

STATE OF ALASKA

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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

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November 19, 1984

Roger Contor
Regional Director
National Park Service
2525 Gambell St., Room 107
Anchorage, AK 99503-2892

Dear Mr. ^{Roger} Contor:

Thank you for affording the State the opportunity to work closely with you and your staff on revisions to the draft final Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve General Management Plan (GMP). A number of issues important to the State have been discussed in the last few months, and we appreciate the National Park Service's (NPS) willingness to recognize and address the State's concerns.

Previous State/NPS dialogues regarding the GMP's for Lake Clark, Kenai Fjords, and Glacier Bay adequately addressed or worked toward resolution of a number of major State concerns. Similarly, the Yukon-Charley GMP has sparked a continuation of this process. While we cannot say that this document is perfect, we feel the discussions and associated revisions have significantly improved the clarity and intent of the plan, and have enabled NPS to further recognize and understand the State's concerns. We fully expect that this dialogue will continue as each GMP undergoes public review.

The following presents our concluding set of comments on the GMP, as revised, for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. We concur with the overall content of the document subject to our understanding of its intent as derived from our numerous meetings and discussions. The issues discussed below highlight and further clarify these mutual understandings which are not necessarily articulated in the document. We also wish to document a few items where the revised plan may be technically satisfactory but where we have made suggestions which offer further improvement in the hopes that their merits will be recognized and they will be included prior to NPS adoption and publication of the plan.

The items below are discussed in more detail in memoranda to Robert L. Grogan, dated November 13 and November 16, 1984. They also document the many revisions and commitments agreed upon which provide the basis for the State's overall concurrence with the content of this document. Consequently, they should be considered as formal attachments to this letter.

Resource Management Plans - We are pleased that public review of subsequent Resource Management Plans has been assured. We will be seeking further clarification of the scheduling and mechanics of the State's review to insure that our input will be timely and meaningful.

Consolidated Access Policies - As noted in the attached November 16 memo, NPS has promised to work with the State in the development of a summary of the provisions of ANILCA which apply to access within and across NPS units for inclusion in future GMP's. We feel this is a very important step toward clarifying the complicated total picture regarding access. We urge that this task be completed as quickly as possible so that it can be included in future GMP's, including the adopted GMP for Yukon-Charley.

Management Zoning - Our concurrence of the management zoning section is based on our understanding that zoning is a planning tool which relates primarily to NPS activities, and that it is not intended to unduly restrict public uses and activities which would otherwise be allowed.

Cooperative Agreements - Similar to the access commitment the State is pleased that NPS has agreed to listing or addressing cooperative agreements in a consolidated fashion in future plans. We continue to suggest, however, that the Yukon-Charley GMP would also be improved by such a listing which would help indicate the overall role that cooperative agreements play in the planning and implementation of the objectives of the unit.

Transportation Corridors Across the Yukon River - The plan has been revised to avoid the assumption that a transmission line across the Yukon River would be incompatible with the Preserve. This revision was sought as part of a larger concern that the fate of proposed transportation corridors should not be pre-judged by the GMP.

Power Boaters and Recreational Floaters - We appreciate the language revision on page 156 which reduces the apparent bias toward non-motorized uses. However, we are still very concerned that there remains an intrinsic assumption that recreational floaters have priority over traditional uses. The State will maintain an ongoing interest in this issue during implementation of the plan.

Wild River Management - We appreciate the reference to the ALUC's November 1982 river guidelines in the Bibliography, though we continue to feel that it would be more useful in the river plan itself.

Upper Charley Airstrip - Our concurrence with NPS intent for management of this airstrip is based on our understanding that the public will be able to continue traditional safety precautions and that NPS will not deter use or jeopardize public safety in the management of this strip.

Purpose of the Unit - Our ability to accept the language "retain existing wild character" is based on our understanding that this does not imply defacto wilderness or passive preservation management. We wish to insure that the intent acknowledges other values consistent with ANILCA, such as recognition of the current and historical mining activity.

RS 2477 - The Solicitor's office is currently developing new language to acknowledge RS 2477's in the context of GMP's. We anticipate that the State be given the opportunity to review this language prior to publication of the Yukon-Charley GMP.

Once again, we appreciate your willingness to work with the State in finalizing the GMP for Yukon-Charley. I will remain available to assist your planning staff in anticipation of the remaining GMP's.

Sincerely,


Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc: S. Leaphart, CACFA
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Alaska Land Use Council
State CSU Contacts