



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

FAIRBANKS FIELD OFFICE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
PO Box 35066
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	January 26, 2022
EXPIRATION DATE:	February 25, 2022
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2021-00529
WATERWAY:	TANANA RIVER

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.

All comments regarding this Public Notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the Project Manager's email as listed below or to regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the Public Notice reference number listed above.

All comments 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 Greg Mazer at (907) 347-9059, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 474-2164, or by email at Gregory.j.mazer@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Daniel Welch, Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB)

AGENT: Shannon & Wilson Per Johnson

LOCATION: The project site is located at Section 26, T. 2 S, R. 1 W.; Fairbanks Meridian; Latitude 64.79413°, Longitude -147.69651°; in Fairbanks, Alaska. See Sheets 1-6 enclosed with this notice.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to bring the FNSB South Cushman Rifle Range to current safety and accessibility guidelines.

PROPOSED WORK: The proposed project would improve safety of and access to the FNSB South Cushman Rifle Range. Fill would be permanently placed in 1.0 acres of jurisdictional wetlands of the U.S. to construct new safety berms and expand the backstop berm. The project would also construct a restroom facility, establish a covered shooting area, and create parking, access paths and shooting benches that are compliant with requirements of the American with Disabilities Act.

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: Construction of the restroom facility, the covered shooting area, the improved parking, access paths and shooting benches would occur within existing developed areas and thereby avoid impacts to jurisdiction waters including wetlands.

b. Minimization: The positions of the proposed berms and the other proposed improvements are oriented to minimize direct impacts to wetlands and other waters as much as practicable. In addition, the design slopes of the berms are as steep as feasible to reduce the total footprint and thereby minimize the proposed wetland impact. Construction and improvements of the berms are anticipated to have a positive effect on wetland-dependent wildlife due to reduction of noise, stray bullets and shot, and human intrusion. Further, the restroom facility would greatly reduce dispensing human waste in the surrounding wetlands. Lastly, approximately 0.2 acre of unnecessary fill predominantly associated metric target pads would be removed, which would allow wetland conditions to re-establish in former wetland areas within the rifle range site itself.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: FNSB asserts that no compensatory mitigation is necessary because the project benefits described above would enhance the functional performance of the surrounding aquatic resources despite the loss of 1.0 acre of wetlands.

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/are no cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be concurrent with the proposed project area. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Potential to Cause Effects determination for the proposed project. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is not required, however, 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.

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

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 National Marine Fisheries Service (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.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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).

Project drawings are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



PUBLIC NOTICE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street, Anchorage AK 99501-2617
Phone: 907-269-6285 | Email: DEC-401Cert@alaska.gov

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 (CWA) 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 CWA, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws.

Notice is hereby given that a request for a CWA §401 Water Quality Certification of a Department of the Army Permit application, Corps of Engineers' Reference Number POA-2021-00529, Tanana River, has been received for the discharge of fill materials into waters of the United States (WOUS), including wetlands, as described in the Corps public notice and project figures/drawings (18 AAC 15.180).

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to water quality, may submit comments electronically via email to DEC-401cert@alaska.gov by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's public notice. All comments need to include the Corps public notice reference number in the subject heading. Physically mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

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

The permit application and associated documents are available for review. For inquires or to request copies of the documents, contact dec-401cert@alaska.gov, or call 907-269-6285.

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact ADA Coordinator Brian Blessington at 907-269-6272 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 5 days of the expiration date of this public notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.



Reference #:

Applicant: Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB)

Adjacent Property Owners:
All adjoining properties are surrounded by property owned by FNSB (the applicant) located at address.

Location: Rifle Range Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Lat/Long. : 64.79413/ -147.69651

Date : January 2022

Proposed Project: FSNB South Cushman Rifle Range Safety Improvements

In: Tanana River Watershed

Near/At: Fairbanks

County: Fairbanks North Star Borough

State: Alaska

SW Project No: 21-1-107481 001

VICINITY MAP






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GEOTECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

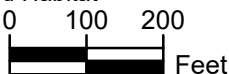
FIG 1



NOTE: Wetland continues outside of delineated area, as symbolized by dashed boundary line.

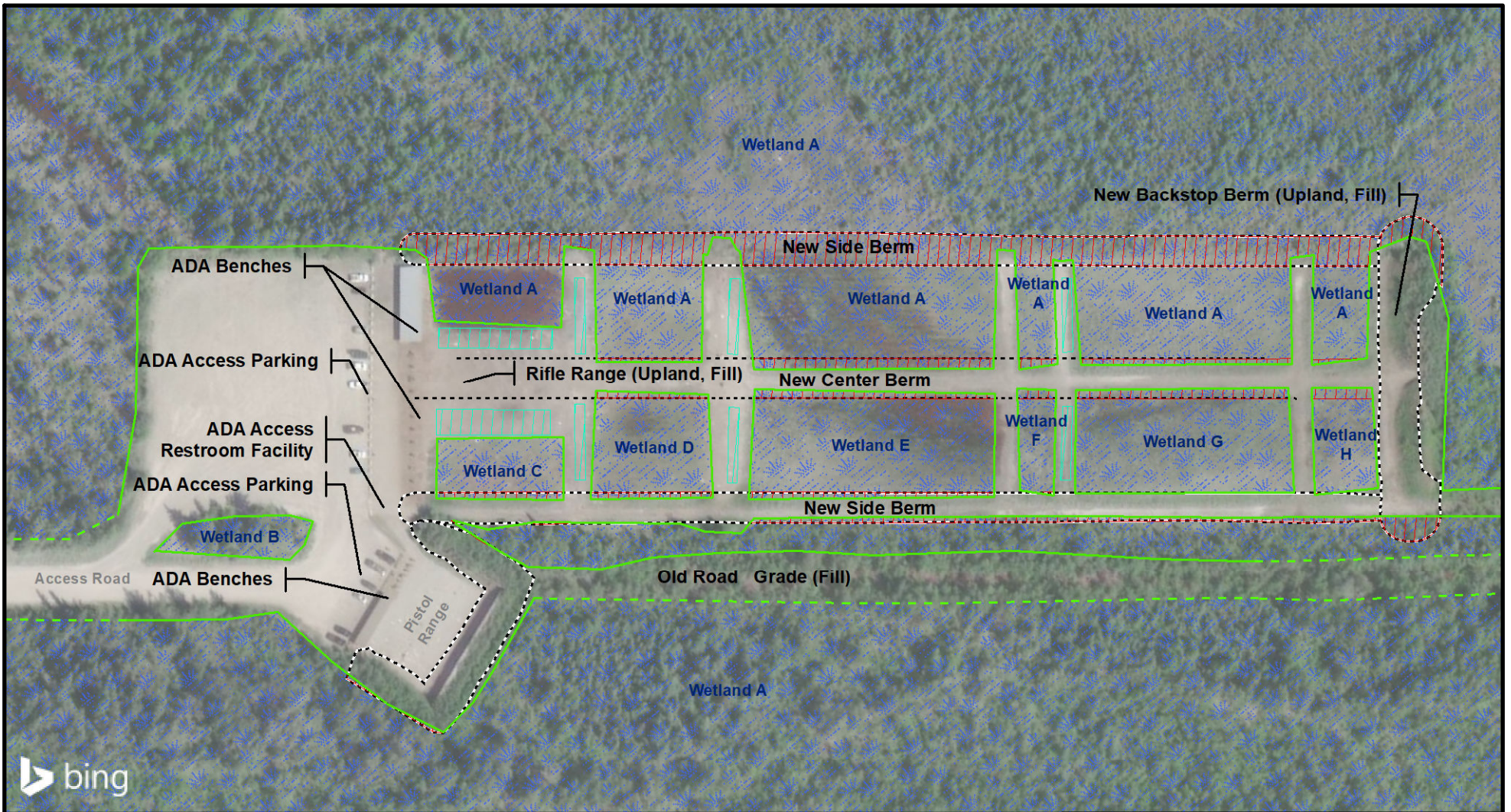
LEGEND

-  Delineated Wetland Boundary
-  Approximate Wetland Boundary
-  Palustrine Emergent Wetland Habitat
-  Palustrine Forested and Scrub-Shrub Wetland Habitat
-  Palustrine scrub-shrub





Reference #:
Applicant: Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB)
Proposed Project: FSNB South Cushman Rifle Range Safety Improvements
Location: Fairbanks, Alaska
Date : January 2022
SW Project No: 21-1-107481 001

SITE PLAN EXISTING CONDITIONS	
SHANNON & WILSON, INC. <small>GEOTECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS</small>	FIG 2



LEGEND

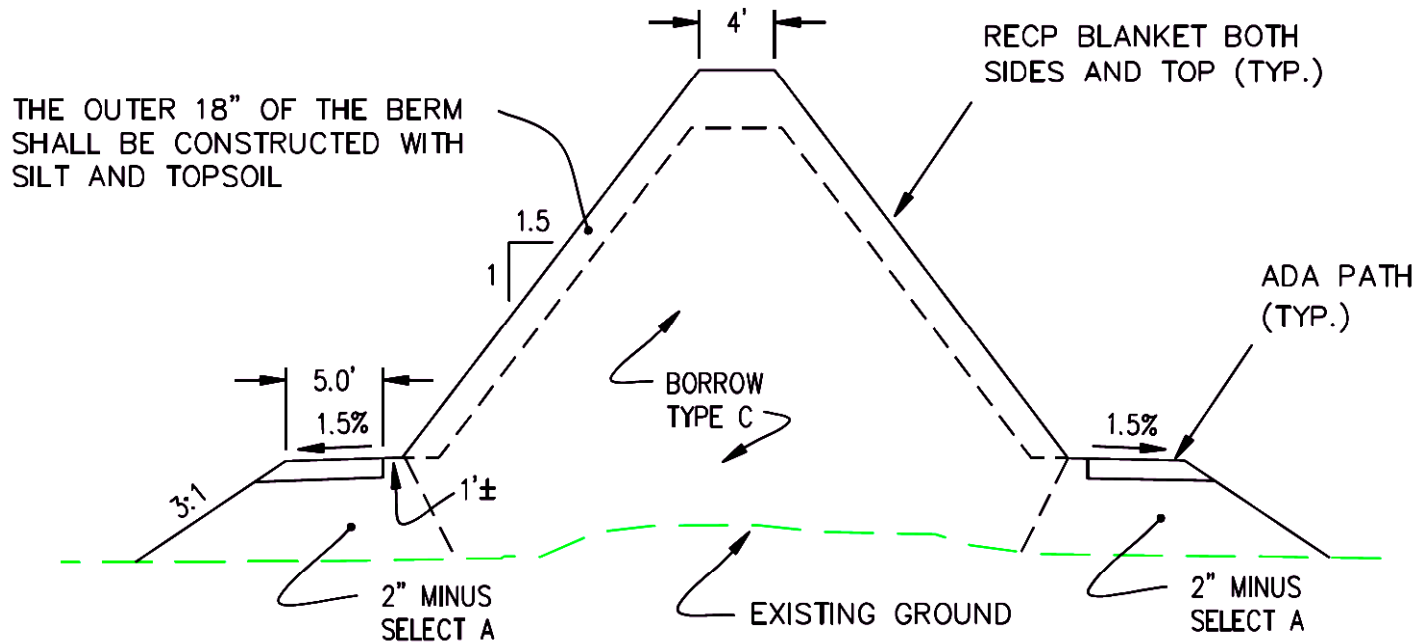
-  Permanent Wetland Impacts (1.0 acre)
-  Wetland Reestablishment (0.2 acre)



Reference #:
Applicant: Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB)
Proposed Project: FSNB South Cushman Rifle Range Safety Improvements
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SITE PLAN EXISTING CONDITIONS

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CENTER BERM

SCALE: 1"=10' HORIZ. / 1" = 5' VERT.

Reference #:

Applicant: Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB)

Proposed Project: FSNB South Cushman Rifle Range Safety Improvements

Location: Fairbanks, Alaska

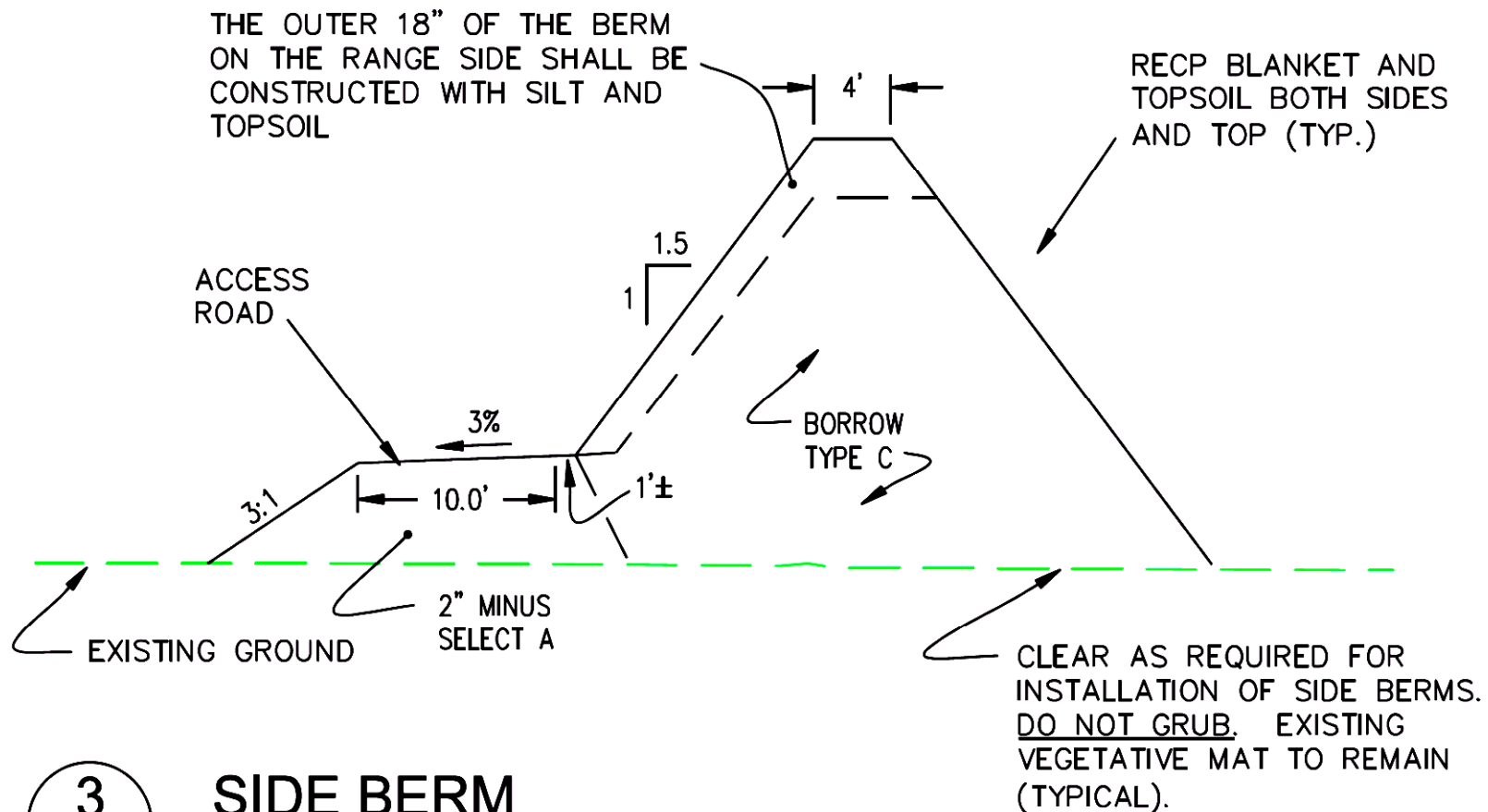
Date : January 2022

SW Project No: 21-1-107481 001

CENTER BERM SECTION

SHANNON & WILSON, INC.
GEOTECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

FIG 4
SHEET 1



3

SIDE BERM

SCALE: 1"=10' HORIZ. / 1" = 5' VERT.

Reference #:
Applicant: Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB)

Proposed Project: FSNB South Cushman Rifle Range Safety Improvements

Location: Fairbanks, Alaska

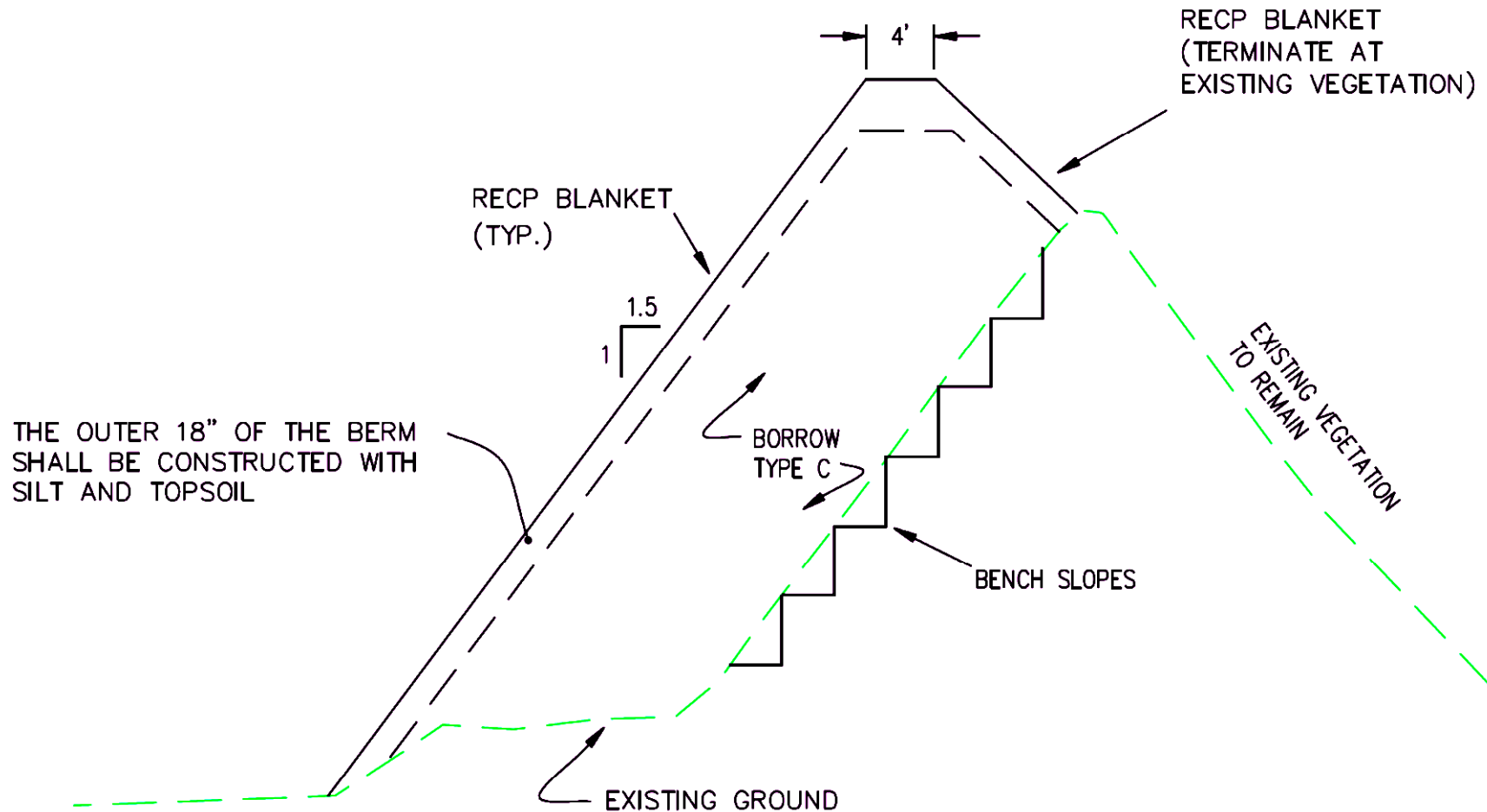
Date : January 2022

SW Project No: 21-1-107481 001

SIDE BERM SECTION

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FIG 4
 SHEET 2



THE OUTER 18" OF THE BERM SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED WITH SILT AND TOPSOIL

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BACK STOP BERM

SCALE: 1"=10' HORIZ. / 1" = 5' VERT.

BACK STOP BERM SECTION
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FIG 4
 SHEET 3