

STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, Governor

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting

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June 2, 2008

Meg Jensen, Superintendent
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 439
Copper Center, AK 99573

Dear Ms. Jensen:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Spring 2008 ORV Planning Newsletter regarding scoping for an Environmental Impact Statement to address management of recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) use on nine trails in the Nabesna area within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. This letter represents the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies.

The State is supportive of this planning effort, especially the comprehensive public outreach built into the process, and appreciates the Service's objective to address trail degradation while continuing to provide reasonable access opportunities in the Nabesna area for recreation, subsistence and inholdings.

We also appreciate the Service has begun working with the State's Division of Habitat to assess resource concerns at anadromous stream crossings and acknowledge that in certain areas resource conditions that cannot be otherwise addressed may lead to restrictions that affect all user groups, including subsistence. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's November 1995 publication "*Documenting Traditional and Subsistence Access in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve*" may be a useful resource for documenting the history of use in the area for the Section 810 and affected environment analyses.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me at (907) 269-7529 if you have any questions concerning these comments or should questions arise during the planning process.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Project Coordinator

