

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

May 5, 2006

Glen Yankus
National Park Service
240 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Yankus:

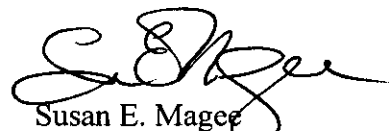
The State of Alaska reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Installation and Operation of Weather Camera Systems at Merrill Pass and Lake Clark Pass Remote Communication Outlet in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The following represents the consolidated views of State resource agencies.

The State supports the installation of two automated Weather Camera Systems (WCAM) at Merrill Pass, and the continued operation of the Remote Communications Outlet and WCAM at Lake Clark Pass. We appreciate the National Park Service's (Service) recognition of the important role of WCAMs in improving aviation safety and the associated benefit of protecting park resources from potential environmental impacts resulting from airplane wrecks and wreck recovery.

As stated in the EA, Section 1310(a) and (b) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act provides for access, establishment, operation, and maintenance of existing and new navigational aids within conservation system units, which includes units within the National Wilderness Preservation System. The State appreciates the Service's inclusion of the legislative authority for the activity in designated wilderness in Step One of the Minimum Requirements Decision Guide Worksheets (Appendix D). We also appreciate recognition of the constraints associated with installation and maintenance of such remote facilities in proposing to allow the use of helicopters in the minimum tool determination.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator