United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Lake Clark National Park & Preserve
240 W 5th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

In Reply Refer to:

February 11, 2026

Memorandum

To: Director, Office of Aviation Services

From: Grant Hilderbrand, Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve

Subject: Lake Clark Air and Lake & Peninsula Airlines Seat Fare Exemption Request

The National Park Service (NPS) has an operational need to quickly transport personnel between Lake Clark National Park & Preserve (LACL) administrational offices, the park, and between its neighboring communities. Purposes for travel include attending government-to-government meetings, community relations, partnerships, educational programming and outreach, cooperative interagency initiatives, and scientific or cultural research. LACL has one administrational office on the Alaskan road system in Anchorage and a motor vessel (M/V) located in the Homer Boat Harbor (also located on the Alaskan road system). LACL also has an administrational office within the park boundary in the community of Port Alsworth, which is only accessible by air. The park unit itself and its remote neighboring communities are only accessible by air. DOI fleet and contract aircraft may not be available or practical given mission requirements, and use of seat fares is more cost effective for individual travel. The NPS would be responsible for payment for seat fares.

Both Lake Clark Air and Lake & Peninsula Airlines provide regular 14 CFR 135 VFR and IFR flight services between Anchorage (PANC or PAMR), Kenai (PAEN), and LACL or the following neighboring communities:
Port Alsworth (TPO or PAKX), King Salmon (PAKN), Nondalton (PANO), Kokhanok (9K2), Pedro Bay (4K0), Igiugig (PAIG), Iliamna (PAIL), Lime Village (2AK).

Both Port Alsworth airfields (TPO and PAKX) are privately owned, thus only Lake Clark Air and Lake & Peninsula Airlines provide seat fare service to Port Alsworth. The Port Alsworth-King Salmon route is only serviced by Lake Clark Air. Seat fare transportation between King Salmon and Port Alsworth is necessary to move personnel (with multi-park responsibilities) between Katmai National Park & Preserve and LACL.

Neither Lake Clark Air or Lake & Peninsula Airlines are listed on the DOT's Certificated Air Carriers list or the US Commuter Air Carriers list. Neither vendor has a published schedule. Both Lake Clark Air and Lake & Peninsula Airlines regularly service these communities (daily ifpassenger or cargo need warrant). Both vendors provide seat fare services that are point-to-point, space available (not on-demand), and that are only conducted with non-tandem seated aircraft. Both vendors determine their flight routes, villages serviced, departure/arrival times, and their choice of aircraft depending on passenger and cargo need, thus not every village is serviced daily nor is there a published schedule. It is not uncommon for NPS personnel to fly to multiple villages (listed above) before arriving at their desired destination. Lake Clark Air has operational bases in Anchorage (PAMR) and Port Alsworth (TPO). Lake & Peninsula Airlines has operational bases in Anchorage (PAMR), Port Alsworth (PAKX), and Iliamna (PAIL).

For the reasons and missions described above, LACL requests an exemption to purchase seat fares with Lake Clark Air and Lake & Peninsula Airlines as per Operational Procedures Memoranda (OPM) - 15.

This exception to policy will remain in effect for one year. The requesting bureau will monitor the following and notify OAS if any of the following occurs: 1) change of ownership of the vendor, 2) change of the vendor's Chief Pilot, 3) request of aircraft change by the vendor or 4) a reportable incident or accident by the vendor. If one of these criteria are met, this exception will be reevaluated.

This request will be submitted by 15 March of each year and OAS will verify with the vendor if there have been any reportable incidents, accidents or FAA violations(s) over the last 5 years.

Park Superintendent, Requestor: GRANT HILDERBRAND Digitally signed by GRANT HILDERBRAND
Date: 2026.02.18 09:47:37 -09'00'

Regional Aviation Manager, Concurrence: NYSSA LANDRES Digitally signed by NYSSA LANDRES
Date: 2026.02.20 08:49:56 -09'00'

National Aviation Manager, Concurrence: KRISTIN SWOBODA Digitally signed by KRISTIN SWOBODA
Date: 2026.02.20 10:58:56 -07'00'

Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation Management, Approval: CHRISTOPHER WILCOX Digitally signed by CHRISTOPHER WILCOX
Date: 2026.02.20 17:48:31 -07'00'

Office of Aviation Services, Approval: SUSAN BATES Digitally signed by SUSAN BATES
Date: 2026.05.22 17:19:22 -05'00'