US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)
3437 Airport Way
Suite 206
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4777

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: March 2, 2006

EXPIRATION DATE: March 31, 2006

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-1997-329-2

WATERWAY: Tanana River

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, Design and Construction. 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1340, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565.

AGENT: Ms. Elaine Mayer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 101 12th Avenue, Room 110, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. 907-456-0209.

LOCATION: Big Delta State Historic Park, Big Delta, Alaska. Section 8, T. 9 S., R. 10 E., Fairbanks Meridian. Latitude 64.1551°N, Longitude 145.8385°W. See attached vicinity map.

WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge approximately 800 cubic yards (cy) of riprap, root wads, soil wraps and willow stakes in 0.16 acres of Tanana River substrate below ordinary high water (OHW). All work would be completed in accordance with the attached plans, sheets 1 - 9, dated February 6, 2006.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the project is to stabilize the riverbank adjacent to the Big Delta State Historical Park to prevent erosion. Stabilization of the riverbank would help protect cultural resources of the park and reduce safety hazards to park visitors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The original application was received February 23, 2004. Due to concerns about impacts to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), the application was withdrawn in April, 2005. The project was modified and a new application was received February 13, 2006. The current project proposal reflects the project design changes made to address EFH concerns while achieving the project purpose and need.

The proposed project would place rock and root wads in the Tanana River next to 225 feet of eroding river bank bordering the Big Delta State Historic Park. Vegetation would also be used to stabilize the bank. One rock van (5'wide and 100'long) angling 15 degrees upstream would be placed at the downstream end of the rootwad revetment (see sheets 2 and 9). The fill material would be clean quarry rock.

For the construction of the root wad revetment and riprap apron shown on sheet 2 of the attached plans, approximately 60 cubic yards (cy) of root wads and approximately 250 cy of riprap would be discharged into 4500 square feet (sf) of Tanana River substrate below ordinary high water (OHW). The construction of the rock vane and backfill upstream of the rock vane would require the discharge of approximately 240 cy of material below OHW in approximately 1500 sf of Tanana River substrate (see sheet 2 and 9). This work would impact a total of approximately 6000 sf (0.14 acres) of substrate below OHW in the Tanana River.

For the soil brush layering at cross section 9 shown on sheet 3, approximately 130 cubic yards of material would be discharged into approximately 0.01 acres below OHW in the Tanana River. For the soil brush layering at cross section 10 shown on sheet 4, approximately 120 cubic yards of material would be discharged into approximately 0.01 acres below OHW in the Tanana River.

The project would impact a total of approximately 0.16 acres of Essential Fish Habitat in the Tanana River.

See attached plans, sheets 1-9, dated February 6, 2006 for additional information.

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.

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.

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 is a registered or eligible property in the vicinity of the worksite. It has been designated the Big Delta Historic District. Because it has been determined to be within the project area, a determination of effect will be made in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The United States Corps of Engineers (USCOE) submitted a report on the findings of an Archaeological Testing of the Big Delta Historic District to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology in April 2001 (State of Alaska Field Archaeology Permit 2000-16). This report included recommendations regarding the mitigation or avoidance of effects on any known or discovered archeological artifacts or features during project implementation. 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.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government and Federally recognized Tribes. This notice invites participation by agencies, Tribes, and members of the public in the Federal decision-making process. In addition, 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 Engineer during the public comment period.

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

Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. 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 proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH areas as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

We have determined that the described activity may adversely affect EFH. The proposed work may affect approximately 0.16 acres of EFH for fall chum salmon. This Public Notice initiates consultation requirements with the NMFS under the MSFCMA. We have insufficient information at this time to assess the cumulative effects of the proposed work on EFH, but cumulative effects will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. Any conservation recommendations regarding EFH for federally managed fish will also be considered in our final assessment of the described work. This proposed project may also adversely affect associated species such as major prey or predator species which are not covered by Fishery Management Plans.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION:
The project is located within the Big Delta State Historic Park.

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 decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That 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 Engineer 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.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, 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 Ellen Huber Lyons at the Fairbanks Field Office, 907-474-2166, or by email at Ellen.M.Huber@poa02.usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States - Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

(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).

A plan and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program
401 Certification Program

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 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 Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. **POA 1997 329 2, Tanana River** serves as application for a short-term variance of State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation, as provided in Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217).

The Department will review the proposed activity to ensure that, except for an allowed, short-term variance, any discharge to waters of the United States resulting from the referenced project will comply with the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments within 30 days of the date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice to:

Department of Environmental Conservation
WQM/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617
Telephone: (907) 269-7564
FAX: (907) 269-7508

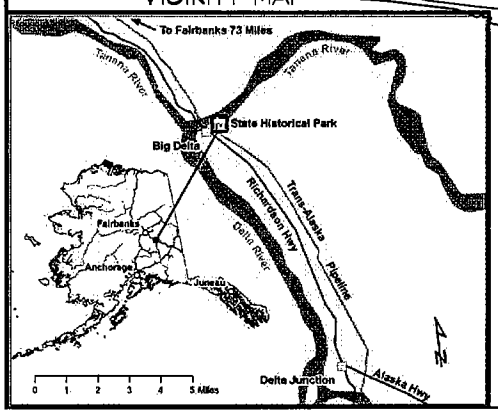
STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

BIG DELTA STATE HISTORIC PARK
RIVER BANK STABILIZATION

PROJECT NO.
70000-1

VICINITY MAP



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9. ROCK VANE PLAN AND PROFILE
10. ESTIMATE OF QUANTITIES

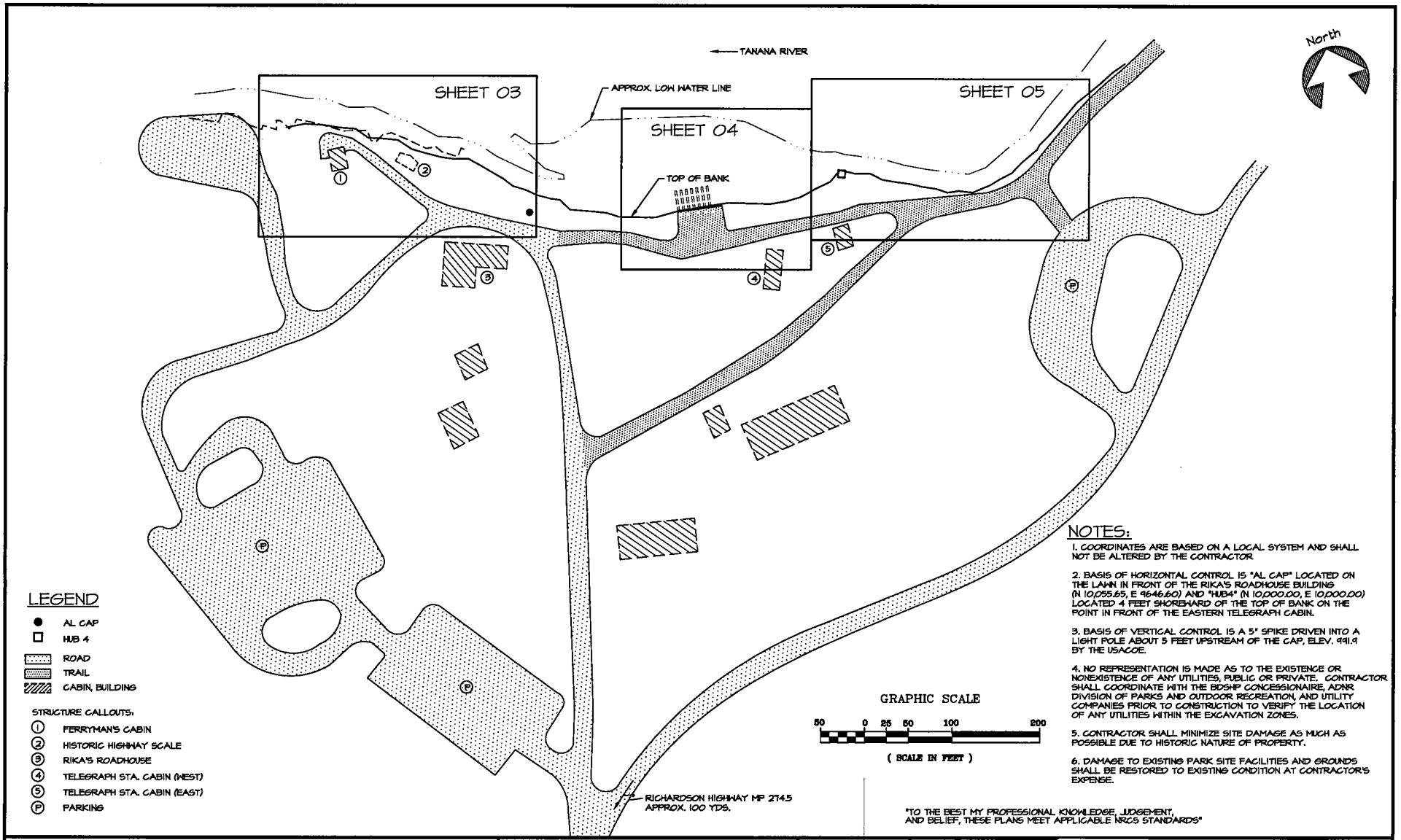
POA-1997-329-2
VICINITY MAP

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation

Approved:

Jerry Lewenski
Director, Alaska State Parks

Date



NOTES:

1. COORDINATES ARE BASED ON A LOCAL SYSTEM AND SHALL NOT BE ALTERED BY THE CONTRACTOR.

2. BASIS OF HORIZONTAL CONTROL IS "AL CAP" LOCATED ON THE LAWN IN FRONT OF THE RIKA'S ROADHOUSE BUILDING (N 10,055.65, E 4646.60) AND "HUB4" (N 10,000.00, E 10,000.00) LOCATED 4 FEET SHOREWARD OF THE TOP OF BANK ON THE POINT IN FRONT OF THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH CABIN.

3. BASIS OF VERTICAL CONTROL IS A 5" SPIKE DRIVEN INTO A LIGHT POLE ABOUT 5 FEET UPSTREAM OF THE CAP, ELEV. 991.9 BY THE USACOE.

4. NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE AS TO THE EXISTENCE OR NONEXISTENCE OF ANY UTILITIES, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE. CONTRACTOR SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE BDSHP CONCESSIONAIRE, ADNR DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND UTILITY COMPANIES PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION TO VERIFY THE LOCATION OF ANY UTILITIES WITHIN THE EXCAVATION ZONES.

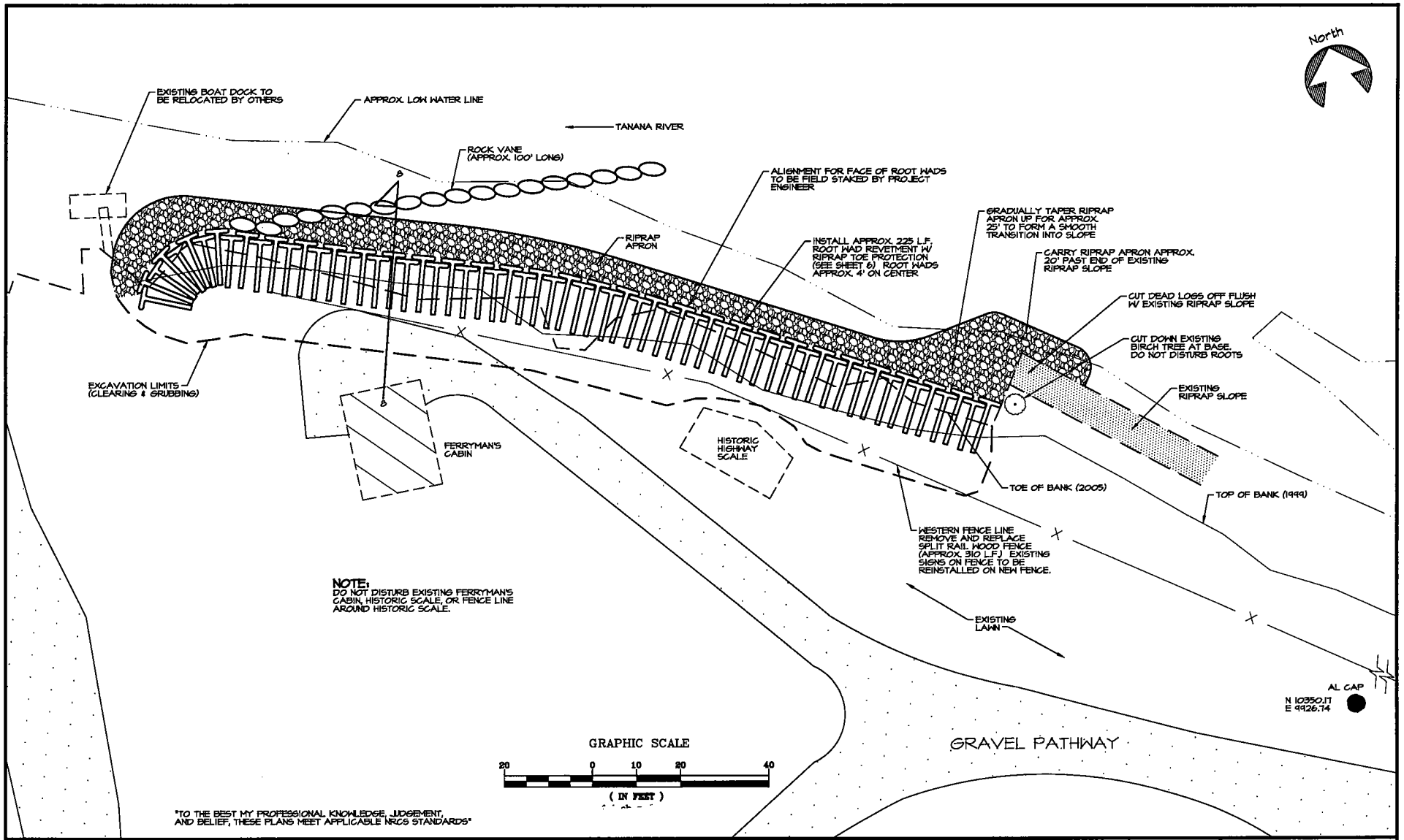
5. CONTRACTOR SHALL MINIMIZE SITE DAMAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE DUE TO HISTORIC NATURE OF PROPERTY.

6. DAMAGE TO EXISTING PARK SITE FACILITIES AND GROUNDS SHALL BE RESTORED TO EXISTING CONDITION AT CONTRACTOR'S EXPENSE.

"TO THE BEST MY PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE, JUDGEMENT, AND BELIEF, THESE PLANS MEET APPLICABLE NRCS STANDARDS"

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STATE OF ALASKA	BIG DELTA STATE HISTORIC PARK RIVER BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT NO. 70000-1		GENERA

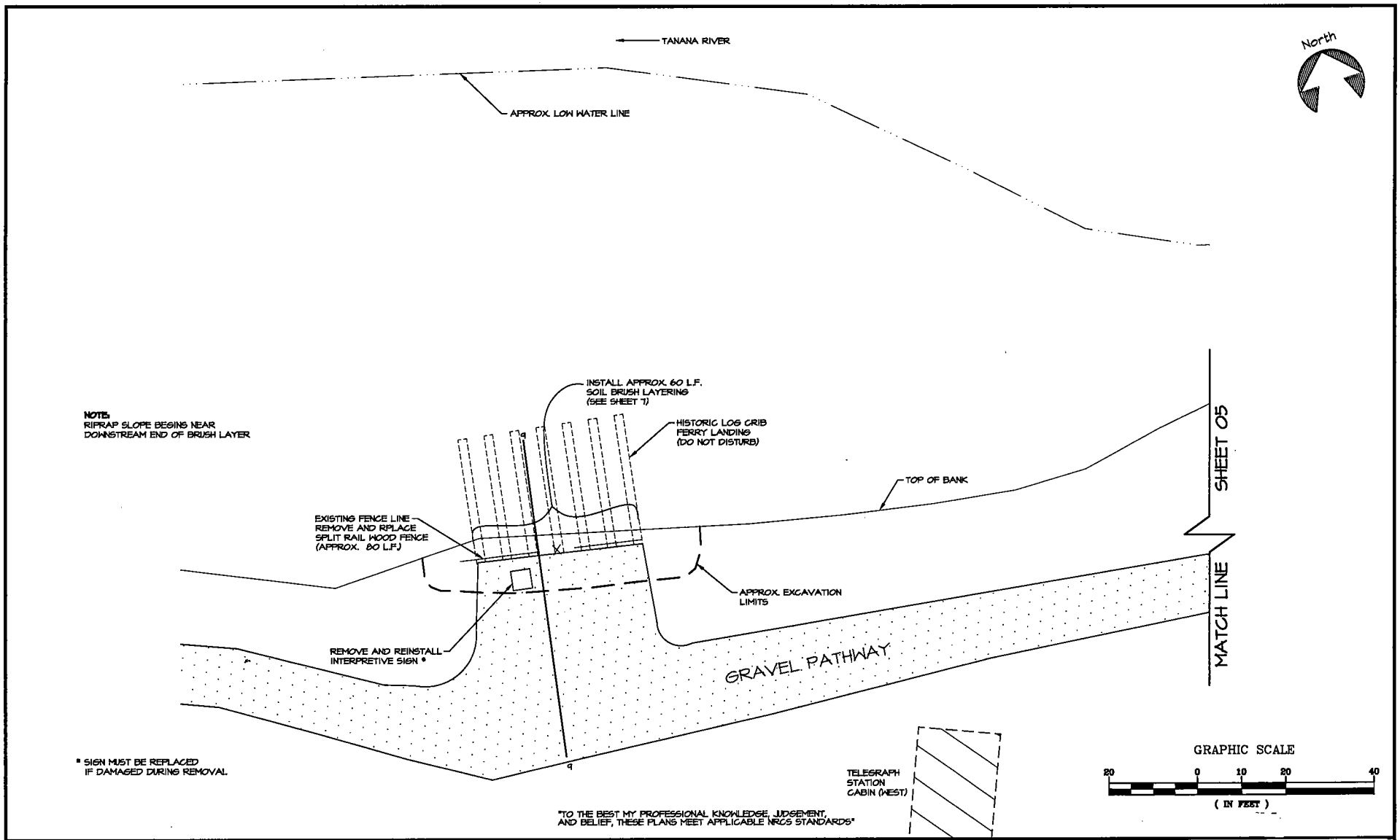
POA-1997-329-2 ADNR
Big Delta State Hist Park Bank Stabilization
General Layout
Sheet 1 of 9 6 FEB 06



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STATE OF ALASKA	BIG DELTA STATE HISTORIC PARK RIVER BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT NO. 70000-1		PLAN

POA-1997-329-2 ADNR
Big Delta State Hist Park Bank Stabilization

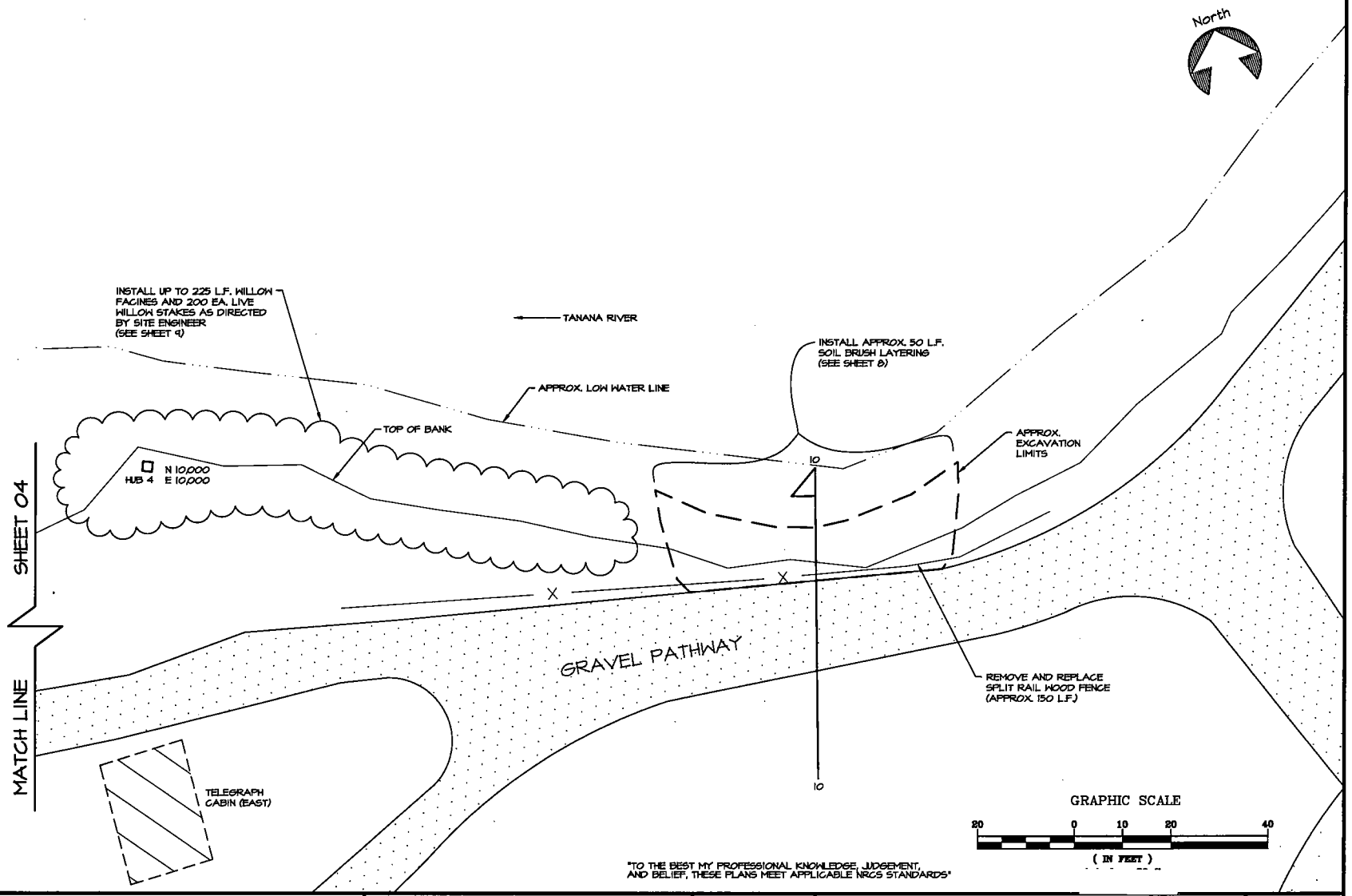
Plan View Zone 6
Sheet 2 of 9 6 FEB 06



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STATE OF ALASKA	BIG DELTA STATE HISTORIC PARK RIVER BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT NO. 70000-1		PLAN

POA-1997-329-2 ADNR
Big Delta State Hist Park Bank Stabilizatior

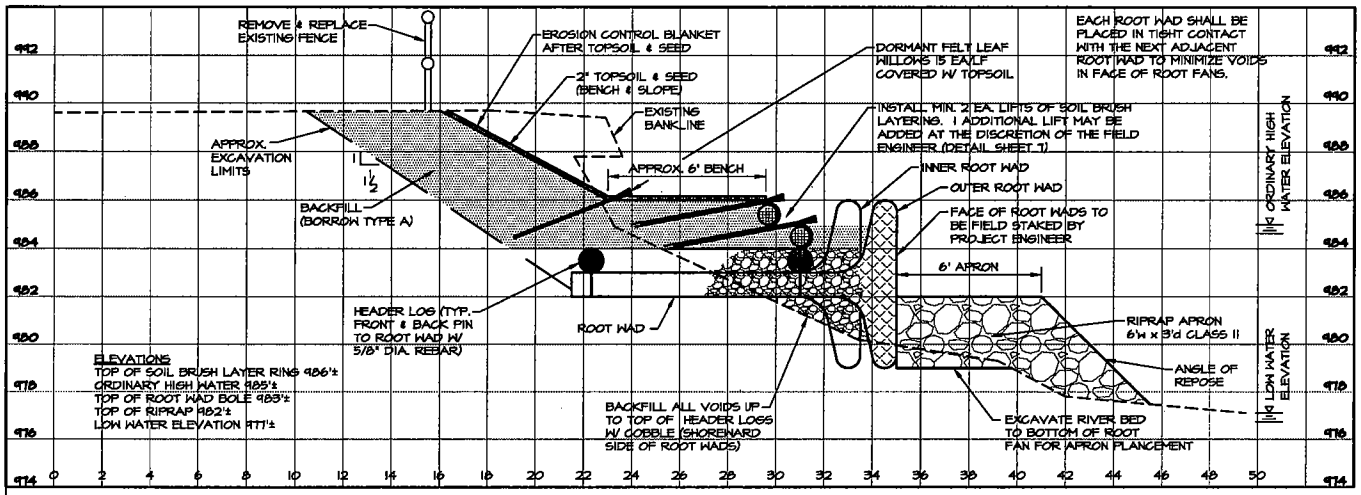
Plan View Zone 4
Sheet 3 of 9 6 FEB 06



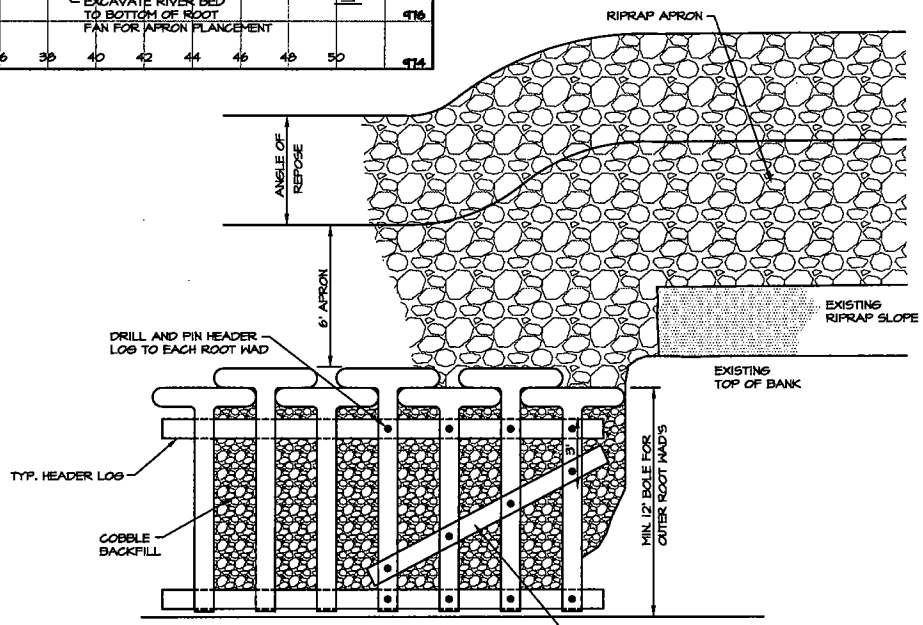
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STATE OF ALASKA	BIG DELTA STATE HISTORIC PARK RIVER BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT NO. 70000–1		PLAN VI

POA-1997-329-2 ADNR
Big Delta State Hist Park Bank Stabilizatior

Plan View Zone 2 and 3
Sheet 4 of 9 6 FEB 06



TYPICAL ROOD WAD CROSS SECTION
SHOWN @ CROSS SECTION NO. 8
SCALE: 1"=5'



ROOT WAD PLAN AT UPSTREAM END
(SOIL WRAPS / GRAVEL BACKFILL / RE-SEEDING NOT SHOWN FOR CLARITY)
SCALE: 1"=4'

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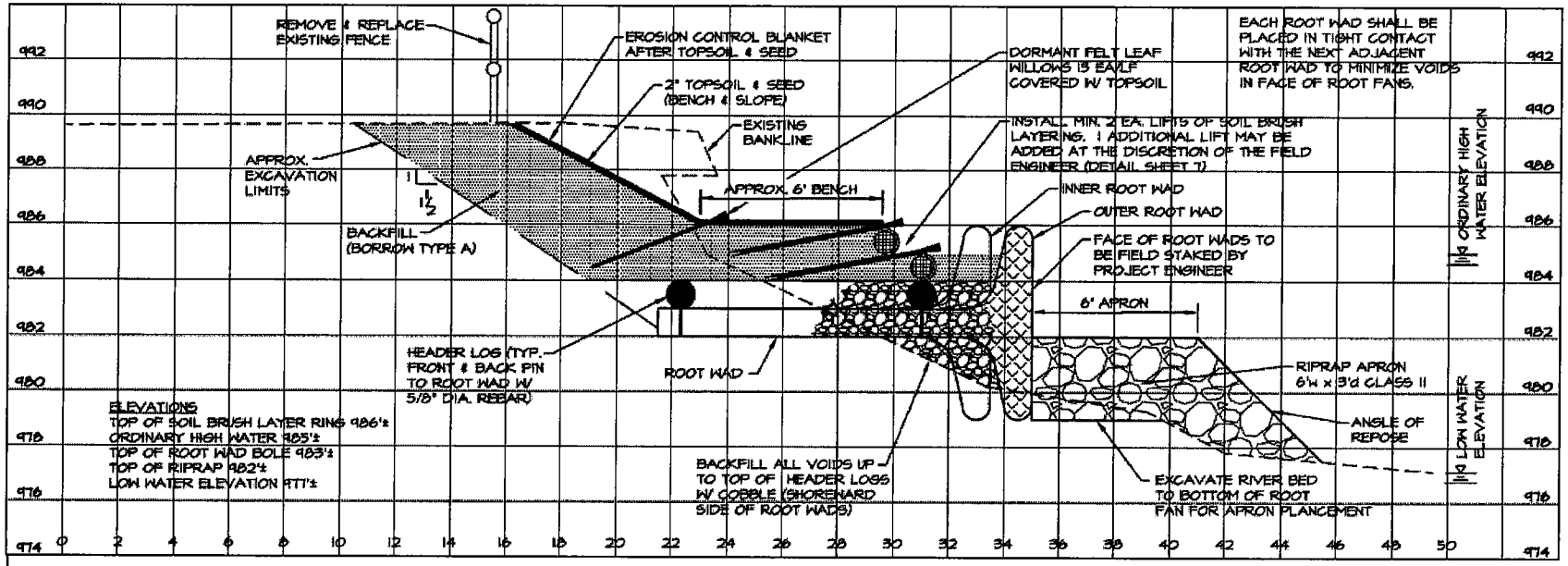
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STATE OF ALASKA	BIG DELTA STATE HISTORIC PARK RIVER BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT NO. 70000-1		ROOT

POA-1997-329-2 ADNR
Big Delta State Hist Park Bank Stabilization

Root Wad Details
Sheet 5 of 9 6 FEB 06



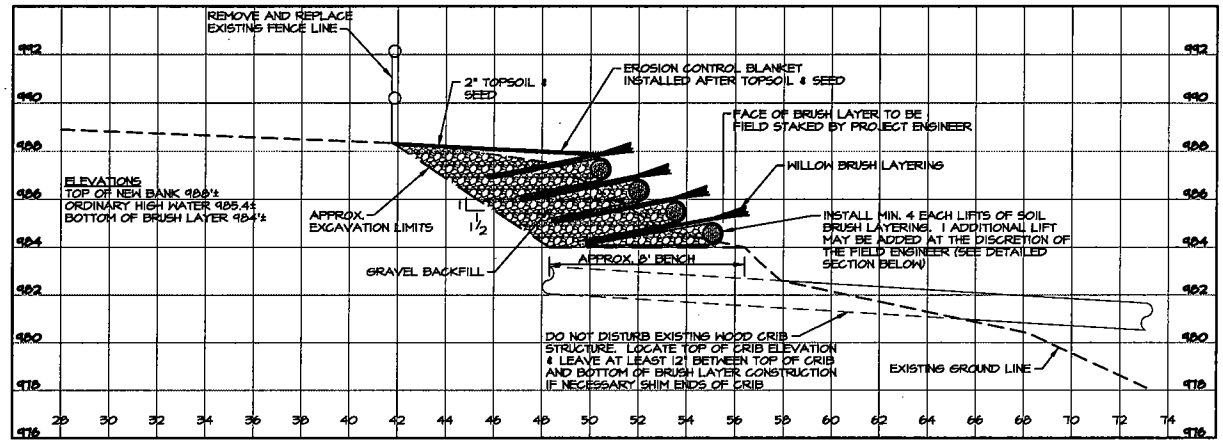
TYPICAL ROOD WAD CROSS SECTION

SHOWN @ CROSS SECTION NO. 8

SCALE: 1"=5'

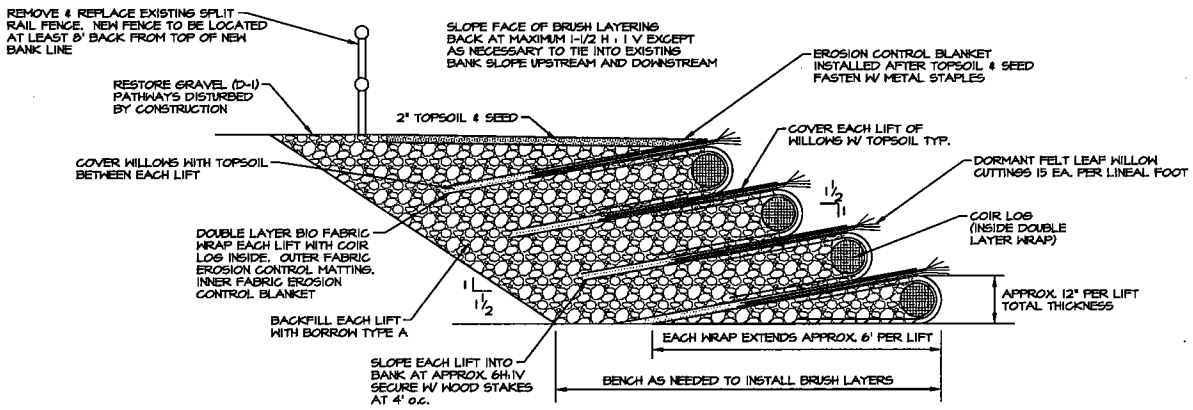
POA-1997-329-2 ADNR
Big Delta State Hist Park Bank Stabilization

Close of of Root Wad Cross Section from previous sheet
Sheet 6 of 9 6 FEB 06



SOIL BRUSH LAYERING AT CROSS SECTION 9

SCALE: 1"=5'



TYPICAL BRUSH LAYER DETAILED SECTION

SCALE: 1"=2'

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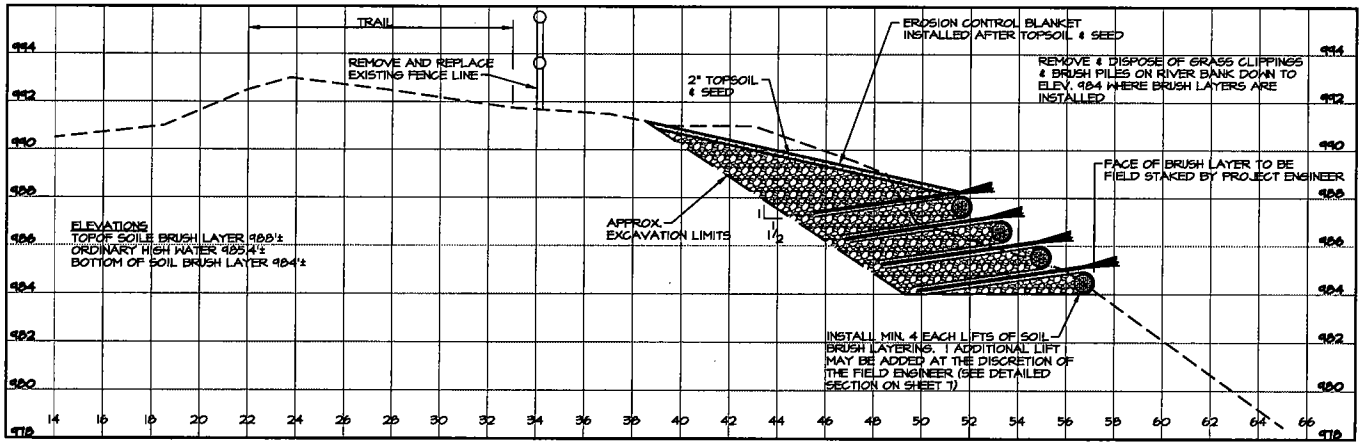
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STATE OF ALASKA	BIG DELTA STATE HISTORIC PARK RIVER BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT NO. 70000-1		SOIL BI

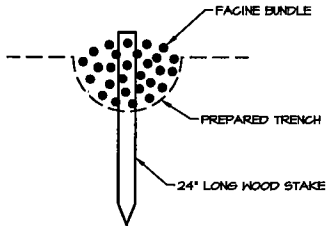
POA-1997-329-2 ADNR
Big Delta State Hist Park Bank Stabilization

Soil Brush Details
Sheet 7 of 9 6 FEB 06



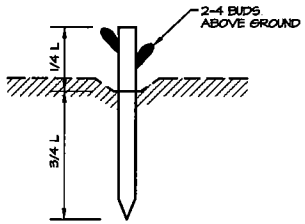
SOIL BRUSH LAYERING AT CROSS SECTION 10

SCALE: 1"=5'



WILLOW BUNDLES (FAGINES) DETAIL

SCALE: NTS



LIVE STAKING DETAIL

SCALE: NTS

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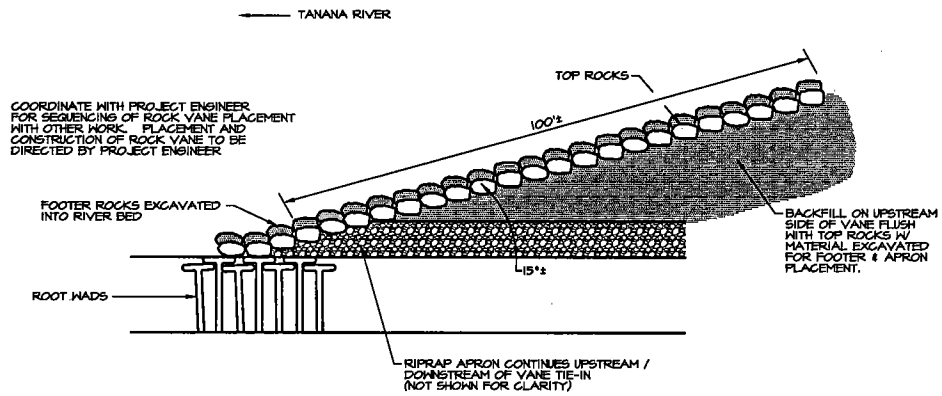
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STATE OF ALASKA	BIG DELTA STATE HISTORIC PARK RIVER BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT NO. 70000-1		SOIL E

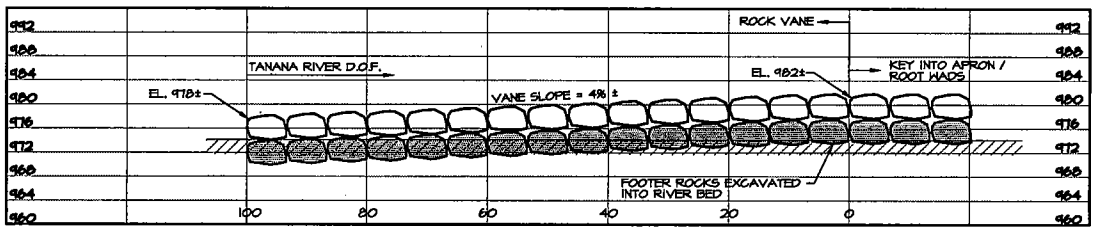
POA-1997-329-2 ADNR
Big Delta State Hist Park Bank Stabilization

Soil Brush Details
Sheet 8 of 9 6 FEB 06



ROCK VANE PLAN

SCALE: 1"=20'



ROCK VANE PROFILE

SCALE: 1"=20' (H)
1"=10' (V)

GRAPHIC SCALE

20 0 10 20 40

(IN FEET)

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STATE OF ALASKA	BIG DELTA STATE HISTORIC PARK RIVER BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT NO. 70000-1		ROCK VANE

POA-1997-329-2 ADNR
Big Delta State Hist Park Bank Stabilization

Rock Vane Plan and Profile
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