

STATE OF ALASKA

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting

SARAH PALIN, Governor

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May 28, 2008

National Park Service
Katmai National Park and Preserve
Attn: Helen Lons
P.O. Box 7
King Salmon, AK 99613

Dear Ms. Lons:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Brooks River Area Communications Upgrade and Bear Viewing Web Camera Installation Environmental Assessment (EA) for Katmai National Park and Preserve. The following consolidated state agency comments cover Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)-related issues and other state interests, excluding coastal zone management, which will be addressed, as applicable, by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Coastal and Ocean Management.

The State supports the intent of the proposed project to provide both a reliable communications infrastructure to the Brooks Camp facility for the benefit of staff and visitors and a unique opportunity for individuals off-site to view bears in their natural habitat. While we do not foresee the proposal having any measurable impacts on subsistence uses and do not expect the outcome of the EA to be affected as a result of the following comments regarding the Section 810 analysis, they are included to clarify the proposed action as well as for reference for anticipated discussions with the Service on these and related Section 810 comments submitted on other recent EAs.

Page 40, first full paragraph: While authorized under separate legislation subsequent to ANILCA, it may be appropriate to reference the traditional red fish fishery pursuant to 36 CFR 13.1204 in this section as it is an authorized subsistence use in Katmai National Park.

Page 41, Habitat Loss, third sentence: The State is responsible for maintaining the sustainability of fish and wildlife on all lands in Alaska, except as superseded by federal law. We request this section be revised as follows:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is responsible for maintaining the sustainability of fish and wildlife on all lands in Alaska. ADF&G administers the harvest of fish and wildlife, including for subsistence purposes, except as superseded by federal law. Provisions of ANILCA, the Federal Subsistence Board, and NPS regulations and policies provide the additional tools for protection of fish and wildlife populations within Katmai National Preserve while ensuring a subsistence priority for local rural residents.

Page 41, Habitat Loss, last sentence;

Page 41, Restriction of Access, last sentence; and

Page 41, Increase in Competition, last sentence: ANILCA provides the opportunity for a consumptive subsistence priority when “*necessary to restrict taking in order to assure the continued viability of a fish or wildlife population or the continuation of subsistence uses of such population*” (ANILCA Section 802(2)). If the intent of this sentence is limited to this provision of ANILCA, we recommend the following revision:

The Superintendent may enact closures and/or restrictions on take if necessary to protect subsistence ~~opportunities~~ uses or to assure the continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife population.

Page 41, Restriction of Access, second sentence: This sentence states “*All rights of access for subsistence harvest on National Park Service lands are granted by Section 811 of ANILCA.*” [emphasis added] Since other entities have the authority to impose access limits; e.g., the Alaska Board of Game might seasonally restrict motorized use for hunting big game, we recommend deleting the word “All.”

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to discussions regarding these and other Section 810-related comments as noted above. Please contact me at (907) 269-7529 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator