

STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, Governor

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting

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Bruce Rogers, Planner
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 439
Copper Center, AK 99573-0439

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The State of Alaska reviewed the National Park Service (Service) annotated Interim Operations Plan (IOP) for the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark within Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve. This document marks the starting point for preparation of a revised IOP. This letter contains the consolidated scoping comments of state agencies.

We appreciate the efforts of the Service to work closely with local communities throughout this planning process. The State supports judicious stabilization of selected buildings in the mill site while providing appropriate visitor access and low key interpretation that facilitates self-discovery of Kennecott and the surrounding natural environment. We also recommend that management of the historic mining era buildings and artifacts recognize and respect the intermixed private lands and ongoing life of a rural Alaska community and include measures to integrate the community values discussed in the Management Concept section. We encourage the Service to develop a plan that continues to contribute to a healthy local economy that includes non-profit partnerships and locally-owned and operated businesses.

We recognize that access and circulation within the Landmark will be an important topic in the IOP. We therefore request the revised IOP clearly identify known patterns and purposes of off-road-vehicle (ORV) use. The discussion of ORV use should recognize the various Service authorities associated with ORV use, including sections 1110(b) and 811 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and regulations at 43 CFR 36.11(g) and 36 CFR 13.460.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at 907-269-7529.

Sincerely,



Susan Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator

