UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

February 26, 2015

Stephanie Brady, Planning Team Leader
Arctic Comprehensive Conservation Plan
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
101 12th Avenue, Room 236
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Ms. Brady:

We have reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan. EPA Region 10 Project Number: 10-018-DOI. Our review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

We previously assigned a rating of Lack of Objections to the Draft EIS. In our comment letter, we asserted that the Draft EIS adequately analyzed a range of reasonable alternatives for the long-term management of ANWR, as well as the beneficial and adverse impacts associated with the alternatives. We stated that each of the action alternatives provides additional protections, as compared to the current management strategies, and are, therefore, environmentally preferable to current conditions.

Based on our review of the Final EIS, and the selection of Alternative E as the FWS preferred alternative, we agree with the determination in the Final EIS that Alternative E "addresses a range of issues, including protection of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats and providing opportunities for fish- and wildlife-dependent recreation, subsistence, and other public uses. It also contributes significantly to achieving Refuge purposes and the mission of the Refuge System, and Alternative E also strengthens the monitoring of fish, wildlife, habitat, and public uses on the Refuge." We encourage and support the FWS in its increased efforts for monitoring of ANWR resources. We believe Alternative E will support this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Final EIS. If you have questions about our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at reichgott.christine@epa.gov, or you may contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff in Anchorage at (907) 271-6324 or by electronic mail at curtis.jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Eric Peterson for

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review
and Sediment Management Unit