

# STATE OF ALASKA

## **ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting**

**SARAH PALIN, Governor**

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March 3, 2009

Rich Jennings  
Hoonah District Ranger  
P.O. Box 135  
Hoonah, AK 99829

Dear Mr. Jennings

The State of Alaska reviewed the Hoonah Ranger District Access and Travel Management Scoping Notice. The following consolidated state agency comments were compiled by the State's Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Implementation Program and cover issues relative to ANILCA and other state interests. Any correspondence or response pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act and the Alaska Coastal Management Program will be provided separately by the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management.

As you know, we have been working with the Forest Service on coordinating implementation of the subsistence access provisions of ANILCA on the Tongass National Forest with implementation of the National Travel Management Rule. We encourage the Hoonah Ranger District to follow the guidance in the May 23, 2008 *Interim Guide – Providing Access for Subsistence Purposes (ANILCA 811) During Access and Travel Management Planning*. We remain available to provide technical assistance as needed. In the meantime, we appreciate the effort to fully capture current use on the Hoonah road system and to provide the public an opportunity to submit detailed information in the matrix form provided in the notice.

In addition to these procedural comments, we request the Service identify all stream crossings in the project area and include the proposed management prescription, e.g., maintain, repair, or remove, for each crossing in the Environmental Assessment. It is also important to identify whether anadromous and/or resident fish are present in these streams.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), Division of Habitat looks forward to working with the District to reach concurrence prior to conducting any activities in fish bearing waters. As outlined in the Master Memorandum of Understanding<sup>1</sup> (MOU) between the Division of Habitat and the Forest Service, state habitat biologists will

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<sup>1</sup> 04MOU-111011-094

coordinate with District staff to confirm best management practices are applied at each crossing, including, conducting instream activities to avoid sensitive fish life stages, immediately stabilizing disturbed stream banks to prevent erosion and sedimentation, and using materials treated with preservatives that do not contain creosote or pentachlorophenol for structures that cross fresh water.

The MOU also calls for cooperation in updating the *Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* by providing nominations to the *Catalog*. We encourage District field staff submit nominations for the annual *Catalog* updates. Recent nominations by ADF&G are included as an appendix to this letter. For additional information on this process or to coordinate fieldwork associated with specific crossings, please contact Jackie Timothy, Regional Supervisor at (907) 465-4275 or [jackie.timothy@alaska.gov](mailto:jackie.timothy@alaska.gov).

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to reviewing the upcoming Access and Travel Management Plan and associated Environmental Assessment. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 269-7529.

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

## Appendix A – Nominations

Nomination #: [08-515](#)

\*\* Region\Quadrant: Southeastern - JUNEAU A-5

Results: Shorten upper point of species in stream

AWC #: [114-27-10350](#)

Species Code: COp

\*\* Region\Quadrant: Southeastern - JUNEAU A-5

Results: Shortening existing upper reaches

AWC #: [114-27-10350](#)

\*\* Region\Quadrant: Southeastern - JUNEAU A-5

Results: Adding barrier to stream

AWC #: [114-27-10350](#)

Nomination #: [08-516](#)

\*\* Region\Quadrant: Southeastern - JUNEAU A-4

Results: Adding new streams or lakes

AWC #: [114-27-10300-2014](#)

Species Code: COr

Nomination #: [08-517](#)

\*\* Region\Quadrant: Southeastern - JUNEAU A-4

Results: Adding new streams or lakes

AWC #: [114-27-10300-2004](#)

Species Code: COr

Nomination #: [08-518](#)

\*\* Region\Quadrant: Southeastern - JUNEAU A-4

Results: Adding new streams or lakes

AWC #: [114-27-10300-2008-3010](#)

Species Code: COr

Nomination #: [08-519](#)

\*\* Region\Quadrant: Southeastern - JUNEAU A-4

Results: Adding new streams or lakes

AWC #: [114-27-10300-2008](#)

Species Code: COr

**\*Species Codes:**

AC	- Arctic char	AL	- Arctic lamprey	AW	- Arctic cisco
BC	- broad whitefish	BW	- Bering cisco	CH	- chum salmon
CO	- coho salmon	CT	- cutthroat trout	DV	- Dolly Varden
HW	- humpback whitefish	K	- chinook salmon	LB	- western brook lamprey
LC	- least cisco	LP	- lamprey, undifferentiated	LV	- river lamprey
OL	- longfin smelt	OM	- rainbow smelt	OU	- eulachon
P	- pink salmon	PC	- Pacific lamprey	S	- sockeye salmon
SF	- inconnu	SH	- Steelhead trout	SM	- smelt, undifferentiated
ST	- sturgeon, undifferentiated	W	- whitefish, undifferentiated		

**\*Activity Codes:**

s - spawning  
 r - rearing  
 p - present  
 m - migration

