



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Natural Resources**  
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

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Submitted online at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2030733/510>

Re: Castner Glacier Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP)

Dear Ms. Graham,

The State of Alaska (State) reviewed the scoping documents for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposal to complete a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the Castner Glacier area. The RAMP would be a stepdown plan from the 2008 East Alaska Resource Management Plan to guide future public, commercial, and other uses of the area. The below comments incorporate input from the Departments of Natural Resources (DNR), Fish and Game (ADF&G), and Public Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF).

The State is generally supportive of the development of a plan for this area, as demand for recreating in the area has prompted a need for prescriptive management, and we offer the following information regarding State owned lands, waters, and interests in the area.

State Owned Navigable Waters and Submerged Lands

DNR has management authority for state lands (including the land, water, tidelands, and shorelands of navigable waters within the State). This authority includes management of navigable waters, tidelands, and shorelands within and adjacent to the boundaries of federal lands, including conservation system units created under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). DNR manages use of these lands through Generally Allowed Uses (11 AAC 96.020 subject to 11 AAC 96.025) and through commercial and recreational land use authorizations. Castner Creek is navigable for title purposes, and the State of Alaska should be consulted for management actions that include the submerged lands below Castner Creek, or its water.

State Land Selections & ANILCA Top-Filed Lands

The State has ANILCA top-filed land selections over much of the lands bordering the Richardson Highway that are within the boundary of the proposed RAMP planning area. These lands are currently labeled as the highest priority lands for the State (Priority One), and once the underlying public land orders are revoked, these top-filed selections will attach. It is feasible that the State will take title to most or all of these lands in the future.

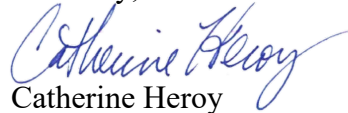
DOT&PF Coordination With BLM

The State appreciates the positive working relationship that BLM has developed with regional staff from DOT&PF. The State notes that BLM proposals are compatible with DOT&PF's recent design work to develop parking improvements within the Richardson Highway Milepost 214-218 reconstruction project. The discussions and coordination between the agencies have been productive and are appreciated.

Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to comment; please contact me at (907)269-0880 or by email at [catherine.heroy@alaska.gov](mailto:catherine.heroy@alaska.gov) to coordinate any follow up discussions.

Sincerely,



Catherine Heroy

Federal Program Manager and ANILCA Coordinator

Ecc: Jorjena Barringer, Environmental Coordinator, [jbarringer@blm.gov](mailto:jbarringer@blm.gov)  
Cory Larson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, [c05larso@blm.gov](mailto:c05larso@blm.gov)