



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: September 14, 2023

EXPIRATION DATE: October 13, 2023

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2023-00242

WATERWAY: Long 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 Jonathan Hegna at 907-753-2708, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Jonathan.R.Hegna@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Wolf Constructors Inc.
P.O. Box 11118
Bozeman, MT 59719

LOCATION: The project site is located approximately 11 miles northwest of Petersville in Section 14, Township 28 North, Range 9 West, Latitude 62.515969° North, Longitude - 150.904408° West, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to placer mine Long Creek to capture the findings of gold on their registered claim in ADL 800204.

PROPOSED WORK: The proposed work would involve placer mining along a portion of Long Creek in ADL 800204 for a period of 5-years. The project would impact approximately 12-acres along Long Creek. Exploration would be conducted solely through drilling. The project would involve mechanical placer mining, mechanical dredging, and suction dredging. Dredging is expected to occur at various locations in the stream within the registered claim. Also, a 25 ft x 8 ft cobble pad would be constructed at the site for the placement of the trommel. The entire work area would be bermed to isolate the work area from the stream. Berms would be set back from the stream by 2 ft. A settlement pond and a recirculate pond would also be constructed to support the operation. The recirculate pond would be gravity fed back to Long Creek. Water supply for the operation would be provided through the construction of a water diversion that would draw water from Long Creek when needed. A 12-inch head gate with fish screen (1/8 inch spacing) would be used at the entrance of the water diversion. Water would be returned back to Long Creek from the recirculate pond via an ADS pipe French drain that will also have a fish screen (1/8 inch spacing). The course of Long Creek would not be altered by the water diversion or project. All disturbed areas will be reclaimed and revegetated after mining is completed at the site. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed design plans (sheets 1-3).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The proposed project will require the following additional authorizations: ADF&G Fish Habitat Permit for work in an anadromous stream (granted), Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (granted), and APMA Miscellaneous Land Use Permit (granted).

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: Due to the nature of the proposed activity complete avoidance of aquatic resources is not possible. For mining exploration drilling will be used instead of trenching, which will minimize unnecessary impacts to resources. Also, the course of Long Creek will not be altered, as mining will be conducted around the location of the stream.

b. Minimization: Existing roads will be used to access the mine site, which will limit impacts. The entire work area will be bermed to isolate the mining area from Long Creek to prevent erosion and sediment transport. A settling pond will also be used to capture sediment from the water used before the water is returned to the stream. Fish screens with 1/8 inch spacing will also be used to prevent fish from becoming entrained into the water diversion and mining operation.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has proposed no compensatory mitigation because the course of Long Creek will not be altered and all disturbed areas will be reclaimed after mining of the area is completed.

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 Corps has not made an effect determination at this time regarding potential impacts to historic properties. As applicable under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, this application will be 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.

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 (Magnuson-Stevens 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).

Long Creek is considered to contain EFH. Based on data from the ADF&G's Anadromous Waters Catalog, coho salmon, chinook salmon, and pink salmon inhabit Long Creek. At this time impacts to essential fish habitat have not been determined.

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 Corps, 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 rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. If applicable this application will be coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in the Corps final assessment of the described work.

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).

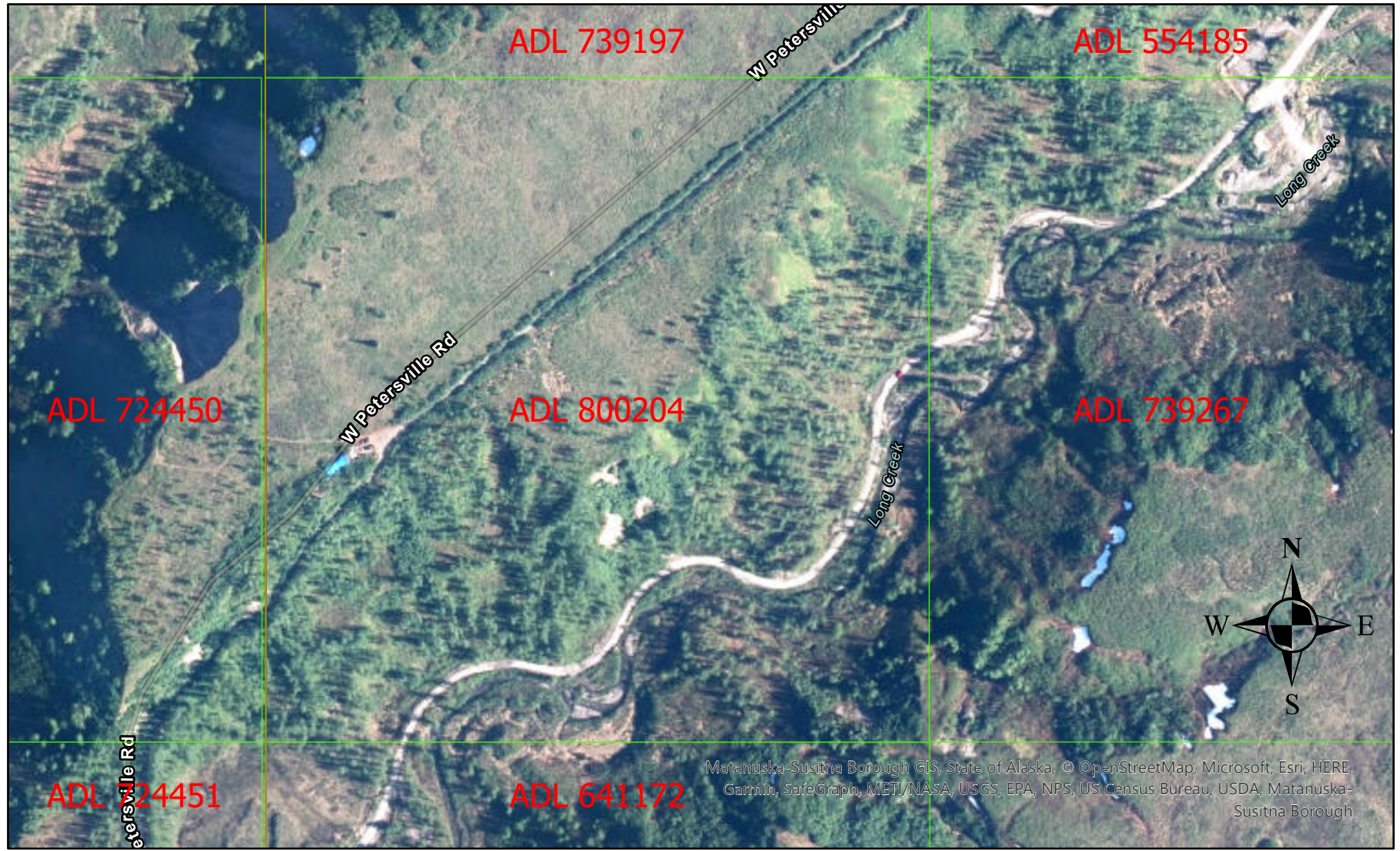
Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps

Enclosures

ADL 800204 Mining Claim Map of Long Creek

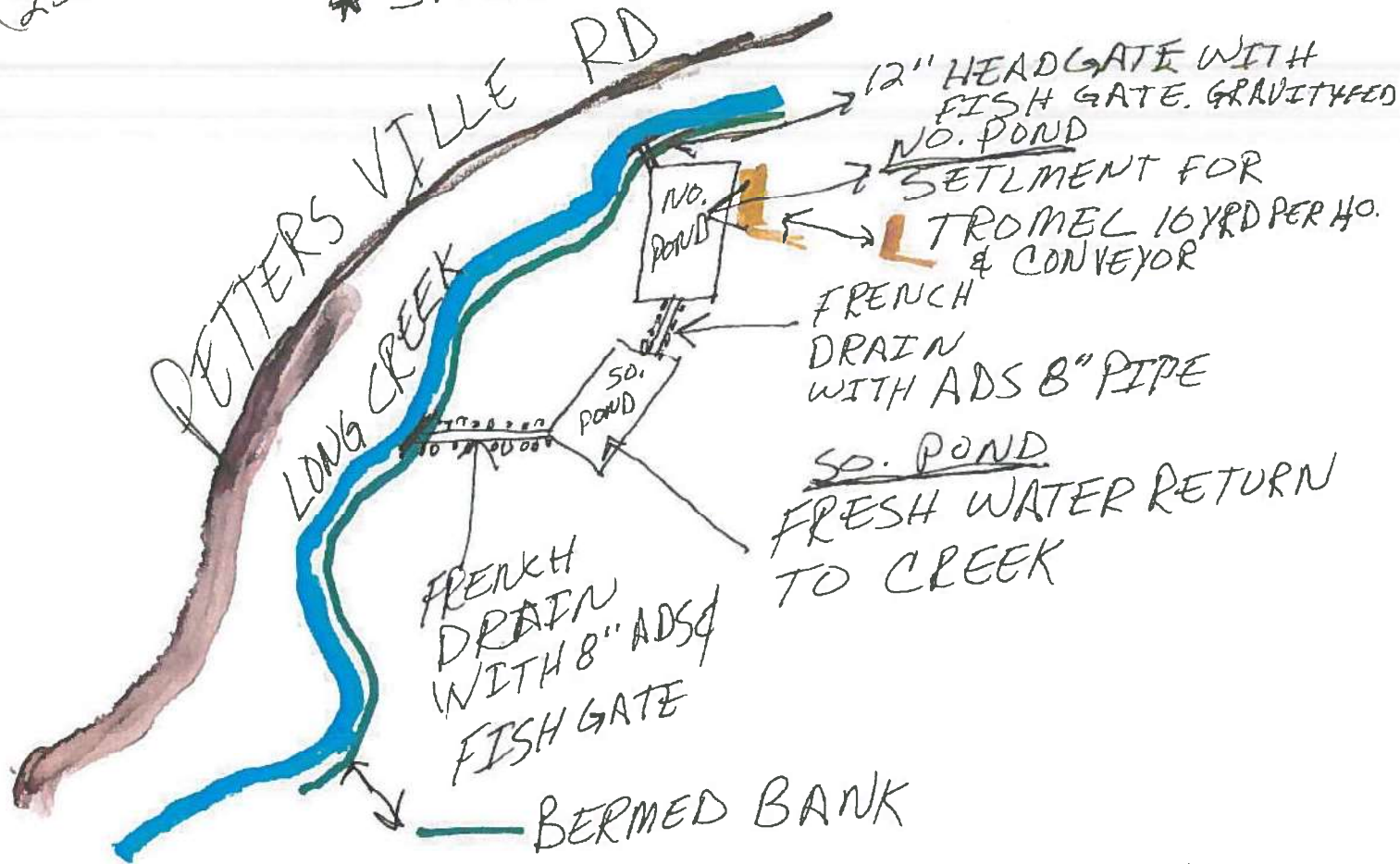
POA-2023-00242



(29)
(25)

PONDS - NORTH & SOUTH

* STREAM DIVERSION



* PLAN OF OPERATION

THE MATERIALS WE EXCAVATE AS PAY DIRT WILL CREAT THE POND. BASE OF OPS FOR TROMELL & CONVEYER.

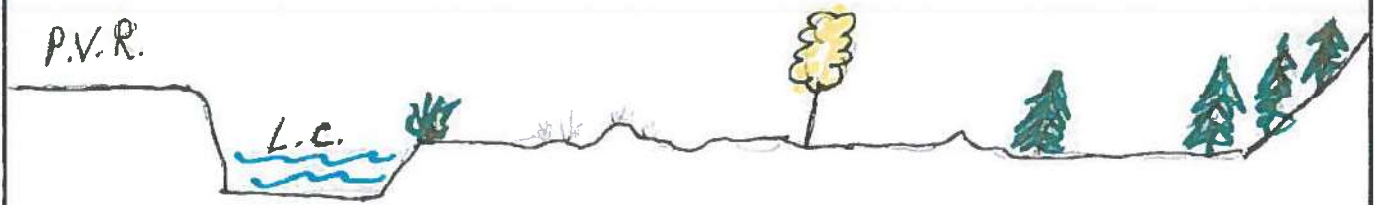
RECLAMATION:

FILL & LEVEL ALL AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN EXCAVATED.
GRADE-BACKFILL & RE-SEED NATURAL VEGETATION.
POSSIBLE RE-PLANT TREES AS NEEDED

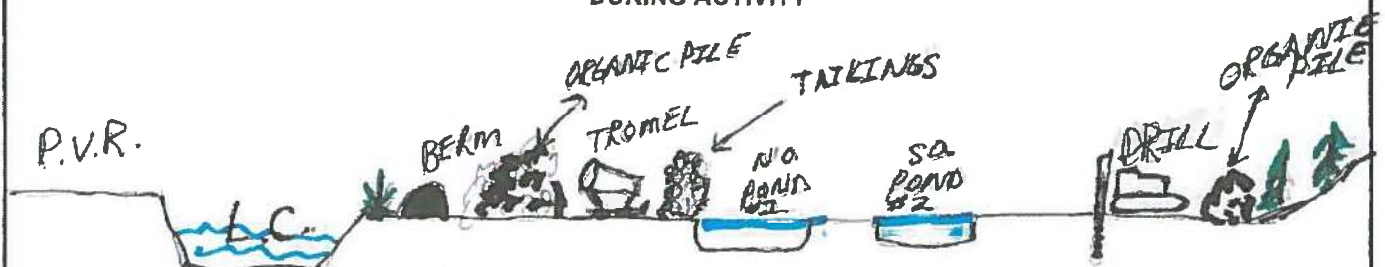
CROSS SECTION SKETCH *REQUIRED

BEFORE ACTIVITY

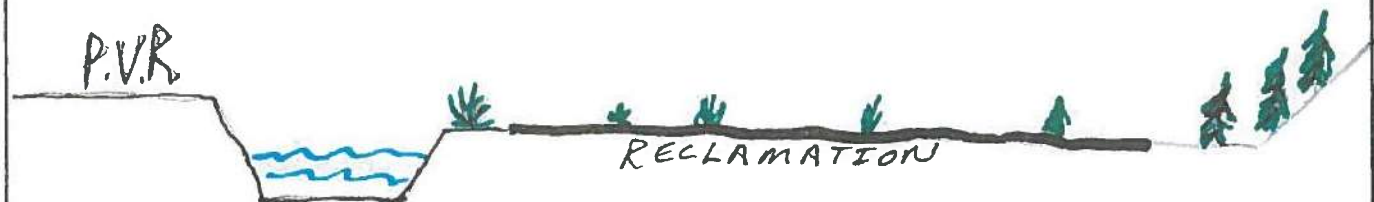
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DURING ACTIVITY



AFTER ACTIVITY



5 YEAR PLAN OF OPPTS. & RECLAMATIONS. WE PLAN TO LEVEL & REPLANT WHERE NEEDED.

Date Prepared: 4/16/83	Applicant Name: W.C.I.
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER	
MAP: TALKETNA C-2	
Sec.(s) 14	Township 20N, Range 09W, Meridian S
Scale: 1" = 1/4	ADLs: 800 204
SHEET 1 OF 1	APMA # 3207

P.V.R. - PETERSVILLE ROAD
L.C. - LONG CREEK