

**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  
PHONE: (907) 561-6131  
FAX: (907) 561-6134

CENTRAL OFFICE

P.O. BOX AW  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0165  
PHONE: (907) 465-3562  
FAX: (907) 465-3075

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

675 SEVENTH AVENUE  
STATION H  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4596  
PHONE: (907) 451-2818  
FAX: (907) 451-2814

June 25, 1992

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

Dear Mr. Morehead:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the Environmental Assessment for a Public Use Cabin at Exit Glacier in the Kenai Fjords National Park. This letter represents the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

The State is very encouraged by the National Park Service's (NPS) interest in providing new public use cabins in national parks in Alaska. Congress provided for new public use cabins in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and we are pleased to finally see some plans moving forward. While we are highly supportive of such new cabins, we have the following concerns with this particular cabin as proposed in the EA.

The cabin's primary function during the peak tourist season will be administrative. Only during the off-season will it be available for public use. It is apparent that the preferred site, within the existing NPS compound, was primarily chosen to serve its administrative function rather than public use. To maximize use and enjoyment by the public it would be far better to locate the cabin in a more private location, possibly taking advantage of one of several trails leading from the road system. The State is concerned that the designated purpose of this cabin has been compromised to meet administrative needs.

The State recognizes that the NPS wishes to avoid competing with local businesses during the summer months. We also do not specifically object to some seasonal administrative use of the cabin. However, location and management should be designed primarily around the goal to facilitate public use and enjoyment of the park, not administrative convenience. We urge the NPS to look at alternative locations before proceeding further.

We also note that the State and the public were not given the standard 30 days to review this EA (nor two subsequent Kenai Fjords cabin EAs). A full 30 days is needed to conduct an adequate public review process in Alaska, especially during the summer months. We request that subsequent EAs have at least a 30 day review period. The additional time will facilitate higher quality and more thorough input from interested and knowledgeable parties.

During the rewrite of pages 6-7 of the EA it would be helpful to indicate whether there has been a historic net advance or retreat of the Exit Glacier.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions, please call me at 561-6131.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert  
State CSU Coordinator

cc:

Anne Castellina, Superintendent, Kenai Fjords NP  
Joan Darnell, Chief, Environmental Compliance, NPS  
Glenn Olds, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources  
Carl Rosier, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game  
John Sandor, Commissioner, Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
Frank Turpin, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and  
Public Facilities  
Richard Burton, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety  
John Katz, Governor's Office, Washington, D.C.

CSU Distribution List  
Exit Glacier Cabin, State Comments  
June 26, 1992

Tina Cunning, Department of Fish & Game, Anchorage  
Terry Haynes, Department of Fish & Game, Fairbanks  
Priscilla Wohl, Dept of Environmental Conservation, Anch  
Rob Walkinshaw, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage  
Jenny Olendorff, Dept of Transportation/Public Facilities, Anch  
Paul Rusanowski, Division of Governmental Coordination, Juneau  
Steve Jacoby, Division of Governmental Coordination, Juneau  
Connel Murray, Division of Tourism, Juneau  
Dick Swainbank, Dept of Commerce & Economic Development, FBX  
Stan Leaphart, CACFA, Fairbanks  
Anne Castellina, Superintendent, Kenai Fjords National Park  
Joan Darnell, Chief, Environmental Compliance, NPS  
Glenn Olds, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources  
Carl Rosier, Commissioner, Department of Fish & Game  
John Sandor, Commissioner, Dept of Environmental Conservation  
Frank Turpin, Commissioner, Dept of Transportation/Public  
Facilities  
Richard Burton, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety  
John Katz, Governor's Office, Washington, D.C.