



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

P.O. Box 439

(Mile 105.5 Old Richardson Highway)

Copper Center, Alaska 99573

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617 (WRST-NEPA)

November 21, 2007

Environmental Assessment Public Review Period through January 31, 2008

Dear Reviewer:

The National Park Service proposes to issue ANILCA 1110(b) rights of way certificates of access (RWCA) to persons with established and maintainable access to land holdings within or effectively surrounded by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Access to State or privately-owned land in Alaska national parks is governed by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Section 1110(b), which provides that "the State or private owner or occupier shall be given by the Secretary such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate and feasible access for economic or other purposes." Preparing an environmental assessment that addresses multiple established access facilities was initially proposed during development of the Users Guide to Access Inholdings in units of the NPS in Alaska. This environmental assessment (EA) evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed action (*NPS preferred alternative*) and a no-action alternative with respect to these existing access facilities.

Established and maintainable routes and methods of access qualifying for consideration in this EA are those that currently exist, have not resulted in unacceptable impacts to park resources and values, and can be maintained in their present condition and character within their existing footprints. Examples of established access facilities include constructed and bladed roads, off-road vehicle (ORV) trails, airstrips, and waterlines.

Issuing RWCA's to inholders is necessary to describe and document authorized methods and means of access and to assure the landowners' or valid occupiers' long-term access interests. To protect park resources and minimize potential impacts to park resources and values, the NPS would identify these routes and methods of access, including the suite of maintenance methods and tools the inholder may use in order to ensure the surface tread is useable as intended.

Public comments are requested on the environmental assessment through January 31, 2008. To comment, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, or write to the Superintendent at the address above. Landowners with established access that are candidates for

consideration may be directly affected by this decision. If you have questions about the program to review and assess established access in Wrangell-St. Elias NP/P, or whether your established access would potentially be covered under this EA, please contact Danny Rosenkrans, Land Manager, at (907) 822-7240 or email him at Danny_Rosenkrans@nps.gov. If you receive this notification and are not able to secure a paper copy of the EA and would like one, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meg Jensen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Meg Jensen

Superintendent

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve