



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

JUNEAU FIELD OFFICE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
P.O. Box 22270
Juneau, Alaska 99802

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	April 29, 2015
EXPIRATION DATE:	May 28, 2015
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2015-229
WATERWAY:	Fish Creek

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Matthew Brody at (907) 790-4493, at the address above, or by email at Matthew.T.Brody@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: City and Borough of Juneau – Brian Davies

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 31, T. 41 S., R. 67 E., Copper River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Juneau B-2; Latitude 58.26742° N., Longitude -134.51033° W.; located at Eaglecrest Ski Area in Juneau, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to develop a network of eight recreational trails consisting of: one single lane (12' wide) summer maintenance road, one (4' wide) mountain bike trail, one (5' wide) ATV accessible maintenance trail, and five (18" to 24" wide) hiking trails.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is proposing to place fill material into wetlands and streams to facilitate the construction of two maintenance trails, one mountain bike trail, and five hiking trails. The work would include the placement of 3,388 cubic yards of rock into 1.49 acres of wetlands and streams to construct 21,857 linear feet of trails.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-20), dated 3/2/2015.

Wetland Effected Trail Lengths Only Trail Name	Entire Trail		Wetland Impacts		Fill Type		
	Width (ft.)	Length (ft)	Length (ft.)	Area (sqft.)	Fill Depth (in)	D1 (cu yd)	Shot Rock (cu yd)
Traverse- Hooter Summer Road	12	1418	1199	14388	36	0	1598.67
Pittmans's Ridge	2	2604	605.5	1211	6	22.43	0
Log Jam	2	1586	1534	3068	6	56.81	0
Sourdough MTB	4	7664	6545	26180	12	969.63	0
Stephens Passage Overlook	2	718	0	0	6	0	0
Traverse Trail	5	4123	3950	19750	12	731.48	0
Dick's Lake	1.5	1925	230	345	6	6.39	0
Heavenly Valley Overlook	1.5	1819	17	25.5	6	0.47	0
Totals			14080.5	64967.5		1787.21	1598.67

Stream Crossings		
Trail Name	Number of Crossings	Length of Stream Crossings (ft)
Traverse- Hooter Summer Road	4	48
Pittmans's Ridge	2	4
Log Jam	4	8
Sourdough MTB	5	20
Stephens Passage Overlook	2	4
Traverse Trail	11	55
Dick's Lake	1	1.5
Heavenly Valley Overlook	0	0

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: It is a challenge in our geographic location to not transit across waters of the United States to construct linear recreational trails. In our planning process various trail routes were investigated. The final route selections were chosen to avoid and minimize as practical the impacts to waters of the United States. The selected routes minimize stream crossings and follow terrain contours to address erosion and drainage concerns.

b. Minimization: Portions of some routes follow previously impacted but undeveloped areas. The new trail construction in previously impacted areas will improve drainage and allow for rehabilitation of the disturbed areas. Consolidation of recreational traffic to designated hardened trails through wetland areas will help minimize the impact and allow public enjoyment of this environment. The proposed project would result in rehabilitation of disturbed "social trail" areas, providing specific trails through wetlands to minimize off trail usage. and install interpretive signage to educate the significance of wetland ecology. By taking these measures it facilitates public access to recreate and take part in the preservation of wetland environments. The trail widths are kept to a minimum footprint for their designed use when crossing wetlands. Trail design incorporates a 5 degree out slope to facilitate sheet flow across the trail to mitigate drainage issues. Turnpike construction will be used to cross some short wetland sections for sustainability where flush filled trail construction is not feasible. Plank bridges will be used to cross ephemeral stream channels to minimize stream channel modifications. Culverts will be used on crossings not suitable for wood plank bridges.

c. **Compensatory Mitigation:** In this project we are providing access through wetland areas for recreational pursuits and enjoyment of the natural landscape. Our goal is to provide sustainable routes minimizing the impact through these sensitive areas. By providing these designated routes we reduce the possibility of random trail or "social trail" development. Using this methodology should reduce collateral impacts to waters of the United States and associated wetlands. Using interpretive signage we can educate the recreational users on functions of wetland ecology. Explain the fragile nature of this type of environment and the importance of its preservation. By providing the opportunity for the public to learn and travel through the wetland environment we feel that compensatory mitigation is not appropriate for the size a scope of this project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Commander at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. The Corps has determined that the project has no potential to cause effects to historic resources.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

No EFH species are known to use the project area.

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER
401 Certification Program
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

JUNEAU

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WQM/401 CERTIFICATION
410 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1795
PHONE: (907) 465-5321/FAX: (907) 465-5274

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. **POA-2015-229, Fish Creek**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.