



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

## ANILCA Implementation Program

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT & PERMITTING

550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1430

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Main: 907.269.8690

Fax: 907.269.5673

June 6, 2013

Jeff Mow  
Kenai Fjords National Park  
P.O. Box 1727  
Seward, Alaska 99664

Dear Mr. Mow,

The State of Alaska has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Herman Leirer Multi-Modal Trail. The State recognizes that this document is a project feasibility study and that a future EA will address site-specific design components should the project proceed. We support the goal of this proposed project to increase recreational opportunities and public safety along the Herman Leirer Road. The comments in this letter represent the consolidated views of the State of Alaska agencies.

We appreciate the assurances under each alternative that “*Access use by hunters and anglers would not change.*” We note current access use by hunters or anglers includes year-round non-motorized access and winter motorized access on National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) lands, and summer motorized access on ADNR lands. We recommend that the many mitigation measures found in the EA be incorporated into the site-specific design plans. In particular, we support conducting a safety analysis to ensure adequate sight distances along the trail to reduce negative bear-human encounters, trailhead signs or kiosks providing bear safety information, vegetating disturbed areas with native plant species, designing bridges to allow free fish passage and not constrict the waterway, and construction during the ADF&G recommended in-water period.

The EA appropriately recognizes that the project requires State authorizations from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Ginny Litchfield is the ADF&G Division of Habitat contact for the project and can be reached at [ginny.litchfield@alaska.gov](mailto:ginny.litchfield@alaska.gov) or (907) 714-2477. The DNR Easement Unit can be reached at (907) 269-8503. As a reminder, if an easement application is approved allowing the trail to cross state land, the

SOA Comments Herman Leirer Trail EA  
June 6, 2013

applicant will be responsible for such things as constructing, surveying, and maintaining the trail, as well as trail enforcement. Please continue to be aware that the efforts of this EA do not constitute an application for, or reservation of, an easement on state land.

Please contact me at 907-334-2563, if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wing  
Project Review Coordinator

cc: Sue Magee, ANILCA Program Coordinator