

STATE OF ALASKA

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May 31, 1984

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

Dear Mr. Contor:

The State has completed its review of the Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve (NMP) Issues and Management Alternatives. Given its general nature, our comments regarding this document are limited. For this reason, we will stand by our comments presented in the State's review of the Aniakchak Draft Statement for Management (July 13, 1983 and July 22, 1983).

Regarding selection of a "preferred alternative," we feel there is not enough information to make a final selection, however, Alternative B may be the most appropriate based on the information provided. The following are some general observations about each alternative.

Alternative A. This alternative seems entirely too passive, providing little opportunity to avoid resource conflicts before they occur. In particular, the "Response to External Influences" portion seems undesirable and unrealistic, even within a "minimum management" context.

Alternative B. The emphasis on cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) (and presumably other state agencies as needed) is welcome. The general statements regarding inholdings and "Response to External Influences" are also good. On the critical side, it appears that the statement under "Public Use" which states that "significant changes in use patterns would not be allowed to occur even if there was increasing demand" is overly restrictive and appears inconsistent with the general intent of the alternative. Allowing for modest increases in use, without encouraging or specifically attracting new uses, seems more realistic.

Alternative C. As with Alternative B, the State is encouraged by the reference to cooperation and by the National Park Service's (NPS) willingness to participate actively in regional planning. However, this alternative seems to anticipate a greater degree of use in the area than is likely to occur considering the general characteristics and remote location of this monument and preserve. We acknowledge that it is appropriate and desirable to develop an alternative that assumes significant increases in use, either by spin-off growth from nearby communities and/or by new NPS activities or facilities which attract such increasing use. However, this alternative seems extreme, especially given the life of the plan, NPS funding limitations, and the provisions for General Management Plan (GMP) amendment if large scale resource development or other major changes occur in the region.

On pages six and seven, the map notes a possible transfer of state land in the northwest corner of the NMP. This transfer is not discussed in the text. Since this possible exchange is proposed in the Bristol Bay Cooperative Management Plan (BBCMP), it is recommended that it be discussed in this and future documents.

On page ten, under "State Lands," it should be mentioned that if the BBCMP is approved, the State will have agreed to relinquish its two selections around Kujulik Bay as part of the 11(a)(3) land settlement. This action would eliminate most of NPS's concern.

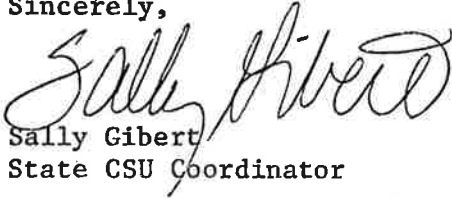
The Alaska Department of Military and Veteran Affairs is currently attempting to work out cooperative agreements with NPS on the use of parklands, including Aniakchak, for military training. The agreements cover timing, location, numbers, and environmental measures. These cooperative efforts should be mentioned in the forthcoming GMP.

When the GMP is developed, the National Resources portion should include a discussion of geothermal resources within and adjacent to the NMP, as well as a statement addressing maintenance of access to this resource as appropriate. While this area's geothermal resource has little potential for generating power, it could possibly be developable for heat or agricultural applications for local communities in the future.

The State appreciates the statement regarding the ADF&G and NPS management authorities given on page one, paragraph four. As the Aniakchak GMP is developed, we suggest that it include an expanded explanation of the respective roles by referencing the ADF&G/NPS Master Memorandum of Understanding and the Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Policy (18 March 1983, 43 CFR 24).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. Please call if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

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