

STATE OF ALASKA

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April 14, 1994

Don Chase
Superintendent
Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
P. O. Box 220
Nome, AK 99762

Dear Mr. Chase:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the scoping newsletter for the Nome Development Concept Plan (DCP). This letter represents the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

We understand that the planning team will be meeting in Denver in the next week or so to discuss the direction of the DCP. The following is a quick compilation of comments and suggestions that I have received to date for planning team consideration.

ANILCA Section 1306: The planning team should consider ANILCA Section 1306(a)(2) regarding administrative sites and visitor facilities. This section states in part "... To the extent practicable and desirable, the Secretary shall attempt to locate such sites and facilities on Native land in the vicinity of the unit." We request that this section be acknowledged in the DCP with an explanation of how the NPS is addressing this Congressional direction.

Advisory committee: The advisory committee is heavily weighted toward native organizations. We appreciate and support the NPS working with a variety of Native groups, but suggest that the committee be more broadly based with the inclusion of other community groups such as the local chamber of commerce, city council, and/or Pioneers of Alaska.

Wildlife exhibit: The Department of Fish and Game maintains its interest in working with NPS to incorporate a state fish and wildlife exhibit in the cooperative visitor center. We also recommend that you contact the commercial fisheries biologist in Nome who may be able to offer some insights concerning interpretation of local fish populations.

State land issues: For public awareness, if any activities proposed in this DCP are located outside the city of Nome, we request that the plan contain the State's generic language concerning state ownership of shorelands, tidelands and submerged lands. State land and water are addressed in State's Northwest Area Plan for State Lands (February, 1989).

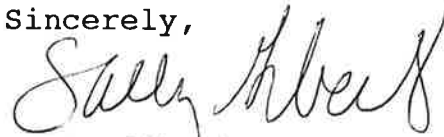
Gold Rush history: The State recognizes the NPS efforts to clean-up and revegetate certain areas in the preserve which have been historically mined. We suggest consideration, however, of preserving selected evidence of old mining activity which could be made a part of the preserve's overall interpretive theme.

ANILCA correction: Under "Legislative Background" on page 1 of the newsletter, note that the quote is from Section 101 of ANILCA rather than "Section 202(2)".

In conclusion, we appreciate your efforts to reach out to Native and municipal groups as this planning process unfolds. We encourage such contact to continue, as well as broadening this effort to other facets of the community. Meetings and information sessions with the general public would also contribute to substantive dialogue and improved understandings.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 561-6131.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc:

Harry Noah, 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.

Distribution List
Nome DCP
April 13, 1994

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Alice Iliff, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage

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