



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

ANILCA Implementation Program

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July 17, 2013

Susan Bourdreau
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 140
Gustavus, AK 99826

Dear Ms. Bourdreau:

The State of Alaska reviewed the scoping notice regarding the proposed weather and climate monitoring program in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Eight proposed locations for the placement of remote automated weather stations (RAWS) will be analyzed in a future Environmental Assessment.

Each RAWS installed will collect meteorological data that supports the National Park Service (Service) Southeast Alaska Inventory & Monitoring Network (SEAN). The following comments represent the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies on the proposal.

The State is supportive of the Service's intent to install weather and climate monitoring instruments in Alaska. We recognize the advantages RAWS provide in that they are affordable, durable and can be powered without being connected to an established power grid. However, we are concerned that the data collected will not be the most appropriate for use in most climate change modeling as RAWS are not necessarily precise and reliable enough for collecting year round, highly accurate, temperature records. In our experience, climate change monitoring is useful only when it meets the criteria of:

1. Recording precise and accurate small variations in meteorological measurements that can be verified by a robust quality assurance/quality control management system, and
2. Be in place for long (multi-year) time periods.

We question whether the sensor sensitivity is sufficient to look at the small changes that one might observe with climate change. If the project moves forward with RAWS, we recommend a robust quality assurance and quality control program, including frequent and regular calibration checks of the instruments.

When preparing the draft environmental assessment (EA), it would be helpful to clarify that the proposed monitoring stations are new facilities for weather and climate research, and are allowed pursuant to ANILCA Section 1310(b).

We appreciate this opportunity to comment. Please contact me at (907) 334-2563 or at jennifer.wing@alaska.gov if you have any questions or need assistance determining appropriate state contacts.

Sincerely,

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Jennifer Wing
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Susan Magee, ANILCA Program Coordinator