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August 28, 1995

John Martin, Acting Refuge Manager
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
c/o Refuge Planning
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Martin:


The State of Alaska has reviewed the Environmental Assessment for the Safety Sound Interpretive Site designation. This letter represents the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

The State supports the development of the interpretive site which is being proposed in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Transportation. In particular, we support the amendment to the refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan which changes the underlying management category from Minimal Management to Intensive Management.

As a point of information, the State has identified the Iditarod Trail as an RS 2477 route, known as RST 299, Kaltag-Topkok-Solomon-Nome Trail. In the vicinity of this reclassification, the Iditarod Trail route coincides with the 100 foot right-of-way Nome-Council Road; therefore the State's interest in the RS 2477 are protected. No other RS 2477 routes have been indentified in this area, although it has a long history of mining and may contain other access trails which have not yet been identified.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,


Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc: Poppy Benson, Refuge Planner, Homer, AK