



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

## ANILCA Implementation Program

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT & PERMITTING

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June 6, 2013

Don Striker, Superintendent  
Denali National Park and Preserve  
P.O. Box 9  
Denali Park, AK 99755

Dear Mr. Striker:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Telecommunications and Climate Monitoring Improvements Environmental Assessment (EA). We strongly support the National Park Service's intent to authorize the proposed action, which will improve weather data collection and staff safety. This type of project is specifically provided for in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in Section 1310 which provides for access, operation, and maintenance of existing communication sites, and new facilities for weather and climate research and monitoring within conservation system units, including designated wilderness,,

While we support the project, the Purpose and Need Section, under "Relationship to Other Park Planning" paragraph two, incorrectly states that "The wilderness review process required under section 1317(b) of ANILCA has not been completed..." ANILCA Section 1317(a) provided the Service with a one-time opportunity to conduct wilderness studies of Alaska park units, which was to be completed within five years of the enactment of the Act. ANILCA Section 1326 prohibits new studies without Congressional approval. The Secretary of Interior's failure to act on the Records of Decision and not convey a wilderness recommendation to the President and Congress does not extend the seven-year deadline in Section 1317(b), nor does it create an open-ended option to conduct new studies in violation of Section 1326(b).

SOA DENA Telecommunications EA  
June 6, 2013

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Wing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

Jennifer Wing  
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sue Magee, ANILCA Program Coordinator