



# United States Department of the Interior

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve  
P.O. Box 439  
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Copper Center, AK 99573

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D30(WRST-AD)

September 30, 1999

William Townsend  
State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Northern Region  
2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316

Dear Mr. Townsend:

We are encouraged by our recent progress for the planning for the McCarthy Road. The ALMF contract for the Roundtable meetings and the traffic studies appears to be going well. The internal review of the EIS through our cooperating agency agreement has been meeting our needs. Our staffs have made significant advances in identifying potential gravel sources along the corridor, some of which are currently being tested. Additionally, both the first phase of the road project and the Kennicott River Wayside are reflected in the STIP.

As the efforts above have unfolded, we have had discussions concerning the width of the Right-of-Way (ROW) for the McCarthy Road. Based upon previous court decisions we have both reached the understanding that the width is 50 feet on either side of the existing center line. Accordingly, we have started consultation with our colleagues in Anchorage on the process to issue a ROW permit for the planned reconstruction.

In recent trips down the McCarthy Road, we have taken note of various maintenance activities. In some instances clearing and material extraction for these activities are outside of the 100 foot ROW. We are writing to request that you communicate to the AKDOT maintenance crews that during future activities they need to restrict their operations to within the ROW.

If a certain project requires material or operations outside the ROW, please consult with us as soon as possible. We look forward to working with you on the continuing McCarthy Road planning. Please feel free to contact me on any of these issues. Vicki Snitzler, Park Planner, and Danny Rosenkrans, Park Geologist, are also available to assist you.

Sincerely,

*Hunter Sharp*  
Hunter Sharp  
Acting Superintendent

*Note - The Department has not conceded that the ROW is 100 ft at this time - M*

