Environmental Resources Section

Public Notice

Alaska District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date: 8 May 2015 Identification No. ER-15-09
Please refer to the identification number when replying.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the following project:

Removal Action
Contaminated Soil and Concrete Structures
Former Wildwood Air Force Station
Kenai, Alaska

This action will be performed by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in partnership with the Corps under the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP).

The proposed project and potential environmental impacts are described in the enclosed EA and draft FONSI, which is available for public review and comment for 30 days from the date of this notice. It may also be viewed on the Alaska District's website at: www.poa.usace.army.mil. Click on the Reports and Studies button, look under Documents Available for Public Review, and then click on the Environmental Cleanup link.

To obtain a printed copy, please send a request via email to: Christopher.B.Floyd@usace.army.mil or send a request to the address below. The FONSI will be signed upon review of comments received and resolution of significant concerns. Please submit comments regarding the proposed action to the above email or to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
ATTN: CEPOA-PM-C-ER
P.O. Box 6898
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska 99506-0898

For information on the proposed project, please contact Chris Floyd of the Environmental Resources Section at the above email or Corps postal address.

for

Michael D. Noah
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

US Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District

Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Removal Action
Petroleum-Contaminated Soil
& Concrete Structures

Former Wildwood Air Force Station
Kenai, Alaska

Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program

May 2015

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (Corps) has assessed the environmental effects of the following action:

Removal Action
Petroleum-Contaminated Soil and
Concrete Structures

Former Wildwood Air Force Station
Kenai, Alaska

This action, to be performed by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in partnership with the Corps under the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program, has been evaluated for its effects on several significant resources, including fish and wildlife, wetlands, threatened or endangered species, marine resources, and cultural resources. No significant short-term or long-term adverse effects were identified.

This Corps action complies with the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The completed environmental assessment supports the conclusion that the action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human and natural environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not necessary for the removal action at the former Wildwood AFS.

_____ _____

Christopher D. Lestochi Date
Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
District Commander

Environmental Assessment

1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED OF REMEDIAL ACTION

1.1 Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) prepared this environmental assessment (EA) to address under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the excavation of petroleum-contaminated soils and other ground-disturbing activities at the former Wildwood military facilities near Kenai, Alaska. The Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT), in partnership with the Corps, will perform the work as part of the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP). KIT is a federally recognized tribe overseeing the remediation effort on behalf of the land owner, Kenai Natives Association, Inc. (KNA), an Urban Corporation formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 1971 (KIT-USACE 2012).

1.2 Site Description and Previous Activities

The former Wildwood Air Force Station (AFS) property is located 3.5 miles north of Kenai, Alaska (figure 1). The United States Air Force used this as a communication site from 1952 to 1972. Upon closure the property was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which then transferred approximately 4,300 acres to the KNA in 1974. KNA has retained ownership of the property minus a 125-acre portion in the southwest corner that was sold to the State of Alaska in 1994. That portion is now occupied by a correctional complex (KIT-USACE 2012).

The Air Force facility contained an operations building, a high-frequency (HF) communications facility, a MARS (minimally attended radar station), a landfill and disposal area, a Quonset hut, a fuel tank farm, and several underground storage tanks (USTs) (figure 2). The former facility has undergone a series of environmental investigations and cleanup efforts in order to address contamination with fuels, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and lead. Under the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program (as FUDS property number F10AK0251), the Corps began investigations in 1986. Between 1993 and 1995, the tank farm was removed, and extensive subsurface and groundwater contamination by several petroleum products was discovered. An air sparge system was installed and operated between 1996 and 2006. It was decommissioned by 2009 after removing almost 25,000 pounds of fuel hydrocarbons (FES 2011).

The KIT has performed cleanup work at the former Wildwood AFS since 2008 under six NALEMP cooperative agreements (CAs) with the Corps. This has included removal of above-ground storage tanks and a concrete structure at the HF site; building demolition/debris removal (BDDR) of the operations building, a garage, and a guard shack; and further delineation and removal of contaminated soil discovered during FUDS and NALEMP activities.

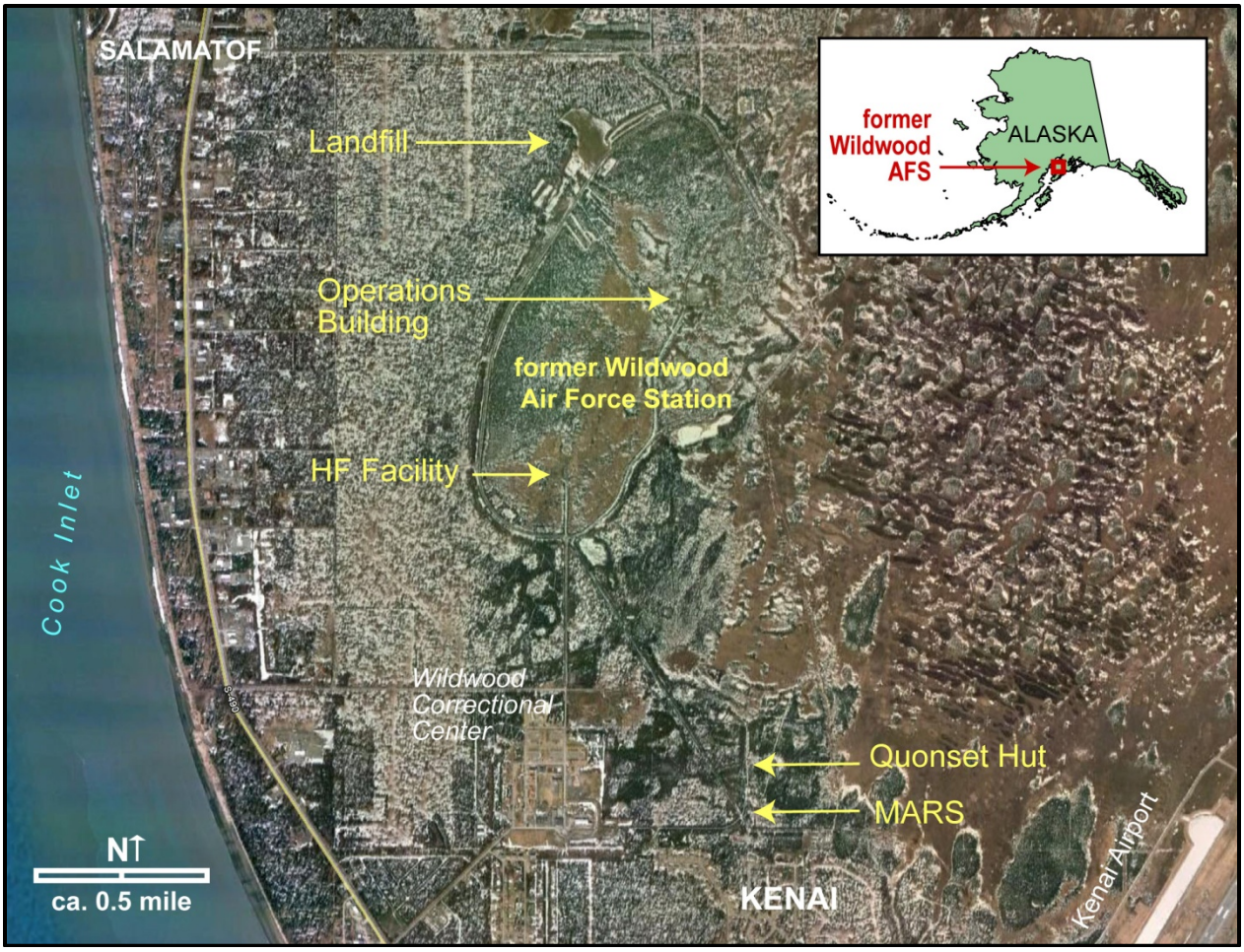

Figure 1. Location and vicinity of the former Wildwood Air Force Station.

Remedial activities in 2009 focused on the testing and removal of the former operations building, garage, and guard shack within the Wildwood AFS. Remedial activities in 2010 covered two sites within the Wildwood AFS. One site dealt with remaining remedial work at the HF facility. The second objective was to complete work at the former operations building that was delayed by an abnormally high water table and rescheduled to be completed in 2014.

The 2011 activities dealt with removing contaminated soil that was discovered while removing the foundation of the garage at the former operations building; this work was completed. The 2012 remedial activities addressed soil removal at the Quonset hut site. This work closed in September 2014.

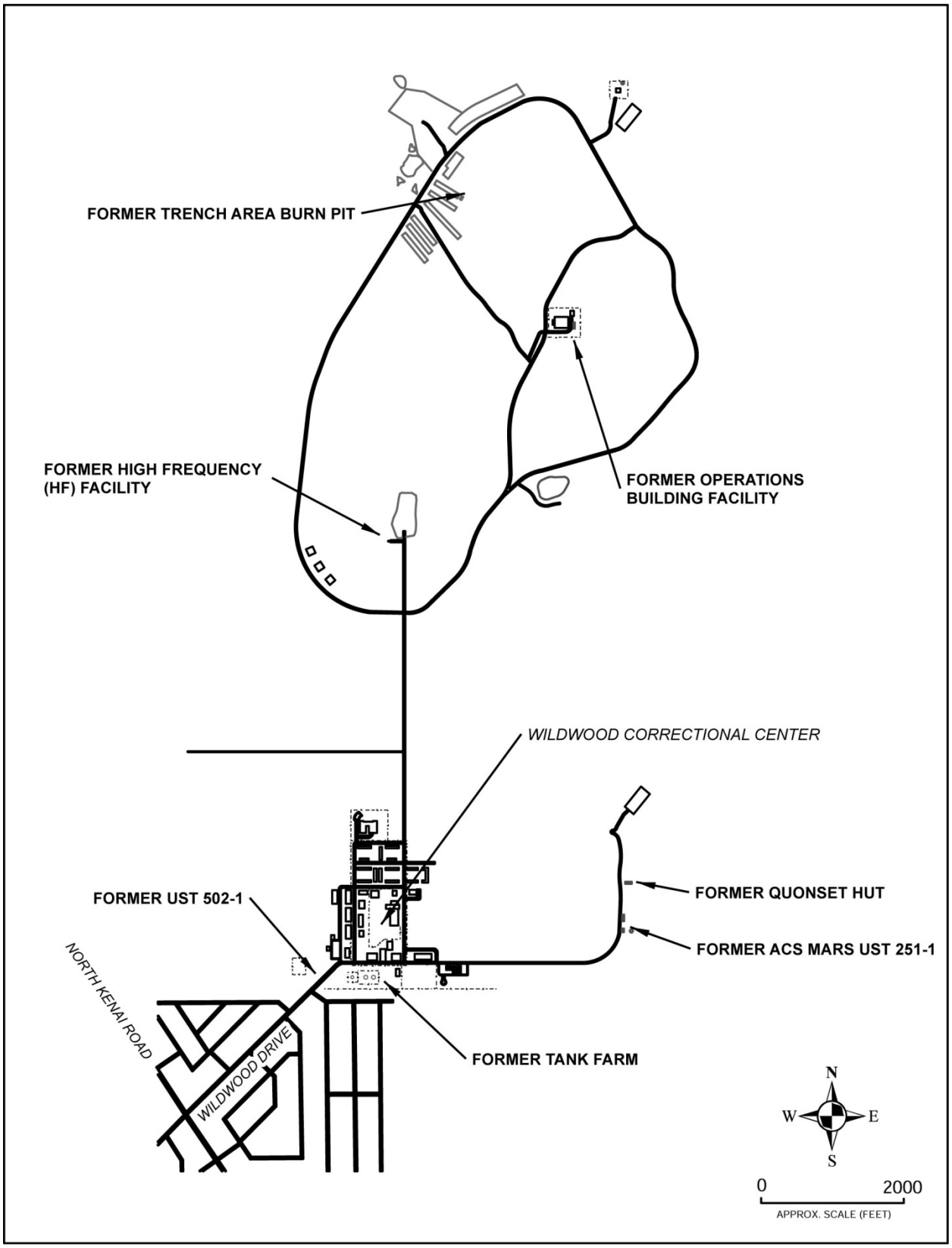

Figure 2. Schematic of Wildwood AFS features and contaminant source areas (adapted from USACE 2005).

1.3 Need for Action

The former AFS lands are used by the current landowners for subsistence activities such as hunting, trapping, and berry picking. The former military activities left debris, abandoned structures, and contaminated soil and groundwater throughout the property, inhibiting traditional use of the land as well as posing significant safety risks. Although environmental cleanup activities have been carried out, the landowner wishes to further expedite the rehabilitation of their land (KIT-USACE 2012).

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, the remaining contaminated soil and structures will remain in place. This will limit the use of the area by the community and potentially allow the migration of chemical contaminants to nearby wetlands and subsistence areas. The no-action alternative will avoid the short-term disruptions to the local environment that will be caused by the operation of heavy equipment and excavation of soil.

2.2 Removal Action Alternative

The preferred alternative is to continue with the removal of contaminated soil, debris, and remaining structures. The landowner wishes to restore the land to the extent practical, which may include the removal of inert structures such as concrete slabs as well as more obvious liabilities such as dilapidated buildings and environmental contamination (figure 3).

In 2015, the KIT plans to demolish, remove and dispose of 13 concrete pillars, five concrete slabs, and a former concrete tank foundation at the ACS MARS site. The 13 concrete pillars weigh between 10,000 and 15,000 pounds each; the five concrete slabs range in size from approximately 15 feet by 15 feet, to 20 feet by 70 feet. The depth of the slabs is not known, but is anticipated to be approximately 3 feet. The KIT also plans to remove and dispose of approximately 640 cubic yards of diesel fuel -contaminated soil from around the MARS site (Palmer 2015).

Figure 3. Demolition of a concrete structure at the Wildwood AFS.

Concrete buildings are first cleared of any remaining removable non-concrete objects and materials such as boilers, piping, conduit, and wiring. The concrete structure is then systematically demolished using a heavy excavator fitted with a hydraulic hammer (figure 3), under the direction of a demolition consultant. The concrete rubble and other inert, non-recyclable materials are disposed of at the Kenai Borough Landfill (KIT 2010).

The general approach to fuel-contaminated soil removal at the Wildwood property is to excavate with a backhoe no deeper than 1 foot below groundwater (roughly, 11 feet below ground surface) using observations and field-screening to segregate clean soil from contaminated soil in accordance with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation guidance. Clean soils are reserved for backfilling. Suspected contaminated soils are stockpiled on a liner to await the results of laboratory confirmation sampling. Soil containing more than the State of Alaska cleanup level of 250 mg/kg, but less than 1,000 mg/kg petroleum hydrocarbons may, with approval from the Kenai Borough Solid Waste Department, be disposed of at the Central Peninsula Landfill. Soils containing more than 1,000 mg/kg petroleum contamination are sent to a thermal treatment center in Anchorage. After field-screening and confirmation sampling indicates that the floor and sidewalls of the excavation are clean, the excavation is backfilled with reserved clean soil and clean fill, as needed, from an established borrow source, and graded to match ground contours (CIE 2013).

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Community

The approximately 4,000-acre KNA Wildwood property is adjacent to the City of Kenai (population 7,100 in 2010) and the unincorporated community of Salamatof (population 980 in 2010). There are no permanent residents on the property itself (ADCRA 2015). The KIT has over 1,400 members living in the Kenai area and elsewhere (KIT 2013).

3.2 Current Land Use

The former AFS lands owned by the KNA are used by association members for subsistence activities such as hunting, trapping, and berry-picking (KIT-USACE 2012).

3.3 Climate

The climate along the Cook Inlet coast at Kenai shows a mix of maritime and interior characteristics, with cool summers, cold winters, frequent fog, and relatively sparse precipitation. The inlet has a moderating effect on the local climate, but Kenai's proximity to the Alaska Range to the west and the Kenai Mountains to the east give Kenai slightly cooler average temperatures than seen in Anchorage, 65 miles to the northeast. Kenai temperatures typically average from 4 to 22 °F in winter and 46 to 65 °F in the summer (City of Kenai 2013, ADCRA 2013).

Table 3-1 below summarizes climate data from the Kenai Municipal Airport, immediately to the southeast of the AFS site (WRCC 2010).

Table 3-1. Selected Climate Data, Kenai Municipal Airport

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ANNUAL
Ave. Max. Temp. (°F)	21.1	26.7	32.7	42.7	53.0	58.7	62.1	61.9	55.3	42.1	29.5	22.7	42.4
Ave. Min. Temp. (°F)	4.2	8.1	13.1	26.2	35.4	42.8	47.6	45.9	38.9	27.7	14.1	7.2	25.9
Ave. Total Precip. (in)	1.01	0.96	0.82	0.74	0.91	1.19	1.86	2.60	3.32	2.47	1.50	1.35	18.73
Ave. Total Snowfall (in)	9.5	10.3	8.6	3.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	4.8	10.3	13.8	61.2
Ave. Snow Depth (in)	12	13	12	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	8	4
Prev. Wind Direction	NNE	NNE	NNE	N	SSW	SSW	SSW	S	NNE	NNE	NNE	NNE	NNE
Ave.Wind Speed (mph)	7.6	8.0	8.9	8.4	8.7	8.3	8.3	7.1	7.5	7.2	7.1	7.7	7.9

3.4 Topography, Soils, and Hydrology

The former Wildwood AFS is located within the Nikishka Lowland physiographic region on the Kenai Peninsula. The region is characterized by flat to undulating terrain, gradually sloping towards the southwest, with abundant wetlands, lakes, and streams. The site is approximately 4 miles northwest of the mouth of the Kenai River and 1 mile east of Cook Inlet. No streams flow through any part of the AFS; however, numerous wetlands, ponds, and lakes are located nearby. The western portion of site, including the areas impacted by military construction, is generally well-drained, forested, and is characterized by flat to gently sloping terrain. The eastern portion of the site has not been impacted by military construction and consists generally of poorly drained swamp and muskeg areas (USACE 2007).

Soils in the site vicinity consist of inter-bedded Quaternary-age glacial, fluvial, lacustrine, and marine deposits. Lacustrine sediments consisting of fine-grained sand and silt underlie the near-surface soil horizon and extend to approximately 10 feet to 20 feet below ground surface (bgs). Glacial and fluvial deposits of inter-bedded sand and gravel underlie the lacustrine deposits and range in thickness from 10 to 80 feet (USACE 2007).

Groundwater at the site occurs at 4 to 25 feet bgs in soil of an upper unconfined aquifer. The aquifer matrix varies by location and consists of silt, sand, and gravel of lacustrine, glacial, and fluvial origin. The unconfined aquifer extends to marine clay/silt deposits at approximately 80 feet bgs. The unconfined aquifer has been a source of drinking water in the past, although properties in the area of the site have increasingly tied into the Kenai city water system. A confined aquifer exists beneath the upper marine silt and clay layer that is the source of drinking water for the City of Kenai. The silt and clay layer acts as a low permeability unit between the unconfined and confined aquifers. The potentiometric surface of the confined aquifer ranges from 20 feet bgs to 40 feet above ground surface, depending on location. In general, groundwater in the unconfined aquifer flows southwest (USACE 2007).

3.5 Biological Resources

Vegetation across the Wildwood AFS property is a mix of hardwood and spruce forest, with broad open areas of grasses and forbs. Black and white spruce, paper birch, aspen, and balsam poplar are the dominant tree species, with willow and alder scrub common. Dwarf shrubs such as bog rosemary and willows predominate in wetter areas (USACE 1995). In some areas cleared of structures over the course of remedial activities at Wildwood, colonization and succession by plant communities is readily apparent (figure 4).

Figure 4. Site of a former aboveground storage tank removed from the High Frequency Radio area in 2009. The photograph shows a disturbed area being colonized by grasses and balsam poplar shrubs. In the background, a meadow of grasses and fireweed is being encroached upon by spruce forest.

Small mammals occurring in the area include shrews, snowshoe hares, and voles. Larger mammals may include moose, black bear, wolf, and coyote. The Kenai caribou herd usually resides in the northern Kenai Mountains, with smaller mammals occupying the flats north of Kenai. Caribou may occasionally be seen the project area (USACE 1995).

3.6 Wetlands

The proposed project sites are not known to have been delineated for jurisdictional wetlands. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory website (USFWS 2015a) indicates that the majority of the developed area of the former AFS is uplands, with a large area of freshwater forested/shrub or emergent wetlands immediately to the east, with a few scattered ponds or pockets of wetlands in the developed area (figure 5).

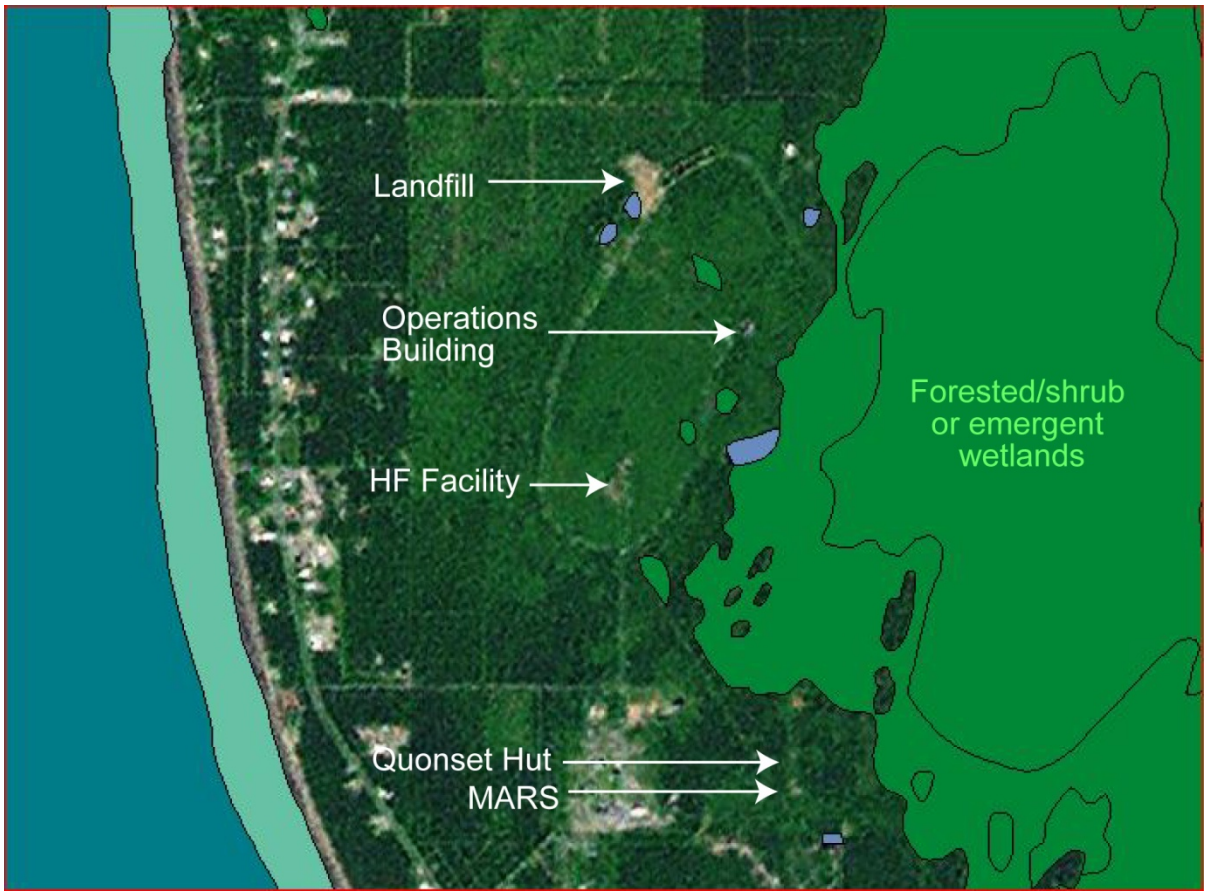

Figure 5. Annotated screen-shot from the National Wetlands Inventory mapper (USFWS 2013b) of the Wildwood AFS area.

3.7 Protected Species

Endangered Species Act. No species in or near the project area are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) according to information made available online by the USFWS (USFWS 2015b).

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Bald eagles are common along waterways on the Kenai Peninsula and are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, as well as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (see below). In addition to prohibiting direct takes such as killing eagles or destroying nests, this act also regulates human activity or construction that may interfere with eagles' normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering habits (USFWS 2011).

Migratory Bird Treaty Act. With the exception of State-managed ptarmigan and grouse species, all native birds in Alaska (including active nests, eggs, and nestlings) are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA; USFWS 2009).

3.8 Essential Fish Habitat and Anadromous Streams

No marine essential fish habitat (EFH) as designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) exists at the Wildwood site. No anadromous streams cataloged by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game are in or near the project sites (ADFG 2015).

3.9 Cultural and Historic Resources

The only historic property in the area catalogued by the Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS) is the former Wildwood Air Force Station itself, given the AHRS number KEN-255 (AOHA 2013). The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) confirmed in a July 2008 letter that the property was determined in 1994 not to be eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places due to lack of integrity of the remaining structures (AOHA 2008). No archaeological sites are noted by the AHRS within the boundaries of the former AFS.

3.10 Air Quality and Noise

The City of Kenai area enjoys generally good air quality due to a relatively low density of pollutant emission sources. Air quality monitoring on the Kenai Peninsula is currently limited to particulate matter. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) established the monitoring program in October 2011 in response to observations of smoke from summer wildfires on the Peninsula and dust lofted during dry months. There is little existing data to compare with other National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established under the Clean Air Act (CAA). These air quality standards include concentration limits on the "criteria pollutants" carbon monoxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and lead. The city is not in a CAA "non-attainment" area, and the "conformity determination" requirements of the CAA would not apply to the proposed project at this time (ADEC 2013).

Potential sources of air pollution include both non-point/mobile sources and fixed point sources. Major non-point source emissions will include particulates and carbon monoxide from cars, trucks, and boats, and also particulates from wood-burning stoves. The proposed project area has commercial and residential areas to the south and west, and the Kenai River with its heavy summer boat traffic to the south. Non-point source pollution can also come from natural phenomena such as forest fires, volcanic eruptions, and wind-lofted glacial silt. Fixed-point sources in the area include petroleum and chemical industrial sites at Nikiski, roughly 6 miles to the north, and in the Kalifornsky area about 12 miles to the south (KPB 2005).

The noise levels at the site are generally low and considered comparable to similar suburban areas. The major source of noise will presumably be from motor vehicles such as aircraft, all-terrain vehicles, and perhaps from cars and trucks on highways outside the former AFS boundaries.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF ALTERNATIVES

4.1 No-Action Alternative

The no-action alternative will avoid short-term disruptions to the local environment caused by the operation of heavy equipment and excavation of soil. However, the contaminated soil will remain in place, which will limit the use of the area by the community and potentially allow the migration of chemical contaminants to nearby wetlands and subsistence areas.

4.2 Preferred Alternative

Under the preferred alternative, contaminated soils and structures will be removed from the site to the extent practical. The potential environmental consequences are described below.

4.2.1 Effects on Current Land Use

The planned environmental cleanup activities at the Wildwood property may cause some brief restrictions on access to portions of the general area. The subsistence land use described previously will likely occur in undeveloped areas away from the sites targeted for cleanup; however, field crew use of the access roads may compete with other land-user's use of those same roads for a limited time.

4.2.2 Effects on Topography, Soils, and Hydrology

The small areas of excavation will not significantly alter the topography or patterns of overland water flow in the area. Larger excavations will be backfilled with clean soil.

4.2.3 Effects on Biological Resources

The planned activities will be highly localized in their impacts and affect areas already heavily altered by the former military facilities and past cleanup efforts. A small amount of brush may need to be cleared to access specific features. The activities will have little effect on local wildlife and no long-term negative impact on their habitat. The project area is surrounded by large areas of similar, higher-quality habitat, and any wildlife displaced from the project area by noise and activity should be able to quickly resume their natural behavior. The long-term effects of the project will be positive through the removal of contaminated soil and debris from the environment.

4.2.4 Effects on Protected Species

The Corps determines that the planned activities will have no adverse effect on any species listed under the Endangered Species Act or their critical habitat, as none exists in the project area.

No eagle nesting sites are known to exist in the Wildwood area. The trees in the area appear to be mostly relatively small spruce and birch that provide marginal nest support, and do not border significant fish-bearing streams.

Nesting birds are likely to be the most vulnerable animal species at the site. The destruction of active nests, eggs, or nestlings is a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service advises that the period 1 May through 15 July should be considered the nesting window for forest- or shrub-nesting birds in Southcentral Alaska (USFWS 2009). The project activities may overlap this nesting window. One means of avoiding a "taking" of nesting birds under the MBTA is to perform the necessary brush and tree removal before the start of the nesting window. Noise and activity from site operations has the potential to disturb birds attempting to nest near the project site.

4.2.5 Effects on Essential Fish Habitat and Anadromous Streams

The project will not require crossing or altering any anadromous streams and will have no effect on essential fish habitat. Nearby water-courses will be protected from sediment run-off or the release of petroleum products at the work site.

4.2.6 Effects on Wetlands

The proposed work sites are believed to be uplands, so backfilling of excavations would not constitute a discharge under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Any unforeseen incidental discharge into jurisdictional wetlands in the course of the project is authorized under Nationwide Permit No. 38, "Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste."

4.2.7 Effects on Historic and Cultural Resources

Based on previous determinations (AOHA 2008) that the former Wildwood AFS is ineligible for the NRHP, the Corps has determined that the KIT's remediation work will not affect historic properties. The Corps updated the State Historic Preservation Officer on current activities and reiterated its determination of "no effect" in a letter dated 16 April 2015 (Pierce 2015).

4.2.8 Effects on Air Quality and Noise

Air quality may be affected in a highly localized area during the project period due to the use of heavy equipment, vehicles, and generators. The Corps believes any poor air quality conditions caused by the project will be transient and highly localized and will dissipate entirely at the end of the project. Dust control (i.e. watering) as a Best Management Practice (BMP) may also be utilized during hauling operations to control dust if needed.

The planned activities at the site and the movement of trucks and equipment into and out of the

project along local roads will increase the levels of noise in the local area during several weeks of the working season. The remedial activities will be timed to minimize the level of interference with the lives of the local residents.

4.2.9 Effects on Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," requires Federal agencies to identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse human health effects of its programs and activities on minority and low-income populations.

The express purpose of the proposed project is to reduce risks to human health and welfare in the region by removing contaminants from the environment. The Corps does not anticipate adverse impacts from this project to the local human population.

4.2.10 Cumulative Effects

Federal law (40 CFR 651.16) requires that NEPA documents assess cumulative effects, which are the impact on the environment resulting from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

The proposed project will have the ultimate net effect of removing a large mass of chemical contamination from the environment. The immediate incremental impacts of air pollutants and noise from construction machinery will be of short duration and will not contribute to long- term cumulative effects. The project may indirectly contribute to long-term changes in land use and environmental quality by encouraging use of the restored land.

4.2.11 Effects on Coastal Zone Management

Alaska withdrew from the voluntary National Coastal Zone Management Program (http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/programs/czm.html) on July 1, 2011. Within the State of Alaska, the federal consistency requirements under the Coastal Zone Management Act do not apply to federal agencies, those seeking forms of federal authorization, and state and local government entities applying for federal assistance.

4.2.12 Avoidance and Minimization of Environmental Impacts

Steps to avoid and minimize environmental impacts will primarily consist of standard construction best management practices (BMPs) to avoid unnecessary disturbance or damage to the local environment. These BMPs will be developed more fully in the contractor's work plan. Erosion control best management practices may include covering exposed soil with brush, netting, erosion blankets or mulches (e.g., chipped brush), limiting off-road travel, and placing silt fences where applicable to control sediment runoff from the project site perimeter and to

protect any nearby creeks or drainage channels.

All fuels and fluids used in machinery and excavation equipment will be stored at least 50 feet from creeks and beaches. Equipment and trucks containing fuel will park at least 50 feet from creeks and beaches when not in use. Emergency spill response procedures and materials will be provided on all equipment; materials will include sorbent mats, socks, and pads for absorbing fuels and fluids used on site.

Site workers will avoid destroying active bird nests, as described in Section 4.2.3. No active eagle nests have been reported near the proposed work sites, but if new eagle nests are discovered, they should be reported immediately to the Corps.

5.0 PERMITS AND AUTHORIZATIONS

This continuing project will require few resource permits or authorizations. The Corps has sought concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer that the soil excavation will not cause adverse effects to cultural resources. The Corps does not expect the project to require discharge of materials into wetlands. If an excavation did extend into a wetland area, the backfilling of that excavation will be authorized under Nationwide Permit No. 38, "Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste."

6.0 CONCLUSION

The continued environmental cleanup efforts at the former Wildwood AFS, as discussed in this document, will have some minor, largely controllable short-term impacts, but in the long term will help improve the overall quality of the human environment. This assessment supports the conclusion that the proposed project does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment; therefore, a finding of no significant impact will be prepared.

7.0 PREPARERS OF THIS DOCUMENT

This environmental assessment was prepared by Chris Floyd and Diane Walters of the Environmental Resources Section, Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers Project Manager is Valerie Palmer.

8.0 REFERENCES

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