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June 17, 1996

Warren Brown
Chief, Division of Park Planning and Special Studies
National Park Service
Room 3230, Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Brown:

The State of Alaska recently received notice that the National Park Service intends to update and revise "NPS-2", the nationwide planning manual. The State will be interested in reviewing this document and requests 15 copies sent to this office for secondary distribution to interested state agencies when it is released for public review.

The State requests that you keep the planning requirements of Section 1301 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in mind during the revision. ANILCA contains excellent guidance concerning both substance and process which have been particularly valuable in facilitating communications between the NPS and State of Alaska. The revised guidelines should clarify that the ANILCA Section 1301 planning requirements will not lessen the scope of, or public participation in, planning for Alaska national park units.

The Federal Register notice of June 7, 1996, anticipates a comment period of 30 days on the review draft. This is a very difficult time frame to meet, especially during the summer season when so many planning and resource personnel are in the field and away from their offices. We strongly urge that you provide a minimum 60 day comment period.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. If you have any questions, please call me at 907-269-7477.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator