



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617 (AKRO-RER)

July 30, 2007

Environmental Assessment Public Review Period through August 30, 2007

Dear Reviewer:

The National Park Service is considering a request from the University NAVSTAR Consortium to install and maintain six continuous global positioning system stations for at least 10 years in three national park system units in Alaska. An environmental assessment was written to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed action and the no-action alternative.

The geodetic network would complement other stations in Alaska and the continental U.S. as part of EarthScope Program's Plate Boundary Observatory. This National Science Foundation project would advance studies of earth's surface deformation across the active boundary zone between the Pacific and North American plates in Alaska. Two sites are proposed for each of the three target parks (Denali, Katmai, and Lake Clark national parks and preserves) because these are areas with active volcanism and earthquakes. Aside from measuring these major earth processes, data from these stations could be used to augment hazard forecasting and warnings and provide base stations to improve GPS measurements for resources management. Each reference station is composed of a monument assembly, solar panel array, communication antenna, and equipment enclosure.

Public comments are requested on the environmental assessment through August 30, 2007. To comment, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, or write to the address above. If you have questions about the EA, please contact Bud Rice, Environmental Protection Specialist, at (907) 644-3530 or email him at Bud_Rice@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marcia Blaszak

Marcia Blaszak
Regional Director