



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Gulkana, Alaska

Current as of January 15, 2008

Community Information

Gulkana (gull-CAN-uh), population 177, is on the east bank of the Gulkana (a.k.a. Kulkana) River at its confluence with the Copper River, mile 127 of the Richardson Highway, and 14 miles north of Glennallen. The community is unincorporated and in the unorganized borough. The Copper River is a subsistence fishing resource for the community. Fish wheels are used to harvest salmon. The banks of the Gulkana River are used for a variety of activities including boat access, fishing, cultural events, social events, and tourism. The Gulkana River bank is also a significant cultural site where the community conducts a camp for youth and adults on the many aspects of Native life.

Description of Erosion Problem

Gulkana River is on the south side of the community about 150 feet from the center of the developed area with areas of active erosion along the bank. River flows, spring break up, and ice scouring of the river banks all contribute to erosion. The actively eroding area is estimated to be 150 to 200 linear feet with an average erosion rate of about 1 to 2 feet a year. Approximately 15 feet of river bank eroded away between 2005 and 2007. The council spent about \$2,000 on equipment to place large boulders in various locations to prevent ice from scouring the river banks and to protect the road to the culture camp. There is a 300-linear-foot erosion area along the Copper River bank about 1/4 mile east of the community.

Potential Damages

Erosion threatens the access road to the culture camp where shade houses and storage sheds are less than 100 feet from the river. The water well for the community is approximately 15 feet from the river and no protective measures have been undertaken by either local or state intervention. Some fish wheels on the Copper River are placed in shallow water that can lead to some of them getting stuck in debris, destroyed, or lost.

Photos and Diagrams

No photos were provided by the community or other sources. The attached diagram depicts the approximate linear extent of erosion.

References

USACE. 2008. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey*, OMB approved number 07100001, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Lamonica Claw, Gulkana village council administrator on January 4, 2008.

Additional Information

This information paper, as well as those for other communities, can be accessed on the internet at 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



Alaska District
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Civil Works Branch

--- Linear Extent of Erosion



Alaska Baseline Erosion
Gulkana, Alaska