



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-EPC)

JAN 25 2012

Dear Interested Citizen, Agency, Tribe, or Organization:

Enclosed for your review is an environmental assessment (EA) in which the National Park Service (NPS) is considering promulgating new regulations to allow subsistence collections and uses of shed or discarded animals parts and plants to make handicrafts for personal or family uses, for barter, or to sell. Collection activities would only be allowed in NPS areas where subsistence is authorized in accordance with Titles II and VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. The EA evaluates the effects of alternatives for managing the collections of plants and inedible animal parts from naturally shed (including natural mortality) or discarded (from hunters) for subsistence uses by qualified local rural residents. The NPS goal is to authorize these uses in a manner to prevent or minimize adverse impacts to other park resources, values, and uses.

The NPS is considering this action because Alaska rural residents asked the NPS to consider allowing these collection activities in ANILCA units with subsistence provisions because NPS national regulations at 36 CFR 2.1 presently prohibit the "Possessing, destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, digging, or disturbing from its natural state any living or dead wildlife or fish, or parts or products thereof, such as antlers or nests."

The EA was completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9).

The comment period for the EA will extend 60 days, beginning February 7, 2012, and ending April 7, 2012. Please send written comments to:

Attn: Bud Rice
National Park Service
240 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Those of you with Internet access can review the EA online and post your comments using the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) program located on the NPS public comment website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have any questions about the EA or need additional copies, please call Bud Rice at (907) 644-3530 or Sandy Rabinowitch at (907) 644-3596. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Debora Cooper for
Sue E. Masica
Regional Director, Alaska Region

cc:

Frank Hays, Superintendent, Western Arctic National Parklands
Jeanette Pomrenke, Superintendent, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent of Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve/
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
Rick Obernesser, Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
Paul R. Anderson, Superintendent, Denali National Park & Preserve
Joel Hard, Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve
Ralph Moore, Superintendent of Aniakchak National Monument & Preserve and Katmai
National Preserve
Susan Boudreau, Superintendent, Glacier Bay National Preserve