

# STATE OF ALASKA

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June 14, 1991

Mr. Russ Berry  
Superintendent  
Denali National Park and Preserve  
P.O. Box 9  
Denali Park, AK 99755-0009

Dear Mr. Berry:

The State of Alaska appreciates the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the South Slope Development Concept Plan for Denali National Park and Preserve. This letter represents the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

Unfortunately the Federal Register notice provides little information that would assist us in providing meaningful comments. At this time, therefore, we will merely highlight issues and information that we feel should be included and fully addressed in the upcoming plan and environmental impact statement (EIS). These issues have been previously raised by the State in comments on the proposed Talkeetna visitor center and various cooperative proposals with the State Division of Parks for southside visitor development.

Most of the State's concerns relate to access and fish and wildlife. The draft plan and EIS should address the impacts of visitor facilities and increased public use on fish, wildlife and their habitats, including public opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive uses. Furthermore, the plan and EIS should identify and evaluate proposals that would increase or modify access patterns in and around the park and preserve, including roads, trails, air access, etc.

If the National Park Service envisions trails that may cross State park or other State lands, the National Park Service should work with the State, including the Division of Parks and the Department of Fish and Game, on location and siting criteria. Once located, the State and the National Park Service should cooperatively evaluate ways to delineate landownership in the field and make available brochure-type information about appropriate land uses and behaviors on these lands. Such information will assist backcountry



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users in complying with applicable restrictions and will help inform visitors about legitimate sport and subsistence hunting activities on State and preserve lands.

The State would welcome an opportunity to cooperate with the National Park Service in identification of development sites, assessment of impacts on fish and wildlife resources and their uses, and in addressing the aforementioned issues. We would be particularly interested in working closely with the National Park Service during the development of the proposed project concept and alternatives in the EIS. Many of our concerns and issues can be resolved by effective communication and cooperation during this early stage of the EIS process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Feel free to contact me at 465-3562 or Sally Gibert at 561-6133 if you have any questions. I am looking forward to working with you and your staff on this project.

Sincerely,



Paul C. Rusanowski, Ph.D.  
Director

cc: Commissioner Harold Heinze, Dept of Natural Resources  
Commissioner Carl Rosier, Dept of Fish and Game  
Commissioner John Sandor, Dept of Environmental Conservation  
Commissioner Frank Turpin, Dept of Transportation and Public  
Facilities



**DENALI SS SCOPING LETTER  
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