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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

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May 21, 1999

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Mr. Steve Martin
Superintendent
Denali National Park and Preserve
P. O. Box 9
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Dear Mr. Martin:

The State of Alaska has completed its review of the April, 1999 Environmental Assessment (EA) for Gravel Acquisition at Mile 89 of the Denali Park Road. This letter represents the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

Right of Way Interests. The State generally supports efforts that lead to improved and safer road conditions, which this project appears to accomplish. We do not object to the proposal with the caveat that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) will retain a full set of right of way (ROW) interests after the existing state ROW has been moved. Such ROW interests include the option to upgrade the state-owned road if and when the need may arise.

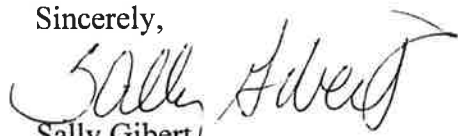
The EA notes that the final location of the ROW will be moved as much as 160 feet. The current ROW includes locations from which DOT/PF has historically removed modest quantities of gravel for periodic road maintenance. Just as NPS is concerned with gravel availability, so is the State. DOT/PF does not intend to relinquish the option of periodic gravel removal within the newly located state-owned ROW when the old ROW is abandoned.

The ROW Agreement currently under development between NPS and DOT/PF may be the appropriate vehicle for clarifying these concerns.

Subsistence. Based on the low level of moose hunting effort currently reported in the area, we generally agree with the conclusion reached in the EA and in the Section 810 Analysis that the proposed action would not adversely affect subsistence uses. Given the active relationship between the NPS and park subsistence users, we recommend that park staff advise the few locally affected subsistence users of the Kantishna area that they might experience minor and temporary disruptions next September.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please call Norm Piispanen in the Fairbanks office of DOT/PF at 907-451-2385, or me at 907-269-7477.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Gibert". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc: Gabrielle LaRoche, Acting Director, Division of Governmental Coordination
John Shively, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Frank Rue, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
Joseph Perkins, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

May 21, 1999

from Sally Gibert, DGC

cc: Tina Cunning, DFG-Anch
Terry Haynes, DFG-Fbx
Patty Bielawski, DNR-Anch
Odin Brudie, DOT/PF-Jun
Norm Piispanen, DOT/PF-Fbx
Elizabeth Barry, AG's-Anch
Anna Kerttula, Gov's Office-WDC
Stan Leaphart, CACFA-Fbx