

## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Togiak National Wildlife Refuge P.O. Box 270 Dillingham, Alaska 99576 Phone 907-842-1063 Fax 907-842-5402



February 26, 2016

State of Alaska Local Boundary Commission Staff 550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1640 Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

To whom it may concern:

We appreciate being kept informed about the efforts of both the City of Dillingham and the City of Manokotak to annex additional lands to be included within their respective city limits. We understand that the purpose of the parallel annexations is to be able to apply city taxes to transactions that take place in Nushagak Bay, and on private lands near the Igushik River (in the case of the City of Manokotak).

If approved, individuals travelling the most direct route from Dillingham to the Nushagak Peninsula on the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) (primarily by snow machine when snow conditions allow) would have to cross lands that would be within the city limits of the City of Manokotak. This public access to the Refuge is important, especially for local residents conducting subsistence activities, especially hunting caribou. We would like the public access (across lands owned by Manokotak Natives Limited) to continue, and would like annexation language to state that public access routes across the newly annexed area would not be closed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or (907) 842-1063.

Sincerely,

Susanna G. Henry

Refuge Manager

Cc: City of Manokotak, Attention: Nancy George, City Administrator, P.O. Box 170, Manokotak, AK 99628; email: panilkuk@yahoo.com

City of Dillingham, Attention: Janice Williams, City Clerk, P.O. Box 889, Dillingham, AK 99576 Email: cityclerk@dillinghamak.us