

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

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267-2202

July 13, 1983

Mr. Roger Contor
Regional Director
National Park Service
540 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Contor:

State Conservation System Units (CSU) Contacts have completed their review of the Aniakchak National Monument/Preserve Draft Statement for Management. Overall, this document appears to be a good overview of National Park Service's (NPS) management intent for Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve.

The Contacts complimented the Statement for being consistent with general recommendations made in the draft Bristol Bay Cooperative Management Plan (BBCMP) for the Monument and Preserve and adjacent state, Native, and refuge lands. However, it is suggested that the management objectives for the preserve also address the draft BBCMP's recommended management of state lands within the monument. The draft BBCMP has identified the state land in the northeast section of the monument as a candidate for a possible land exchange between NPS and the State. The draft BBCMP to be released in July recommends:

State land in Aniakchak Monument and Preserve.

The State of Alaska owns tentatively-approved lands in the northeast corner of the Aniakchak Monument and Preserve. The state lands are bordered by park lands on at least two sides and are not noted as having particular value to the state. In order to facilitate compatible management of the lands within the park, the Study Group has recommended that state lands located within the monument and preserve be transferred to the NPS as part of an exchange. If a land exchange is not possible, a cooperative agreement is recommended to ensure compatible management of the state and federal lands within the monument and preserve.

The draft BBCMP provides a comprehensive base for planning in the Bristol Bay region and in areas adjacent to it. We encourage NPS to continue to use the information provided by the BBCMP planning effort.

Specific comments on the Statement are as follows:

Page 2, paragraph 1: On page 21 it is stated that 614,700 acres of public lands are within the monument/preserve; the figure given here is "approximately 614,400 acres." It would be desirable to keep acreage figures consistent throughout the document.

Page 2, paragraph 3: It is possible to negotiate a jet boat, as well as an inflatable raft, part way up the Aniakchak and Meshik rivers.

Page 6, paragraph 2: ANILCA should also be referenced in this paragraph as being legislation important in the administration of the monument/preserve.

Page 8, Hunting and guiding: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has more specific harvest location data than has been indicated in this section. Moose and caribou harvest data are listed by ADF&G subunit. Although these data have not been summarized for subunits including Aniakchak, such a summary is possible should a management need arise. Brown bear harvest location data are also available for all years, not just prior to 1978. Finally, it should be noted that the only cyclic pattern evident in brown bear harvest data is a result of the hunting season being closed in the area in alternate years.

Page 11, Subsistence: ADF&G has not conducted comprehensive subsistence studies in the vicinity of Aniakchak Monument/Preserve. Harvest data have been collected without specification of subsistence or sport harvest; therefore it is difficult to delineate accurately subsistence use in the area. Any mention of current subsistence harvest data should indicate that such data may be preliminary.

Page 13, paragraph 3: This paragraph does not adequately address the intent of the BBCMP study group in proposing transportation corridors. If the authors consider this paragraph to be necessary, it should be rewritten.

Page 16, paragraphs 2 and 3: These objectives appear to be contradictory to the statements in paragraph #7 of the Major Issues section.

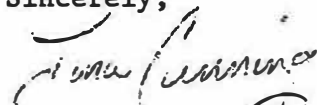
Page 16, Natural Resources: Various salmon species are mentioned as Significant Resources and they are also mentioned under Resource Uses and Trend, however, they are not mentioned under this section of Management Objectives. This is probably an oversight but, for the record, sport fishing should be provided for throughout the preserve.

Page 17, Objective #5: Cooperative agreements should be developed with the State of Alaska through several state agencies, as well as ADF&G and Public Safety.

Page 18, Cultural Resources: The State Historic Preservation Officer agrees with the management objectives for cultural resources as stated in this document.

State CSU Contacts appreciated the opportunity to review this document. We look forward to working with you and your staff in future planning efforts for this and other units of the National Park System in Alaska.

Sincerely,



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Commissioner

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State CSU Assistant

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