



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	October 19, 2022
EXPIRATION DATE:	November 18, 2022
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2022-00448
WATERWAY:	Cottonwood Creek

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 Estrella Campellone at (907) 753-2518, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Estrella.f.campellone@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Lucas Wright, Steel Timber Fence Company, 1254 South Rebeca Drive, Palmer, Alaska 99645. Email: luke@aksteeltimber.com. Telephone: (907) 841-6608.

AGENT: Ryan Kingsbery, Travis/Peterson Environmental Consulting, 3305 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 102, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Email: rkingsbery@tpeci.com. Telephone: (907) 522-4337.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 29, T. 18 N., R. 1 E., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Anchorage C-7; Latitude 61.622193° N., Longitude 149.309439° W.; 5625 E. Moose Street, State Parcel No. 65475; in Wasilla, Alaska.

PURPOSE: Steel Timber Fence Company needs a larger storage yard and a centralized business location for its fencing materials.

PROPOSED WORK: To fill 0.70-acre of palustrine wetlands with approximately 4,500 cubic yards of crushed aggregate base to construct the storage yard building pad. The applicant has removed vegetation on approximately 0.43-acre at the site, including trees, shrubs, etc., and piled them within 4,820 square feet of wetlands planned for development. Piled vegetative material would be removed from the site during winter if a permit is issued. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1 and 3 dated September 29, 2022, and sheet 2 dated October 11, 2022).

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: The applicant has chosen to develop the area of uplands first and extended to the area of wetlands only when was necessary; fill material would be placed away from Cottonwood Creek.

b. Minimization: Several best management practices would be implemented to prevent sediment transport into adjacent wetlands, delineate the project footprint, and revegetation of the building slope areas, among others.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has proposed to leave a wetland buffer between property development footprint and Cottonwood Creek where 50% of the property will be maintained as natural 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 (ADEC). The applicant is coordinating directly with ADEC the processing of the Water Quality Certification.

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 cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the footprint of the project and adjacent wetlands. 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 Historic Properties Affected (No Effect) determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), federally recognized tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO, federally recognized tribes, and other consulting parties 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. The Corps is requesting the SHPO's concurrence with this determination.

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

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

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 NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is within 600 feet from Cottonwood Creek, which is known to support Coho Salmon rearing and spawning habitat.

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps 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 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 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 authorities:
(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).

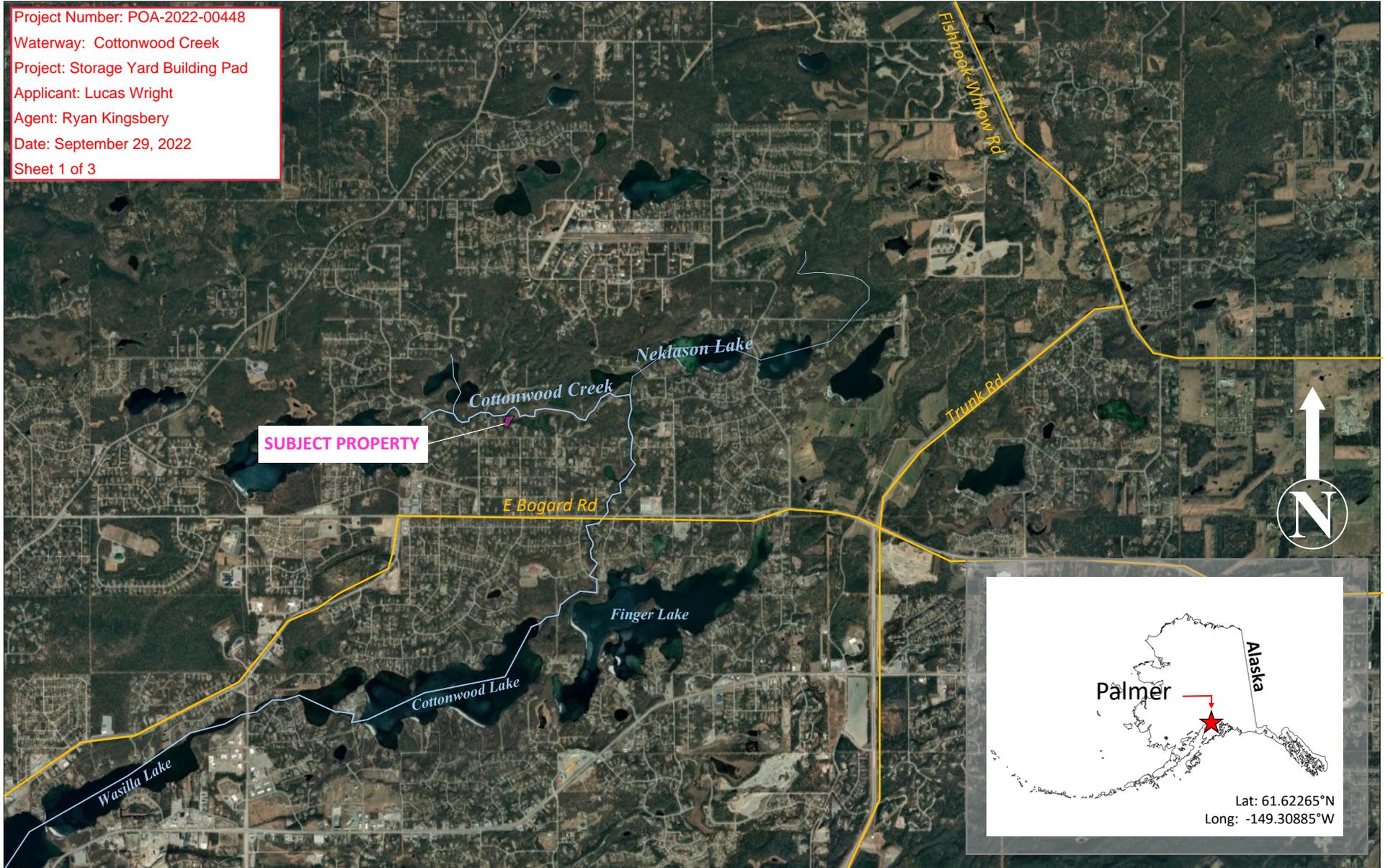
Project drawings are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps

Enclosures

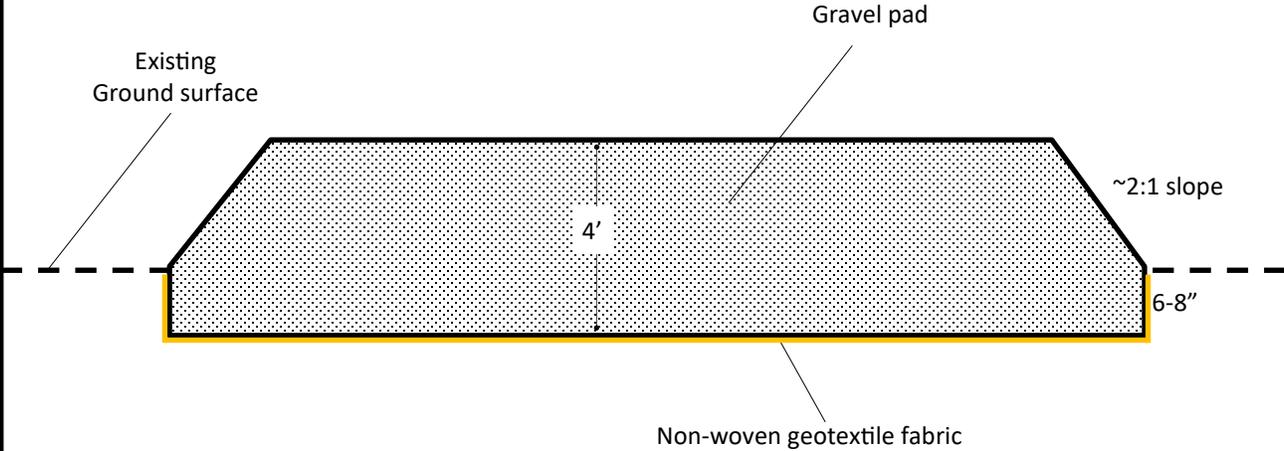
Vicinity Map

Project Number: POA-2022-00448
Waterway: Cottonwood Creek
Project: Storage Yard Building Pad
Applicant: Lucas Wright
Agent: Ryan Kingsbery
Date: September 29, 2022
Sheet 1 of 3



Cross-section Map

Project Number: POA-2022-00448
Waterway: Cottonwood Creek
Project: Storage Yard Building Pad
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Date: September 29, 2022
Sheet 3 of 3



Note: Drawing is generic and not to scale.