

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE
3601 "C" STREET, SUITE 370
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-2798
PH: (907) 561-6131/FAX: (907) 561-6134

CENTRAL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 110030
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0300
PH: (907) 465-3562/FAX: (907) 465-3075

PIPELINE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE
411 WEST 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 2C
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2343
PH: (907) 278-8594/FAX: (907) 272-0690

March 19, 1993

Gary Vequist
Chief
Branch of Resource Management
National Park Service
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr.  Vequist:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the Draft Resource Management Plan for the Katmai National Park and Preserve. This letter represents the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

We commend the park staff for its close consultation with the Department of Fish and Game, particularly the Division of Subsistence, in the identification of data needs and collection methodology. We look forward to this relationship continuing and expanding into other cooperative efforts with our state agencies.

As a general comment, however, this document does not make the necessary management distinctions between the park and preserve as mandated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). For example, the plan inappropriately extends park restrictions concerning eligibility of residents to participate in traditional hunting and fishing activities onto preserves. We urge the National Park Service (NPS) to carefully revisit the ANILCA provisions applicable to Katmai specifically and preserves in general, before revising the resource management plan.

The narrative comments below generally correspond to the format of the plan, followed by minor page-specific comments. Reviewers found the plan to be somewhat repetitive. To insure that our comments are applied to all appropriate locations in the documents, some of our comments may also appear redundant.

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

We request the plan be revised to fully recognize the role of the public and State in preparation and revisions of this plan (page 14). Alaska's general management plans (GMPs) did not contain the specifics and details required in ANILCA Section 1301. Hence they were adopted with commitments that subsequent step-down planning would require the same public and state involvement as required of the umbrella documents. These commitments should be recognized early in the document. We specifically request that commitments to full and active participation by the state in subsequent revisions be clearly inserted in the front of the plan.

We are very concerned that the NPS does not intend to appropriately and fully involve the public in review of this planning effort. The transmittal letter to the state implies that this is an internal document. While we recognize that budget considerations are primarily an internal concern, options for future research and use activities in the park unit are affected by the parameters outlined in this document and should thus be made available for public review.

"Management Purposes" and "Management Policies and Guidelines"

The legislative history of ANILCA used to support the statements of purposes, policies, and guidelines for implementation (page 16) are inappropriate for the following reasons:

- * the quotes are from 1979 Committee Report accompanying HR 39 a year prior to final legislative action, hence cannot be assumed to be entirely "valid" legislative history;
- * some of the quoted "history" comes from the accompanying Section-by-Section Analysis, which is a staff document that was not voted on by the Committee; and
- * the quotes are incomplete and taken out of context which, as packaged in the text, skew their meaning.

For the record, the actual quotes from the 1979 Committee Report (p 171) are included as an attachment to this letter.

Secondly, we strongly object to justifications based on "specific objectives of resource management identified in the *Katmai Statement For Management*". The Statements for Management were hurriedly prepared by the Service after passage of ANILCA and without the public involvement required in Section 1301 for preparation of plans for the park units. The State of Alaska strongly objected to the inappropriate direction contained in those documents and has subsequently and consistently objected to their continued use for management guidance. Such continued use of these documents is contrary to clear Congressional intent that the public and State be closely involved in planning decisions pursuant to ANILCA Section 1301.

We remain concerned that specific objectives within the original *Statement for Management* may lead to inappropriate decisions in subsequent documents. For example, objective #2 contains direction which could conflict with ANILCA mandates for management of the preserve:

objective - "maintain the park and preserve as an area where Alaskan brown bears can exist as naturally as possible with minimal adverse impacts from humans"

ANILCA mandates the preserve be managed to "protect ... recreational opportunities including ... sport hunting." A segment of the public construes hunting as an adverse impact. The mandates for management of the park to assure a **natural and healthy population** is different from the mandates for management of the preserve to assure a **healthy population** -- the latter recognizes the role of hunting in that management.

Throughout the plan, there is inadequate recognition that the preserve is to be managed somewhat differently than the park. In the example above, the objective should be rewritten to delete "and preserve".

MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

The State and NPS do not "cooperatively manage the fish and wildlife resources", as stated on page 17. We cooperate with the NPS in that management, but the State is the manager of fish and wildlife (ANILCA Sec 1314 and Statehood Act) while the NPS is the manager of habitats for those resources (ANILCA Sec 1314). This clear distinction is further recognized in the GMPs and the Master Memorandum of Understanding cooperatively signed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the NPS.

PRIORITIES

We disagree with the program priority listed here concerning "Baseline information which would assist in the identification of future resource impacts". This program is listed in the fourth priority. We believe such baseline data collection should be incorporated into the first priority because one cannot accurately identify and quantify impacts without baseline information.

Priorities such as "3. Action that is needed to reduce known or probable impacts" is inappropriate ahead of action which quantifies known (suspected) or probable (anticipated) impacts. This is particularly significant for Alaska park units where many existing uses of resources and land are guaranteed by ANILCA to continue unless a "finding" of resource damage can be used to justify restrictions.

Policy on Research and Collecting

Mutually acceptable guidelines for the conduct of research activities which involve fisheries and wildlife are included in the Master Memorandum of Understanding between DFG and NPS. DFG's research and management activities should be recognized as specifically excluded from the requirements of this section (page 18).

The current requirements for specimen collection run counter to, and fail to recognize, the State's fish and wildlife collecting requirements, which NPS supports in completion of the State's collecting permit requirements. We request revision of this section to accurately reflect use of the state's permit system and the ongoing cooperation between DFG and NPS.

PRESENT NATURAL RESOURCE STATUS

Fauna

Unlike most of the species accounts which are amply referenced, there are no references for brown bears, furbearers, moose, or caribou. Please review the following references and corrections and incorporate as appropriate:

Page 22: Katmai bears have very few caribou calves to feed on since the primary calving grounds are 200 miles away. Newly

emerging plants are believed to be by far the most important spring/early summer food. The fourth paragraph statement "Since statehood, the Alaska Peninsula . . . Alaska" should cite Sellers and McNay 1984. The last paragraph, first sentence and again after " . . . 3 adult females" should also cite Sellers and McNay 1984.

Page 23: Cite "Miller et al. in prep." after the density estimate of 550 bears per 1000 km². Also, cite Sellers and McNay 1984 after the last sentence in this paragraph. The next paragraph includes the reference "Since the reductions in harvest in 1976" should be changed to "1974", which is when the spring season was closed in much of Unit 9 by Emergency Order.

The discussion of bears killed in the preserve is somewhat misleading because illegal and "DLP" kills have always occurred in the preserve and Alagnak River corridor. With more park rangers afield, more of these are reported and discovered than in previous years. Also, while the total of 21 kills may have occurred in 12 months, this actually covers 2 regulatory years as far as sport kill.

The last paragraph should be changed as follows: "There are an estimated 70 to 80 bears in the preserve (in late May-early June). Currently, a 5% annual sport harvest . . ."

Wolves occur at low to moderate densities . . ., cite Sellers 1990, Wolf S&I report.

Page 24: The "Moose" discussion should cite Sellers and McNay 1984 after the last sentence of the first paragraph and at the end of the second paragraph. The second paragraph should also be corrected; harvests were high intentionally so that moose densities could be reduced to prevent further overuse of browse, which was already occurring.

The third paragraph, third sentence needs correcting. Calf recruitment has averaged 18:100 in the park boundary trend area. DFG surveys have also been done in two other trend count areas that are along the park/preserve Boundary (i.e., King Salmon Creek [every year since 1981 except 1985] and Branch River [every year since 1981 except 1985, 1990, and 1991]). The statement "Moose densities in the survey area along the park boundary are about twice those . . . stable" is not entirely accurate. The park boundary trend area, by virtue of being selected as a trend area, obviously represents some of the better moose habitat in the area. The density there is probably about 2 moose/mi², but has never actually

been measured. The Gasaway census (Sellers and McNay 1984) found an overall density of 0.9 moose/mi² in a 1,300 mi² area which includes much poor habitat area. The better habitat in the census area had a density of 2.4 moose/mi². Once again, we request the NPS work closely with DFG in the use and interpretation of the State's data. Some of the errors corrected by the above information are due to failure of data users obtaining adequate information about how the data was collected.

The last sentence has no basis in fact. In the past 2 years, the harvest of cow moose has been virtually eliminated, and bull:cow ratios are stable.

Caribou The first paragraph could be improved by reading and citing Sellers 1992 caribou S&I report.

Page 25 The description of herd distribution at the top of this page is derived from caribou S&I reports and needs to be appropriately referenced (Sellers 1990 and 1992).

Coastal Ecosystems and Islands

While Katmai National Park and Preserve may encompass entire watersheds, not all the lands described (page 32) are within the unit. For example, approximately 75,000 acres in the Kamishak and Douglas River drainage is state land not subject to NPS management. Furthermore, the first paragraph incorrectly implies that the park/preserve boundary includes navigable waterways, submerged lands, "river systems, marshes, beaches, intertidal zones, estuaries." These areas are state-owned.

Fisheries Management Policies (page 52-54)

The management policies listed on page 52 should be reordered to list the State's regulatory process first. As written, the section does not reflect the State's fishery management authorities throughout the park and preserve nor the Master Memorandum of Understanding between DFG and NPS for the development of plans and regulations affecting resources and their uses. This section also contradicts policies and earlier statements in the plan. DFG offers its assistance in reviewing a revision of this section.

For the benefit of the reader, the plan should also acknowledge that the state is currently litigating the

assumption of management authority by the Secretary of the Interior (State of Alaska vs. Lujan). The NPS contends in other litigation that it has no authority to regulate fisheries in the state's waterways. Such discrepancies within this plan and with other NPS documents should be corrected.

The following policy (page 52) is not an accurate reflection of park statutory restrictions on management in Alaska, and we request it be revised or withdrawn: "Parks may not provide source animals for restoration or population or enhancement..."

Servicewide Issue N19

The description of hunting and trapping regulations on page 54 is erroneous. There is no such thing as "subsistence trapping" or "sport trapping", as clearly discussed and agreed upon in the Congressional legislative history. There is only a difference of eligibility to participate in some harvests in some park areas. We also reiterate that the State adopts trapping and subsistence hunting regulations in the preserve and park. ANILCA Section 807 provides an avenue for review of state regulations for an aggrieved party by the federal court. ANILCA does not give the Secretary or the NPS authority to regulate the take of fish and wildlife. (Similar correction needs to be made at the bottom of page 99 and on page 100.)

This section should be revised to reflect regulatory and management authorities more accurately. Authority of the Federal Subsistence Board to implement regulations which preempt state regulations is currently in litigation (e.g., State of Alaska vs. Lujan). It would be more appropriate for this section to define the issues and accurately reflect the jurisdictional dispute than to relay inaccurate and biased information to the public and future park managers who will reference the plan.

Water Rights

Since this plan does not directly change or make recommendations concerning public use, it is not necessary to include the State's guidelines for the management of the beds of navigable waterbodies. The plan should, however, acknowledge the role of the State regarding water rights. Please include the following language on page 56:

Federal reserved water rights are created when federal lands are withdrawn from entry for federal use. They are

created for the minimum amount of water reasonably necessary to satisfy both existing and reasonable foreseeable future uses of water for the primary purposes for which the land is withdrawn. The priority date is the date the land is withdrawn for those primary purposes.

Federal reserved water rights in Alaska can be claimed and adjudicated in basin-wide adjudications in conformance with the McCarran Amendment under state law, AS 46.15.165-169 and 11 AAC 93.400-440, either administratively or judicially. Alternatively, federal water rights may be applied for and granted under state law for either out-of-stream or instream water rights. In any case, water claimed or requested must be quantified.

The NPS will work cooperatively with the State of Alaska to inventory and quantify its federal water rights under state law. Water resources of the Katmai National Park and Preserve will be managed to maintain the primary purposes for which the unit was established.

In addition to federal reserved water rights, the plan should note that a federal agency can apply for water rights through the existing state water rights system. By applying for water rights through the State it will, in many cases, provide the NPS with the senior water rights and save both the State and federal government the cost of a federal reserved water right adjudication. The issuance of state water rights will not preclude the federal agency from applying for its federal reserved water rights in the future if the need arises. The Alaska Water Use Act also allows public agencies to apply for reservations of water for instream uses including fisheries, recreation, and water quality purposes.

Natural Resource Project Statements

Mitigate effects of Human Activities on Bears

We urge the NPS to increase focus on enforcement of NPS and state regulations concerning food-handling and similar activities which attract bears (page 65). During summer of 1992, the NPS inappropriately implemented a sport fishery closure, preempting state regulatory authority, rather than enforcing and citing a park visitor for violating park regulations at Brooks River. Increased enforcement and education, as well as redesigning the bridge crossing at Brooks River, should receive increased attention as a proposed

project rather than "respond to problem incidents park-wide." The latter is undefined and certainly of less immediate import than enforcing existing regulations.

Monitor Furbearing Mammal Populations

The last two paragraphs on page 67 of this section seriously misinterpret trapping of furbearer data, but particularly include inaccurate interpretations of lynx harvest data (reference letter from Sellers to Potts). Please correct these inaccuracies and incorporate the following information:

While lynx numbers were down for several years prior to 1991-1992, there has been a definite increase in lynx for the past 2 years. Lynx do fluctuate in abundance, but trapping pressure in the preserve has little influence. Trapping west of the park (i.e., near King Salmon) is fairly intense but probably does not directly affect park populations because trappers are taking lynx that are dispersing from the park. Furthermore, trapping pressure for all species has been fairly stable in the King Salmon area for many years, yet this pressure did not prevent the current "mini-peak" in lynx abundance.

Study Salmon and Rainbow Trout Populations

Given that DFG regulates, researches, and manages fishery populations in and adjacent to the park/preserve, it is not apparent why the NPS has identified a high priority need for "a full-time permanent Fisheries Biologist on the park staff" (page 71). Given the desired data needs for certain species, such personnel cost might be better spent furthering cooperative data collection efforts with DFG.

Monitor Fish Populations

Pages 81-84 describe several specific waterways within the park/preserve for which NPS desires more specific harvest information. We urge the NPS to consider placing a higher priority on possible cooperative ventures with the State, rather than hiring new personnel. The State requires such specific harvest data in the establishment of regulations and for monitoring populations.

Evaluate Wolf Population Status

We request the third paragraph on page 87 be corrected; anyone can hunt or trap wolves in Game Management Unit 9.

We request the last paragraph on page 87 be rewritten to reflect that the NPS was an active partner in the plan and agreed to the wolf management zones. We particularly urge deletion of the ("of concern") implication that NPS was an observer rather than a participant in the preparation of the plan.

Also, on page 88 we again urge the NPS to assist funding DFG's efforts to monitor and survey populations rather than determine "it is necessary for the NPS to increase monitoring of wolf populations in this area" and "as soon as possible, the NPS should take the initiative and conduct wolf surveys". Given the State's responsibility for managing wildlife populations and the cooperative relationship recognized in the Master Memorandum of Understanding between DFG and NPS, the plan's intent to independently monitor populations seems overzealous and fraught with future conflicts.

Monitor Moose and Caribou Populations

The moose season information (page 96, last paragraph) has changed since drafting of the plan. Currently, no antlerless season occurs under state regulations for the Naknek drainage. Residents are allowed to hunt for 4 days before nonresidents in September, and nonresidents cannot hunt during December.

We request the discussion include confirmation that the NPS is adopting the state's moose management objectives, which would include maintaining a bull:cow ratio of 25:100 in moderate to high density areas and 40:100 in low density areas. DFG is managing cow harvests to achieve moose density objectives.

Under the first "program or project activity" (page 97), we again question NPS's focus to "collect historic harvest and population data on moose and caribou for park files". DFG has collected this information and has provided much to the NPS. Duplicate storage may be an unnecessary expense. Furthermore, we question the need for NPS to independently "analyze these data for population trend information" since this still remains under the management of the State. We suggest the emphasis be shifted to "cooperate in the collection and analysis of data". Similarly, in the third activity, we urge the NPS to cooperate closely with the State in the dissemination and interpretation of data for the public.

Develop Action Plan for the Alagnak Wild River

The "Program or Project Activity" list does not include a cooperative study of traditional (pre-ANILCA) access, which is guaranteed by ANILCA Sections 811 and 1110. Instead, the

Service focuses on "impacts of access" and "use of illegal access".

We have consistently urged the NPS to conduct studies of traditional (pre-ANILCA) access in order to identify those uses which are protected by law prior to implementing methods to justify restrictions. Similarly, transportation and access plans required for each unit by ANILCA Section 1301 have never been completed. We believe this and all other resource management plans should identify these unfinished components of the general management plans and seek necessary funds to complete them.

These concerns regarding access also apply to pages 117-119, **Evaluate Wilderness/Backcountry Use Patterns**; and to pages 147-148 **Survey and Map Sensitive Boundary Areas**. The latter contains numerous errors in fact regarding allowed methods of access. We concur wholeheartedly with the latter project statement's prioritization of providing accurate maps of the park, preserve, and non-park lands within the exterior boundaries. In fact, we urge that boundary map preparation be ranked much higher in the future pursuit of funding.

PART THREE: SUBSISTENCE

PRESENT SUBSISTENCE RESOURCE STATUS

We appreciate that the Subsistence section (beginning on page 177) was prepared in consultation with staff of DFG's Division of Subsistence and welcome the interest expressed in working cooperatively with DFG on subsistence management issues and data collection. The following comments are offered to strengthen the current draft.

The following statement is an inaccurate representation of ANILCA mandates: "subsistence uses had to be consistent with the preservation of 'natural and healthy' wildlife populations in National Preserves. The emphasis on wildlife preservation is two-fold." The management guidance for parks is "natural and healthy" and for preserves is "healthy". Secondly, Congress focused its emphasis throughout ANILCA on "protection" and "conserve", not on "preservation".

The determination (page 178) that "Off-road vehicle (ORV or ATV) access is not allowed in Katmai National Preserve or Park" is inappropriate and not justified. Without cooperative studies conducted to determine what access existed at the time of passage of ANILCA, NPS has no basis for determining which

types or locations of access are illegal. ANILCA Sections 811 and 1110 protect traditional (pre-ANILCA) access, which includes ORVs for subsistence uses if it occurred in the area prior to 1980 in the additions. The longer time goes by without completion of cooperative studies of traditional (pre-ANILCA) access, the harder it will be to prove certain uses are not traditional.

Page 178-180. We question the basis upon which NPS recognizes Egegik as a "resident zone village" but not the 3 villages within the Bristol Bay Borough (Naknek, South Naknek, and King Salmon) which have documented use of the preserve and are significantly closer to the preserve than Egegik.

More significantly, until compelling evidence indicates that subsistence uses of the preserve are being restricted as a result of hunting by nonlocal residents, we do not support subsistence eligibility determinations being made and implemented on the preserve. Page 178 correctly points out that Section 804 of ANILCA is to be implemented during times of resource scarcity when consumptive harvests must be limited. This is a more flexible approach to restricting eligibility to specific local communities and residents.

Yet our greatest concern, and one recognized in the plan, is that the resident zone concept was not created for subsistence management in preserves. Without justification, we object to applying more restrictive park management practices to the preserve. The State believes this would set a dangerous precedent for other preserves in the state.

Pages 180-181. We reiterate our long-standing objection to the closure of the traditional net fishery at the west end of Naknek Lake and the upper Naknek River following passage of ANILCA. This was a documented long-term subsistence practice whose continuation was provided for in state regulations but prohibited by federal law. The State further contends that the NPS has no jurisdiction to regulate this fishery or any other activity in state waters. We request that the plan acknowledge this unresolved jurisdictional dispute.

Subsistence Harvest data tabulated on page 184 do not specify what is considered "current" and "past" resource harvest data. While we agree that additional ethnohistorical information is necessary, the department has maintained harvest records for some species for many years. For example, certain anadromous fisheries harvest data are available back to 1960. The plan should clarify what types of harvest information is needed for management purposes.

SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The NPS again inappropriately states that a preserve management issue is "preservation of 'natural and healthy' renewable resources". This restriction is mandated by ANILCA only for the park; the mandate for the preserve is to maintain healthy populations. Consequently, the entire introduction to this section and numerous activities identified within it should be rewritten following a major reevaluation of improper focus. Similar corrections need to be made throughout the Subsistence Resource Project Statements (e.g., page 203).

Specific Issues

The logic behind the necessity to further define and restrict eligibility of residents to harvest within the preserve is not applicable (page 189, carryover and last two paragraphs). Furthermore, the State's resident seasons are actually subsistence-general season regulations rather than "sport" regulations. Similar inappropriate categorization of the state's regulations occurs on page 205.

Servicewide Issue C04

The discussion on page 190 implies that the State's customary and traditional determinations were based on current use patterns. The State's customary and traditional findings usually refer to and cite sources which discuss historical subsistence practices, when such documentation is available. Customary and traditional use studies should include the full spectrum of contemporary and historic practices.

Management Strategies

We endorse the NPS call for continued cooperation with DFG's Division of Subsistence in collecting subsistence data (page 193). DFG staff appreciate the interest shown by the Katmai Subsistence Coordinator in working with them and learning the State's research techniques used in the field.

Subsistence Resource Project Statements

Analyses of Wildlife Population and Harvest Data

Conducting such analyses would duplicate the existing state harvest data and compilation system. In light of limited funds for resource data collection, NPS should focus on

cooperative efforts with DFG to fill data gaps and data collection methodology. Furthermore, justification for these activities (page 203) is inappropriately built upon the restrictive mandates of the park, not the preserve, yet no subsistence is allowed within the park.

Conduct Ethnography of Subsistence Use Patterns (pages 209-213), **Research Local Rural Ethnohistory and Ethnography** (pages 271-272), and **Write an Ethnographic Overview and Assessment** (pages 295-299)

NPS should consult with DFG in developing its proposed ethnographic study plans for local communities. DFG's established working relationships in local communities can facilitate future studies and contribute toward the subsistence data needs of both the State and NPS. Such coordination is especially critical if NPS assigns this work to an ethnologist new to the state and/or unfamiliar with subsistence data collection.

DFG's Subsistence Division supports the continuation of collaborative study efforts in Katmai-area communities. This will be in keeping with provisions of the "Recommendations for Interagency Coordination in Collecting and Presenting Data on Subsistence Uses" adopted by the Alaska Land Use Council in 1988 with NPS support.

Subsistence Information Outreach Program

The presence of a Katmai Subsistence Coordinator in the NPS King Salmon office is an important first step toward addressing the need for subsistence information outreach (page 215-216). DFG can also assist in this effort, especially if it conducts cooperative research with the NPS in local communities. We also support development of informational materials and an educational program to benefit local residents and visitors.

Special Issues--Define Local Rural Resident

The NPS may consider it necessary to define "local rural resident" (page 217-218), but we remain concerned that eligibility restrictions beyond those currently in place for harvesting resources in the preserve not be imposed without biological justification.

Special Issues--Access

As discussed above, page 221 inaccurately portrays the traditional, pre-ANILCA access as illegal, despite the lack of studies to document such access and ANILCA intent to protect such access.

A study of traditional modes of access to and within the preserve is recommended in conjunction with the other activities identified in this plan. Increasing local interests in "non-traditional ORV" use may be associated with their past use and status as a practical means of transportation.

This Problem Statement also misreads 36 CFR 13.46, which does not say "other surface transportation" refers to dog teams. Instead, this regulation reads: "**snowmobiles, motorboats, dog teams and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed by local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses**". Other forms of surface transportation are not specifically defined in this regulation.

PAGE-SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Page 16, Objective #1: As written, the objective contradicts discussions which clarify that ANILCA did not allow subsistence uses in the park. We suggest the sentence be rewritten to read: "...decisions affecting the natural and cultural resources of the park and preserve and the subsistence resources of the preserve."

Page 35, Human Activity and Use: Commercial fishermen also use uplands for temporary facilities for gear storage and other support activities. This use is protected by ANILCA.

Page 50, top line: Change "Shelikof" to Bristol Bay.

Page 54, last paragraph: While most of the sport hunting in the preserve is guided, this is not the case for the Alagnak Wild River corridor.

Page 55, paragraph 2: The State's Fish and Wildlife Protection Division is within the Department of Public Safety.

This paragraph also contains a reference to "illegal trapping". This concern is not addressed elsewhere in the plan and we are unaware of documentation that this is an issue. We request clarification. Law enforcement patrols

described herein are intended to hinder any illegal activities, so we object to the apparent bias in addressing only two possible activities involving wildlife.

Page 57: Paint River is adjacent to the preserve, not the park.

Page 65: In the first paragraph, the citation "Sellers and Miller 1990" should be changed to Sellers et al. 1991.

The third paragraph states "there has not been a serious injury from a bear since 1966". We wonder if the park ranger injured by a bear during the summer of 1992 might have a different definition of "serious".

Page 67: Contrary to statements in paragraph 2, there are no "harvest reports" for furbearers. Also, DFG is unaware of any marten occurring in park and preserve in recent times as stated in the third paragraph. Furbearer data collection issues were cooperatively addressed with DFG in the Yukon-Charley Rivers RMP. We suggest that the Katmai RMP use this as a model.

Pages 87 and 89: The citation should be Sellers 1990 for the Wolf S&I report.

Page 93: Substitute Sellers et al. 1991 for the citation R. A. Sellers pers. comm.

Under (1) in the first paragraph, cite Miller and Sellers 1989; Miller and Sellers 1992, Sellers and Miller 1991; and Sellers and Miller 1992.

Page 95: The first paragraph should cite Sellers 1990 and 1992 for the caribou S&I reports.

The last paragraph should cite VanDaele for the Mulchatna population size. The Mulchatna herd is still growing, but the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd has essentially been stable between 16,000 and 20,000 since 1981.

Page 96: In the first paragraph, the harvest data presented should again cite Sellers 1990 caribou S&I report.

In the first paragraph under "Moose", cite Sellers and McNay 1984. In the second paragraph, cite Sellers 1990 for the moose S&I report which estimates 500-600 moose in 9C outside of the park.

Page 99: NPS is only responsible for management of public uses occurring on uplands adjacent to the river. This section should clarify that the Alaska Department of Natural Resources has management authority over the river bed and watercolumn.

Page 100, Land Status: There is no "confusion" about State ownership of the beds of navigable waterways, including the Alagnak River.

Public Use Regulation: The State, as owner and manager of the river bed and watercolumn, would only consider restricting certain public uses if it can be shown that such use is damaging resources.

Subsistence Management: The following statement is inaccurate: "NPS is currently responsible for subsistence management on the Alagnak." The NPS contends in litigation filed by Katie John that it has no authority to manage subsistence harvests in state waterways. The entire paragraph on "Subsistence Management" contains numerous similar errors and should be redrafted.

Page 101, Access and facilities: NPS must also work with the State as the manager of the river.

Paragraph 5 and Page 187, paragraph 3: The NPS does not have "dual management authority" over fish and wildlife resources as stated. The only authority NPS has is closure of federal public lands, except in very specific instances. Similar corrections need to be made on **Page 199**.

Page 102: This page partially duplicates sections on page 100.

Page 159: "McNeil" should be referred to as the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary.

Page 167: DFG's Survey and Inventory reports should be properly cited.

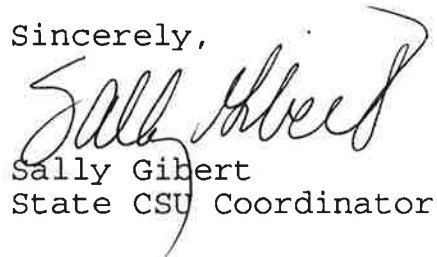
Page 188: The first full paragraph should also acknowledge that ANILCA Section 1316 protects the use of temporary facilities for the taking of fish and wildlife.

Page 189: The proper term is "local fish and game advisory committees", not "boards".

Page 190, N19: Most DFG harvest data is available at the Uniform Count Unit level, not just the Game Management Unit level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. State representatives are available to review all or portions of this plan if desired. If you have any questions, please feel free to call this office.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

Attachments: Legislative History
Literature Cited

CC:

Alan Eliason, Superintendent, Katmai National Park and Preserve

Glenn Olds, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources

Carl Rosier, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game

John Sandor, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation

Frank Turpin, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Richard Burton, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

John Katz, Governor's Office, Washington, D.C.

ATTACHMENT I

From 1979 Congressional Record concerning H.R. 39, page 171:

In authorizing subsistence uses within National Parks, Monuments, Preserves, and National Recreational Areas, it is the intent of the Committee that certain traditional National Park Service management values be maintained. It is contrary to the National Park Service concept to manipulate habitat or populations to achieve maximum utilization of natural resources. Rather, the National Park System concept requires implementation of management policies which strive to maintain the natural abundance, behavior, diversity, and ecological integrity of native animals as part of their ecosystem, and the Committee recognizes, and the Committee agrees, **that subsistence uses by local rural residents have been, and are now, a natural part of the ecosystem** serving as a primary consumer in the natural food chain. The Committee expects the National Park Service to take appropriate steps when necessary to insure that consumptive uses of fish and wildlife populations within National Park Service units not be allowed to adversely disrupt the natural balance which has been maintained for thousands of years. Accordingly, the Committee does not expect the National Park Service to engage in habitat manipulation or control of other species **for the purpose of maintaining subsistence uses** within National Park System units. (emphasis added)

and from the Section-by-Section Analysis, pp. 232-233:

Long-term protection of fish and wildlife populations is necessary to ensure the continuation of the opportunity for a subsistence way of life. Consequently, subsistence uses on the public lands must be conducted in a manner consistent with "the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife", an approach emphasized by the Committee in a series of amendments to incorporate that concept into the language of Sections 802(1), 808(b), and 815 (1) and (3). It also should be noted that a recommendation of a regional council pursuant to Section 805 would not be supported by substantial evidence if the recommendation is inconsistent with the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife. **The Committee intends the phrase "the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife" to mean the maintenance of fish and wildlife resources and their habitats in a condition which assures stable and continuing natural populations and species mix of plants and animals in relation to their ecosystems, including recognition that local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses may be a natural part of that ecosystem; minimizes the likelihood of irreversible or long-term adverse effects upon such populations and species; and ensures maximum practicable diversity of options for the future.** (emphasis added)

ATTACHMENT II

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CSU Distribution List
Katmai RMP
March 26, 1993

Tina Cunning, Department of Fish & Game, Anchorage

Terry Haynes, Department of Fish & Game, Fairbanks

Priscilla Wohl, Department of Environmental Conservation, Anchorage

Alice Iliff, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage

Jeff Otteson, Department of Transportation/Public Facilities, Juneau

Paul Rusanowski, Division of Governmental Coordination, Juneau

Connel Murray, Division of Tourism, Juneau

Colonel Phil Gilson, Fish & Wildlife Protection, Anchorage

Sue Flensburg, BBCRSA, Dillingham

Stan Leaphart, CACFA, Fairbanks