

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

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Loran Fraser
Chief, Office of Policy and Regulations
National Park Service - Room 7252
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Fraser:

At the invitation of Marcia Blaszak, Acting Regional Director of the Alaska Region, the State of Alaska has reviewed the draft Director's Order #75A: Civic Engagement and Public Involvement. This letter represents the consolidated views of state agencies with an interest in National Park Service issues.

First, we appreciate the unusual opportunity to review this draft internal national policy. We commend National Park Service Director Fran Mainella's efforts to seek comment from "the American public, our stakeholders, and friends."

As described in the background, this document expounds on Secretary Gail Norton's four Cs principle of "consultation, cooperation, and communication in the service of conservation." Many of the purposes and policies are similar to those the State of Alaska has advocated for many years in our work with the Service regarding implementation of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). We are particularly pleased to see direct and indirect references to compendia in the second bullet under "Scope," and item 1) under "Policies." This arena has seen the most difficulty in the past as well as the most improvement in the last 1-2 years. Thus, even without this Director's Order, we have witnessed a marked and continuing improvement in embracing these principles by a growing number of Service personnel in Alaska. We look forward to a continued expansion of positive working relationships stemming from this directive.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

/ss/

Sally Gibert
State ANILCA Coordinator

cc: Marcia Blaszak, Acting Regional Director, NPS Alaska Region
Cam Toohey, Special Assistant to the Secretary, DOI Alaska Region