

# STATE OF ALASKA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

STATE CSU COORDINATOR  
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November 3, 1987

Mr. Daniel W. Doshier  
Refuge Manager  
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 2139  
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Mr. Doshier:

On behalf of the State of Alaska, this letter addresses the public review process for the Furbearer Conservation and Trapping Plan for the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Members of the public as well as the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (DFG) reportedly had difficulty obtaining copies of the draft plan, and early public notice was narrow in scope. In addition, this office was not informed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of the plan's availability. Without repeating the lengthy and thorough comments submitted by the DFG on October 9, this letter provides some specific recommendations about public review of future "step-down" management plans.

The state has consistently urged the FWS to ensure that informed public review of proposed refuge management activities is maintained following adoption of all refuge comprehensive conservation plans (CCP). We have also stressed the need to ensure adequate interagency cooperation on matters of mutual federal and state interest. During the finalization of the Kenai refuge CCP, the state and the FWS worked together to clarify the need for adequate public involvement in post-CCP planning efforts. As a result, the June 1985 Kenai refuge Record of Decision included the following specific reference to subsequent management plans, including a furbearer management plan.

In any circumstances where an aspect of the management program deals with a subject of known special interest or controversy, the affected public will be brought into the management planning process at appropriate stages. NEPA compliance will be required for all plans.

This important commitment has been contained in all CCPs since the completion of the Kenai CCP, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 304 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Mr. Daniel W. Doshier  
Furbearer Plan

November 3, 1987

In light of this commitment and responsibility, we strongly urge the FWS to mail a brief announcement and/or summary of any future management plans or proposals to as wide a distribution list as possible--with the offer that interested parties who cannot conveniently stop by the FWS office may request a copy of the full proposal by mail. Consistent with the state's and the Alaska Land Use Council's recommendations regarding public review of draft regulations, we also urge that all management plans be subject to at least a 45-60 day review. Notices by mail as described above should precede or coincide with the beginning of the public review so that interested parties can take full advantage of the comment period. In addition, we request that this office be informed whenever a planning document becomes available for public and state review.

We understand that the FWS is already planning to take additional steps to ensure that the furbearer plan receives additional public review in accordance with NEPA. We appreciate this effort and hope that future management plans are developed with adequate opportunities for public and state participation. Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations regarding public review of step-down management plans. Please feel free to contact this office if you wish to discuss the state's recommendations.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert  
State CSU Coordinator

cc: Mr. Joe Mazzoni, FWS  
Mr. Clay Hardy, FWS  
Mr. Paul Schmidt, FWS  
Mr. John Kurtz, FWS  
Mr. Rod Swope, Governor's Office  
Alaska Land Use Council  
Land Use Advisors Committee

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

November 3, 1987

Title: Kenai Furbearer Plan

[1304] Ms. Susan Alexander, The Wilderness Society, Anchorage  
[1266] Ms. Gail Baker, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Anchorage  
[1317] Dr. Robert Baker, Anchorage  
[1312] Mr. James Barkeley, Esq., Land Use Advisors Committee, Anchorage  
[1252] Mr. Michael Barton, U.S. Forest Service, Juneau  
[1037] Ms. Joyce Beelman, Department of Environmental Conservation, Fairbanks  
[120] The Honorable Judy Brady, Department of Natural Resources, Juneau  
[1372] Mr. Al Carson, Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage  
[248] The Honorable Don Collinsworth, Department of Fish and Game, Juneau  
[1373] Mr. Donald D'Onofrio, National Ocean Service, Anchorage  
[1293] Mr. Bartz Englishoe, Land Use Advisors Committee, Anchorage  
[1286] Mr. Boyd Evison, National Park Service, Anchorage  
[499] Mr. Roy S. Ewan, Ahtna, Inc., Copper Center  
[1117] The Honorable Jan Faiks, Anchorage  
[975] Mr. Darryl L. Fish, Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage  
[203] Mr. Peter Freer, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Juneau  
[1407] Mr. Harold Gillam, Land Use Advisors Committee, Fairbanks  
[944] Mr. Clay Hardy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Anchorage  
[1268] The Honorable Mark Hickey, Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Juneau  
[1422] Mr. Bob Hoekzema, Bureau of Mines, Anchorage  
[1406] Reverend J. Michael Hornick, Land Use Advisors Committee, Anchorage  
[1413] Mr. Clark Horton, Federal Aviation Administration AAL-4, Anchorage  
[1271] Ms. Sharon Jean, Land Use Advisors Committee, Soldotna  
[1244] Col. Jack Jordan, Department of Public Safety, Anchorage  
[1288] The Honorable Dennis Kelso, Department of Environmental Conservation, Juneau  
[1298] Dr. John Choon Kim, Land Use Advisors Committee, Anchorage  
[1270] Mr. Larry Kimball, Alaska Federation of Natives, Anchorage  
[1377] Mr. Mark Kuwada, Department of Fish & Game, Anchorage  
[1250] Mr. Stan Leaphart, Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, Fairbanks  
[937] Ms. Janie Leask, Alaska Federation of Natives, Anchorage  
[1258] Mr. Craig Lindh, Division of Governmental Coordination, Juneau  
[1] Mr. Mark Mayo, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Anchorage  
[1254] Mr. Joe Mazzoni, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Anchorage  
[945] Ms. Janet McCabe, National Park Service, Anchorage  
[946] Mr. Ron McCoy, Alaska Land Use Council, Anchorage  
[1400] Ms. Cynthia Meyer, Division of Governmental Coordination, Juneau  
[1269] Mr. Mike Mitchell, Alaska State Library, Juneau  
[1316] Mr. Barry Moorhead, Federal Highway Administration, Juneau  
[947] Mr. Ron Morris, U.S. Department of Interior, Anchorage  
[1408] Mr. Richard Ogar, ARCO Alaska, Inc., Anchorage  
[469] Mr. Larry Ostrovsky, Department of Natural Resources, Juneau  
[1290] Ms. Debra Oylear, Division of Governmental Coordination, Anchorage  
[1287] Mr. Michael J. Penfold, Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage

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- [1277] Mr. Norman Piispanen, Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Fairbanks
- [1409] Mr. John Rense, NANA Development Corporation, Anchorage
- [1299] Mr. Wayne Ross, Land Use Advisors Committee, Anchorage
- [87] Dr. Lidia Selkregg, Land Use Advisors Committee, Anchorage
- [948] Mr. Walt Sheridan, U. S. Forest Service, Juneau
- [1275] Mr. Ron Silas, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks
- [1285] Mr. Walter Stieglitz, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Anchorage
- [60] Mr. Jim Stratton, Land Use Advisors Committee, Juneau
- [22] Mr. Rod Swope, Office of the Governor, Juneau
- [1242] Mr. Ike Waits, Department of Community & Regional Affairs, Anchorage
- [1239] Mr. Rob Walkinshaw, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage
- [1420] Mr. John Wharam, Department of Natural Resources Division of Oil and Gas,  
Anchorage
- [940] Mr. Vernon R. Wiggins, Alaska Land Use Council, Anchorage
- [1240] Mr. Dan Wilkerson, Department of Environmental Conservation, Anchorage