

STATE OF ALASKA

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June 24, 1993

Peter Fitzmaurice
Acting Superintendent
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
P.O. Box 167
Eagle, Alaska 99738

Dear Mr Fitzmaurice:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) concerning construction of a Public Use Cabin near Slavin's Roadhouse within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. This letter represents the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

The State strongly supports National Park Service's (NPS) intent to build new public use cabins within Alaska parks and preserve, including the cabin proposed in this EA for the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. We are pleased with the NPS's willingness to facilitate existing and future public recreational use of the area. The State hopes that construction of this cabin means that NPS will also look favorably upon future requests that may be anticipated from subsistence and other users for construction of new or replacement subsistence cabins.

Management Zoning and the GMP Amendment

We note that this cabin can only be built after the General Management Plan (GMP) has been amended to remove the cabin site from the "natural zone", where such structures are not allowed. The State has always viewed the use of management zones in Yukon-Charley with skepticism, in part because we were concerned that it did not provide sufficient management flexibility. We are pleased that the NPS is willing to consider zoning changes to accommodate public use. We are concerned, however, that the GMP amendment may not be receiving the proper public attention.

The current document is not clear about whether this EA *constitutes* or *will trigger* a GMP amendment. If the EA itself effectively amends the GMP, as appears to be the case, then this important fact should be readily apparent in the title and in the introduction. We further believe that a public comment period of less than 30 days for a GMP amendment is inadequate. While we support the amendment in this case, we are concerned that this abbreviated public review process may be setting an undesirable precedent for future GMP revisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc:

Joan Darnell, Division of Environmental Quality, NPS
Glenn Olds, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Carl Rosier, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
John Sandor, Commissioner, Department of Environmental
Conservation
Bruce Campbell, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities
Richard Burton, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
John Katz, Governor's Office, Washington, D.C.

**CSU Distribution List
YUCH Cabin
June 25, 1993**

Tina Cunning, Department of Fish & Game, Anchorage

Terry Haynes, Department of Fish & Game, Fairbanks

Priscilla Wohl, Department of Environmental Conservation, Anchorage

Joyce Beelman, Department of Environmental Conservation, Fairbanks

Alice Iliff, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage

Norm Piispanen, Department of Transportation/Public Facilities, Fairbanks

Paul Rusanowski, Division of Governmental Coordination, Juneau

Connel Murray, Division of Tourism, Juneau

Stan Leaphart, CACFA, Fairbanks