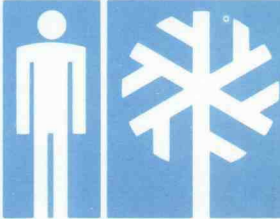


final wild and scenic river study
august 1984

KANEKTOK RIVER



ALASKA

FINAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY
KANEKTOK RIVER, ALASKA

Prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior,
National Park Service, in cooperation with the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
Qanirtuuq, Inc., City of Quinhagak, and
Calista Corporation

Abstract: This Final Wild and Scenic River Study describes and evaluates two alternatives with respect to possible inclusion of the Kanektok River in Alaska into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The no-action alternative, or nondesignation, is the proposed action. It characterizes the future condition of the river and its immediate environment without federal or state action to designate the Kanektok as a wild river. The other alternative considered would designate as wild the main river upstream from the Qanirtuuq, Inc., land to Kagati Lake.

The majority of the Kanektok River is within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge wilderness. If designated, no acquisition or development costs would be involved, and the portion of the river within the refuge wilderness would continue to be managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with the wilderness designation. Inclusion in the national rivers system would not offer more protection than exists with the present wilderness designation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing a comprehensive management plan for the refuge (to be completed in 1984) and expects to continue current management practices to maintain the area as it is now. In addition, local residents do not support adding the river or their lands to the national rivers system. Therefore, the Kanektok is considered nonsuitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

SECTION I

DRAFT KANEKTOK RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY

The draft document was widely distributed on and after January 20, 1984. It has not been reprinted and is incorporated here by reference. A limited number of copies are available at the office of the regional director, Alaska Region, National Park Service, 2525 Gambell Street, Room 107, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

SECTION II
CHANGES TO THE DRAFT STUDY REPORT

Page

- 1 Under the "Alternatives" section replace the first paragraph with the following:

Once the eligibility of the river was determined, alternatives for possible designation of the river were identified. Several alternatives were considered. Designation of the entire 93-mile study segment was considered but rejected for detailed analysis because the lower 20 miles run through land owned by Qanirtuuq, Inc. (Quinhagak Village Corporation). The corporation expressed no interest or support in designation of the river through their lands, so further study was not pursued. Two alternatives were considered feasible and are presented in this document.

- 3 The word "immediate" should be deleted from the first sentence of the first paragraph.

- 3 In the last sentence of the first paragraph, "could" should be changed to "would" and "possibly" should be deleted.

- 3 In the last sentence of the second paragraph, "not-action" should be "no-action".

- 3 The last paragraph should begin, "During the preparation of the draft report, . . ."

- 3 The following should be added after the last paragraph:

The preferred alternative is consistent with the proposed Bristol Bay Cooperative Management Plan. This plan would require the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to close all navigable waters within National Wildlife Refuges to new mineral entry. The lower portion of the Kanektok River would be closed to mineral entry following adoption of the Bristol Bay Plan which is expected to occur in late 1984.

- 4 In the third line of the third paragraph, "if eligible" should be "if suitable".

- 6 The third line of the first paragraph should be changed as follows:

". . . Mountains, and several . . ."

Page

11 Table 1 should be revised as follows:

Goodnews Bay	218	168	-23
Platinum	57	55	- 4
Dillingham			
Census Area	3,872	4,616	+19

12 In table 2, the first column after Eek should read "5,754".

12 The first two sentences of the first paragraph should be updated to read:

Employment statistics for 1981 show a civilian labor force of 3,484 people in the Bethel census area. The annual unemployment rate is 13.3 percent, with a March high of 15.5 percent and an August low of 10.3 percent; statewide statistics show an annual unemployment rate of 9.3 percent (Alaska Department of Labor 1983).

13 In table 3 after Transportation, "commerce" should be "communications".

14 The sixth sentence of the second paragraph should read:

Surveys indicate that between 50 and 75 percent of the population derive more than 75 percent of their meat directly from hunting and fishing.

14 In the fourth sentence of the third paragraph, "wlarus" should be "walrus".

17 The first sentence under "Geology" should read:

The bedrock of the Kanektok area is mainly highly deformed Devonian to Crataceous age sediments and Precambrian age metamorphics.

17 Insert "River" after Kanektok in the third sentence of the second paragraph.

20 Under the heading for table 6, add:

(Numbers of Fish)

21 At the end of the first paragraph, add:

(see table 6).

30 After "39" in the second sentence of the fifth paragraph, insert "known".

Page

30 The following is inserted between the second and third sentences of the fifth paragraph:

There may be additional native allotments, depending on the outcome of litigation regarding the status of certain allotments within the area.

30 The last paragraph should read:

Interim conveyance documents that transfer the surface and subsurface estates indicate that the bed of the Kanektok River is excluded from the transaction. The Bureau of Land Management has administratively determined the lower 20 miles of the Kanektok River as navigable and, therefore, the bed is owned by the state of Alaska. Should upstream portions of the Kanektok be determined navigable, additional land area encompassing the bed of the river would belong to the state.

43 Under the Alaska Department of Labor 1981 should be 1983.

SECTION III

COMMENTS FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES, STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS, NATIVE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

June 19 1984

Honorable G. Ray Arnett
Assistant Secretary for Fish and
Wildlife and Parks
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Arnett:

We have reviewed your draft Wild and Scenic River study reports for the Kanektok and Koyuk Rivers in Alaska. We are in agreement with your recommendations that the Kanektok River is not suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation, and the Koyuk River is not eligible.

We have no further comments at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard E. Lyng".

Richard E. Lyng
Deputy Secretary



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Assistant Secretary

400 Seventh St., S W
Washington, D.C. 20590

31

The Honorable G. Ray Arnett
Assistant Secretary for Fish and
Wildlife and Parks
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Arnett:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Dole, transmitting the draft
Kanektok Wild and Scenic River Study, Alaska. The preferred alternative
is no action.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft study. We have no comments.

Sincerely,

Matthew V. Scocozza
Assistant Secretary for
Policy and International Affairs



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20310

27 MAR 1984

Honorable G. Ray Arnett
Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Arnett:

This is in response to your letter of January 16, 1984, requesting comments of the Department of the Army on your proposed report on the Wild and Scenic River Study of the Kanektok River, Alaska.

The study finds that the majority of the Kanektok River under consideration is located within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness, and is thus afforded the same protections as if it were included as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System. Consequently, the report concludes that the river is unsuitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

In view of the study conclusion, we have no further comments to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William R. Gianelli".

William R. Gianelli
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

057-20 FILED
1371? P.F. 101

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

CSU Planning Office
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK. 99502
Phone: 267-2215

9 April 1984

Roger Contor, Regional Director
National Park Service
2525 Gambell Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. *Contor* Contor:

Alaska Planning Office		Initial	Date
✓	DE	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Date]</i>
✓	DD		
	A		
	C		
✓	P	W	4/13
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The State Conservation System Units (CSU) Contacts have completed their review of the Kanektok River draft wild and scenic river study. Contacts were complimentary of the format and content of the study and we concur with the preferred alternative. The following comments are offered to improve the accuracy of the economic data presented in the study and to clarify statements referring to navigability.

We found no major errors in the socioeconomic statements made in the narratives; however, the Department of Labor (DOL) made some corrections to the data presented on pages 11, 12 and 13. These corrections include:

- 1) The regional population changes (page 11) have been revised/corrected.
- 2) The labor force statistics for 1981 (page 12) have been revised as reflected on the enclosed table.
- 3) The employment figures by industry (page 13) cannot be verified because they are not based on DOL data but on an independent study. DOL's employment numbers are for the entire Bethel Census area, not for the City of Bethel alone. Enclosed is a table showing the 1980 employment numbers for the Bethel Census area.

Attached are copies of the draft with corrections noted. The DOL also noted that more current employment and unemployment information is now available upon request.

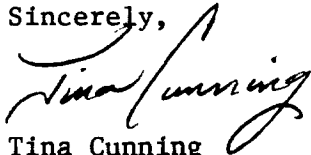
On page 30 under "Landownership Along the River", there is some possibility for confusion over the interpretation of the statement "The Bureau of Land Management has administratively determined this portion of the Kanektok

River as navigable and, therefore, will be owned by the state of Alaska." The waters of the river are not the item that has any question over ownership. It is the bed of the river itself that is owned by the State of Alaska in inland, navigable waterbodies, and if these portions of the river are determined navigable, they have always been owned by the State, therefore transfer is not necessary.

The final draft of this study should be expanded to include a description of the amount and types of water craft which use the Kanektok river and the reasons for which it was determined navigable. It would also be appropriate to note that the preferred alternative is consistent with the Bristol Bay Cooperative Management Plan. This Plan requires the Department of Natural Resources to close all navigable waters within National Wildlife Refuges to new mineral entry. The lower portion of the Kanektok would, therefore, be closed following adoption of the Bristol Bay Plan later this year. Inclusion of this information in the final draft of this study would assist the public in evaluating the alternatives presented.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Tina Cuning
State CSU Coordinator

cc: L. Nebel, NPS
J. Mosby, NPS
S. Leaphart, CACFA
L. Parker, ALUC
State CSU Contacts

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

555 CORDOVA STREET
POUCH 7-005
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-7005
PHONE: (907) 276-2853

April 26, 1984

Regional Director
Alaska Regional Office
National Park Service
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2892

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity of letting us review the Wild and Scenic River reports for the Koyuk and the Kanektok Rivers. In general, the reports look good; they are thorough, concise, and understandable to the layman.

Attached are specific editorial comments. General comments are as follows:

- Inclusion of photos would be helpful to the reader, though probably prohibitive in price.

- The formats of the figures and the content of the reports need to be standardized. (Compare Table of Contents in these two reports.)

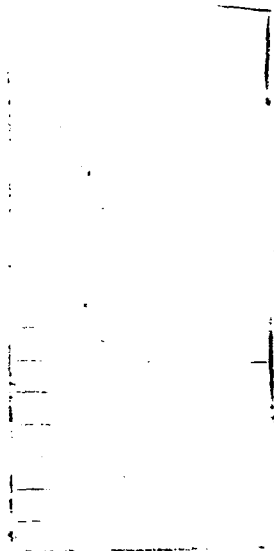
- Generally, too much data is contained within each figure. This obscures the meaning of the figures and discourages the reader.

Sincerely,



L. A. Dutton, Chief
Water Management & Procedures Section

LAD:CML:jam



KANEKTOK RIVER - DRAFT WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY

- In general, check punctuation. Specifically semicolons are frequently used incorrectly and should be replaced by commas.

- Page 2 - Vicinity Map - This figure could use some stipple patterns to clarify land ownership. The symbol for the Kanektok River should be heavier weight.

- Page 3 - Second paragraph, last sentence - "No-action", not "non-action".

- Page 4 - Third paragraph - Sentence structure and punctuation awkward throughout paragraph. Forth paragraph Capitalize secretary of the Interior and President.

- Page 5 - Last paragraph, first sentence - The expression "the sometimes fast currents" is awkward. Do you mean "locally" fast currents (spatial modifier) or "occasionally" fast currents (temporal modifier)?

- Page 6 - First paragraph - Change wording to "... Ahklun Mountains, and several small canyons..."

- Page 13 - Table three - Align government figures with the rest. Last paragraph - "Approximately 31 percent of the households..." This should be a new sentence.

- Page 14 - Second paragraph - Second to last sentence - This should read "... 50 and 75 percent of the population derive...". Third paragraph - Walrus is misspelled.

- Page 16 - Study Area Map - The north arrow and scale should be separated spacially from the map.

- Page 17 - First paragraph, first sentence - Bedrock should be singular. Second paragraph - Maastrichtian and Upper Cretateous should be capitalized. Second paragraph, last sentence - Use "lower Kanektok River" here to differentiate references to the river itself from geologic ages. Seventh paragraph - Change wording to "... similar to those of the upstream reaches..." and "... poorly drained with shallow permafrost ..."

- Page 18 - Second paragraph - Change wording of last sentence to "... most likely due to tannic acid drainage from the adjoining tundra". Third paragraph - Isn't Giardia a parasite of some sort and not a cyst? Check this.

- Page 19, 20, 21 - Units are unclear in most of these tables.

- Page 21 - Table 7 - Bottom of the table Capitalize "Average". First paragraph - Refer to Table 6 in the text here.

KANEKTOK RIVER - DRAFT WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY Continued

- Page 22 - Last paragraph - Put the parenthetic statement about chum and red salmon in a footnote.

- Page 23 - Table 9 - Use a different footnote symbol for "Data unavailible". Using a number in a table of numbers is very misleading.

- Page 24 - Forth paragraph - Change wording to "Eleven smaller lakes which have questionable access can be expected to have..."

- Page 27 - First paragraph - Use quotation marks around "squirrel camps"; otherwise, it sounds like you are talking about a new species, i.e. "spring squirrels". The sentence beginning "Closer to the mouth..." is awkward. Second paragraph, first sentence - Strike the phrase "As mentioned previously"; it is not necessary.

- Page 28 - First paragraph - Change wording to "... food gathering activities, ...". Third paragraph - The last sentence refers to several studies. List these as indicated. Last paragraph is awkward.

- Page 29 - Minerals Figure - You are trying to show too much data here. Delete information or use two figures to clarify.

- Page 30 - Second paragraph - The points made in this paragraph have already been made and are redundant. Forth paragraph - Vary the usage of the word "increase".

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Pouch 7-005
Anchorage, Alaska 99510
PHONE: (907) 276-2653

January 30, 1984

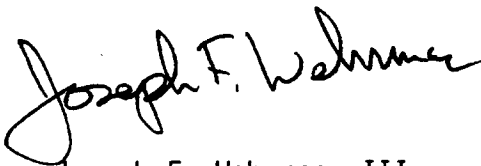
Regional Director
Alaska Regional Office
National Park Service
2525 Gambell Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Kanektok Wild and Scenic River Report

Dear Director:

We have no comment on the Kanektok Report.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Wehrman, III
District Forester

ALASKA REGION	
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STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

CENTRAL OFFICE

POUCH AW
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: (907) 465-3562

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

211 Fourth Street
Pouch AW, Room 306
Juneau, AK 99811
Phone: (907) 465-3562

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

3301 Eagle Street
Suite 307
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 272-3504

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

675 Seventh Avenue
Station H
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 456-3084

Registered Mail
Return Receipt
Requested

April 19, 1984

Roger J. Contor, Regional Director
National Park Service
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107
Anchorage, AK 99503-2892

Dear Mr. Contor:

SUBJECT: KANEKTOK RIVER DRAFT REPORT
STATE I.D. NUMBER AK840307-10A

The Division of Governmental Coordination (DGC) has completed the consistency review of your plan in which you propose to not designate the Kanektok River a Wild and Scenic River.

Based on our review, the Division agrees with your consistency determination that the plan is consistent with the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

If changes to the original plan are made, you are required to contact this office to determine if a review of the revision is necessary.

Thank you for your cooperation with the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. GROGAN
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

By:


Jack R. Heesch
Regional Coordinator

lr

cc: Ivan M. Ivan, Bethel
Connor Murphey, Bethel
Harold Sparck, Bethel



Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas

515 Seventh Avenue
Suite 310
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-2012

April 13, 1984

Roger Contor
Regional Director
National Park Service
2525 Gambell Room #107
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

RE: Kanektok Wild and Scenic River Study

Dear Mr. Contor:

The Commission concurs with the conclusion that the Kanektok River is not suitable for addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System. In a February 1983 letter, the Commission endorsed a "no action" alternative for the Kanektok River for many of the same reasons listed in the Draft Wild and Scenic River Study document.

Development of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge will address the resources of the Kanektok. Specific management directions for the refuge will provide adequate levels of protection for the river.

Designation of the Kanektok as a Wild and Scenic River would not provide any greater level of protection and could actually increase both the levels of use of the river and conflicts between different user groups.

The fact that the State of Alaska, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local residents do not favor designation further emphasizes the conclusion that the Kanektok is not suitable for designation.

If possible, the Commission would like to be provided with a copy of the final study report to the President and Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stan Leaphart".
Stan Leaphart
Executive Director

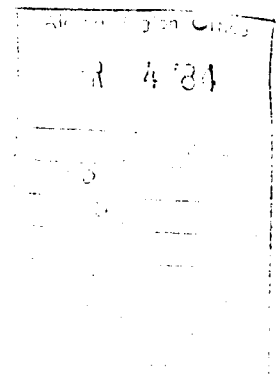
TFD *[Handwritten initials]*

APR 17 2 28 PM '84

RECEIVED

AVCP

Association of Village Council Presidents
P. O. Box 219 • Bethel, Alaska 99559 • Phone 543-3521



March 22, 1984

Regional Director
Alaska Regional Office
National Park Service
540 West Fifth Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
ATTENTION: Jack Heesch

APD to 4/9
W. Heesch

RE: KANEKTOK RIVER - DRAFT REPORT

Dear Mr. Heesch:

The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is a regional tribal organization which represents villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta region in areas of social, economic and cultural betterment for the people and villages it serves. We are in receipt of a draft report of a Wild and Scenic River Study of the Kanektok River which flows through the Village of Quinhagak. We appreciate the opportunity to submit our comments on the draft study on behalf of the Village of Quinhagak.

AVCP believes in self-government and promotes self-determination efforts of its member villages and receives directives through the annual and mid-year convention process. We receive official village positions and instructions on matters which affect our villages such as this study of the Kanektok River for possible inclusion to the Wilde and Scenic River System.

AVCP supports the position of the Village of Quinhagak and the village's preference for the no action alternative due to the following reasons. All of the villages within this region have culturally and historically depended upon their surrounding lands for livelihood. The surrounding lands provide food, clothing, shelter and basically subsistence resources which our People have used to survive for centuries. The residents of Quinhagak, who would be most affected by classification or designation of this river, are concerned about additional regulations and restrictions that may result from a Wild and Scenic River designation, which could affect their subsistence resources. The residents also fear the fact that classification of this river would increase recreational use which would ultimately affect subsistence resources and therefore the survival of the Native residents of the area.

The residents of Quinhagak, since time immemorial, have managed the surrounding land so that the subsistence resources it provides continues to this day. Their wish or recommendation for no action should be respected more so than those of other people from Alaska and the Lower 48, who favored designation.

National Park Service
Page Two
March 22, 1984

We are asking that your agency insure that democracy is properly served for the residents of Quinhagak and to listen to their recommendations for no action. We believe that justice or due process will be afforded or provided to the area residents who will be a minority compared to organizations and/or people in other parts of Alaska and the Lower 48. Local residents of Quinhagak would prefer continued availability of subsistence resources to recreational use of the river. When you experience hunger or need food, you would certainly rule out recreational use in order to exist as a human being. We respect the cultural, fishery and subsistence values that People of Quinhagak place on the Kanektok River and their hopes and aspirations that they will continue to enjoy the fruits this river provides to them.

Finally, we request and ask that your agency heavily consider the comments on Page five, under "Cultural Values" and take into consideration the comments made by the residents of Quinhagak, and on their behalf, AVCP.

Sincerely,

ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
Willie Kasayulie, Chairman



Ivan M. Ivan, President

IMI:bs

cc: IRA Council, Quinhagak

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

Publication services were provided by the graphics and editorial staffs of the Denver Service Center. NPS D-2154A