

February 27, 2006

Nicole Allison, Project Review Coordinator
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Office of Project Management and Permitting
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1660
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: Brewer Handicap Accessible Boat, ID #AK 0601-08AA

Dear Ms. Allison:

Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal Management Plan (KPBCMP) staff received a project proposal for review submitted by Doug Brewer of Alaska Air West to the Office of Project Management and Permitting, Alaska Coastal Management Program seeking a consistency determination for the operation and storage of a 37 foot long boat on Big River Lake. Based on our review of the project, staff offers the following comments.

Project Description

The applicant seeks to operate a 37' handicap accessible vessel on Big River Lake outfitted to provide wildlife viewing opportunities for clients. The craft will provide an enclosed viewing area, onboard meals and a restroom facility. Waste materials will be transported from the vessel and disposed at an approved disposal facility. No docking facilities will be utilized in this project.

Project Discussion

The proposed activity is located in Section 7 and 8, Township 008 N., Range 017 W., Seward Meridian within the Redoubt Bay State Park Critical Habitat Area within the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

In response to a Request for Additional Information by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the applicant states that the vessel will not be used as a fishing platform, will not travel at speeds greater than 5 - 7 miles per hour and will not come in contact with shoreline vegetation. The applicant will replace 10 small skiffs with the 37' vessel to minimize impact to the area. Access from airplane to the vessel will be accomplished via ramps. The applicant plans to store the vessel in the off-season onshore below high water. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not object to the applicant's proposal.

Consistency Finding

It is the expressed intent of Kenai Peninsula Borough enforceable policy to minimize conflict among recreational users in designated recreation areas (Enforceable Policy 4.2). Applicant's management of activities in the Big River Lakes area, insofar as they minimize conflict with other users, will be consistent with this policy.

The KPBCMP concurs with the applicant's certification of consistency.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Gary Williams
Coastal Management Program Coordinator