

STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, Governor

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting

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October 1, 2009

Margaret Jensen, Superintendent
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 439
Copper Center, AK 99573

Dear Ms. Jensen:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Foundation Statement. The following comments represent the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies.

We understand direction to prepare Foundation Statements comes from the National Park Service 2006 Management Policies and that information included in the documents will provide a basis for future planning efforts. As such, we anticipate certain information and statements will be duplicated in future planning documents. We are therefore requesting modifications we believe will prove beneficial in the long-term. We are available for follow-up questions or discussions if needed.

Page 15, Living Cultures

We appreciate the inclusion of living cultures as a significant attribute and special feature of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. This living culture includes both personal recreation by local residents and numerous small scale businesses that provide recreational services to visitors. As such, under "Accessibility," we request "*recreation*" be added to the list of uses.

In addition, we request recognition of the Park's relationship with local residents under "*Primary Interpretive Theme.*" We suggest including the following language (or something similar) that briefly captures the first two guiding principals in the Interim Inholder Access Guide, which was largely driven by the needs of inholders in the Wrangells. "*As part of the essential fabric of the park, the park values a mutually respectful long-term relationship with thriving local communities.*"

Pages 27-28, Wilderness Management

Since the park contains a number of cabins in various states of use, ANILCA Section 1315(c) Existing Cabins, and (d) New Cabins, are especially relevant to the Wrangell's Foundation Statement and should be included in Appendix A. If inclusion of Section

1315(a) is intended as a general statement about the relationship of the Wilderness Act to Alaska, the more appropriate ANILCA reference is Section 707, which we also recommend adding to this section of the Appendix. Section 1315(a) is only related to the balance of Section 1315.

Page 12, Unimpacted Wildlife

Given the State's management role regarding fish and wildlife in the Park and Preserve, we suggest the following revision:

~~*Unimpacted Wildlife*~~

Wildlife populations, regulated primarily by natural processes, thrive within the boundaries of the park and preserve.

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

Sincerely,



Susan E. Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator