

# STATE OF ALASKA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

SG  
STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

STATE CSU COORDINATOR  
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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-2798  
PHONE: (907) 274-3528

April 6, 1990

Mr. Garey Coatney  
Chief, Land Resources Division  
National Park Service  
2525 Gambell Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. *Garey* Coatney:

After discussing the status of the National Park Service (NPS) boundary descriptions and mapping the efforts with you and your staff, I thought it would be worthwhile to reiterate the conclusions and agreements reached between the State and the National Park Service last summer. As you are undoubtedly aware, the State and the NPS, represented by Deputy Regional Director Richard Stenmark, devoted years of effort to resolve the boundary debate. The resulting final legal descriptions, currently awaiting publication in the Federal Register, are supported by the State and represent an important milestone.

The specific location of the coastal boundaries was one of the more difficult issues we jointly addressed. As you know, it was finally agreed that the coastal boundary of the park and preserve units would be legally described and defined as the line of mean high tide, thus corresponding with the boundary between State and NPS landownership. (See attached NPS correspondence dated June 28, 1989). The remaining difficulty, of course, is that the precise location of that line is unknown in some cases, thus leaving the door open for different on-the-ground interpretations. In our final boundary meeting with Mr. Stenmark on May 18, 1989 (Cathy Sheppard of NPS was also in attendance) we identified the following process to resolve this uncertainty.

- 1) BLM Master Title Plats: It was agreed that NPS and the Department of Natural Resource (DNR) would work cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to identify the coastal boundaries on BLM's master title plats. In areas where NPS and DNR disagree on the apparent location, they will jointly request that BLM and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) expedite field work to determine the location of the line of mean high tide. Both NPS and DNR agreed to defer to the results of the field studies by BLM and/or NOAA.

April 6, 1990

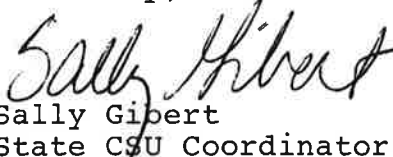
- 2) USGS Maps: It was further agreed that NPS would provide maps of the corrected coastal boundaries to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as soon as practicable. All maps provided to USGS will be drawn by consensus between NPS, DNR and BLM. Since it was understood that this could be a time-consuming process, Mr. Stenmark agreed to write a letter to USGS notifying them of the changes, and asking for a list of scheduled map revisions or updates. Such a list would enable NPS and DNR to correspondingly prioritize the joint mapping project. Mr. Stenmark sent such a letter. (See attached, previously referenced.) As we had further agreed, this letter also requested that USGS include a disclaimer that tidelands are State-owned and not included within the boundary of NPS units. According to your staff, the USGS has not yet responded to Mr. Stenmark's letter.

In the meantime, I understand that NPS has arranged with NOAA to conduct a field analysis next summer of portions of the coastal boundary of Cape Krusenstein National Monument. If you have not already done so, please contact Jerome Pape, Chief Cadastral Surveyor at DNR, for coordination purposes consistent with the above agreements. Perhaps it would be valuable for NPS and DNR to further discuss priorities for field work in other areas, as well.

Since the current published USGS maps and BLM Master Title Plats still show the preliminary boundaries, thus inappropriately enclosing significant tracts State land and water within NPS units, the State is anxious to proceed with joint mapping. Given the importance of joint mapping and the anticipated need for field investigations in some instances, perhaps a cooperative agreement among the participating State and federal agencies would be mutually beneficial. Please let us know if there is anything the State can do to facilitate further progress on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Sally Gibert  
State CSU Coordinator

Enclosure

cc: Cathy Sheppard, NPS  
Chuck Gilbert, NPS  
Gary Gustafson, DNR  
Jerome Pape, DNR

DISTRIBUTION LIST

March 22, 1989

- [1372] Mr. Al Carson, Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage
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- [1277] Mr. Norman Piispanen, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities,  
Fairbanks
- [469] Mr. Jim Powell, Department of Natural Resources, Juneau
- [1185] Mr. Ron Swanson, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage
- [1239] Mr. Rob Walkinshaw, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage
- [1240] Mr. Dan Wilkerson, Department of Environmental Conservation, Anchorage



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



IN REPLY REFER TO:

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE  
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 2892

L1429 (ARO-DD)

June 28, 1989

OFFICE OF  
MANAGEMENT AND  
BUDGET

JUL 13 1989

Memorandum

To: Robert McDonald, U.S. Geological Survey,  
National Mapping Division

GOVERNMENTAL  
COORDINATION

From: **Acting** Regional Director, Alaska Region

Subject: National Park/Preserve Boundaries - Alaska

Our ongoing negotiations with the State of Alaska over proper boundary locations for national parks and preserves in Alaska as provided for by Public Law 96-487 have largely been concluded.

One change that has resulted involves the western boundary of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. This may pose further work for you. This boundary generally follows the Copper River between its confluence with the Slana River to the north and its confluence with the Chitina River to the South. Over the years there have been changes in what has been considered to be the proper location of the boundary. In 1980 we located the boundary along the right or western bank of the Copper River. Several years later the boundary was described as following the left bank of the main channel of the river. We have now agreed with the State that the boundary of both park and preserve units properly follows the left bank of the easternmost interconnecting channels of the Copper River at the line of ordinary high water. The boundary along the Copper River south of the Chitina River has remained in the same place along the left bank. However, there is a troublesome spot on the 1:63,360 topographic maps at the common corner of quadrangles Valdez (A-2) and (A-3) and Cordova (D-2) and (D-3) where they join in the Copper River. It is hard to follow the left bank. Maps are enclosed showing approximately the location of the proper boundary as well as a revised draft of the boundary description reflecting the change.

The other and broader issue that the NPS and the State have differed on for several years involves the ocean coastal boundaries. We are proceeding to honor the State's position in accordance with section 103(a) of Public Law 96-487 (ANILCA). As a result the ocean coastal boundaries of Alaska parks or preserves with the exception of the old (pre 1980) Glacier Bay National

Monument will follow the line of mean high tide wherever it may be. Previously the mouths of rivers, bays and lagoons were closed by a coastal boundary. Now the boundary will exclude any bays, lagoons and portions of rivers seaward of the line of mean high tide.

There are still differences of opinion as to the specific location of the mean high tide line and therefore the extent of coastal tidelands and submerged lands owned by the State of Alaska pursuant to the Submerged Lands Act of 1953 and the Alaska Statehood Act. For example we differ as to whether the lagoons along the Cape Krusenstern National Monument Coast are saltwater lagoons and subject to tidal action. NPS holds that most of the lagoons would be included within the monument boundary because they are freshwater and not subject to regular tidal action except near the mouths of the streams draining the lagoons. The State believes otherwise. We intend to request that the Bureau of Land Management and NOAA field check the lagoons as to their status. The NPS has agreed, however, that the offshore boundary at T.19N., R.19W., Kateel River Meridian should be revised to follow the line of mean high tide along the mainland and around the islands within the above described township.

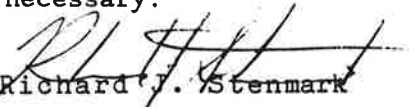
For all of the parks/preserves with ocean coastal boundaries, NPS with assistance of the State and the Bureau of Land Management, intends to prepare a jointly agreed upon set of maps showing which lagoons, bays and portions of rivers lie below the line of mean high tide. These maps will be submitted to the U.S. Geological Survey so that map revisions exclude from the parks those tidelands or submerged lands owned by the State. We will send you in the near future a temporary set of maps showing approximately what areas should be excluded from the parks/preserves coastal boundaries to be followed at a later date by the maps described above. As a starting point, major areas of marine waters would be excluded from within the park/preserve/monument boundaries at the southeast corner of Cape Krusenstern National Monument, at several locations along the coast of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and at Tuxedni Bay of Cook Inlet at the eastern coast of Lake Clark National Park.

At Glacier Bay National Park the NPS will continue to claim the offshore boundary south of Sea Otter Creek along the outer coast, through Icy Strait and Excursion Inlet as presently shown on existing maps. NPS claims these waters and submerged lands and Glacier Bay proper were reserved prior to statehood.

If it is possible, we ask that U.S.G.S. prepare for NPS and the State of Alaska a list of U.S.G.S. planned map revisions or updates at any scale by date that cover coastal areas of any National Park System units in Alaska. This would allow NPS and the State to identify priorities for joint mapping of coastal parklands so that we could provide U.S.G.S. with maps in a timely manner showing where NPS, BLM and the State agree as to the location of bays, lagoons, etc. that should be excluded from the parklands.

Also the State desires that any maps of coastal areas of Alaska covering National Park System areas indicate by a note in the legend that tidelands are state-owned and not included in the park, monument or preserve. We agree to such a statement except at Glacier Bay where there is an offshore boundary.

We regret these boundary issues have taken so long to resolve and appreciate your efforts to work with us over the years to keep the U.S.G.S. maps as accurate as possible and responding to revisions as they have become necessary.

  
Richard J. Stenmark

Enclosures

cc:

State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Attn: DLWM

State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Attn: Al Carson

State of Alaska, Office of Governmental Coordination, Attn: Sally Gibert