

STATE OF ALASKA

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August 20, 2002

Cyndie Wolfe
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Realty
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6119

Dear Ms. Wolfe

The State of Alaska has reviewed the draft Land Protection Plan for Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges. The State appreciates this opportunity to review the draft plan. The following comments in this letter represent the consolidated views of the State of Alaska agencies.

Under the discussion of RS 2477 "Highways" on page 20, the final sentence of the first paragraph states if RS 2477 claims were validated and access routes developed, they would significantly affect refuge resources and management. This discussion could be expanded to include more specific information regarding potential significant impacts or revise the language to reflect the potential for significant impacts depending on if and how the access routes are developed. This would better fit the discussion of land protections on page 54. We also recommend revising the terminology of RS 2477 "Highways" to RS 2477 Rights-of-Way.

The plan does not provided any discussion of the "Alaska Peninsula Highway" intercommunity transportation corridors suggested in the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan Draft of Feb 2002. Of particular note, the Chignik Intertie recommended in the transportation plan, connecting the communities of Chignik, Chignik Lake and Chignik Lagoon, would follow a route over Native conveyed lands designated in the LPP (Figure 11) as having "high" and "medium" priority for land protection. It is unclear what this would mean for purposes of road development.

Please contact me at 907-269-7476 if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

/ss/

Don Perrin
Project Review Coordinator

cc: Kerry Howard, 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