

# STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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October 26, 2001

Ami Wright  
Kenai Fjords National Park  
P.O. Box 1727  
Seward, Alaska 99664

Dear Ms. Wright

The State of Alaska has reviewed the August 2001 newsletter for the Exit Glacier Visitor Experience and Resource Protection Plan. The State appreciates this opportunity to review the newsletter, as well as the National Park Service's continuing efforts to integrate state involvement in park planning. The comments in this letter represent the consolidated views of the State of Alaska agencies, including a few suggestions for improving future newsletters.

#### **General Comments**

It is not clear if the study area includes the walk-in campground along the park entrance road. Since areas suitable for expanded parking are scarce, and since this campground may not be the most aesthetically pleasant location for walk-in camping, we suggest the NPS consider using this area to support parking and a shuttle service farther back from the Glacier, and relocating the walk-in campground.

We recognize our earlier informal comments that encouraged a broader range of alternatives will be addressed as the project unfolds.

#### **Page Specific Suggestions for Future Newsletters**

##### Page 1

- It would be helpful if the newsletter was paginated in some format.
- The third paragraph under "What is happening" section states, "visitor surveys will be conducted during the summer of 2001;" yet the newsletter is dated August 2001. This would lead the reader to believe that the surveys have already been conducted. If so, it

would be helpful to provide the status of the surveys and any preliminary results in the next newsletter.

Page 3

- Last paragraph under the section titled “Develop Statements of Park Purpose, . . .”. There is no mention or reference to ANILCA Section 201(5) that provides statutory purposes for which the park shall be managed. This is relevant background information for the reader when considering additional purposes both park-wide and for the Exit Glacier area.

Finally, Interdisciplinary Project Team meeting notes from June 7, 2001 indicate that a study area map will be included in the first newsletter, yet none was included. Future newsletters would be greatly enhanced by providing such a map so that agencies and the public can more meaningfully comment on the project.

Please contact me at 907-269-7476 if you have any questions regarding these comments. We remain available to discuss any underlying issues during development of the alternatives.

Sincerely,

/ss/

Don Perrin  
Project Review Coordinator

cc: Patrick Galvin, Director, Division of Governmental Coordination  
Frank Rue, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game  
Pat Pourchot, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources  
Joseph Perkins, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Michele Brown, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation  
Deborah Sedwick, Commissioner, Dept. of Community and Economic Development