



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUL 14 2017

Memorandum

To: Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Subject: Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Regulations, 81 Federal Register 27030
(May 5, 2016)

I have now been fully briefed on the Fish and Wildlife Service's rulemaking published in the Federal Register on May 5, 2016. This rulemaking amended various regulations for the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. I have concluded that it would be prudent to reassess the need for the rule and give further consideration to certain elements. I am therefore directing the Service to initiate a rulemaking process to reconsider the rule.

I anticipate that you will focus this reconsideration on certain aspects of the rule that I believe are particularly worthy of additional review. Most notably, these include the various prohibitions that directly contradict State of Alaska hunting and trapping authorizations and wildlife management decisions, thereby potentially reducing opportunities for wildlife-related recreation opportunities on the refuge.

This focus is not intended to preclude the Service from reconsidering any other aspects of the rule or even the rule in its entirety if, during the rulemaking process, it becomes apparent that such reconsideration is warranted.

You should work with the Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, to design a rulemaking process that will ensure that the final outcome of the rulemaking is well-informed, complies with applicable laws, and gives meaningful consideration to the public's input.