



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

ANILCA Implementation Program
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

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May 30, 2018

Bonnie Million, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

Dear Ms. Million:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) News Release and scoping statement regarding the Squirrel River Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP). BLM is re-initiating scoping for this suspended planning effort, which began in 2010. The following comments represent the consolidated views of state resource agencies.

The State has a continued interest in the development of the Squirrel River RAMP and associated environmental assessment. While changes have occurred in the area since the initial 2010 scoping period, including the Western Arctic caribou herd's population decrease and recent Federal Subsistence Board GMU 23 caribou hunting closures to non-federally qualified subsistence users, overall the State's 2010 comments remain relevant. We request BLM continue to take them into consideration during the development of the RAMP.

Due to the patchwork of land ownership in the area, management decisions on federal land will have an impact on uses and management of adjacent state and municipal land. We also request BLM consider plan alternatives that are the least impactful to state and municipal management objectives.

We are available to consult with BLM on these and other planning issues as the planning process progresses. Please contact me at (907) 269-7529 if you have any questions or to schedule follow-up discussions with state staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Magee".

Susan Magee
ANILCA Program Coordinator

Enclosure

cc: Tom Sparks, BLM Anchorage Field Office