

# STATE OF ALASKA

**SARAH PALIN, Governor**

**ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM  
Office of Project Management and Permitting**

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December 15, 2008

John Neary, Wilderness Field Manager  
U.S. Forest Service  
Admiralty Island National Monument and  
Juneau Ranger District  
8510 Mendenall Loop Rd.  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Neary:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Scoping Notice for the Pack Creek Zoological Area on Admiralty Island National Monument. The following comments represent the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies.

We appreciate the Service's efforts to work cooperatively with the State and interested groups on this issue. The scoping notice indicates that management actions may be necessary to conserve bear feeding and access areas and maintain wilderness values, while also providing for public uses. While we understand the importance of considering limits, we recommend the purpose for limits focus primarily on conserving critical bear areas and reducing negative bear/human encounters. Protecting the wilderness experience is secondary to the outstanding bear viewing opportunities in this particular location. We also encourage the Service to consider other less restrictive management tools in the planning process so that any public use limits ultimately employed are shown to be a restriction of last resort.

We look forward to working with the Forest Service on this and other issues. Please contact me at (907) 269-7529 if you have any questions on these comments or as the planning process progresses.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Magee  
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator

