

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Coastal Zone Management Program

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**DAVE CAREY
BOROUGH MAYOR**

October 2, 2009

Ms. Ashley Reed Kalli, Project Review Coordinator
State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Office of Project Management and Permitting
Alaska Coastal Management Program
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 705
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: Last Hope Bear Creek placer mining, AK 0909-07AA

Dear Ms Kalli:

The Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal District has reviewed the subject project for consistency with the enforceable policies of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal Management Program and finds the project consistent with those policies.

Project Description

The project subject to this consistency review is placer mining using a 4-inch suction dredge on Bear Creek at the Last Hope #1 (AA077818) and #2 (AA077819) mining claims. The site would be mined between May 1 and October 31 each year. Access to the mining site is by 4-wheeler on the existing Bear Creek Road. The road would be maintained to a 4-wheel-drive standard by removing fallen trees and brush, filling potholes, and clearing avalanche debris. A 350-foot long new segment of trail paralleling Bear Creek would be built on the lower end of Last Hope #1 by leveling existing tailings with a backhoe and cutting alder with a chainsaw. Gas would be transported to the site in 5-gallon plastic containers.

Bear Creek would be mined using a 4-inch suction dredge. All mining would take place within the stream channels. Bear Creek is approximately 25 feet to 40 feet wide and 6 inches to 2 feet deep with a gravel substrate. Large boulders in the creek would be moved minimal distances with an 8,000 pound electric winch. A John Deere 650 dozer or smaller would be used to winch the largest boulders. The dozer would operate from the existing trail. Dozer work would be for 15 days per year, and the dozer would be removed from the trail daily.

Scope of Project

The scope of the project to be reviewed is placer mining in Bear Creek using a 4-inch suction dredge, moving boulders in Bear Creek using an electric winch and dozer, maintaining Bear Creek Road, and constructing a new 350-foot segment of trail on old tailings using a dozer and chainsaw.

The location is one mile up Bear Creek Road near Hope; within sections 34 and 35, Township 10 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian; within the Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal Resource District.

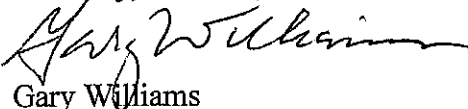
Findings

The activity proposed does not pose a threat to vegetative cover in a designated erosion-prone area (KPBCZMP Policy 2.2, Erosion) nor does the activity conflict with recreational uses or in-water development policies (KPBCZMP Policy 3.0, Recreational and Coastal Access).

With regard to the effect of the proposed project on fish habitat, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal District defers to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Gary Williams
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Coastal Management Program Coordinator