



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**ANILCA Implementation Program**  
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1430  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Main: 907.269.7529  
Fax: 907.269.5673

June 26, 2017

Desk Officer  
Department of the Interior  
OMB-OIRA

To whom it may concern:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Federal Register Notice dated May 26, 2017, which summarized the information collection request submitted by the National Park Service under OMB Control Number 1024-0022; Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit. The following comments represent the consolidated views of state resource agencies.

The background information in the Federal Register Notice implies a backcountry use permit is required for all park units. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) established unique management direction for park units in Alaska. For example, ANILCA prohibits park units from collecting entrance fees (exceptions were subsequently authorized for two park units), and backcountry wilderness permits are only required in units that have promulgated park-specific regulations. In addition, ANILCA allows motorized and mechanized methods of access for general public use and for subsistence use by Alaska's rural residents. It is inaccurate to state on the application that motorized vehicle and mountain bike access is prohibited in all wilderness areas.

To avoid presenting misinformation and causing confusion for a significant number of park visitors and Alaskan residents, we request the form clarify the application only applies to park units that have regulatory requirements for backcountry wilderness permits. To remedy the wilderness prohibition language in particular, the form could either acknowledge an exception where enabling legislation, such as ANILCA, allows motorized and mechanized access in designated wilderness, or provide a separate form for Alaska park units (and other units where exceptions may apply) that omits the prohibition statement. A separate form may also remedy other differences applicable only to Alaska park units.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me at (907) 269-7529 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Magee".

Susan Magee  
ANILCA Program Coordinator

cc: Tim Goddard, NPS Information Collection Clearance Officer