



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)
Post Office Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-6898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: 13 August 2004
EXPIRATION DATE: 12 September 2004
REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2004-923-4
WATERWAY NUMBER: Gakona 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: Valori and Greg Marshall, Gakona Lodge and Trading Post, P.O. Box 285 Gakona, Alaska 99586 (907-822-3482) (<http://www.gakonalodge.com>)

LOCATION: Gakona Lodge and Trading Post at mile 2 of the Tok Cutoff, Section 18, T.6 N., R.1 E., CRM, Latitude 62°18'10" N., Longitude 145°18'14" W., in Gakona, Alaska.

WORK: This project involves bank stabilization of the south bank of the Gakona River to prevent further erosion. The methods used for bank stabilization would be a combination of riprap (85 feet) and spruce trees (450 feet). In addition, finger dikes (angled 45 degrees downstream) would be placed at 150 feet and 230 feet upstream of the severe erosion site. The use of Class 2,3,4, and 5 rock would be used for the bank stabilization and finger dikes. A large boulder located to the upstream end of a gravel bar will be removed and placed within the severe erosion area to serve as additional bank stabilization. The gravel bar island may also be removed and placed within the 85 foot stretch of extreme bank erosion. This option may not occur if it is determined to be impractical due to a technical and/or funding limitations.

PURPOSE: Stabilize the riverbank from erosion. Protect historical structures from river erosion impacts.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The applicant has agreed to follow the recommendations of ADF&G (Glennallen) to not perform in-water work during May 16 through July 31st. It is proposed that the NRCS (Fairbanks) plans on performing a hydrological survey of the project in September 2004.

MITIGATION: None proposed.

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 Gakona Lodge and Trading Post. Because it has been determined to be within the project area and it is a designated National Historic Landmark, a determination of effect will be made in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the National Park Service will be consulted. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time. 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.

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 area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None.

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 Mr. Carlos Paez at (907) 753-2720, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, if further information is desired concerning this notice.

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).

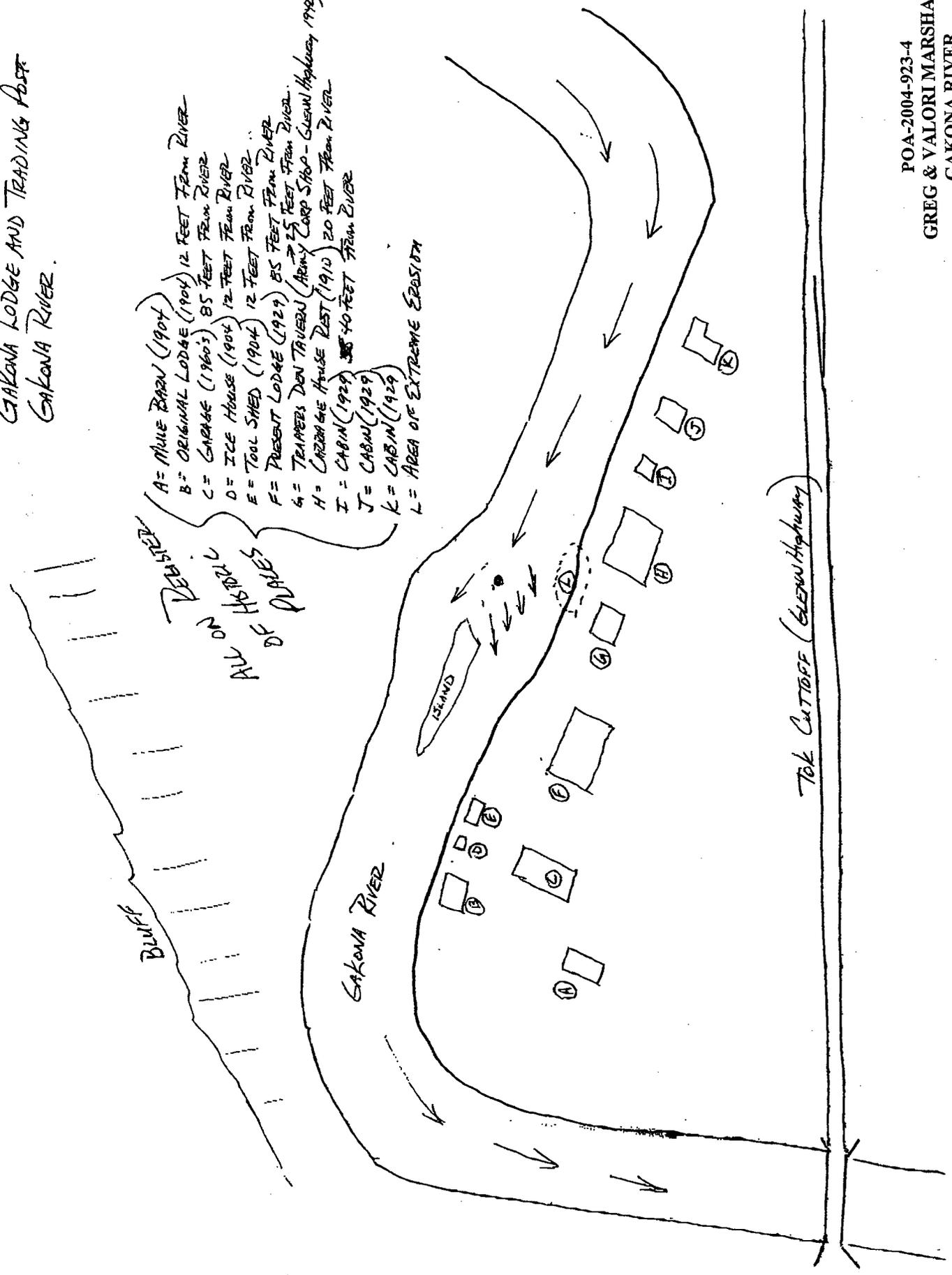
A plan, Notice of Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

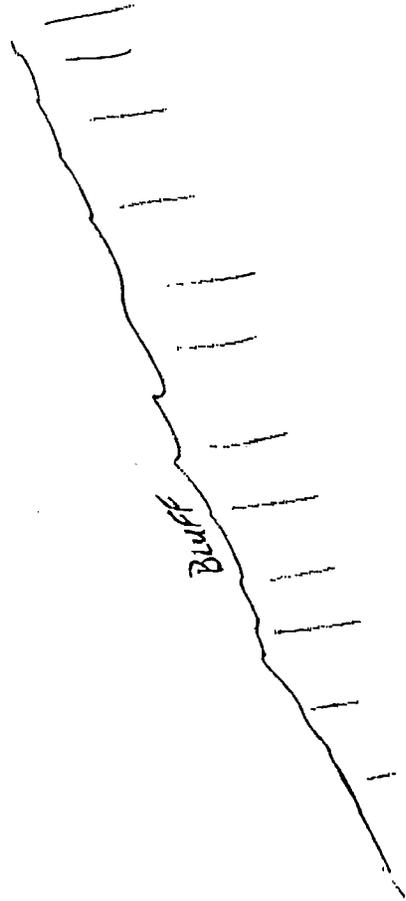
Attachments

HISTORIC
GAKONA LODGE AND TRADING POST
GAKONA RIVER.

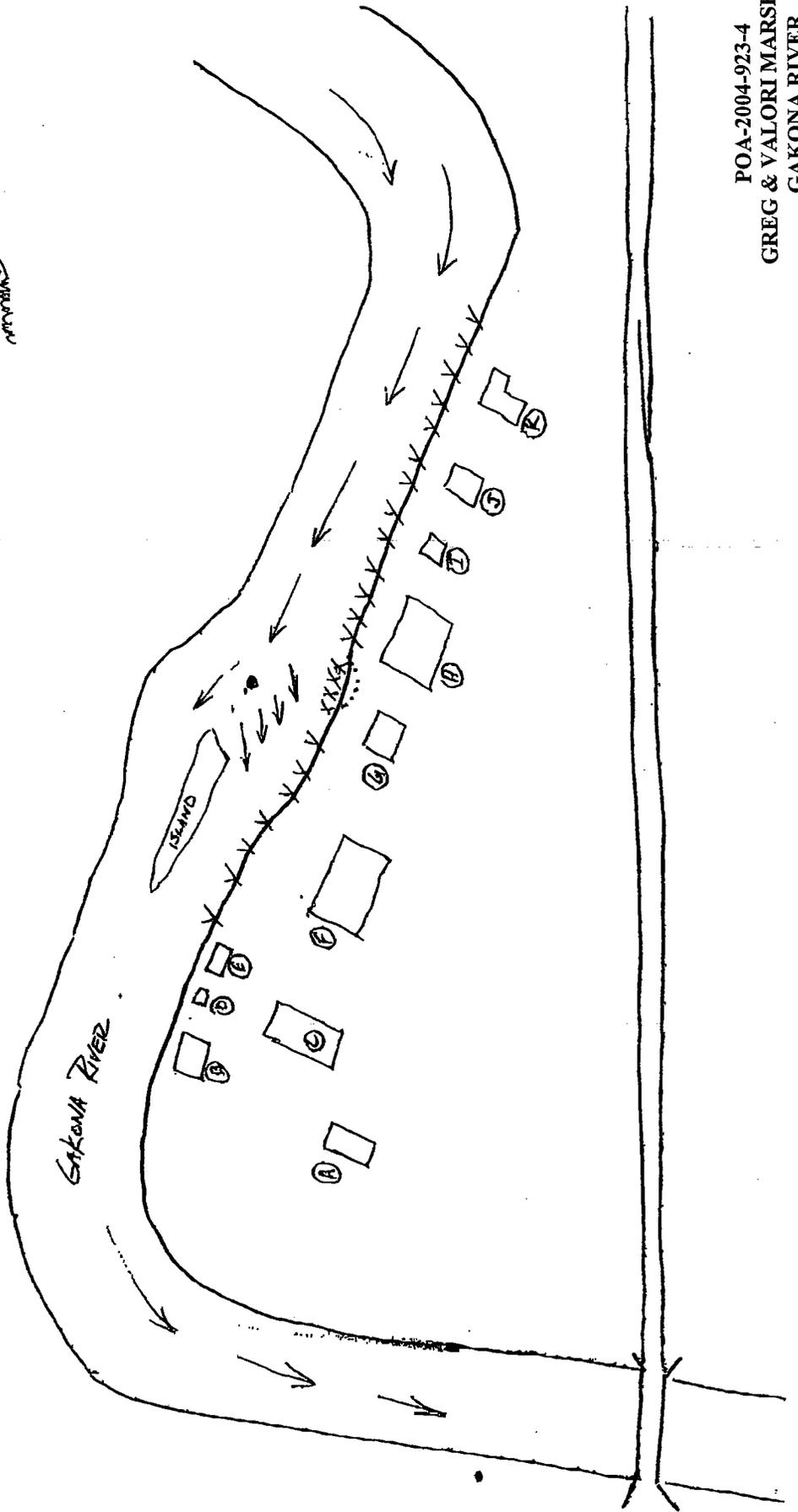
- A = MULE BARN (1904) 12 FEET FROM RIVER
- B = ORIGINAL LODGE (1904) 85 FEET FROM RIVER
- C = GARAGE (1903) 85 FEET FROM RIVER
- D = ICE HOUSE (1904) 12 FEET FROM RIVER
- E = TOOL SHED (1904) 12 FEET FROM RIVER
- F = PRESENT LODGE (1929) 85 FEET FROM RIVER
- G = TRAMPERS DON TAVERUS (ARMY CORP SMOO - GLENN HIGHWAY 1912)
- H = CARPENTER HOUSE REST (1910) 20 FEET FROM RIVER
- I = CABIN (1929) 40 FEET FROM RIVER
- J = CABIN (1929)
- K = CABIN (1929)
- L = AREA OF EXTREME EROSION



GAKONA LODGE AND TRADING POST
GAKONA RIVER.



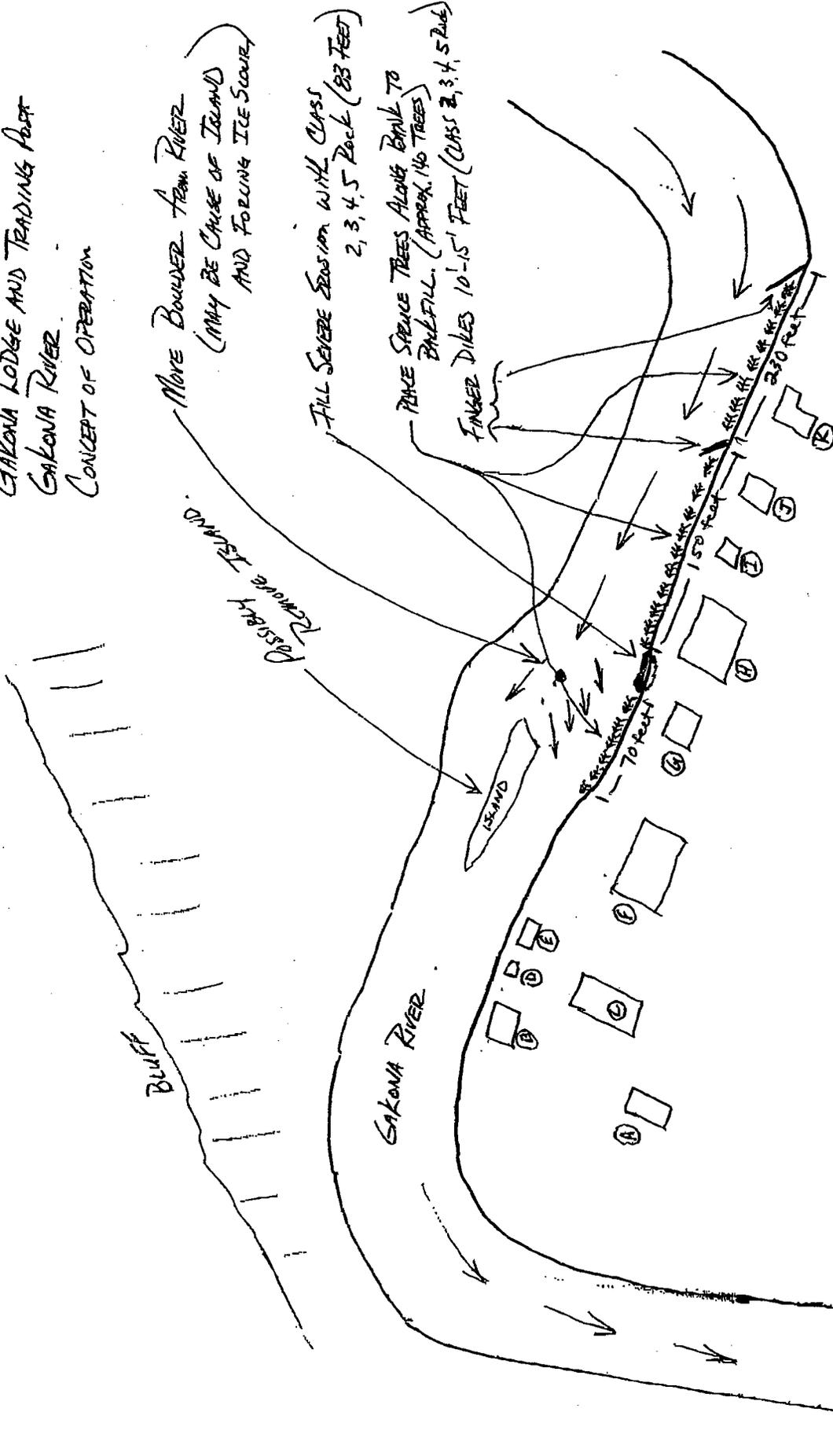
60T
 X = EXTREME EROSION
 Y = UNDERCUTTING BANK



HISTORIC

GAKONA LODGE AND TRADING POST
GAKONA RIVER

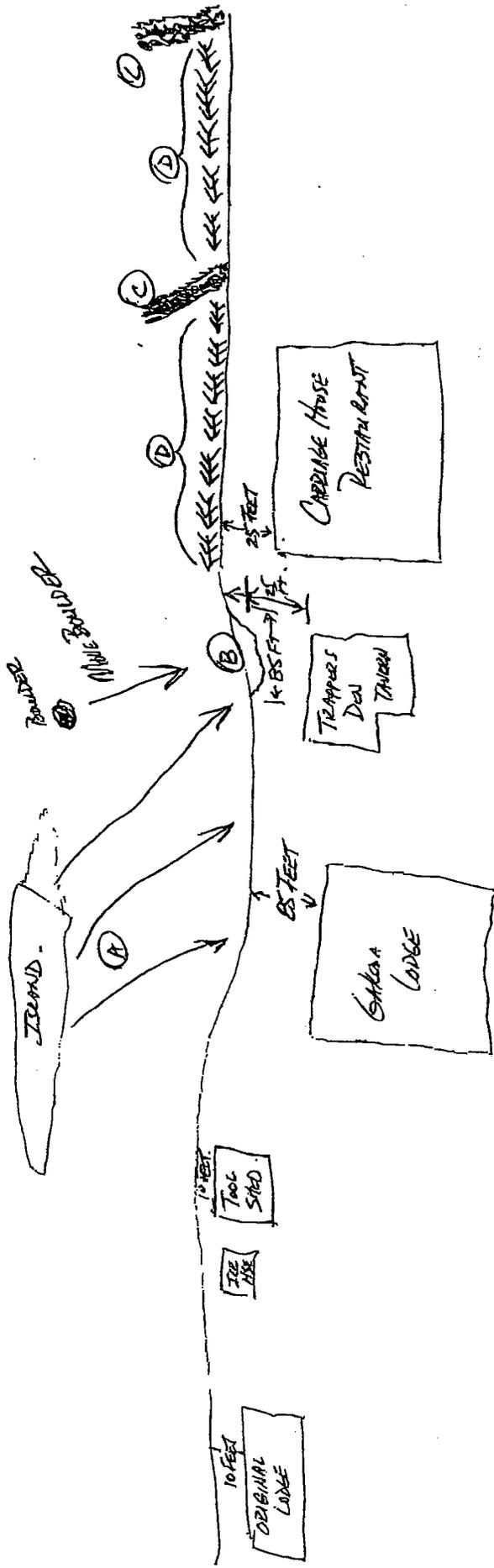
CONCEPT OF OPERATION



- FINGER DIKES USED TO SLOW CURRENT DOWN AND BACKFILL
- SPRUCE TREES USED TO SLOW CURRENT AND COLLECT SEDIMENT.
- REMOVAL OF ROCK USED TO MINIMIZE ICE DAMS.

HISTORIC GAKONA LODGE
 GAKONA RIVER
 CONCEPT OF BANK RESTORATION

- (A) = POSSIBLY REMOVE ISLAND AND BULKHEAD UNDERLIFT BANK.
- (B) = PERMANENTLY REMOVE BOULDER AND USE WITH RIP RAP IN AREA OF EXTREME EROSION.
- (C) = PLACE FINGER DIKES 15' TO 20' OUT IN RIVER TO DIVERT WATER FROM BANKS (1 OR 2 DIKES)
- (D) = PLANT SPRUCE TREES IN RIVER TO REDUCE CURRENT VELOCITY AND CATCH SEDIMENT.

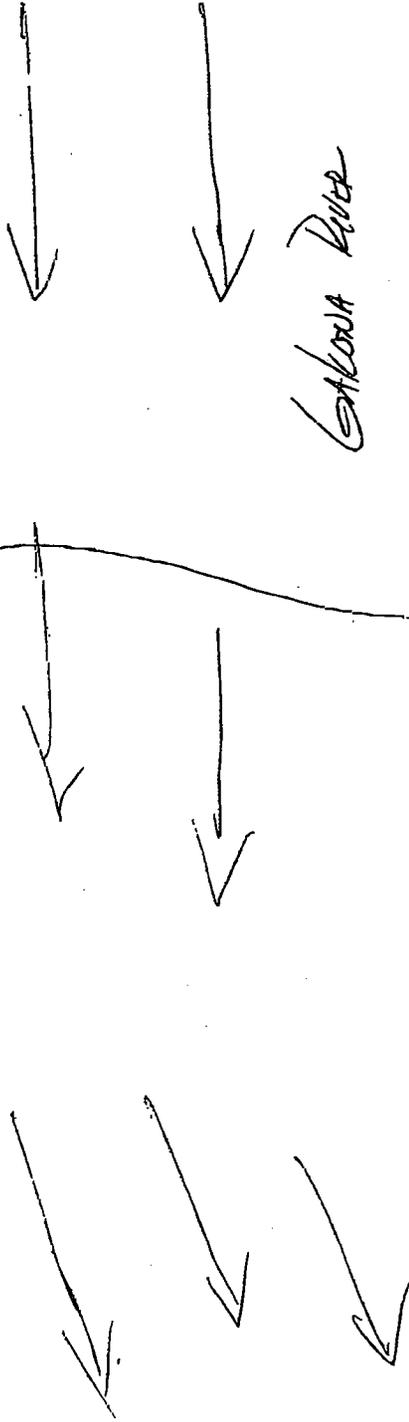


NOTE: FINGER DIKES MAY NOT BE BUILT BASED ON COST

DISTANCES ARE APPROX.

GAKONA AERIAL VIEW
OF RIP RAP IN AREA OF
EXTREME SEASON

BOULDER
ALONG BANK



GAKONA RIVER

85 FEET.

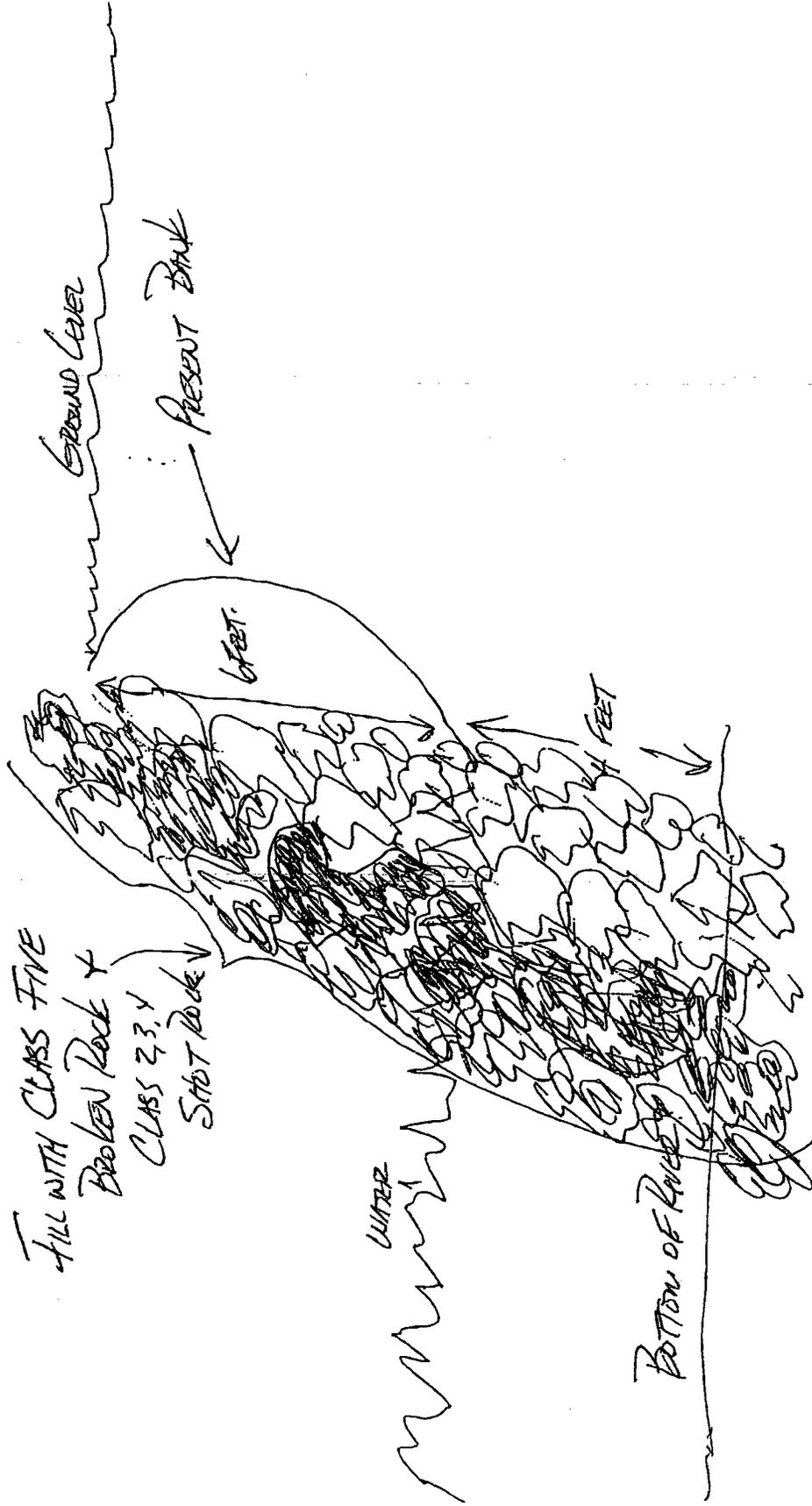
PRESENT RIVER BANK
← TIE RIP RAP INTO BANK
BANK FILL W/DIRT & GRAVEL
Propose Tank

X = PRESENT RIVER BANK
W/ SEASON

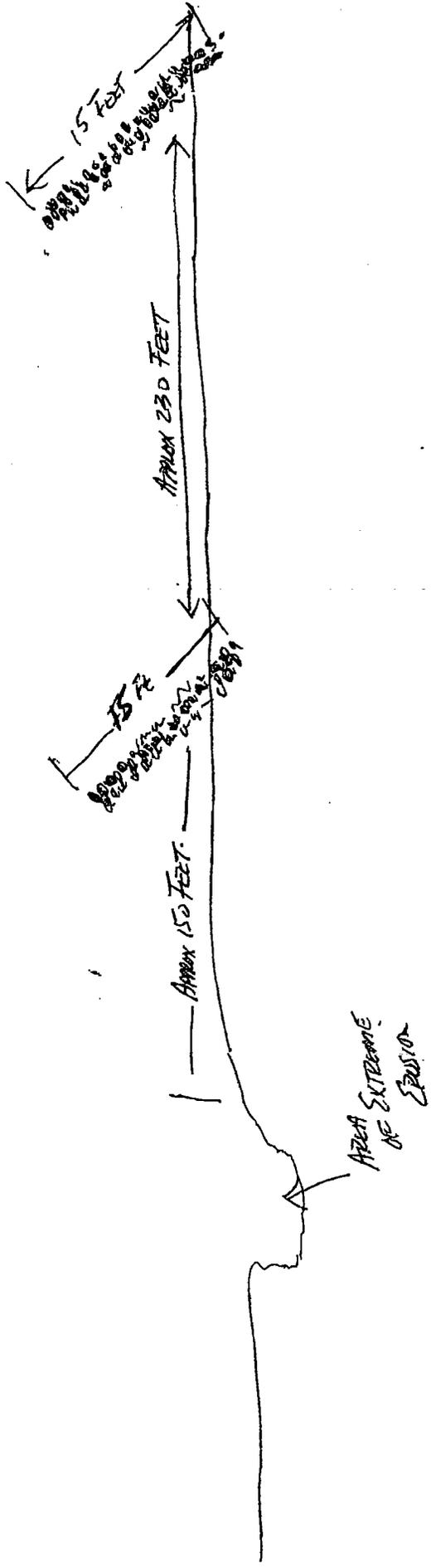
CARRIAGE HOUSE RESTAURANT

TRAPPAUS DEN TAVERN

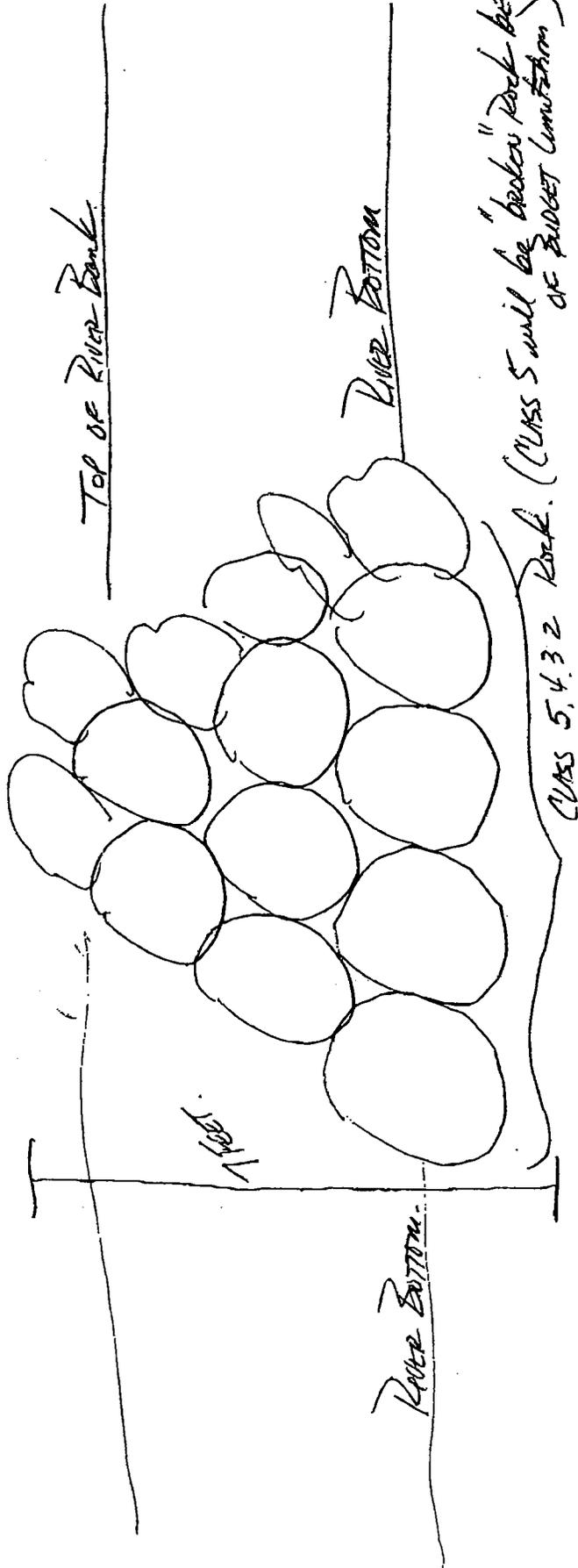
AREA OF EXTREME EROSION
GAKONA LODGE - SIDE VIEW



Gakona Lodge Finger Dikes
Proposed



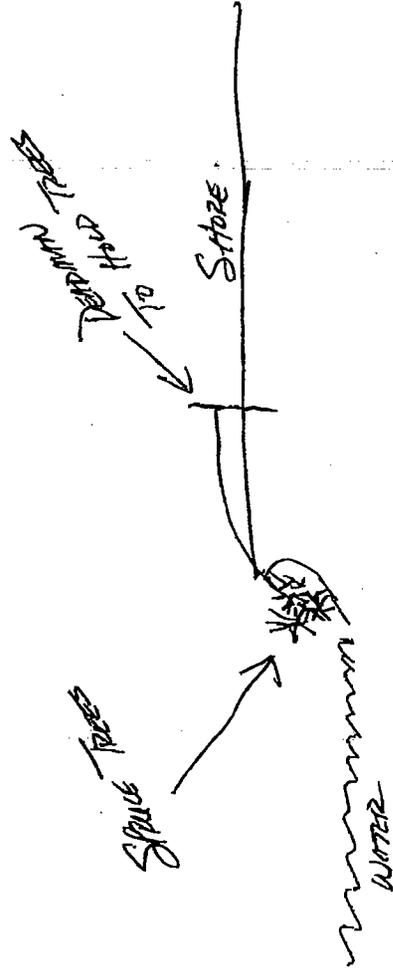
GALONA LODGE
FINGER DIKES



THE FINGER DIKES MAY OR MAY NOT BE CONSTRUCTED BASED
ON COST.

Gakona Lodge
Spruce Tree Placement.

- Spruce Trees will be Placed Along River to Allow for Sediment Collection and to Slow Current.

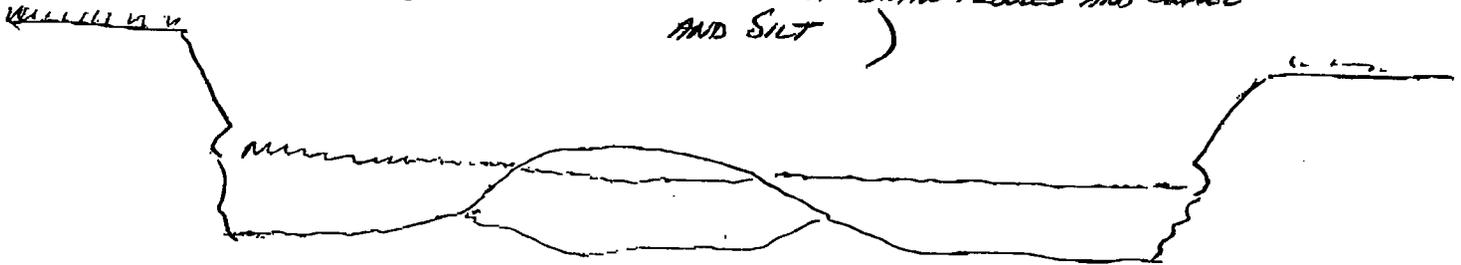


ISLAND

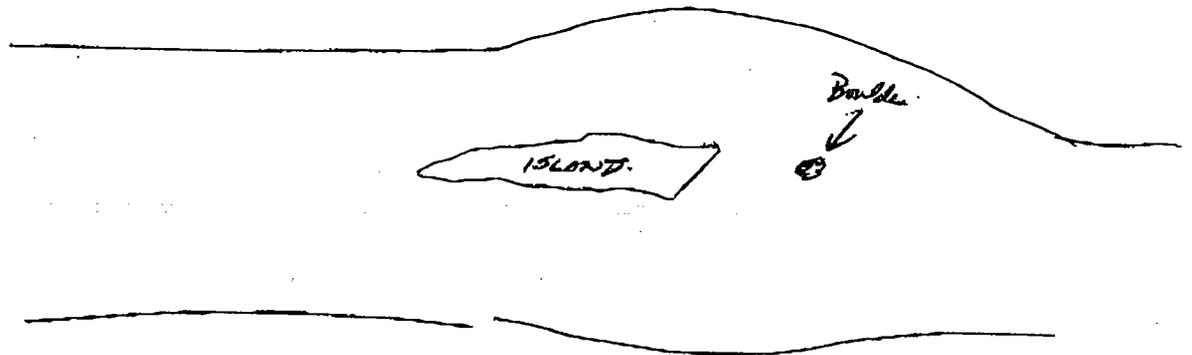
GAKONA LODGE
ISLAND

Looking Down River

(ISLAND MAT IS MADE OF SMALL PEBBLES AND GRAVEL
AND SILT)



Top View.



WE WOULD LIKE TO REMOVE BOULDER AND IN "EXTREME"
CASE THE WHOLE ISLAND. THE ISLAND ASSISTS IN CREATING
ICE DAMS AND THIS ADDITIONAL SCOUR ON OUR SHORE LINE

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER

401 Certification Program

Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control 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-2004-923-4, Gakona River**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify that there is reasonable assurance that the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, 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
410 Willoughby Avenue
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1795
Telephone: (907) 465-5321
FAX: (907) 465-5274