

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

January 21, 2014

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

Re: Comments for Horseshoe Lake Trail Improvements Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Striker,

The State of Alaska reviewed the Horseshoe Lake Trail Improvements and Additions Environmental Assessment (EA), addressing the trail in the entrance area of Denali National Park. The following comments represent the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies.

We support the Service's intent to provide increased hiking opportunities for visitors and to consolidate trail use, allowing the Service to rehabilitate the web of social trails in the vicinity of Horseshoe Lake. This strategy is consistent with the 1996 Final Entrance Area and Road Corridor Development Concept Plan.

Hiking opportunities would be increased and enhanced through more and better defined trails in the entrance area and at certain locations along the park road corridor. (Pg. 27, NPS 1996)

We note the NPS has fulfilled its Section 106 consultation obligation with the State Historic Preservation Office, and re-iterate that should unidentified archaeological resources be discovered in the course of the project, work must be stopped until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria (36 CFR 60.4) in consultation with the SHPO.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please call me at (907) 334-2563 or email at jennifer.wing@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wing

ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Susan Magee, ANILCA Program Coordinator; Paula Homan, NPS