

STATE OF ALASKA

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting

SEAN PARNELL, Governor

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March 19, 2012

Mr. Paul Anderson, Superintendent
Denali National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 9
Denali Park, AK 99755

Re: Scoping Comments for Horseshoe Lake Trail Improvements

Dear Mr. Anderson,

The State of Alaska reviewed the Scoping Notice for Improvements and Additions to Horseshoe Lake Trails in the entrance area of Denali National Park. We support the Service's intent to provide increased hiking opportunities for visitors and consolidate use, allowing the Service to rehabilitate the web of social trails in the vicinity of Horseshoe Lake. This strategy is consistent with the 1996 Final Entrance Area and Road Corridor Development Concept Plan.

Hiking opportunities would be increased and enhanced through more and better defined trails in the entrance area and at certain locations along the park road corridor. (Pg. 27, NPS 1996)

It appears the proposed trail around the lake, marked in red on the scoping map, crosses the outlet of Horseshoe Lake. We recommend the Service contact William Morris, Regional Supervisor with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat (907-459-7282) to determine if any portion of the proposed trail or construction activities requires state authorization.

We recommend the EA clearly identify which social trails the Service will rehabilitate or improve, and how any resulting closures will be implemented. In addition, the social trail paralleling the Nenana River appears to provide connectivity to the Wilderness Access Center. It may be more appropriate for this trail to remain unimproved to maintain this access instead of being closed and rehabilitated.

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

Sincerely,



Nina Brudie
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Susan Magee, ANILCA Program Coordinator