



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

ANCHORAGE  
Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
Post Office Box 6898  
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	<b>15 December 2023</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>15 January 2024</b>
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>POA-2023-00398</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Little Meadow 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 as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this public notice 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 public notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Estrella Campellone at (907) 753-2518, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at [estrella.f.campellone@usace.army.mil](mailto:estrella.f.campellone@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

**APPLICANT:** Sterling Cook, 4051 E. Brenda Avenue; Wasilla, Alaska, 99654. Telephone: (907) 841-5771. Email: [sscook78@yahoo.com](mailto:sscook78@yahoo.com)

**LOCATION:** The project site is located within Section 27, T. 18 N., R. 2 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Anchorage C-7; Latitude 61.623021° N., Longitude 149.622168° W.; Matsu Borough Account Number 57331000L004 (Lot 4-Parcel ID 523619) and Account Number 57331000L003 (Lot 3-Parcel ID 523619), MooseyBou Properties, in Wasilla, Alaska.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to provide the much-needed space for private seaplane operations in the Matanuska-Susitna valley. Currently there are only few locations that do provide floatplane slips, and all are backlogged with over a seven (7) year waiting

period for an opportunity to obtain a floatplane use space. The proposed project would relieve existent demand for floatplane slips on local lakes that support anadromous fish species, which are already congested with recreational boat traffic.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is proposing to construct a seaplane base by building 31 floatplane slips, each 25-foot wide by 30-feet long deep. Each floatplane slip would be connected to Island Lake through three (3) 75-foot-wide access channels and one (1) 150-foot-wide main channel. To maintain water flows in Meadow Creek, the applicant proposes to reroute a section of Meadow Creek through the seaplane base. Hydrology would be directed through a trench into a 60-foot long by 12-inch diameter culvert under existing runway. The proposed project would require the excavation of 13,398 cubic yards of organics from 3.11 acres of palustrine wetlands to create the seaplane base basin and filling and/or modifying at most 3.30 acres of palustrine wetlands around the excavated area to provide access and operate seaplane base activities. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1, 2, and 4 dated December 7, 2023, sheet 3 dated August 23, 2023, and sheet 5 dated August 29, 2023).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The applicant would be contacting the following State and local agencies: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Matanuska Susitna Borough.

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

a. Avoidance: The applicant would minimize impacts on wetlands as much as possible by designing the project to fill only wetland areas needed for accessing and operating the seaplane base.

b. Minimization: The seaplane base channels would only be dug out 3-4 feet to minimize the amount of excavated material proposed for discharge on the sides of floatplane slips and on the edges of channels. Banks and edges of the channels and slips would be planted with grass to stop the erosion process and stabilize the edges of the seaplane base perimeter. Seeding of slip sides would occur during the first growing season after construction and would continue during two more growing seasons or as necessary until disturbed ground has been stabilized. All construction and excavation work would take place in winter, while peat is frozen. The seaplane basin would be connected to Island Lake once construction of slips and connecting channels are completed to minimize sediment transport outside project footprint and/or downstream to reaches that provide habitat to salmon. Excavated peat material that is not used to create access areas would be discharged in uplands. Hydrology would be maintained by constructing an outbound trench connected to a culvert underneath existing runway; this for the purpose of allowing water flows from Island Lake to move freely through the seaplane basin and into Little Meadow Creek's lower reaches.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant did not propose compensatory mitigation.

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 (ADEC). On October 19, 2023, the Corps provided information to the applicant regarding the process required to obtain a Water Quality Certification from ADEC.

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 be the area of wetlands and uplands within Lot 3 and Lot 4 as shown in Sheet 3 attached. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Potential to Cause Effects determination for the proposed project. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties is not required. However, any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties 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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens 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).

Although the proposed project site is not within mapped EFH, Little Meadow Creek is an anadromous creek (AWC Code: 247-50-10330-2050-3050-4027-5061) and provides rearing habitat to coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) up to the culvert across Pitman Road (approximately 550 feet downstream from the project site).

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

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps 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 Corps, 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 public notice 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 rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. This application is being coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in the Corps final assessment of the described work.

**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 authorities:

(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

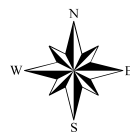
Enclosures

POA-2023-00398  
Waterway: Little Middle Creek  
Project: Floatplane Base  
Applicant: Sterling Cook  
Date: December 7, 2023  
Sheet 1 of 5

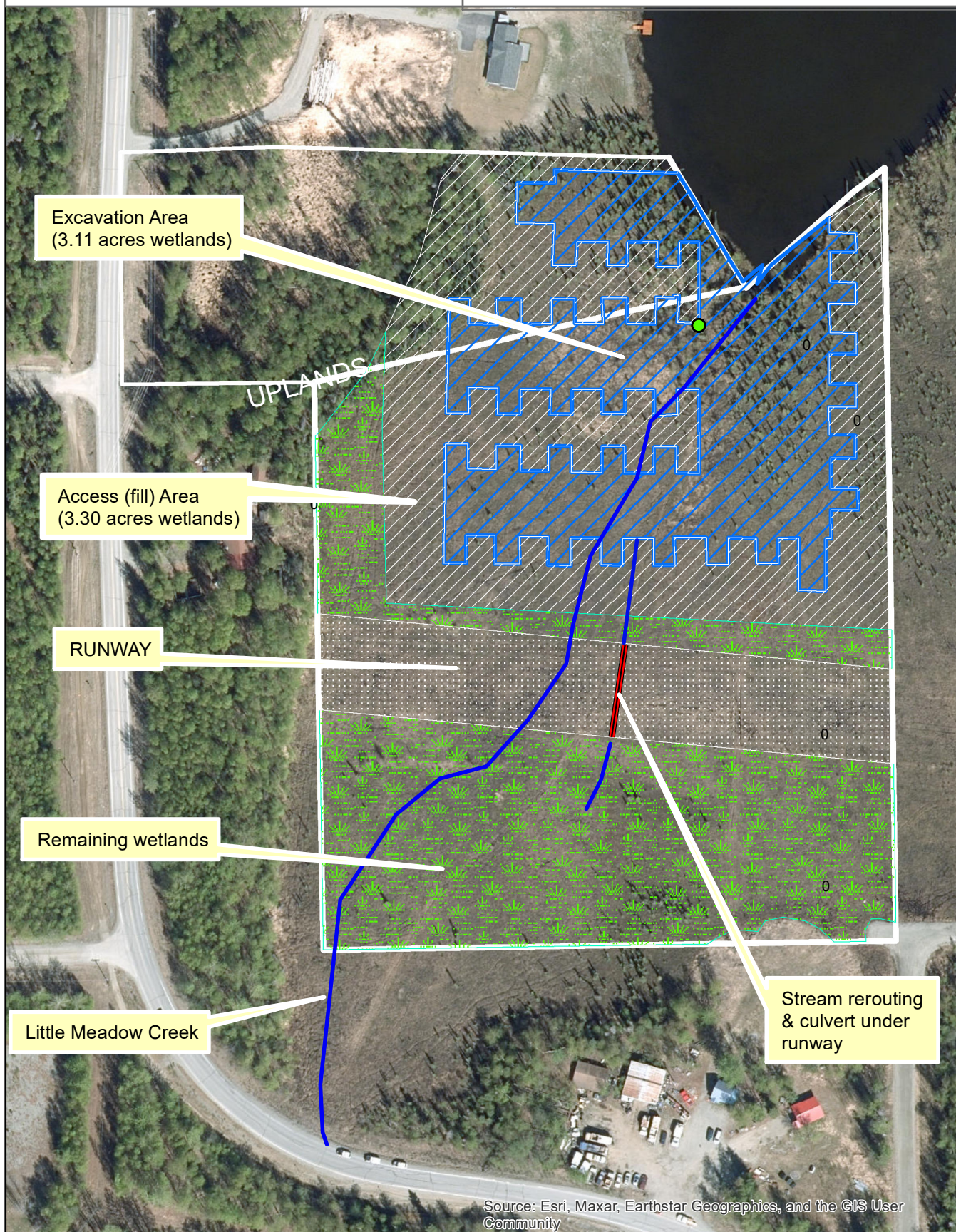
Project Location



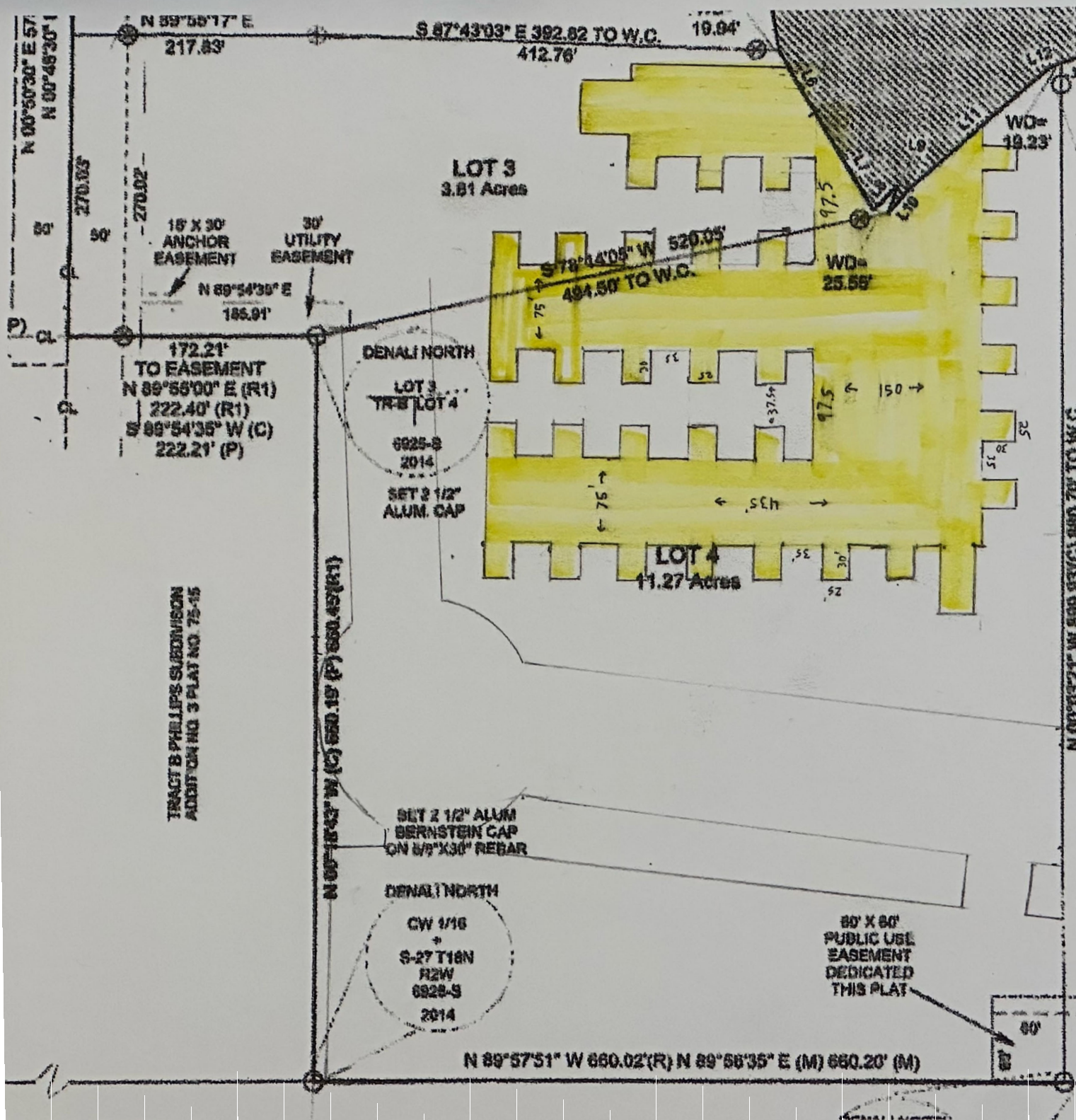




0 150 300  
Feet







DENALI NORTH  
WD=19.23  
LOT 4 LOT 5  
6925-S  
2014  
SET 2 1/2"  
ALUM. CAP

FL  
HAZ  
AF

POA-2023-00398  
Waterway: Little Middle Creek  
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Date: August 23, 2023  
Sheet 3 of 5

SET 2 1/2" ALUM  
BERNSTEIN CAP  
ON 5/8" X 30" REBAR

DENALI NORTH  
CW 1/16  
+  
S-27 T16N  
R2W  
6925-S  
2014

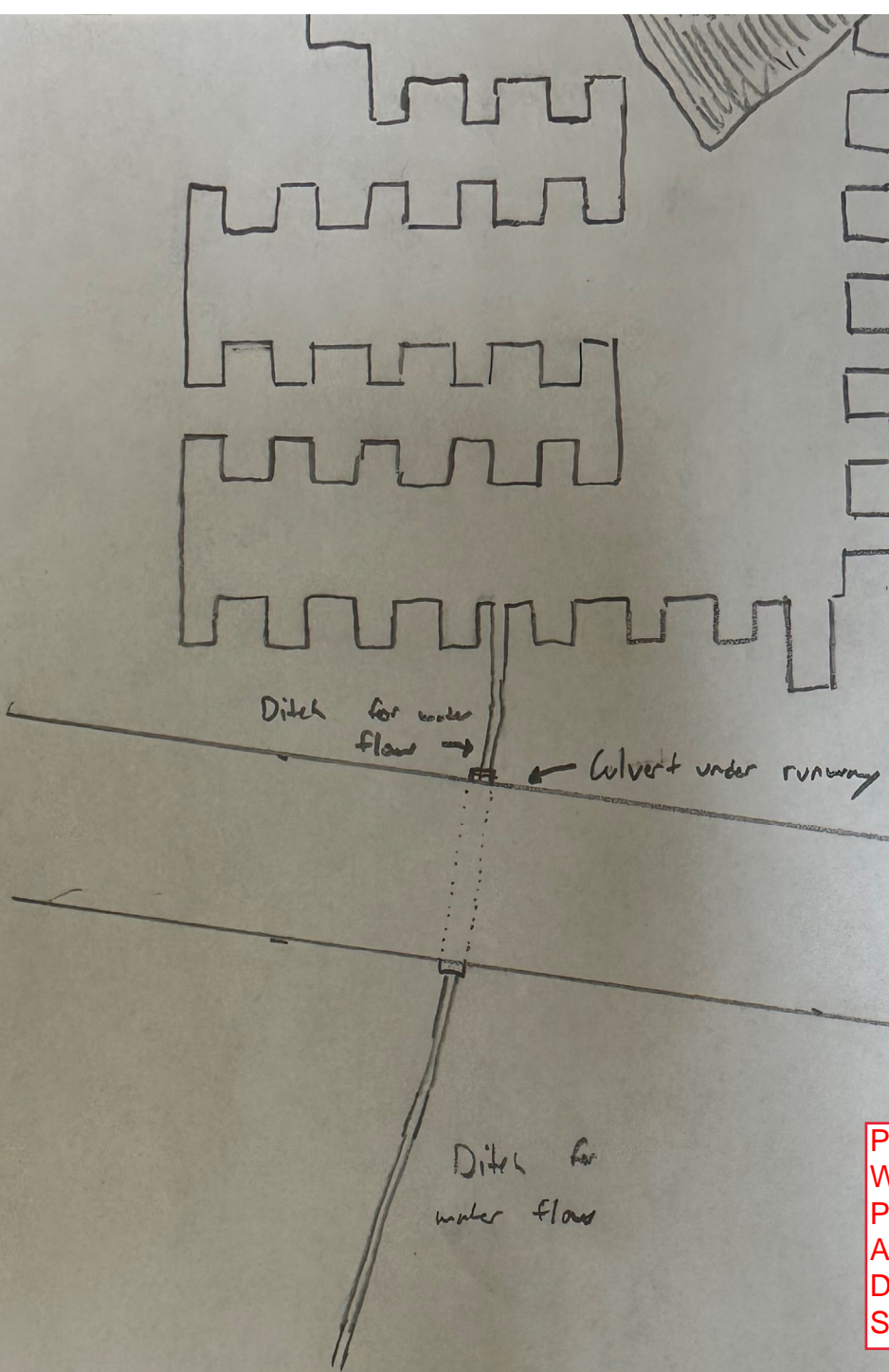
60' X 80'  
PUBLIC USE  
EASEMENT  
DEDICATED  
THIS PLAT

60'  
PUBLIC USE  
EASEMENT  
RECORDED IN  
BOOK 756, PAGE 473

N 89°57'51" W 660.02'(R) N 89°56'35" E (M) 660.20' (M)

N 89°56'35" E (





POA-2023-00398  
Waterway: Little Middle Creek  
Project: Floatplane Base  
Applicant: Sterling Cook  
Date: December 7, 2023  
Sheet 4 of 5



# Island Lake float plane base

POA-2023-00398

Waterway: Little Middle Creek

Project: Floatplane Base

Applicant: Sterling Cook

Date: August 29, 2023

Sheet 5 of 5

