



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

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July 20, 2015

Joe Watkins
National Park Service
Office of Tribal Relations and American Cultures
1201 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Re: RIN 1024-AD84

Dear Mr. Watkins:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Federal Register Notice "Gathering of Certain Plants or Plant Parts by Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for Traditional Purposes." The following comments represent the consolidated views of state resource agencies.

We support the proposed rule, which would authorize agreements between the National Park Service (NPS) and federally recognized Indian tribes to allow the gathering and removal of plants or plant parts by designated tribal members for traditional purposes. The park units listed in 36 CFR 13.35(a) will now be open to members of Indian tribes with a traditional association with the park unit. This differs from the rest of the NPS units in Alaska where only local rural residents are allowed to partake in the gathering of certain plants or plant parts, as well as other traditional consumptive uses.

We recommend the NPS consider also applying this rule to the units listed in 36 CFR 13.35(a) for all federally qualified subsistence users regionally, as well as in those NPS units not listed in Title 36 CFR 13.35(a), thus allowing tribal members who are no longer rural residents to return to their ancestral lands and participate in the traditional gathering of plants or plant parts as allowed in this proposed rule.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me at (907) 269-7529 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Magee".

Susan Magee
ANILCA Program Coordinator

