

STATE OF ALASKA

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting

SEAN PARNELL, Governor

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September 15, 2011

Bruce Rogers, Project Manager
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 439
Copper Center, Alaska 99573

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Proposed Action for Management of Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark (NHL). The following comments represent the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies.

As noted in our scoping comments, the State appreciates the efforts of the Service to work closely with local communities and other interested stakeholders throughout this planning process.

The deliberative process appears to be working well, as shown by the extensive and consolidated comments provided by community organizations and others. It also appears the proposed action provides a reasonable mix of restoration, adaptive use, stabilization, and managing some buildings as ruins, while supporting appropriate visitor access to Kennecott consistent with the intermixed private lands and ongoing life of a rural Alaskan community.

The use of a Memorandum of Understanding appears to be a reasonable solution to manage vehicle access and parking within the NHL. Achieving a general consensus among landowners, including the Service, will support successful management. Through both public and private education, the need for enforcement action will be greatly reduced.

Given the preservation objectives in the proposed action, we question the Service's concern about the "light touch" approach (page 4, second bullet), since this has long been a foundation concept in the vision for Kennecott and is largely compatible with the overall direction.

Under Section 5, Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Policies, we again request recognition of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), including applicable access provisions and an explanation of the differences between the ANILCA Section 1110(b) inholder access provision and the dedicated easements for the exclusive use of landowners and their guests.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in advance of the upcoming plan alternatives and environmental assessment. If you have any questions, please contact me at 907-269-7529.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Magee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'S'.

Susan Magee
ANILCA Program Coordinator