



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice Modification TCF In-Lieu Fee

Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	January 30, 2017
EXPIRATION DATE:	March 1, 2017
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2010-132
WATERWAY:	Goldstream Creek

Interested parties are hereby notified that the District Engineer (DE) has received a project proposal to modify The Conservation Fund (TCF) 2016 In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Wetland Compensatory Mitigation Program Instrument for Federal permits as described below:

IN-LIEU FEE SPONSOR:

The Conservation Fund
1655 North Fort Meyer Drive, Suite 1300
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Email: webmaster@conservationfund.org
Phone: (703) 525-6300

Program POC
Mr. John Wros
Alaska Associate
The Conservation Fund
PO Box 1268
Girdwood, Alaska 99577
(907) 202-1594
Email: jwros@conservationfund.org

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: The Interior 2 (IN-2) encompasses two properties, both located in the Goldstream Creek Valley, within Section 15, T. 1 N., R 2 W., Fairbanks Meridian; Latitude 64.905° N., Longitude 147.931° W., TL 1501, Sheep Creek Road, North Star Borough, in Fairbanks, Alaska. The proposed mitigation site is

approximately 332 acres in size and is proposed to be preserved as part of the Tanana River Watershed.

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE: TCF is proposing modification of the 2016 In-Lieu Fee Program Instrument to include two new compensatory mitigation sites, the Engel Mitigation Site and Parish Mitigation Site, which are known as IN-2. The purpose for the protection of the wetland functions and values contained at IN-2 is to fulfill obligations for past sales of advance compensation mitigation credits used in the Interior Service Area and to generate 'released credits' once past obligations have been fulfilled. The goal of the preservation is to provide compensatory mitigation for past and future impacts to aquatic sites authorized by Department of the Army permits in the Interior Service Area. IN-2 was selected based on watershed needs, existing threats, as well as proximity to historic and ongoing urban development and mining. Impacts and degradation of aquatic resources in the Tanana Watershed include, among others, increase of impervious surface, increase in sediment loads, erosion and loss of storage and filtration capacity. Identified watershed needs are the protection of vegetative communities, quality and quantity of water sources, and minimization of anthropogenic disturbances, including the spread of non-native species.

For purposes of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the sponsor has proposed that the geographic service area for IN-2 be located in the Interior Service Area.

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 registered or eligible properties at or in the vicinity of the proposed mitigation sites.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Oversight of this mitigation site will be by a group of federal and state agency representatives. This interagency oversight group will be known as the Interagency Review Team (IRT). The Alaska District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) shall chair the IRT. This PN initiates consultation with the IRT.

IN-2 is a practicable option available to applicants to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts associated with permits issued under the authority of Section 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217).

The actual approval of the use of IN-2 for a specific project is the decision of the Corps pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The Corps provides no guarantee that any particular individual or general permit will be granted authorization to use this mitigation site to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts associated with a proposed permit, even though compensatory mitigation may be available.

AUTHORITY: Issuance of a Public Notice regarding proposed addition of IN-2 to the 2016 In-Lieu Fee Program Instrument is required pursuant to the "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule," (Rule) as published in the April 10, 2008, Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 70, Pages 19594-19705 (33 CFR Parts 325 and 332).

FEDERAL EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; the IRT, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the proposed mitigation sites. This is not an application for work in Waters of the United States. The Corps in evaluating this proposal will consider any comments received. Comments are used to assess the viability of the compensatory mitigation sites.

COMMENT PERIOD: Comments or questions on this proposal should be made in writing, to: Alaska District Corps of Engineers (ATTN: Estrella Campellone), CEPOA-RD-SA, Post Office Box 6898 JBER, Alaska 99506-0898 or by email to Estrella.f.campellone@usace.army.mil with the project name and number in the subject line. Comments must be received by the close of business on March 1, 2017.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers