

STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

550 W. 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1660
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PH: (907) 269-7529 / FAX: (907) 334-2509
susan_magee@dnr.state.ak.us

September 7, 2005

Robin West, Refuge Manager
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
PO Box 2139
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Mr. West:

The State of Alaska reviewed the May 2000 Supplement to the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hidden Lake Sockeye Salmon Enhancement Project on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge for Amendment to Special Use Permit KN-05-001 and the compatibility determination public notice. This letter contains the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

The proposed amendment to the EA meets the criteria required by the Service for approval, consistent with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-57). According to the Act, only those uses on a refuge will be allowed that "will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the refuge." Alternative 3, the preferred alternative presented in the EA, meets this standard. This alternative proposes to temporarily amend the EA that addresses the currently permitted Hidden Lake Enhancement Project. The amendment will temporarily allow the take of approximately 4,000 additional sockeye salmon to provide brood stock for enhancement projects off refuge in the Lower Cook Inlet area. These enhancement projects also provide additional fishing opportunities for subsistence, personal use, recreational, and commercial users. The short duration of this project, beginning in 2005 and ending in 2008 or 2009, will have little or no impact to the fisheries resources of the system, and will remain within the guidelines of the current EA.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator