

STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, Governor

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting

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January 15, 2009

Lee Anne Ayres, Refuge Manager
Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 270 MS 565
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

Dear Ms. Ayres:

The State of Alaska reviewed the December 2008 Scoping Newsletter and the Notice of Intent to prepare a revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. We appreciate the productive relationship between State and Service staff and look forward to assisting in the development of this plan. The following comments represent the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies.

Fish and Wildlife

We appreciate the Service's cooperation and coordination in regard to our mutual responsibilities of conserving fish, wildlife, and habitat as defined by law, regulation, policy, and the Master Memorandum of Understanding (MMOU) between the Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). We look forward to working with the Service throughout this planning process to develop cooperative monitoring and inventory projects that will help to fulfill our respective responsibilities.

We also appreciate the Refuge's active participation in the Game Management Unit (GMU) 23 Working Group and on-going efforts to resolve user conflicts through this interagency cooperative process. If the CCP planning process indicates user conflicts are still an issue, we request the Refuge continue to use the GMU 23 Working Group process to evaluate proposed recommendations. One benefit of this approach is to afford cooperating management agencies with an opportunity to collectively evaluate potential displacement affects on adjacent state and federal lands. Use of the Working Group will also likely enhance the credibility and effectiveness of the planning process and outcomes.

Studies for Traditional Access

We request the Service, in cooperation with the State, document pre-ANILCA access and activities on the Refuge. This information will be important in evaluating current and future management of various access modes within the Refuge consistent with ANILCA Sections 811 and 1110(a).

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, prominent 'M'.

Susan E. Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator