

STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, Governor

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting

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September 15, 2008

Will Runnoe, Glennallen Field Office Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Glenallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
Glenallen, AK 99588

Dear Mr. Runnoe:

The State of Alaska reviewed the July 2008 scoping bulletin for the Delta River Management Plan. The following comments represent the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies.

The Delta River corridor offers outstanding scenic views, contains historic and cultural resources related to early occupation and settlement, and is a popular destination for fishing, hunting, and other recreational opportunities. Two major trails cross the Delta River providing access within and adjacent to the corridor. These same trails also provide access for mining on state-owned and selected lands west of the corridor.

We appreciate the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) continuing commitment to work with the State in the development of the Delta River Management Plan. Among other authorities, the State is responsible for management of the Delta River and its underlying shorelands, as well as fish and wildlife on all lands in Alaska. It is, therefore, important to work cooperatively throughout this planning process to address issues of mutual interest, such as visitor use, surface transportation, and land management under mixed ownership. In particular, we look forward to working with BLM on issues that affect access to state resources and uses on the river.

We hope to draw upon the successes of previous collaborative planning efforts, such as the Gulkana River Management Plan. We are aware of the effort already invested by BLM in pre-scoping work through the Benefits Based Management (BBM) process. We expect the information gathered through BBM stakeholder meetings will be valuable when moving forward.

We understand the East Alaska Resource Management Plan recommended addressing specific limitations in this planning process, including a request to the State to limit motorized powerboat use. We agree such considerations are more appropriately

addressed at this more detailed level of planning. Through a cooperative planning effort, we expect to identify and consider both the underlying issues and the full array of management actions available to address those concerns before determining an appropriate response.

Lastly, when formally identifying the Outstanding Remarkable Values for the Delta River during this planning process, we request the legislative history of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act guide the decision-making process. It is our understanding the legislative history identified scenic, cultural, and recreational values for the Delta River. While the river corridor certainly has other resources and attributes, we agree these stand out as values that qualify as “outstandingly remarkable.”

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me at (907) 269-7529 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Magee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Susan E. Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator