

# STATE OF ALASKA

**SARAH PALIN, Governor**

## **ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting**

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June 1, 2009

Christopher S. Savage  
Petersburg District Ranger  
Tongass National Forest  
P.O. Box 1328  
Petersburg, AK 99833

Dear Mr. Savage:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Petersburg Ranger District Access and Travel Management (ATM) Scoping Notice. The following comments represent the consolidated views of State agencies.

As you know, we have been working with the Forest Service on coordinating implementation of the subsistence access provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) on the Tongass National Forest with implementation of the National Travel Management Rule. We encourage the Petersburg Ranger District to follow the guidance in the May 23, 2008 *Interim Guide – Providing Access for Subsistence Purposes (ANILCA 811) During Access and Travel Management Planning* as well as subsequent guidance provided by the Forest Supervisor. We remain available to provide technical assistance as needed.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat looks forward to working with the Forest Service to reach concurrence prior to conduct of Service activities in fish bearing waters. As outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding<sup>1</sup> (MOU) between the Habitat Division and the Forest Service, state habitat biologists will coordinate with District staff to confirm best management practices are applied at each crossing, including:

- conducting instream activities to avoid sensitive fish life stages
- immediately stabilizing disturbed stream banks to prevent erosion and sedimentation
- using materials treated with preservatives that do not contain creosote or pentachlorophenol for structures that cross fresh water

The MOU also calls for cooperation in updating the *Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* by providing nominations to the Catalog. We urge Forest Service field staff to submit nominations for the annual updates.

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<sup>1</sup> 04MOU-111011-094

For additional information on this process or to coordinate fieldwork associated with specific crossings please contact Jackie Timothy, Regional Supervisor at (907) 465-4275 or [jackie.timothy@alaska.gov](mailto:jackie.timothy@alaska.gov).

The District's ATM is also subject to the requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and the Alaska Coastal Management Program. We encourage the District to contact Randy Coleman, Forest Service Coastal Zone Liaison, with any questions regarding consistency with the CZMA or the determination of affects to coastal uses and resources.

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

Sincerely,

/ss/

Susan E. Magee

ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator