

APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 14-Jun-2012

B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Alaska District, POA-2012-00441-JD1

C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State : AK - Alaska
 County/parish/borough: Sitka
 City: Sitka
 Lat: 57.06232
 Long: -135.20033
 Universal Transverse Mercator: Folder UTM List
 UTM list determined by folder location
 ● NAD83 / UTM zone 8N
 Waters UTM List
 UTM list determined by waters location
 ● NAD83 / UTM zone 8N

Name of nearest waterbody: Blue Lake
 Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW): Silver Bay
 Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): Blue Lake Watershed

- Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.
- Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc.) are associated with the action and are recorded on a different JD form.

D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION:

- Office Determination Date:
- Field Determination Date(s): 23-Jun-2011 05-Jun-2012

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION

There "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area.

- Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.
- Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

Explain:

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area.

1. Waters of the U.S.

a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area:¹

Water Name	Water Type(s) Present
Blue Lake Creek	Relatively Permanent Waters (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area:

Area: 5438975 (m²)
 Linear: (m)

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction:

based on: Established by OHWM.
 OHWM Elevation: (if known)

2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands:³

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain:

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

1. TNW
 Not Applicable.

2. Wetland Adjacent to TNW
 Not Applicable.

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i) General Area Conditions:
 Watershed size:
 Drainage area:
 Average annual rainfall: inches

Average annual snowfall: inches

(ii) Physical Characteristics

(a) Relationship with TNW:

- Tributary flows directly into TNW.
 - Tributary flows through [] tributaries before entering TNW.
- :Number of tributaries

- Project waters are river miles from TNW.
- Project waters are river miles from RPW.
- Project Waters are aerial (straight) miles from TNW.
- Project waters are aerial(straight) miles from RPW.
- Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries.

Explain:

Identify flow route to TNW:⁵

Tributary Stream Order, if known:

Order	Tributary Name
2	Blue Lake Creek

(b) General Tributary Characteristics:

Tributary is:

Tributary Name	Natural	Artificial	Explain	Manipulated	Explain
Blue Lake Creek	X	-	-	-	Original Blue Lake Dam project altered the Blue Lake Creek system.

Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate):

Tributary Name	Width (ft)	Depth (ft)	Side Slopes
Blue Lake Creek	50	5	3:1

Primary tributary substrate composition:

Tributary Name	Silt	Sands	Concrete	Cobble	Gravel	Muck	Bedrock	Vegetation	Other
Blue Lake Creek	-	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-

Tributary (conditions, stability, presence, geometry, gradient):

Tributary Name	Condition/Stability	Run/Riffle/Pool Complexes
Blue Lake Creek	Upper perennial streams specifically Becky, Brad, South and Blue Lake Creek occupy approximately 30 acres of the study area. The width of the stream varies seasonally creating temporary gravel bars and shorelines which have been mapped.	Barrier falls exists 83 feet above the OHWM of Blue Lake

(c) Flow:

Tributary Name	Provides for	Events Per Year	Flow Regime
Blue Lake Creek	Perennial flow	2-5	Blue Lake Creek is a high energy system with swift flow and scoured channels and shoreline. The stream is characterized by persistent flow over substrates ranging from unconsolidated bottoms of gravel and cobble to bedrock near the outlet.

Surface Flow is:

Tributary Name	Surface Flow	Characteristics
Blue Lake Creek	Confined	Banks are stable and vegetated throughout the reach. Gravel bars have built up between the OHWM of this meandering system.

Subsurface Flow:

Tributary Name	Subsurface Flow	Explain Findings	Dye (or other) Test
Blue Lake Creek	Unknown	-	-

Tributary has:

Tributary Name	Bed & Banks	OHWM	Discontinuous OHWM ⁷	Explain
Blue Lake Creek	X	X	-	-

Tributaries with OHWM⁶ - (as indicated above)

Tributary Name	OHWM	Clear	Litter	Changes in Soil	Destruction Vegetation	Shelving	Wrack Line	Matted/Absent Vegetation	Sediment Sorting	Leaf Litter	Scour	Sediment Deposition	Flow Events	W/ Stai
Blue Lake Creek	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-

If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction:

High Tide Line indicated by:
Not Applicable.

Mean High Water Mark indicated by:
Not Applicable.

(iii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.).

Tributary Name	Explain	Identify specific pollutants, if known

Blue Lake Creek	Tributaries to Blue Lake are clear, fast running with riparian areas surrounding them. The watershed is found in the Tongass National Forest and has had minimal development.	Blue Lake serves as the Community of Sitka's water supply. Blue Lake to Blue Lake. No pollutants known.
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(iv) Biological Characteristics. Channel supports:

Tributary Name	Riparian Corridor	Characteristics	Wetland Fringe	Characteristics
Blue Lake Creek	X	Forested riparian area with scrub shrub forested wetland and upland characteristics. Supports brown bear, Sitka deer and mountain goat.	X	Riverine wetlands associate Creek.

Habitat for: (as indicated above)

Tributary Name	Habitat	Federally Listed Species	Explain Findings	Fish\Spawn Areas	Explain Findings	Other Environmentally Sensitive Species	Explain Findings	Aquatic/Wildlife Diversity	
Blue Lake Creek	X	-	-	X	Fluvial spawning occurs by rainbow trout in Brad, Becky, Sheldon and Blue Lake Creek.	-	-	X	Will larg furt sor ripe

2. Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i) Physical Characteristics:

(a) General Wetland Characteristics:

Properties:
Not Applicable.

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:

Flow is:
Not Applicable.

Surface flow is:
Not Applicable.

Subsurface flow:
Not Applicable.

(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:
Not Applicable.

(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW:
Not Applicable.

(ii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.).
Not Applicable.

(iii) Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports:
Not Applicable.

3. Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any):

All wetlands being considered in the cumulative analysis:
Not Applicable.

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:
Not Applicable.

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than an insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow, the proximity of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific wetland (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Significant Nexus: Not Applicable

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE:

1. TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands:
Not Applicable.

2. RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs:

Wetland Name	Flow	Explain
Blue Lake Creek	PERENNIAL	Blue Lake Creek has a continuous flow regime throughout the year.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area:

Wetland Name	Type	Size (Linear) (m)	Size (Area) (m ²)
Blue Lake Creek	Relatively Permanent Waters (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs	-	101576.0856
Total:		0	101576.0856

3. Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs:⁸
Not Applicable.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area:

Not Applicable.

4. Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

Not Applicable.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area:

Not Applicable.

5. Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs:

Not Applicable.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area:

Not Applicable.

6. Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs:

Not Applicable.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area:

Not Applicable.

7. Impoundments of jurisdictional waters:⁹

Not Applicable.

E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, WATERS:¹⁰

Not Applicable.

Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination:

Not Applicable.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area:

Not Applicable.

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS. INCLUDING WETLANDS

- If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements:
- Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce:
- Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR):
- Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (Explain):

- Other (Explain):

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (ie., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangere irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment:

Not Applicable.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction.

Not Applicable.

SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD

(listed items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference below):

Data Reviewed	Source Label	Source Description
--Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant	November 2011 Wetland Delineation	DOWL HKM Wetland Delineation performed for Blue Lake Dam Expansion
--Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant	-	-
----Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report	-	-
--Data sheets prepared by the Corps	-	-
--U.S. Geological Survey map(s).	-	-
--Photographs	-	-
----Aerial	-	-
----Other	-	-

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:

Not Applicable.

1-Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.
 2-For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).
 3-Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.
 4-Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.
 5-Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.
 6-A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.
 7-Ibid.
 8-See Footnote #3.
 9-To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.
 10-Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction.