



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT & SECURITY
Office of the Commissioner

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September 12, 2013

Mayor Mark Jensen
P.O. Box 329
Petersburg, AK 99833

Mayor Mark Jensen,

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is in receipt of your August 19 letter expressing concerns with our Integrated Vegetation Management Plan. We discussed your concerns with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and it turns out most of the issues expressed in your letter (contamination of aquatic habitats, impact on local fisheries, contamination of drinking water, impacts to harvesters of berries and other edibles, and impact to the seafood industry) were addressed in detail by DEC during the regulation process. DEC's Pesticide Regulation Revision Responsiveness Summary is attached to this letter and I would draw your attention to the following comments:

Concern:	See responses here:
General safety of using pesticides	Introduction
Environmental contamination/aquatic contamination	Comment 82; Comment 83
Impacts to salmon	Comment 83
Impacts to drinking water	Comment 80
Subsistence activities	Comment 81
Impact to public perception of fishing industry	Comment 153
Risk to human health	Introduction; Comment 79
Lack of public input in decisions	Comment 88

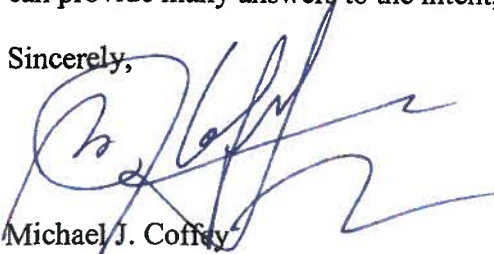
Managing invasive vegetation within the DOT&PF right-of-way and on state lands is also a goal of the IVMP. Some of these species cannot be controlled without the use of herbicides. Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), for instance, is becoming an increasing problem for DOT&PF M&O staff as well as other local, state, and federal agencies. Japanese knotweed is very invasive and can establish and spread along marine and freshwater waterways. The plants clog waterways and lower the quality of habitat for wildlife and fish. It

also reduces the food supply for juvenile salmon in the spring. In this instance, the application of a herbicide enhances waters that support salmon.

The DOT&PF believes that our limited, specific, and targeted herbicide application provides an appropriate balance in maintaining state lands for public health with the low risks associated with the selected herbicides to both human and wildlife health.

If you have any additional questions regarding pesticides, please feel free to contact Karin Hendrickson, Pesticide Control Program Coordinator with the Department of Environmental Conservation at Karin.Hendrickson@Alaska.Gov. Karin has helped us through this process and can provide many answers to the intent, use, and results of our pesticide program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Coffey", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Coffey
Chief, Statewide Maintenance and Operations
Office of the Commissioner

CC: Dan Breeden, Special Program Manager, DOT&PF
Liz Cabrera, Coordinator, Petersburg Economic Development Council
Dennis Egan, Senator, Alaska
Les Gara, Representative, Alaska
Stephen Giesbrecht, City Manager, Petersburg
Karin Hendrickson, ADEC
Patrick J. Kemp, P.E., Commissioner, DOT&PF
Beth Kerttula, Representative, Alaska
K. Kim Rice, P.E., Deputy Commissioner, DOT&PF
Stephanie Scott, Mayor, Haines
Stan Selmer, Mayor, Skagway
Bert Stedman, Senator, Alaska
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