



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

ANILCA Implementation Program

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT & PERMITTING

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March 15, 2013

Don Striker
Superintendent
Denali National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 9
Denali Park, AK 99755

Dear Mr. Striker,

The State of Alaska reviewed the Winter Road Plowing Environmental Assessment (EA), dated February 2013, for Denali National Park and Preserve. This letter represents the consolidated views of state agencies.

The proposed project will plow an additional nine miles of Denali Park Road to the Mountain Vista Rest Area at mile 12 beginning in mid-February. We understand that the proposal is for a 3-5 year trial period. No additional trail grooming would occur and winter over-snow trails would continue to be established by users. The proposed project would allow both private and commercial vehicles to travel into the park during times of the year that commercial transportation is not presently available.

As detailed in ANILCA Sec. 202(3)(a), one of the purposes Denali National Park and Preserve is: *"to provide continued opportunities, including reasonable access for mountain climbing, mountaineering and other wilderness recreational activities."* The State encourages opportunities that meet this directive to enhance visitor enjoyment of the park and is supportive of the Service's intent to provide increased opportunities for visitors (both private and commercial) to access an additional nine miles of the Park Road. The State understands that area residents and commercial operators have expressed positive interest in this proposed project that will provide additional winter recreational and viewing opportunities with minimal risk or adverse impacts to the overall Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact me at 907-334-2563 or jennifer.wing@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jennifer Wing

ANILCA Project Coordinator

ecc: Susan Magee, ANILCA Program Coordinator

