



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**ANILCA Implementation Program**

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September 2, 2016

Philip Hooge, Superintendent  
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve  
P.O. Box 140  
Gustavus, AK 99826

Dear Mr. Hooge:

The State of Alaska reviewed the June 2016 Frontcountry Management Plan Scoping Newsletter for Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (GLBA). The following comments represent the consolidated views of state agencies.

We support the Park's initial outreach efforts intended to engage the public and interested user groups through public scoping meetings and informal listening posts. The newsletter recognizes the importance of the Frontcountry to visitor use and access, including as a gateway to backcountry areas of the park and preserve. We offer a couple suggestions to improve access at the onset of this planning process.

The state-managed Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area, along with adjacent wetlands located in GLBA's Frontcountry, provide important habitat for sandhill cranes to rest and feed during fall migration. To increase wildlife viewing opportunities and facilitate other public use in the area, we request the plan consider adding pullouts or viewing platforms on or adjacent to the Park Road and area trails.

The Gustavus dock/transient float on Icy Passage is too exposed in its current location and does not provide enough capacity for private, charter and tour boats, all of which have difficulty safely using the float in marginal or severe weather conditions. Additionally, the Gustavus transient float is in an exposed roadstead and subject to damage as illustrated by the recent storm that destroyed the facility. To improve access and address safety issues, we request the plan consider increasing facilities within Bartlett Cove.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to working with the Service on the development of this plan, consistent with Section 1301 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Magee".

Susan Magee  
ANILCA Program Coordinator

cc: Eric Taylor, Ethan Tyler, Jim Potdevin, Marie Heidemann, ADOT; Peter Boyer, Brandon McCutcheon, Chuck Pinckney, ADNR; Brad Palach, Jason Cheney, Ashley List, ADF&G