



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

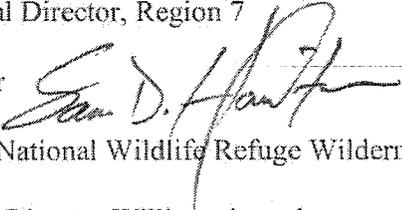


JAN 28 2010

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS-NRCP/043276

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region 7

From: Director 

Subject: Alaska National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Reviews

On February 18, 2004, Director Williams issued a memorandum on Planning Requirements Regarding Alaska Refuges. The memo directed Alaska Refuges to cease conducting wilderness reviews until the Wilderness Stewardship policy was finalized. On November 7, 2008, we published the updated Wilderness Stewardship policy (610 FW 1 – 5) in the Federal Register.

Although the Wilderness Stewardship policy does not require that Alaska Refuges conduct wilderness reviews, conducting such reviews will ensure that we fully evaluate lands and waters that may merit inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and will comply with the Wilderness Act, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Planning and Wilderness Stewardship policies.

As you revise the Comprehensive Conservation Plans for Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, you should conduct a complete wilderness review of refuge lands and waters that includes the inventory, study, and recommendation phases, in accordance with 610 FW 4 (Wilderness Review and Evaluation).

The memorandum of February 18, 2004, signed by Director Williams is hereby rescinded.

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