



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Cantwell, Alaska

Current as of September 24, 2007

Community Information

Cantwell (CANT-well), population 204, is an unincorporated community along the George Parks Highway at its junction with the Denali Highway, 211 miles north of Anchorage and 28 miles south of Denali National Park. The Cantwell Census Designated Place total area encompasses 118.3 square miles of land. The community is in the Denali Borough. The Alaska Railroad also is near the community. Community and visitor use of the river banks and streams for water recreation continues to increase.

Description of Erosion Problem

According to the Community Survey respondent, the Jack and Nenana rivers and a number of other streams in the area are potential sources of erosion. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) monitors erosion along Carlo Creek that threatens the Parks Highway, and deals with problems as they occur.

Potential Damages

There are no fish camps along the rivers in this area, but there are a number of homes, private wells and septic systems within a 1/8 mile of a protective dike. No repair or maintenance costs were available. According to those interviewed no structures, facilities, or other items have been damaged or destroyed by erosion.

According to the Ahtna Land and Resource Protection officer, Cantwell Creek and the Jack River meet and combine for about 1/8 to 1/4 mile near Cantwell at Mile 209 of the George Parks Highway. The dike built by the Alaska DOT&PF around 1972 begins at this point and runs to about Mile 132 on the Denali Highway. The dike was built to help keep the Jack River from encroaching on the Denali Highway. Alaska DOT&PF Northern Regional Hydrologist stated that the State later put silt cores in the dike, noting that while groundwater can upwell, no significant erosion problems to the dike are expected. Alaska DOT&PF performs periodic channel work to control erosion.

Photos and Diagrams

No photos were provided by community or other sources. See attached diagram showing linear extent of erosion.

References

USACE. 2007. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001*, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Don Carlson, Northern Region Hydrologist, DOT&PF on August 15, 2007, and Tammany Straughn, Land and Resource Protection Officer, Ahtna, Inc. in September 2007.

Additional Information

This information paper, as well as those for other communities, can be accessed on the internet at www.alaskaerosion.com. For more information please contact the Corps of Engineers, project manager at (907) 753-5694 or email Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil



Alaska District
Corps of Engineers
Civil Works Branch

----- Linear Extent of Erosion



Alaska Baseline Erosion
Cantwell, Alaska