

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING
ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

FRANK H MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

550 W. 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1660
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PH: (907) 269-7470 / FAX: (907) 269-3981
Sally_Gibert@dnr.state.ak.us

December 8, 2003

Helen Lons
Katmai National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 7
King Salmon, AK 99613

Dear Ms. Lons:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the Environmental Assessment, dated November 11, 2003, addressing Katmai National Park and Preserve King Salmon Seasonal/Transient Housing Facilities. This letter represents the consolidated comments of state agencies interested in this plan.

Administrative Sites and ANILCA Requirements

Administrative sites and visitor facilities in all conservation system units in Alaska are subject to ANILCA Section 1306. ANILCA Section 1306(a) states that:

. . . To the extent practicable and desirable, the Secretary shall attempt to locate such sites and facilities on Native lands in the vicinity of the unit.

The Environmental Assessment does not provide information indicating the requirement under ANILCA Section 1306 was met. Also, we request that current statements in the EA about lack of local housing availability be supported by some analysis and documentation.

Page Specific Comments

Page 21, The potential to reduce populations, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence:
The sentence cited above is incorrect in that it does not recognize overlapping state authorities concerning subsistence and management of fish and wildlife populations. We request the EA include the following correction: "Provisions of ANILCA, as well as state and federal regulations, provide adequate tools to protect fish and wildlife populations within the Katmai National Park and Preserve, while ensuring a subsistence priority in the Preserve for local rural residents and allowing other uses." We realize this particular concern does not affect the decision in the EA; however we do not want Service documents to perpetuate incorrect information about state authorities concerning fish and wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 907-269-7477.

Sincerely,

/ss/

Sally Gibert
State ANILCA Coordinator