

STATE OF ALASKA

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GOVERNOR

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

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November 8, 2006

Carol Goularte, District Ranger
USDA Forest Service
Sitka Ranger District
204 Siginaka Way
Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Ms. Goularte:

The State of Alaska reviewed the scoping newsletter for the proposal to allocate outfitter/guide use of trails and roads under Forest Service (FS) management on the Sitka Ranger District. The following comments represent the consolidated views of state agencies.

We appreciate the continuing dialogue between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Service on potential management actions affecting fish and wildlife within the District and recommend the Service work with ADF&G area biologists to evaluate potential actions affecting guided hunting and fishing within the plan.

Although we understand the proposed plan appropriately focuses on outfitter/guide use of Service uplands, we request the document include recognition of the following state requirements to provide a more complete context: 1) Outfitters and guides must be state licensed. 2) Related outfitter/guide incidental activities occurring below mean high water on state-owned tide and submerged lands and shorelands must meet the State's "generally allowed use" criteria (11 AAC 96.020) or authorization from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) will be required. Conversely, new outfitter/guide regulations recently released by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development address operations primarily occurring on State tidelands with related incidental activities occurring on federal uplands. Regulation details can found at <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pgui5.htm>.

The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Service and DMLW, which allows for the development of certain marine access points to federal uplands for guide/outfitter activities under specific conditions, may also be relevant to this planning effort. Please contact Ed Collazzi, DMLW Southeast Regional Manager, at (907) 465-3402, with any questions regarding the MOU.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Magee', written in a cursive style.

Susan E. Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator