

STATE OF ALASKA

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FEDERAL AREAS

SEAN PARNELL, Governor

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August 10, 2009

Paul Anderson, Superintendent
Denali National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 9
Denali Park, AK 99755

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas has reviewed the *Environmental Assessment for Inholder Access to the Stampede Creek Area of Denali National Park*. We support the proposed action to issue a right of way certificate of access (RWCA) to each of two owners of private land in the Stampede Creek area.

As you know, access to inholdings within conservation system units has been the subject of considerable controversy since passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The Commission is pleased to see Denali National Park and Preserve using this tool which has proven effective in managing inholder access in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. By documenting and authorizing an owner's reasonable methods and means of access to their property, a RWCA both recognizes the provisions of ANILCA Section 1110(b) guaranteeing that right of access and helps ensure park resources and values are protected.

The property owners' access would continue under the no-action alternative, but routine maintenance of the airstrip and the access route would be more difficult. The proposed action will allow more effective maintenance methods and also improve the safety of the airstrip by allowing additional clearing. Additionally, as the EA points out, issuing each property owner an RWCA gives certainty to their 1110(b) access rights. We encourage the National Park Service to pursue issuing RWCA for all private property owners within Denali National Park and Preserve.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to comment and to support the proposed action. It is consistent with ANILCA and the purposes of Denali National Park and Preserve.

Sincerely,



Stan Leaphart
Executive Director