

STATE OF ALASKA

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April 12, 1994

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

Dear Mr. Berry *Russ*

The State of Alaska has reviewed the proposed policy concerning the climbing fee for Mt McKinley and Mt Foraker within the Denali National Park and Preserve. This letter represents the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

The State of Alaska strongly believes that this proposal must be addressed as a proposed regulation, such as a revision to 36 CFR 13.63, which already addresses advance registration for climbers in Denali Park. Such a regulatory process is necessary to provide greater documentation of need and additional opportunities for public review.

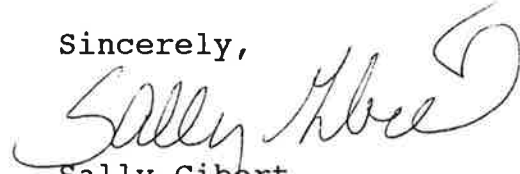
The State also urges that NPS to work with the climbing community prior to promulgation of draft regulations to explore ways of addressing climber concerns, e.g. fee size and the perception of an unnecessary level of service. One meeting in Seattle prior to announcement of the proposal is not sufficient consultation.

As part of the proposal, the NPS should consider expanding the education program on safety to include trash abatement. We also suggest consideration of a system of fines for those that purposely leave equipment and trash behind. While safety is paramount in managing the climbing program, most climbs do not result in emergency rescue operations. The amount of trash and abandoned gear, however, is a common problem.

This proposed fee should also be scrutinized in light of Section 203 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act which states: "no fees shall be charged for entrance or admission to any unit of the National Park System in Alaska."

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

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc:

Harry Noah, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources

Carl Rosier, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game

John Sandor, Commissioner, Department of Environmental
Conservation

Bruce Campbell, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

Richard Burton, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

John Katz, Governor's Office, Washington, D.C.

**Distribution List
Denali Climbing Fees
April 12, 1994**

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