

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

STATE CSU COORDINATOR
2600 DENALI STREET, SUITE 700
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-2798
PHONE: (907) 274-3528

August 13, 1987

Mr. Boyd Evison
Regional Director
National Park Service
2525 Gambell Street
Anchorage, AK 99503-2892

Dear Mr. *Boyd* Evison:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the National Park Service (NPS) Addendum to the **Development Concept Plan (DCP)** regarding the **Denali National Park and Preserve Entrance**. This letter is submitted on behalf of state agencies and represents a consolidation of state concerns and comments.

The state supports Alternative A which calls for a new hotel and improved visitor facilities within the Park boundary. This position stems from the state's role as land manager with responsibility for managing public uses on state land in the area. Alternative A would relieve some pressure the state receives for use of land adjacent to the Park entrance.

The state's Tanana Basin Area Plan acknowledges the recreational values of state land adjacent to the Park and indicates that the area should be managed for its recreation and wildlife values. However, the state is finding this increasingly difficult because of increasing pressure on state land that results, in part, from the lack of facilities in the Park. Maintaining developed facilities within the Park would help relieve some of this pressure. The state recognizes that the new facilities, as proposed, would not result in an increase of hotel rooms beyond current levels. However, removal of the hotel under Alternative B would decrease visitor capacity in the area at a time when park visitation has rapidly increased (page 3 of the Denali Addendum to the DCP).

Further, the state recommends that NPS consider expansion of the existing Riley Creek campground. Currently, neither alternative addresses providing additional camping facilities. The state routinely receives requests for new campgrounds and services, and contends with litter and other impacts on state land from overflow park visitors because Riley Creek campground is usually full. Expansion of the existing NPS campground or development of new campgrounds would alleviate some of the problems of unregulated camping on private, state and Park lands.

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2

August 13, 1987

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the alternatives for the Denali National Park Entrance. The state is pleased that this DCP is addressing the Park's visitor facilities and accommodations and encourages additional efforts to plan for Denali's burgeoning visitor use. If you or your staff would like to discuss these comments, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Grogan



by: Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc: Commissioner Judy Brady, Department of Natural Resources
Commissioner Dennis Kelso, Department of Environmental
Conservation
Commissioner Don Collinsworth, Department of Fish and Game
Commissioner Mark Hickey, Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities
Mr. Rod Swope, Office of the Governor
Linda Nebel, National Park Service
Robert Cunningham, National Park Service

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Title: Denali site plan

- [1272] Mr. Mike Abbott, Resource Development Council, Anchorage
- [1304] Ms. Susan Alexander, The Wilderness Society, Anchorage
- [1037] Ms. Joyce Beelman, Department of Environmental Conservation, Fairbanks
- [1] Mr. Jay Bergstrand, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Anchorage
- [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
- [203] Mr. Peter Freer, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Juneau
- [1274] Mr. Thomas Gallagher, University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- [1268] The Honorable Mark Hickey, Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Juneau
- [1288] The Honorable Dennis Kelso, Department of Environmental Conservation, Juneau
- [1270] Mr. Larry Kimball, Alaska Federation of Natives, Anchorage
- [1250] Mr. Stan Leaphart, Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, Fairbanks
- [1258] Mr. Craig Lindh, Division of Governmental Coordination, Juneau
- [1400] Ms. Cynthia Meyer, Division of Governmental Coordination, Juneau
- [1253] Ms. Linda Nebel, National Park Service, Anchorage
- [469] Mr. Larry Ostrovsky, Department of Natural Resources, Juneau
- [1279] Mr. Gerald Rafson, Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Fairbanks
- [1273] Mr. Randy Rogers, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Fairbanks
- [1378] Mr. Thyes Shaub, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, 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
- [1240] Mr. Dan Wilkerson, Department of Environmental Conservation, Anchorage
- [994] Mr. Geoff Wistler, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Juneau