

C. J. R. NWR

Izembek NWR

Arctic NWR

Kenai NWR

Kodiak NWR

ATTENTION:

Manager

sent to us by mail
Linda



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. TUDOR RD.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

(907) 276-3800

IN REPLY REFER TO:

RF

Eric and Beth Thomas
Box 5013 SRA
Homer, Alaska 99603

Route	X	Action
RM	II	EO
AO	II	AT
OG	II	YCC
LE	II	
FOR	II	
BIO	II	
RP	II	
MWR	II	File
MM	II	13

23 MAY 1979

MAY 24 1979
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
RECEIVED
MAY 29 1979
KENAI NATIONAL MOOSE RANGE
KENAI, ALASKA
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

_____	Manager
_____	Primary Asst.
_____	Asst.
_____	Clerk
_____	Native Liaison
_____	Trainee

Box _____	File _____
Discard _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Route	<input type="checkbox"/> Action

Dear Eric and Beth Thomas:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about the proposed Cross Kenai Trail.

The proposal to link the trail system northeast of the Moose Range boundary to a trail in the Fox River drainage has existed for many years. Planning to date has not progressed beyond the concept stage as it affects the Kenai National Moose Range.

The legislation establishing the Moose Range mandates management for wildlife and their habitats and provides for wildlife related recreation when these activities do not interfere with the main purpose of the Range.


A series of trails along the eastern side of the Moose Range has existed for many years and although use has been relatively light a number of parties use the trails each year. Our intention would be to consolidate a route of the existing trails which would lead a hiker along the eastern side of the Moose Range. We do not envision a new system of constructed trails. Currently we are considering a route marked with cairns and posts placed at sight distance intervals which would keep a hiker on track through the areas where the route may be confusing. As the area under discussion is in a proposed wilderness area and is a research natural area, all motorized travel is prohibited.

The type of user interested in this kind of a trail system would be limited to wilderness oriented persons. Because of budget and management constraints we do not plan to make many improvements along the route. At this time we have not solved the problems concerning the crossings at the Skilak and Tustumena glacier outflows. Many other rivers along the route also present crossing problems which we do not have solutions for. Due to the fragile nature of the alpine tundra we do not support the

idea of establishing a standard trail which leads to erosion and alterations of the water table and wildlife movements. In short, we envision establishing a way that one could cross the eastern side of the Moose Range while at the same time enjoy a challenge that would eliminate the motorized traveler or the casual hiker.

We appreciate your concerns and would welcome the opportunity to talk to you in person if you find yourself in Anchorage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dave Patterson".

Dave Patterson
Public Use Specialist
Division of Wildlife Refuges