



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

FAIRBANKS FIELD OFFICE  
Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
2175 University Avenue, Suite 201E  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4927

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	<b>July 10, 2019</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>July 25, 2019</b>
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>POA-2004-01564</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Delta Creek</b>

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Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States (U.S.) as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this Public Notice (PN) 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](mailto:regpagemaster@usace.army.mil). All comments should include the PN reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this PN to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Amy Tippery at (907) 458-1602, by fax at (907) 474-2164, or by email at: [amy.c.tippery@usace.army.mil](mailto:amy.c.tippery@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**APPLICANT:** Mr. Allen Branco III, U.S. Air Force

**AGENT:** Mr. Ron Gunderson, U.S. Air Force

**LOCATION:** The project site is located at Section 30, T. 10 S., R. 8 E., Fairbanks Meridian; USGS Quad Map Big Delta A-5; Latitude 63.9958° N., Longitude -146.3044° W.; in the Oklahoma Impact Area, Donnelly Training Area West, near Delta Junction, Alaska.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to modify the existing permit, POA-2004-01564, Delta Creek, with the addition of two gravel pads for existing targetry which is now placed directly on the tundra, and to create access roads connecting the new pads to existing infrastructure for range maintenance and cleanup purposes. The existing unimproved roads do not have all-weather surfaces.

PROPOSED WORK: Work would impact waters of the U.S. in association with placement of 122,158 cubic yards (CY) of gravel on 15.4 acres of wetlands to build target pads and access roads for the air force training mission. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-6), dated July 8, 2019.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Current access routes are creating impacts to wetlands beyond the road footprint due to the non-improved surfaces. During break-up and wet conditions, ruts are formed and become impassable, causing vehicles to drive around problem areas to form new road scars. This exposes soil, creates erosion, and impacts wetlands and nearby aquatic areas. Additionally, when the Explosive Ordinance Disposal teams perform their summer range clearance, they are forced to use track vehicles to access the area, thus increasing the possibility impacts to wetlands. Currently, the bombing targets are placed directly on the tundra. The sun warms the targets which changes thawing rate and pattern of seasonal frost and permafrost in the direct vicinity and the targets sink into the ground. During range clearance as the teams are recovering the unexploded ordinance they are forced to dig the targets out of the tundra which creates pitting and permanent tundra scars.

This proposal represents Modification 7 to the original permit. The original permit was for the placement of fill material into approximately 151 acres of wetlands for the upgrade of existing trails and a new target array.

Modification 1 occurred on June 29, 2005 and authorized the placement of 44 CY of unclassified fill into 0.515 acres of wetlands for the installation of target arrays for air combat training.

Modification 2 occurred on May 15, 2007 and authorized the placement of 14.2 CY of concrete, 0.24 CY of iron pipe, and 14.35 CY of unclassified fill into approximately 0.009 acres of wetlands for two additional joint advanced weapons scoring system sites.

Modification 3 occurred on March 4, 2008 and authorized 13 CY of concrete, 1 CY iron pipe and 14.4 CY of unclassified fill into approximately 0.0125 acres of wetlands for installation of joint advanced weapons scoring system sites.

Modification 4 occurred on July 29, 2015 and authorized the discharge of 445,979 CY of gravel into approximately 77 acres of wetlands to straighten and upgrade the industrial trail, reconfigure the industrial area, construct Maverick Trail and Old Maverick Sites 1 & 2, and temporarily discharge 53,000 CY gravel into 4.2 acres of wetlands for construction equipment turn-arounds.

Modification 5 occurred on December 16, 2016 authorizing the discharge of 263,258 CY of fill into approximately 24 acres of wetlands to construct Army Fort Fire Break, New Maverick Sites 1 & 2 with access roads and temporary turn-arounds.

Modification 6 occurred on January 28, 2019 authorizing the discharge of 34,791 CY of gravel on 5.5 acres of wetlands to create ten target pads, and 2,054 feet of roads and firebreaks at Maverick Site 3.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the U.S. from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: **Constructing all weather roads and target pads will stop on-going disturbance to adjacent wetlands, targets will not sink, and the chance of tundra disturbance by vehicles due to impassable non-improved roads will be greatly reduced.**

b. Minimization: **Access roads and target pads have been minimized to as few as possible to support current infrastructure reach targets currently in place.**

c. Compensatory Mitigation: **No compensatory mitigation is 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.

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 consist of wetlands and waters of the U.S. in the footprint of this proposal and their immediately adjacent uplands. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the 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). 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. 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.

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).

No EFH species are known to use the project area.

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

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The 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 PN 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 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

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION OF WATER

Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program (WDAP) / 401 Certification

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WDAP/401 CERTIFICATION  
555 CORDOVA STREET  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617  
PHONE: (907) 269-6285 | EMAIL: [dec-401cert@alaska.gov](mailto: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 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 (PN) Reference Number **POA-2004-1564-M7, Delta Creek**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance 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.

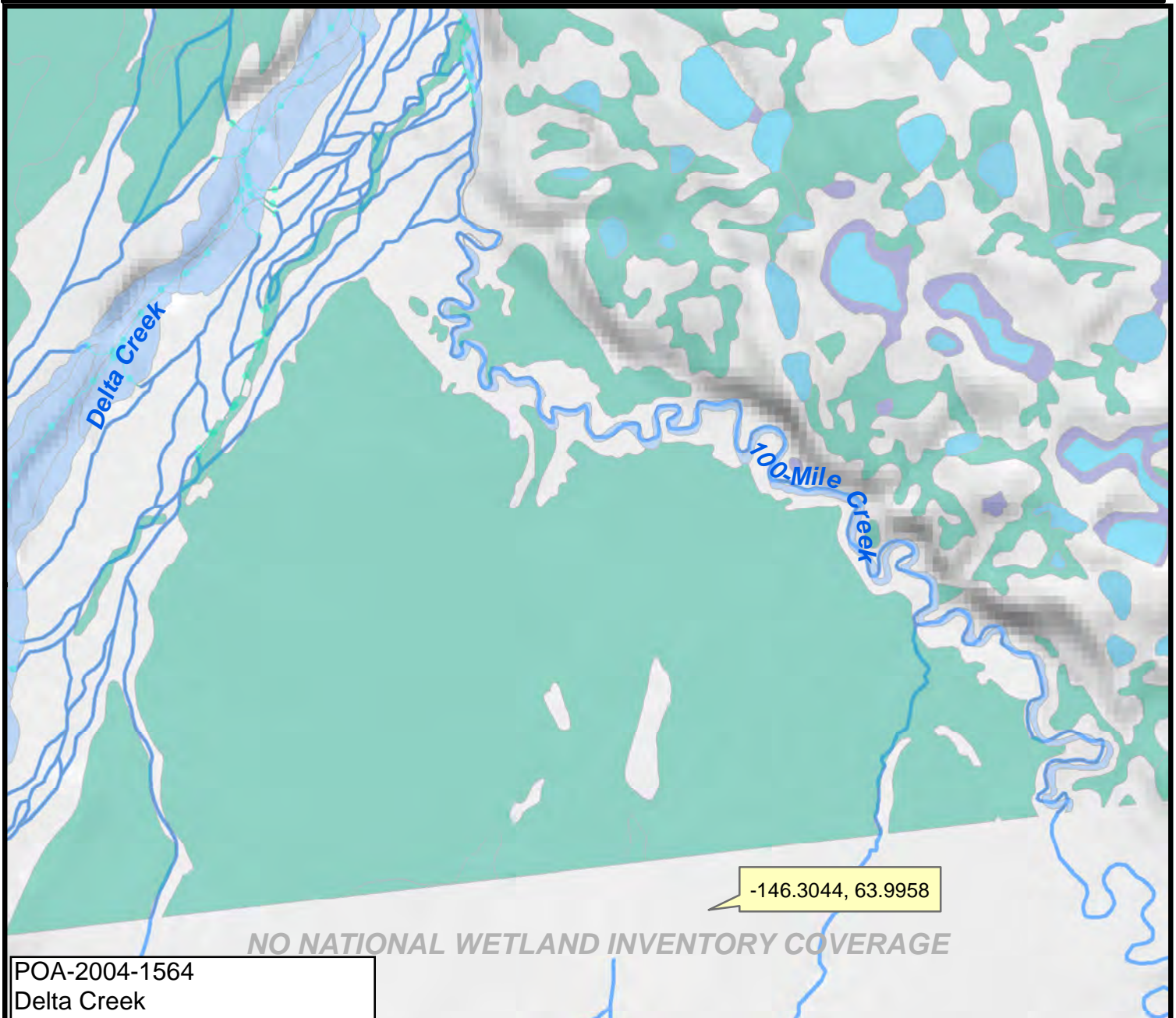
Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above or via email to [dec-401cert@alaska.gov](mailto:dec-401cert@alaska.gov) by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice. All comments should include the PN reference number listed above. Mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

### Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act 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 Theresa Zimmerman at 907-465-6171 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.



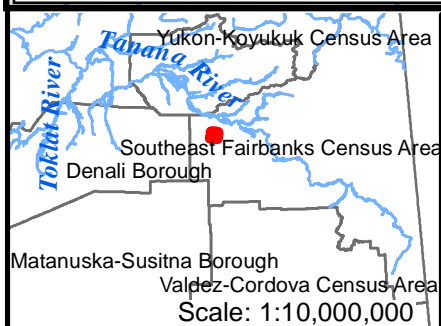
# POA-2004-1564, Delta Creek. National Wetlands Inventory & National Hydrographic Database. US Air Force, Oklahoma Impact Area (Donnelly Training Area West)



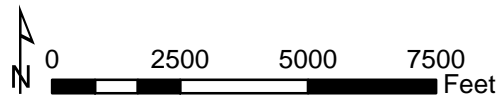
POA-2004-1564  
Delta Creek  
July 8, 2019  
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### Legend

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine
- ArtificialPath
- CanalDitch
- Coastline
- Connector
- Pipeline
- StreamRiver
- Underground Conduit

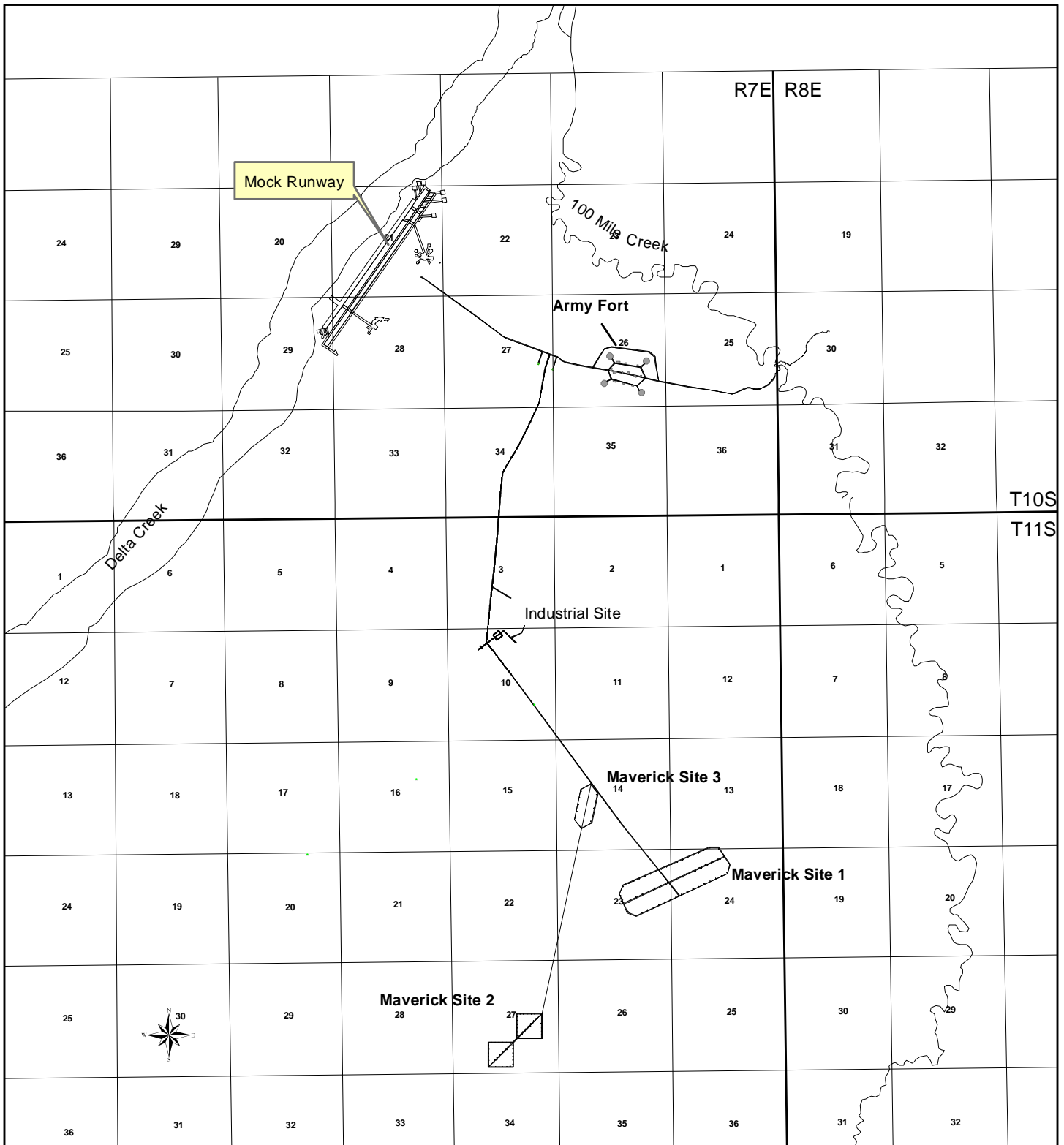


USACE Regulatory, Alaska District  
Fairbanks Field Office (907) 458-1602  
Contact: amy.c.tippery@usace.army.mil  
Date: 7/8/2019 Citation: NWI/NHD  
Projection: NAD 1983 Scale: 1:45,000  
Imagery: ned\_60m\_dtm\_hs.tif





# Currently Permitted Layout POA-2004-1564-M6



## Maintenance of Roads and Target Pads at Oklahoma Range, AK

**Purpose:** Establishment of gravel roads and target pads to reduce the impact on wetlands.

**Nearest Waterbody:** Delta Creek - 5.3 miles upstream from it's confluence with the Tanana River.

Oklahoma Impact Area, Ft Greely, Alaska

Section 30, T10S, R8E, Sections 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, and 34 T10S, R7E, Sections 3, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 24, and 27 T11S, R7E, Fairbanks Meridian

POA-2004-1564

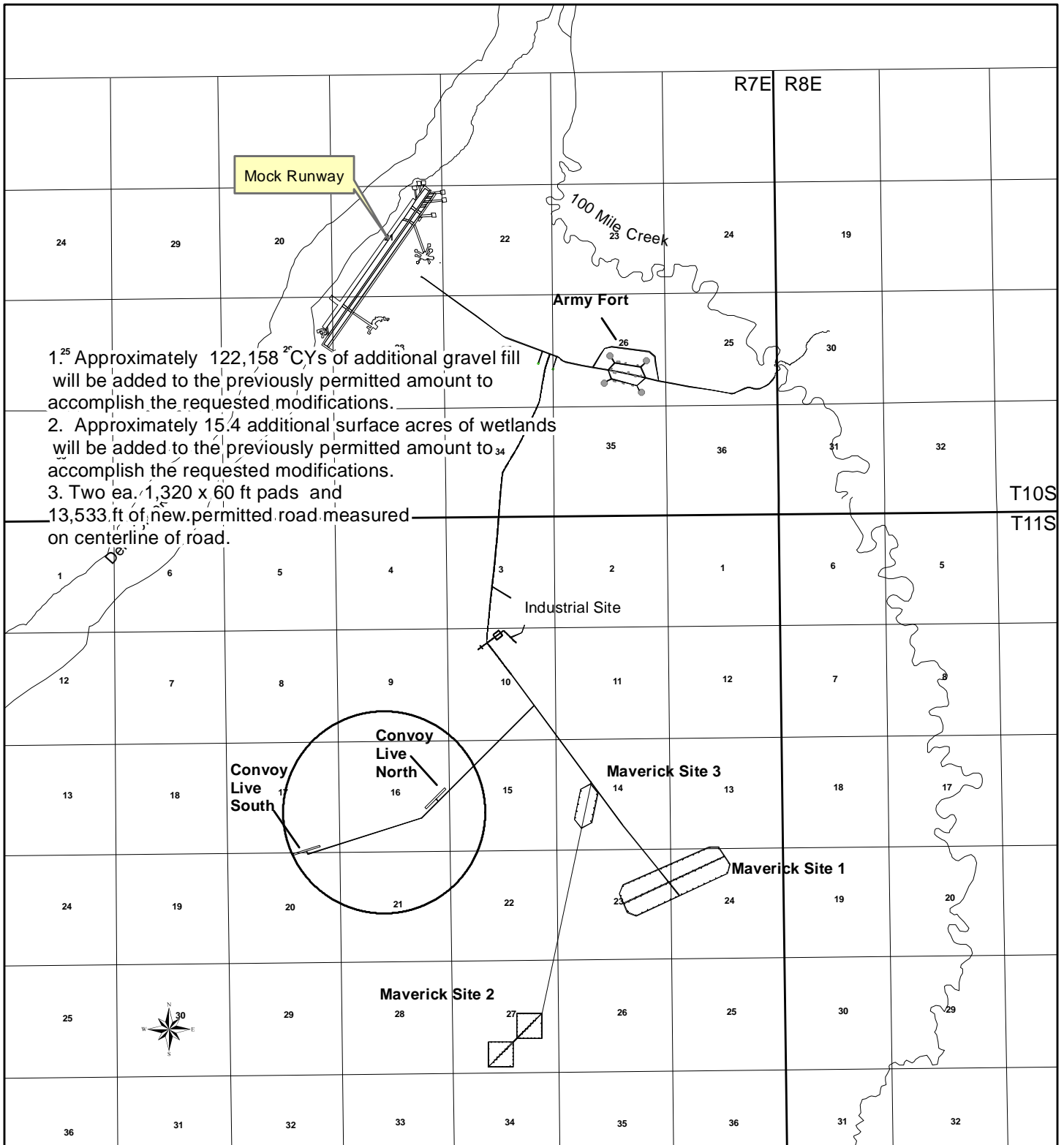
Delta Creek

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# 2019 Modification Layout Requested



- 1.<sup>25</sup> Approximately 122,158 CYs of additional gravel fill will be added to the previously permitted amount to accomplish the requested modifications.
2. Approximately 15.4 additional surface acres of wetlands will be added to the previously permitted amount to accomplish the requested modifications.
3. Two ea. 1,320 x 60 ft pads and 13,533 ft of new permitted road measured on centerline of road.

## Maintenance of Roads and Target Pads at Oklahoma Range, AK

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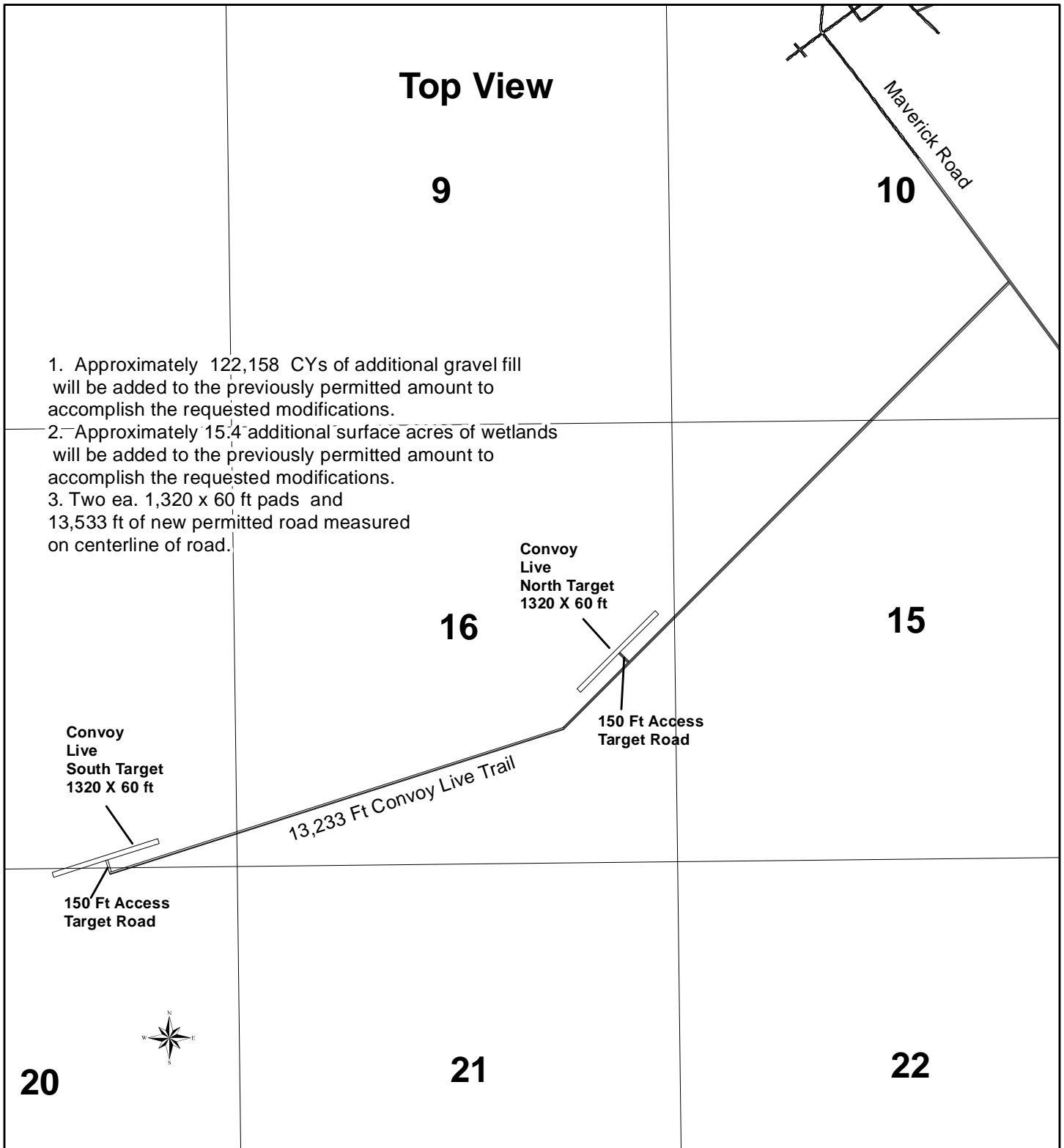
Section 30, T10S, R8E, Sections 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, and 34 T10S, R7E, Sections 3, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 24, and 27 T11S, R7E, Fairbanks Meridian

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**Maintenance of Roads and Target Pads at Oklahoma Range, AK**

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Oklahoma Impact Area, Ft Greely, Alaska

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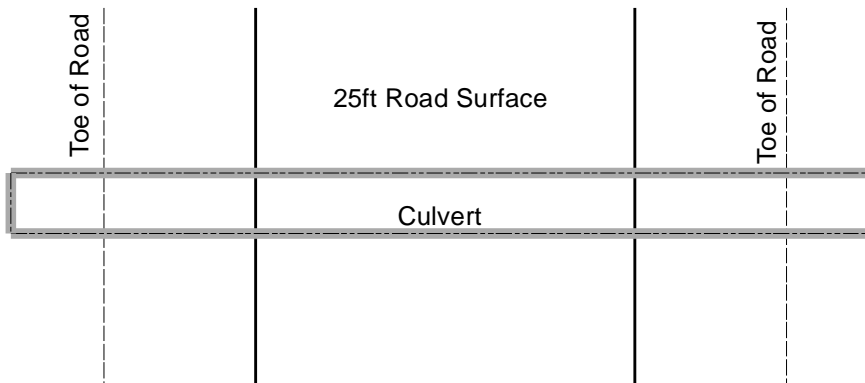
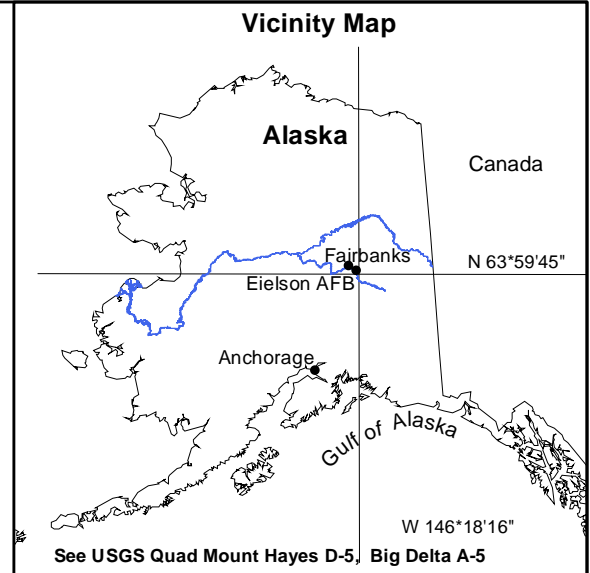
POA-2004-1564

Delta Creek

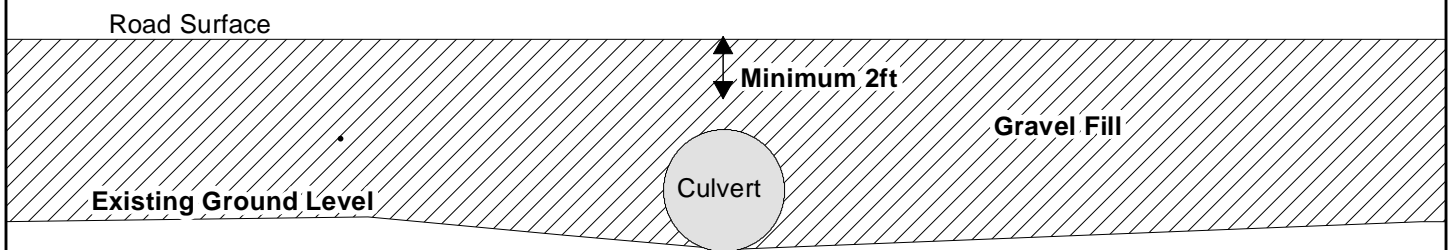
July 8, 2019

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1. Approximately 122,158 CYs of additional gravel fill will be added to the previously permitted amount to accomplish the requested modifications.
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3. Two ea. 1,320 x 60 ft pads and 13,533 ft of new permitted road measured on centerline of road.



**Typical Top View of Culvert Placement**



**Typical Cross-section of Culvert Placement**

Sufficient numbers of culverts will be placed to allow natural drainage. The size of the culverts will correspond to the needed flow.

**Maintenance of Roads and Target Pads at Oklahoma Range, AK**

**Purpose:** Establishment of gravel roads and target pads to reduce the impact on wetlands.

**Nearest Waterbody:** Delta Creek - 5.3 miles upstream from it's confluence with the Tanana River.

Oklahoma Impact Area, Ft Greely, Alaska

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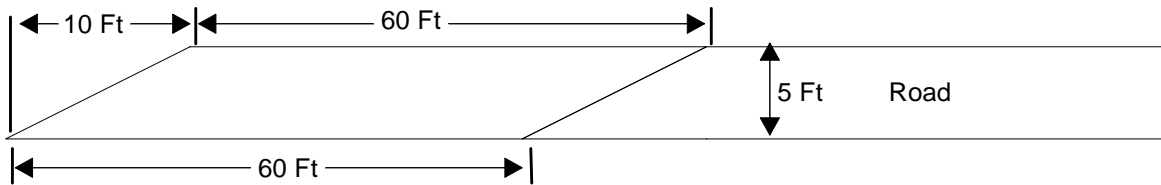
POA-2004-1564

Delta Creek

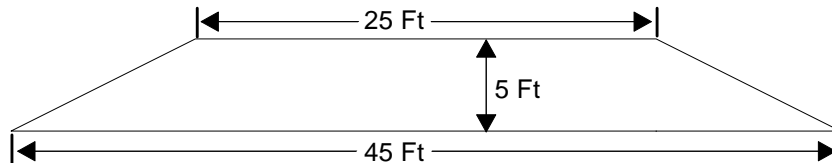
July 8, 2019

Sheet 5 of 6

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2. Approximately 15.4 additional surface acres of wetlands will be added to the previously permitted amount to accomplish the requested modifications.
3. Two ea. 1,320 x 60 ft pads and 13,533 ft of new permitted road measured on centerline of road.



**Typical Cross-section of Target Pad**



**Typical Cross-section of Road**

**Maintenance of Roads and Target Pads at Oklahoma Range, AK**

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Delta Creek

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