

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FWS, Washington, D. C.

DATE: Feb. 3, 1955

FROM : Regional Director, FWS, Juneau, Alaska

SUBJECT: Transfer of Road Maintenance Responsibility - Kenai National Moose Range

Question arises as to whether it is permissible to officially request the Alaska Road Commission, Department of the Interior, to take over recreational access roads on the Kenai Moose Range and maintain them as part of the public highway system. You will recall that the two roads into Skilak Lake and one into Hidden Lake from the Sterling Highway were and are being built by ARC under FWS financing. The road agency is willing to accept this total of 3½ miles in its routine maintenance responsibilities, but formal request from the Service is necessary to support the additional mileage in ARC's budget request.

Refuge Supervisor Spencer (see memo dated January 21 attached) and this office concur in wishing to be relieved of the trouble, effort and expense of road upkeep and repair, a function foreign to primary refuge activity. It will still be necessary for the Service to take care of the campground areas themselves, but that will not be near the problem of keeping the roads in good condition. However, some loss of control over refuge use may be inherent in a transfer of custody of this kind, so Central Office blessing is requested before proceeding further. It should be noted that Spencer has excellent local relations with ARC, as do we here with their headquarters in Juneau; so some special concession may be negotiated if deemed advisable.

Anticipating further, ARC recommends that in any future road-building deals such as the Skilak and Hidden Lakes jobs we start out from the beginning of construction on the premise that the road is ARC's and that FWS finances as a "contributor". Subsequent maintenance follows automatically. This is the usual procedure where public roads are built with other than specifically appropriated funds.

Attachment

CLARENCE J. RHODE
Regional Director

cc: Rhode
Spencer
Zigler

By: C. Samuel Balch
Acting Regional Director

RG 22, FWS
E. 162, Gen. Corr, 1890-1956
Box 75

Regional Director, FWS, Juneau, Alaska

January 21, 1955

Refuge Supervisor, FWS, Kenai, Alaska

Maintenance of campground access roads.

Reference is made to Mr. Elkin's memo of January 12, 1955, above subject.

It is our suggestion that a formal request be made to the Alaska Road Commission to maintain the two Skilak Lake and the Hidden Lake access roads. Our present equipment is adequate for work in the campgrounds areas but not for upkeep of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road leading to them. Grading, ditching, graveling when needed and an occasional culvert repair or installation are jobs we could not accomplish with the D-4 tractor economically. It would be necessary for us to hire the Alaska Road Commission to do the work. Cost of the maintenance either by hiring or by using our own personnel and equipment would cause quite a drain on our funds unless compensated for in future allotments.

Satisfactory working arrangements can probably be set up between this office and the local Alaska Road Commission foreman so that maximum control of the areas would be retained by the Service if the Central Office so desires.

David L. Spencer



RG 22, FWS
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Kenai
Z

Regional Director, Juneau, Alaska

The Director

FEB 16 1955

Surname:

Ackerknecht
Ball
Benson
Kramer
Taylor
Wickson

Kenai National Moose Range - Road maintenance responsibility

Reference is made to Mr. Baltso's memorandum of February 3 relating to the maintenance of roads within the Kenai National Moose Range.

The access roads to the public recreational sites which have been established on the Kenai National Moose Range are considered to be a part of the public highway system as distinguished from roads which would be used primarily for refuge management purposes. In the circumstance, they should be maintained by the agency responsible for public highways in the locality, which in this instance would be the Alaska Road Commission.

This office, therefore, concurs in your proposal that a formal request should be submitted to the Alaska Road Commission for maintaining these roads as a part of the public highway system.

(SGD) JOHN L. FARLEY

John L. Farley
Director

Copy to: Branch of Lands
Branch of Engineering
Branch of Wildlife Refuges

WEAckerknecht:cb
2-11-55

Jim Ball
As I see it, this is no different from the County maintaining a county road thru a refuge. I suggest we OK a formal request. Further - we've got the road - we asked for it - and we aren't going to close it at any time.
Wick

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