



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

## **ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT**

### **Erosion Information Paper - Fox, Alaska**

Current as of September 10, 2007

#### **Community Information**

Fox, population 369, is on the right bank of Fox Creek as it enters Goldstream Creek Valley. It is at the junction of the Steese and Dalton Highways, 10 miles northeast of Fairbanks in the North Star Borough. Fox is a Census Designated Place, with an area encompassing 13.6 square miles of land. The community is unincorporated, and there are no city or borough officials in the community.

The Fox area was established as a mining camp some time prior to 1905. The Howling Dog Saloon, Turtle Club, and Fox General Store in Fox are remnants of early mining. This area is described as having much manmade "stratigraphy flipping." Mining activity has turned the ground layers upside down. This has resulted in non-typical local conditions such as organic muck on top of bedrock and gravel (mine tailings) deposited on top of other soil layers. There are many creeks in the area including Fox Creek and Fox Springs; a central water source owned by the state. Other creeks in the area include First Chance Creek, Silver Creek, Gold Run and Gilmore Creek.

#### **Description of Erosion Problem**

No erosion problems were reported during interviews for an OMB-approved Community Erosion Survey on August 15, 2007 with the Fairbanks North Star Borough floodplain administrator/planner and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) northern region hydrologist. Both interviewees stated that erosion was not a problem in Fox. Aufeis, icing which involves the seasonal formation of a sheet-like mass of ice either on the ground or on the surface of river ice, is periodically a problem in the Fox area. Groundwater and groundwater flooding are also reported to be problems in the area. The DOT&PF hydrologist stated that a development plan for the area is needed because some homes are being constructed much lower than the natural ground elevation.

#### **Potential Damages**

No potential damages from erosion were known to the two interviewees.

#### **Photos and Diagram**

No photos were provided by community or other sources. No diagram has been prepared for this community at this time.

## References

USACE. 2007. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey*, OMB approved number 07100001, expires September 30, 2009 completed by Doug Sims, planner/floodplain administrator, Fairbanks North Star Borough, and Don Carlson, northern regional hydrologist, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in August 2007.

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## Additional Information

This information paper, as well as those for other communities, can be accessed on the internet at [www.alaskaerosion.com](http://www.alaskaerosion.com). For more information please contact the Corps of Engineers, project manager at (907) 753-5694 or email [Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil](mailto:Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil)