



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Coastal Zone Management Program

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**DAVE CAREY
BOROUGH MAYOR**

Melinda O'Donnell, Project Review Supervisor
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Division of Coastal and Ocean Management
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Subject: Small Scale Mining on Gulch Creek, AK 0905-01AA

The staff of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal District reviewed the subject project and concurs with the applicant's certificate of consistency with the borough's coastal management policies.

Project Description

Sarah #1 & Upper Gold Bench/William Dunlevy:

The project location involves the Sarah #1 and Upper Gold Bench mining claims and the associated access route. The project area is located at approximately milepost 57 of the Seward highway. The Gulch Creek area is north of the highway. The general legal description of the proposed project area is: Section 13 and 14 of Township 8 North, Range 1 East; Seward Meridian. Access to the mining claims proposes the use of the existing Gulch Creek Trail. The proposed project lies within Chugach National Forest.

The proposed project involves suction dredging in the active stream channel of Gulch Creek using a six inch suction dredge, manual placer mining of the benches above Gulch Creek with use of a six inch suction dredge, maintenance of an existing tent platform and portable shed for equipment storage during mining operations, ATV access to the mining area utilizing Gulch Creek Trail to the border of State of Alaska and National Forest System lands, and hiking access utilizing Gulch Creek Trail from the border of State of Alaska and National Forest System lands to the Hard Labor #2 mining claim. Placer mining of the stream benches would allow sediment to only flow into vegetation, not to allow silt laden water into the creek.

Equipment used by the applicant in association with the proposed project are ATVs, a six inch suction dredge, a "highbanker", sluice boxes, picks, shovels and pans.

Food and garbage will be contained to prevent attraction and habituation of wildlife and taken to a transfer depository at least once every seven days. All gear and footwear will be clean of non-native plants and seeds before landing on National Forest System (NFS) land. In addition, no plants will be brought onto NFS land. Ground disturbance that would create favorable seedbeds for non-native plants and is unnecessary to operations will be prevented.

ATV access would occur for mining purposes only and would not occur off the existing trail under any circumstances. Maintenance of the trail by removing fallen trees and brush would occur, but would not include reconstruction of the trail bed or introduction of gravel. Use of the trails after a heavy rain or during spring break up that could cause damage would not occur.

Except for fuel and small amounts of petroleum lubricants, no hazardous substances would be stored or used on the mining claim. Mining equipment or materials not actively being used for mining would not be stored on site. Fuel stored on site would be no more than one 55-gallon drum, transported to the site in 5-gallon containers, and stored at least 100 feet away from the stream. A spill kit would be onsite and secondary containment in a capacity of 110% of the largest container would occur at the site.

If any heritage or archeological resources were discovered during operations they would be left in place and work would cease immediately. The operator would reclaim the surface disturbed in operations.

Supplies, equipment and other items on the claim would be reasonably incidental to actual current mining in progress. Mining equipment or materials not actively being used for mining activities would not be stored on site.

No one except those listed on the approved USFS plan of operations are granted vehicular access on the Gulch Creek trail, and then only for the purpose of conducting mining operations.

Hard Labor #2/Ralph Henderson:

The project area is the Hard Labor #2 mining claim and the associated access route. The project area is located at approximately milepost 57 of the Seward highway. The Gulch Creek area is north of the highway. The general legal description of the proposed project area is: Section 13 of Township 8 North, Range 1 East; Seward Meridian. Access to the mining claims proposes the use of the existing Gulch Creek Trail. The proposed project lies within Chugach National Forest.

Typically, the operation would occur during the summer season from May to September, for approximately 32 days per year. The proposed project involves suction dredging in the active stream channel of Gulch Creek using a four inch suction dredge, construction of a 6.5 by 16 foot tent platform (used for "warm up" and changing clothes, not to be used for overnight camping), ATV access utilizing Gulch Creek Trail to the border of State of Alaska and National Forest System lands, and hiking access utilizing Gulch Creek Trail from the border of State of Alaska and National Forest System lands to the Hard Labor #2 mining claim. Placer mining of the stream benches would allow sediment to only flow into vegetation, not to allow silt laden water into the creek.

Equipment used by the applicant in association with the proposed project are ATVs, a four inch suction dredge, a tent, a portable toilet, a Bosun's chair and gasoline.

ATV access would occur for mining purposes only and would not occur off the existing trail under any circumstances. Maintenance of the trail by removing fallen trees and brush would occur, but would not include reconstruction of the trail bed or introduction of gravel. Use of the trails after a heavy rain or during spring break up that could cause trail damage would not occur.

Food and garbage will be contained to prevent attraction and habituation of wildlife and taken to a transfer depository at least once every seven days. All gear and footwear will be clean of non-native

plants and seeds before landing on National Forest System (NFS) land. In addition, no plants will be brought onto NFS land. Ground disturbance that would create favorable seedbeds for non-native plants and is unnecessary to operations will be prevented.

Except for fuel and small amounts of petroleum lubricants, no hazardous substances would be stored or used on the mining claim. Mining equipment or materials not actively being used for mining would not be stored on site. Fuel stored on site would be no more than one 55-gallon drum, transported to the site in 5-gallon containers, and stored at least 100 feet away from the stream. A spill kit would be onsite and secondary containment in a capacity of 110% of the largest container would occur at the site.

If any heritage or archeological resources were discovered during operations they would be left in place and work would cease immediately. The operator would reclaim the surface disturbed in operations.

No one except those listed on the approved USFS plan of operations are granted vehicular access on the Gulch Creek trail, and then only for the purpose of conducting mining operations. Supplies, equipment and other items on the claim would be reasonably incidental to actual current mining in progress. Mining equipment or materials not actively being used for mining activities would not be stored on site.

Finding

The activity described in these projects will not adversely affect natural hazard areas, coastal access, recreational uses or commercial uses and activities covered in the enforceable policies of the Kenai Peninsula Coastal Zone Management Plan.

Sincerely,



Gary Williams
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Coastal District Coordinator