



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Skwentna, Alaska

Current as of September 20, 2007

Community Information

Skwentna (SKWENT-nuh), population 71, is on the south bank of the Skwentna River at its junction with 8-Mile Creek, 70 miles northwest of Anchorage. The community is in the Yentna River valley, in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The Skwentna Census Designated Place is a large area, encompassing nearly 443 square miles of land and 7 square miles of water, with Skwentna residents scattered over the area. The Skwentna area also has a number of seasonal-use homes. There is a small local store. Area residents use snowmachines, boat or aircraft to travel to the post office. There is no local government. The former Skwentna Community council president reported that there were no erosion problems in the community.

Description of Erosion Problem

No serious problems with erosion have been reported by the community. However, the airport was moved in 1989 because of erosion. According to the Skwentna Roadhouse owner, the river is constantly eroding, but "people deal with it". Skwentna has also had significant flooding in 1953, 1971, 1983, 1986 and 1995, and those floods likely contributed to local erosion.

Potential Damages

Remote cabins and homes located close to the Skwentna and Yentna Rivers, both meandering glacial-fed river systems, could be adversely impacted by erosion. However, no erosion problems were reported by community sources.

Photos and Diagrams

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 was completed by Joyce Logan, Skwentna Roadhouse owner, on September 24, 2007.

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