

# STATE OF ALASKA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

STATE CSU COORDINATOR  
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PHONE: (907) 274-3528

September 12, 1989

Mr. Glenn Ellison  
Refuge Manager  
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
101 12th Avenue, Box 20  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-6267

Dear Mr. Ellison,

This letter is in reply to July 7, 1989, correspondence from Mr. Donald R. Voros seeking State participation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in a cooperative planning effort for public use along rivers in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As discussed over the phone with Mr. Voros, State agencies understand the increasing recreational use pressure and appreciate your need for a recreational river plan. Unfortunately, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not currently have the staff or funding to join in a new river planning effort. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has, however, expressed interest in working with you; although you should be aware that their involvement should not be construed as full State participation. The DFG's authorities include fish and wildlife research and management issues, documentation of subsistence use resources, as well as permitting of water-related activities in anadromous waters. The DNR has responsibility for management of State land and waters, including watercolumns and the beds of navigable waterways.

As described on page 200 of the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic Refuge, there is a complex relationship between State and federal jurisdictions and authorities along navigable waterbodies in federal conservation system units. As you know, the State and FWS are beginning to address some of these issues in a cooperative river planning context for the Togiak Refuge. This project, and the State's adjacent Nushagak/Mulchatna Rivers plan, are helping to define the jurisdictional issues and sort out State and FWS management options. These efforts could help set the stage for addressing your concerns on the Arctic Refuge.

Given State budget constraints, one way to address your need would be to provide funding to DNR for staff that could work with you on issues associated with refuge river planning. There are numerous examples of cooperative funding relationships between the FWS and the DFG, such as the jointly funded liaison position in Anchorage and numerous cooperative research projects, that might serve as models. It is possible that one new staff person

Mr. Donald J. Voros  
ANWR Rec. River Use

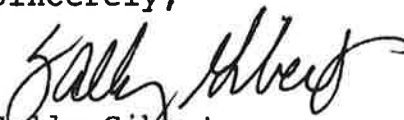
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assigned to DNR could work on selected river issues that would be useful to your situation and other refuge rivers as well. State representatives would be interested in meeting with you and/or Regional Office personnel to discuss future options.

In the meantime, the State appreciates your request and looks forward to being kept informed of your river planning intentions. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact this office; Ron Swanson, DNR, at 762-2660; or Ron Regnart, DFG/FWS liaison, at 267-2273.

Sincerely,

  
Sally Gibert  
State CSU Coordinator

cc: John Rogers, FWS  
George Constantino, FWS  
Dave Fisher, FWS  
Ron Perry, FWS  
Lennie Gorsuch, Commissioner DNR  
Don Collinsworth, Commissioner DFG  
Robert L. Grogan, DGC  
Ron Swanson, DNR  
Gary Gustafson, DNR  
Al Carson, DFG  
Ron Regnart, DFG