

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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File: CSU-NPS-Melozitna

14 May 1982

Mr. Jack Mosby
National Park Service
540 West Fifth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Jack:

The following corrections to the Melozitna draft brochure were received from the State agency reviewers.

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

The following comments refer to the section on Transportation and Access (p. 12). "First, our department's name is the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; also the study referred to at the end is the Western and Arctic Alaska Transportation Study. The transportation and utility corridor just north of the Yukon continues both north and west to the Seward Peninsula. The statement that, 'the Tanana portion would connect with the Anchorage/Fairbanks Highway at Nenana' is misleading. This implies that the corridor referenced is a highway corridor, when in fact it is a transportation corridor that could be for various modes. We suggest changing the statement to read, '...connect with the Anchorage - Fairbanks corridor at Nenana.' This we feel is more accurate since the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad together form a corridor between Anchorage and Fairbanks."

Alaska Power Authority

The following comments refer to Page 24. APA requests that the following information be added. "The Alaska Power Authority has recently received the draft of the energy reconnaissance reports for Galena and Ruby. These reports address, among other energy alternatives, the potential development of a hydroelectric project on the Melozitna River. Three hydroelectric development scenarios were discussed: low head (20MW installed powerhouse capacity), medium head (64MW installed capacity), and high head (104.8MW installed capacity). The scenario best matched to the demands of nearby communities as presently projected is the low head scenario. The economic analysis of this energy alternative compared to the present situation (base camp) indicates that a greater electrical load will be required to make this project economically feasible. Development of mining operations in the area could provide the necessary market for the power which would be available here."

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, FRED Division

Reference Page 14, Par. 4, Line 2: "Phrase 'lower mile' is unclear. Does this mean one mile from the southern end of the study area? On page 3 #3, there is supposed to be sufficient water for water-related outdoor recreation."

Reference Page 8, Par. 5, Line 1: "A map showing the location of the four refuges in relation to the river would be helpful. 'Surrounding' means 'to be on all sides' and it implies that the river may flow through the refuges."

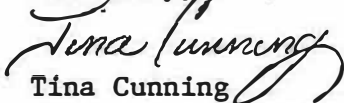
Reference Page 15, Par. 1, Line 2: "The Melozitna River and its tributary, Hot Springs Creek, have good potential for salmon enhancement. Because little is known about the salmon in the Melozitna system, investigations need to be conducted on life history and other related topics. Life history studies on feeding and rearing areas may include (but not limited to) chum and king salmon smolt collection at the mouth of the Melozitna. Depending on the result of these future studies, a site about 12 miles upstream on Hot Springs Creek may be suitable for installing stream incubation boxes or a hatchery. Until additional salmonid research data is available, specific opportunities for fisheries enhancement projects cannot be identified. Delete sentence 'Currently...no fisheries...projects ...River.'"

Reference Page 19, Par. 1, Line 7: "Power boat access for miles 1 - 12 or only 'at...mile 12'?"

Reference Page 21, Par's 1-3: "The description here of vegetation and all types of land form and topography create a visual picture that is better than the presentation under 'Scenic Resources', p. 19-20. Perhaps the two topics of scenic resources, stream flow and water quality could be separated more distinctly."

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft. We hope our comments are of assistance to you. Please let us know if we can provide any further involvement.

Sincerely,



Tina Cunningham
Acting CSU Coordinator

cc: State CSU Contacts

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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File: CSU-NPS-Katmai

14 April 1982

Mr. Terry Carlstrom
National Park Service
540 West Fifth, Room 202
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Terry:

The State CSU Contacts have reviewed the draft Statement for Management for Katmai National Park and Preserve and offer the following specific and general comments:

SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES, pages 2 and 3

1. Katmai has consistently been hunted illegally for trophy bear and moose, and poaching activities are likely to continue to some degree.
2. There are some major fall concentrations of bears in addition to the summer concentrations mentioned.
3. The Katmai ecosystem has evolved with considerable human influences; the impact of humans does not necessarily constitute an unnatural environment.
4. If Katmai is to afford a "laboratory for the observation of natural forces in an undisturbed environment", is the National Park Service contemplating elimination of the following human activities since they all impact the "natural environment":
 - a) commercial salmon fishing
 - b) sport fishing both inside and outside the park
 - c) caribou hunting of the Northern Peninsula herd which uses portions of the park for winter range
 - d) hunting of other species (eg. moose and bear) which commonly move out of the park on a seasonal basis?

Katmai does provide a valuable source for study of "natural systems" in a nearly pristine environment, but the human impacts do not negate this value as long as the impacts are measurable and controllable.

5. The waters of Katmai, including Big Creek and King Salmon Creek, offer fine sport fisheries for other species (grayling, Dolly Varden and salmon) besides rainbows.

6. Caribou, beaver and river otter certainly could be added to the list in paragraph 1, page 3.

LAND USES AND TRENDS, pages 5 - 7

1. Section B, River Float Trips: Takoyofu should read Takayota
2. Section B, River Float Trips: Big Creek can be floated from its headwaters inside the park.
3. Section C. Sport Hunting and Trapping: No reference is made to subsistence hunting.
4. Section C. Sport Hunting and Trapping: If hunting pressures do in fact increase, it may well be more a result of the vast acreage closed to hunting by the federal government and Native corporations, rather than due to loss of wildlife habitat.
5. Section C. Sport Hunting and Trapping: ANILCA provides for minor modifications of park and preserve boundaries (including status changes) and land exchanges. There are several important areas that should be changed to preserve status and consideration of these should be a priority of the National Park Service.
6. Section E. Commercial Clamming: Recreational clam digging is also important.

MAJOR ISSUES, page 7

1. The U. S. Congress recognized subsistence priorities in the 1980 ANILCA legislation. The Statement for Management should recognize subsistence in "the issues of managing consumptive activities".
2. Paragraphs 3 and 6 refer to management of hunting and trapping, but make no reference to the role of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or the Board of Game in the management of wildlife or its consumptive uses. These issues are their responsibility, not the National Park Service's.
3. Paragraph 8 neglects the role of cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in wildlife and fishery management.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, page 8

1. Resource Management. Item #1 will adequately address the needs of the Water Management Section of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources

provided that

- a) a water rights application is filed with the Division of Land and Water Management when water is to be appropriated, and
 - b) an application to modify or construct a dam is filed with the Division of Land and Water Management and no work begins until approval is received for all dams of 10 feet or more in height or with a storage capacity of 50 acre-feet or more.
2. Resource Management. Item #2 could be interpreted as suggesting bear hunting would be prohibited within the preserve. ANILCA states that Katmai shall be managed "to protect habitats for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, high concentrations of brown/grizzly bears and their denning areas;..." ANILCA also specifically recognizes sport hunting and subsistence "shall be permitted in areas designated as national preserves." The State's regulatory process should be used if any changes are contemplated which would affect the uses of fish and wildlife, per your item #5.
3. Resource Management. Item #6 should state "in cooperation with the State."
4. Visitor Use and Interpretation. Item #2 should also address subsistence hunting.


The entire document specifically ignores subsistence mandates or issues, except in the Appendix C listing of ANILCA references!

The major bear-human problem at Brooks Camp is not addressed. It would seem that the mandate to protect habitats for bear concentrations, and the Service's responsibility to the visitor, would necessitate addressing a consideration of a future move of the camp.

The State of Alaska has already transmitted the General Issues List for Conservation System Unit Planning. The Statement for Management does not reflect many of our concerns, ie, permitting procedures, protection of traditional uses and access, fire control, boundary or status changes. However, we acknowledge the Service's recognition of some concerns and cooperative efforts which we have previously requested.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Katmai Statement for Management and hope that we have been, and will continue to be, of assistance to you.

Sincerely,


Sterling Eide
State CSU Coordinator

cc: State CSU Contacts
D. Morris, Superintendent, Katmai NP&P