

# STATE OF ALASKA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

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February 23, 1989

Mr. Boyd Evison  
Regional Director  
National Park Service  
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Evison:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the environmental assessment which examines the effects of providing air access and overland tours on the Harding Icefield in the Kenai Fjords National Park and offers the following brief comments for your consideration.

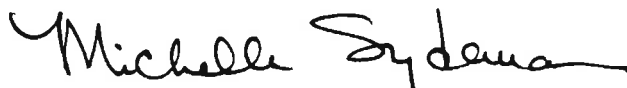
In Alternatives 1 through 3, a flight path from Seward down Resurrection Bay and up Spruce Creek is proposed. An emergency escape route via Exit Glacier is also proposed for Alternatives 1 through 3. Because of frequently and rapidly changing weather conditions in the Resurrection Bay area, it may be prudent to provide the concessionaire with the Exit Glacier route as a possible approach route as well. In the event the concessionaire chooses to initiate the tour in less than favorable weather conditions, this option would enhance aviation safety. Because the Spruce Creek route is the most direct route from Seward to the 3 alternative sites, the Exit Glacier approach would likely only be utilized when weather conditions are unfavorable. Therefore, the impact on wildlife and wilderness users would be minimal.

If the National Park Service selects alternative 1 as its preferred alternative, we recommend the Service encourage pilots to use the north side of the designated flight path to minimize disturbance to the goat concentration in the Skee Glacier Area.

On behalf of the State of Alaska, thank you for the opportunity to review this draft environmental assessment.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Grogan  
Director



By: Michelle Sydeman  
State CSU Coordinator

Mr. Boyd Evison

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cc: Commissioner Collinsworth, DFG  
Commissioner Gorsuch, DNR  
Commissioner Hickey, DOTPF  
Commissioner Kelso, DEC  
Superintendent Castellina, Kenai Fjords

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