



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Alaska State Office  
222 West Seventh Avenue, #13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>



In Reply Refer To  
9600 (927)  
AA-85787 (1864)

APR 22 2008

Commissioner Thomas E. Irwin  
Department of Natural Resources  
555 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1400  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3650

Dear Commissioner Irwin:

I am pleased to inform you that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will resume processing the State of Alaska's (State) recordable disclaimer of interest (RDI) application for the lands underlying the Stikine River in the Tongass National Forest. You will recall that on December 27, 2007, the BLM suspended action on the application because the issue of submerged land ownership in the Tongass National Forest had been raised in the *Katie John* litigation. The BLM committed to a re-evaluation of the situation when the *Katie John* briefing period was completed. The last brief was filed on April 7, 2008. The BLM has determined it is now appropriate to continue adjudicating the Stikine River RDI application.

On October 22, 2007, the U.S. Forest Service provided comments on your RDI application for the Stikine River and the BLM's Draft Summary Report. The State was provided a copy of these comments. If you would like to respond to these comments, you may submit them to BLM within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this letter. We will then consider all the facts and comments and prepare a decision on the State's application within the next few months.

Sincerely,

**Thomas P. Lonnie**

Thomas P. Lonnie  
State Director

cc:  
Mr. Denny Bschor, Regional Forester  
United States Forest Service  
P.O. Box 21628  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628