

STATE OF ALASKA

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

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June 27, 1984

Mr. Roger Contor
Regional Director
National Park Service
2525 Gambell St., Rm. 107
Anchorage, AK 99503-2892

Dear Mr. Contor:

The State has completed its review of the Porcupine River Draft Wild and Scenic River Study. We are pleased to see that the National Park Service (NPS) has addressed the major issues surrounding the management of the river corridor and proposed that it not be included in the wild and scenic river system. The State concurs with this proposed alternative (no action).

We appreciate acknowledgement of the importance of the study area for resource harvesting by local communities. Since we last reviewed a draft of this study new information regarding these subsistence uses has been published. To include this current information, we request that NPS cite Richard Caulfield's report, Subsistence Land Use in Upper Yukon-Porcupine Communities (ADF&G, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 16, June 1983). This document discusses subsistence uses of the Porcupine River area by residents of five Yukon Flats communities.

Specifically, information presented in Caulfield's report elucidates the past and present importance of the Porcupine River to the resource economics of Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon. The report also notes that these subsistence uses extend well beyond the settlement boundaries of these communities. Because of this, we request that NPS modify the statement on Page 22 ("Land Use") of the Porcupine study which indicates that land uses are "occasional and intermittent" in the study area. We feel it would also be appropriate for NPS to cite Richard Nelson's Hunters of the Northern Forest (University of Chicago Press, 1973) to give readers a more complete understanding of the subsistence uses of the region.

Our last observation is that the final plan would be improved if the discussion on archeology were expanded to better describe the types and importance of the cultural resources in the study area.

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If the final recommendations to Congress are changed to reflect any wild and scenic river system designations along the Porcupine River, then the State would be concerned about likely restrictions to transportation, subsistence use and resource development in or adjacent to the river corridor.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft river study.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc: S. Leaphart, CACFA
J. Leask, AFN
R. Davidge, DOI
M. Frankel, ALUC