

STATE OF ALASKA

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

SEAN PARNELL, Governor

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October 28, 2011

Mr. Ralph Moore, Superintendent
Katmai National Park & Preserve
National Park Service
P.O. Box 7
King Salmon, AK 99613

Re: Proposed Fee Increases and Placement of Fure's Cabin on National Reservation System

Dear Mr. Moore,

The State of Alaska reviewed the Katmai National Park and Preserve notice regarding a proposal to raise fees and make cabin management changes. The following comments represent the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies.

We understand there may be a need to raise the camping fees at Brooks Camp to compensate for the important services provided to campers there, such as bear orientation. However, we have concerns about placing Fure's cabin in the national reservation system for reasons detailed below.

In Alaska, there is a longstanding tradition of keeping privately owned, remote cabins unlocked in case they are needed in emergency situations. The Service has maintained the spirit of this tradition by making public use cabins in the park system available on a first come, first serve basis and we support continuing this type of use.

Currently, Fure's cabin is a very popular cabin with local area residents, who use the cabin opportunistically as they find it unoccupied while on fishing trips during the summer and fall. This spontaneous local use will likely be eliminated if the cabin is placed on the Recreation.gov system. Alaska cabins currently in the system are typically fully reserved six months in advance during the summer and early fall. It is not until November approaches that cabins in the system become available on weekends, and then only with two weeks advance notice. In addition, Recreation.gov imposes a severe fine for spontaneous or unauthorized use. Access to Fure's cabin for local area residents may also be further restricted because access to the internet is particularly limited in Alaska. The new system will disenfranchise those area residents without internet capabilities.

Therefore, we recommend that public scoping meetings be held in King Salmon and Naknek to ensure local area residents are aware of the proposal, which could seriously

curtail future opportunities to use the cabin. Should local users concur with the proposal to add Fure's cabin to Recreation.gov, we recommend fees be no higher than \$35, as this is consistent with other cabins on the Recreation.gov site in Alaska.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have questions, please contact me at (907) 334-2563.

Sincerely,



Nina Brudie
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Susan Magee, ANILCA Program Coordinator