

# ALASKA LAND USE COUNCIL

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Anchorage, Alaska 99510

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State Co-Chairman  
Bill Sheffield  
Governor

Federal Co-Chairman  
Vernon R. Wiggins

April 16, 1985

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Alaska Land Use Council  
Anchorage, AK

Mr. Robert Gilmore  
Regional Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Gilmore:

Thank you for your letters of March 29, and April 3, 1985, outlining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) process as it applies to finalization of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). We recognize the constraints placed on your agency by the National Environmental Policy Act and the direction you have to proceed with your planning program in a timely manner. However, we are concerned with your intent to seek "endorsement in concept" at the May 15 Land Use Council meeting and "full endorsement" at the tentatively scheduled September meeting. Once the Record of Decision has been signed implementing the CCP (presumably before the September meeting), any meaningful Council action would be moot, and therefore, unnecessary.

The May Council meeting provides the opportunity to work toward satisfactory resolution of most, if not all, of our concerns as embodied in our March 8, 1985, comments. It is clearly our intent to continue working with the FWS on these issues, and as you noted, discussions between the State and your staff have been progressing along these lines.

Our objective is to seek the greatest possible degree of specific agreement and mutual understanding. While conceptual endorsement is always an option at the May 15 meeting, we will continue to strive for full endorsement of the CCP subject to specific understandings. This approach was successfully applied in the Council's consideration and endorsement of the final Yukon-Charley National Preserve General Management Plan in November, 1984. (See enclosed letter of endorsement). We understand your desire to get this plan signed. We support this goal, which is why we are reiterating our intent to strive for resolution of the State's concerns to avoid potential administrative appeals or other lengthy debates.

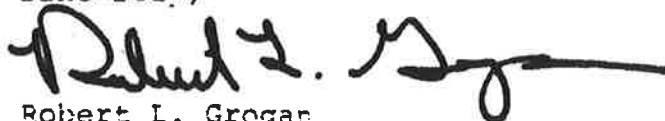
Mr. Robert Gilmore

- 2 -

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If there is anything further that we can do to facilitate constructive Council action on the Kenai CCP, please contact Sally Gibert or myself. I look forward to meeting you on May 15.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Grogan  
State Co-Chairman Designee

Enclosure

cc: Commissioner Wunnicke, DNR, Juneau  
Commissioner Collinsworth, DFG, Juneau  
Commissioner Ross, DEC, Juneau  
Commissioner Knapp, DOTPF, Juneau  
Vern Wiggins, ALUC, Anchorage  
Ric Davidge, U.S. Department of the Interior, Anchorage