

APMA OFFICE JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION

File Number: POA-1988-00892

Waterway: Ready Bullion Creek

Applicant: Rich Kruse

APMA #: 7201

Sources:

- USGS: Fairbanks D-3 1:63360
- NWI: USFWS National Wetlands Mapper 2007 Imagery (accessed 8 June 2020)
- Soil Map: NRCS Greater Fairbanks Area Soil Survey & Greater Nenana Area Soil Survey (accessed 8 June 2020)
- Aerial photo: date: Google Earth 2017 Imagery (accessed 5 June 2020), DigitalGlobe 2020 Imagery (accessed 8 June 2020)
- Site Photos, source: Site photos were not available at the time of application due to snowpack
- Information provided in the APMA
- Site visit: By whom and what date: N/A
- Agency contact: Who, date, contact number: N/A

INTRODUCTION:

Application for permit to mine in Alaska (APMA 720). Project is located at Latitude 64.8546 N, Longitude 148.0369 W, USGS Quad Map Fairbanks D-3, in Ester, Alaska.

VEGETATION:

Aerial photography shows that the vegetation includes *Betula papyrifera* (paper birch) and *Populus tremuloides* (quaking aspen) in areas where trenching is proposed for exploratory purposes. Vegetation is sparse to absent in old mine tailings, which is the majority of the proposed project area where mining operations will occur. Plots of land designated for mining in the applicants 5 year mining plan have been historically mined and are disturbed.

Hydrophytic vegetation present: Yes No Unknown

SOILS:

- 110- Dumps, mine Hydric Soil Rating- Unranked
- 118-Fairbanks silt loam, 12-20 percent slopes –Nonhydric
- 119-Fairbanks silt loam, 20-30 percent slopes- Nonhydric
- 144-Minto Silt Loam, 7 to 12 percent slopes- Nonhydric
- 173-Steese Silt Loam, 20-30% percent slopes- Nonhydric

Hydric soils present: Yes No Unknown

HYDROLOGY:

Trenching points for exploration occur in areas with no hydrological flow or within areas of hydric soil. Hydrology has been mapped by the NWI (National Wetlands Inventory) to include a freshwater emergent wetland (PEM1Cx) (2007 Imagery) that occurs in four of the five years proposed mining plan. Due to the nature of the area, the more recent aerial imagery (2020 imagery), and the lack of vegetation on site, the area most likely has not naturalized or been able to hold an active wetland status. Pooling water may be seen in aerial imagery but this is most likely due to current mining and not to naturalization.

Wetland hydrology present: Yes No Unknown

WETLANDS CONCLUSION: (Adapt the wording of this section to the situation)

Although the applicant has proposed to placer mine near Ready Bullion Creek, the area abutting the creek is considered uplands, due to the vegetation signature as well as the lack of soil evidence to be classified as a wetland. The applicant has stated that there will be a 25ft buffer between the creek and placer mine operations as well as no in stream work or stream diversions. A large portion of the proposed mining will occur in old mine tailings that have been altered and degraded. Trenching points for exploration are all located in upland areas and therefore not jurisdictional.

Size of disturbance area:

Wetlands: 0 acres
Uplands: 1.7 acres
Stream length before diversion: N/A
Stream diversion length: N/A

6/8/2020

Lindsey McCord
Regulatory Specialist

