

STATE OF ALASKA

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting

SEAN PARNELL, Governor

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January 22, 2010

Miriam Valentine
Park Planner
Denali National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 588
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

Dear Ms. Valentine:

The State of Alaska received the December 2009 Environmental Assessment for Improving Visitor Access to the Sled Dog Kennels and Demonstrations at Denali National Park and Preserve. This letter represents the consolidated views of state resource agencies.

This project will construct a new bus loop, expand and improve parking, extend pedestrian pathways, add a covered viewing area, and provide lighting and other features to improve visitor safety in the vicinity of the dog kennel and demonstration area. The project will also minimize traffic and paving in the headquarters area and Historic District. The State is supportive of this project. Denali Park's sled dog demonstrations offer a popular and valuable learning experience for visitors who are unfamiliar with Alaska's rural heritage.

We understand construction is anticipated to start at the end of summer (August 2010), with a projected completion by September 2011. We appreciate the project will start and end during periods of lower visitation. We encourage the Park to manage any necessary construction activity during the height of the 2011 summer season to minimize disruption to visitors.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact me at 907-269-7477 or sally.gibert@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
State ANILCA Program Coordinator