



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A7237(AKRO-GIS)

FEB 29 2012

Karen Felts
c/o Nick Mastrodicasa
Digital Mapping Project Manager
University of Alaska Fairbanks
SDMI-GINA WRRB 111b
909 Koyukuk Dr.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7275

Dear Ms. Felts:

This is a letter of support for the Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI). The Alaskan landscape is diverse, ranging from coastal rainforests in Southeast and Southcentral to North America's tallest peak, Mount McKinley. The National Park Service (NPS) in Alaska works with local communities, state and federal agencies, the general public and numerous other partners to ensure that visitors can experience this diverse and dynamic Alaskan landscape while keeping the promise of preservation for future generations. As stewards of the 16 National Park units in Alaska, we recognize the need for improved base mapping; specifically, a more accurate contiguous statewide digital elevation model (DEM) made available for all to use.

Alaska's National parks, totaling almost 54 million acres, are the most remote park units within the National Park Service and remote sensing technologies are vital to support the NPS mission and its operations. Satellite imagery, aerial photography and GPS technologies are used for various mapping efforts such as wildlife management, trail mapping, environmental change analysis and search and rescue missions. Efforts of the SDMI will support the NPS in this mission by providing the accurate base map to spatially reference these and other geospatial layers.

Our Inventory and Monitoring and Geographic Information Systems Programs have been early supporters of the SDMI and predecessor initiatives through the Alaska Geographic Data Committee (ADGC) and other multi agency workgroups. From our participation in the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative formed by the AGDC, to providing IKONOS imagery to the Geographic Information Network of Alaska, Best Data Layer, to recent funding support of the

IFSAR DEM, the National Park Service has demonstrated support of these statewide mapping initiatives and would like to formally endorse efforts of the SDMI to update the orthoimagery and DEM base map.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sue E. Masica". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sue" being the most prominent.

Sue E. Masica
Regional Director