modifies application of this national policy for Alaska. National policies cannot override statutory direction. We understand the national policies are currently undergoing revision. We expect to address this larger issue in the context of this national revision and/or through the Alaska Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Sally Gibert
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ANILCA Program Coordinator