

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

**SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE**  
3601 "C" STREET, SUITE 370  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-2798  
PH: (907) 561-6131/FAX: (907) 561-6134

**CENTRAL OFFICE**  
P.O. BOX 110030  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0030  
PH: (907) 465-3562/FAX: (907) 465-3075

**NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE**  
675 SEVENTH AVE., STATION H  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4596  
PH: (907) 451-2818/FAX: (907) 451-2814

May 26, 1992

John Morehead  
Regional Director  
National Park Service  
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Morehead:

The State of Alaska wishes to bring to your attention a matter of some urgency to the State. In June of 1989, the National Park Service finalized the legal boundary descriptions for the new and expanded units of the national park system in Alaska pursuant to ANILCA. We understand, however, that these boundaries do not become legally effective until they have been published in the Federal Register. We are also aware that the reason the boundaries have not yet been published is the cost -- approximately \$30,000 according to Chuck Gilbert, Chief of Land Resources.

The State requests that these park boundaries be published as soon as possible. State land selections under the Statehood Act must be made by 1994, and the Department of Natural Resources cannot finalize any state selections that are adjacent to NPS units until the park boundaries have been legally defined through Federal Register publication. In the interim, a large portion of the state's overselection allowance is tied up in whole township selections at the borders of NPS units. As state land conveyances proceed and 1994 approaches, it is becoming more difficult to maintain these overselections.

For the last two years, the State has hoped that fiscal year-end funds would be available to publish the park boundary descriptions. Since this has not yet been done, we urge you to set aside the necessary funds now and proceed with publication as soon as possible. Publication will serve everyone's interests and close a long and complex chapter of ANILCA implementation.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Sally Gibert at 561-6131; or Carol Shobe, Chief of Title and Contracts,

John Morehead, Regional Director, NPS

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Division of Land, Department of Natural Resources at 762-2326.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul C. Rusanowski". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Paul C. Rusanowski, Ph.D.  
Director

cc:

James Ridenour, Director, National Park Service  
Harold Heinze, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources  
Carl Rosier, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game  
Chuck Gilbert, Chief of Land Resources, NPS  
Carol Shobe, Chief of Title and Contracts, DNR