

APPENDIX A

Preliminary Research Results

Air Quality: According to Alaska Administrative Code (AAC), 18 AAC 50.015, Nome is a Class II area. Nome is designated unclassifiable for air quality attainment meaning there is insufficient information to classify the area as attainment or non-attainment for the various air pollutants.

Coastal Zone Management: The project area falls within the Alaska Coastal Zone Boundary (www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us). A Coastal Zone review may be required for this project pending permit requirements.

Contaminated Sites, Spills and Underground Storage Tanks: Preliminary research of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (ADEC) Contaminated Sites database revealed there were no contaminated sites or leaking underground storage tanks in the vicinity of the project (<http://www.dec.state.ak.us>).

Historical, Archeological and Cultural Properties: A cultural / archaeological resources survey was completed by Northern Land Use Research for this project during October 2006 of the Nome-Taylor Road from MP68 to MP85.5 including four material sources adjacent to the road. Serpentine Hot Springs Access Road is not listed as a qualified RS-2477 ROW. Ten known AHRS sites were identified near the proposed project area, but not within the project area.

- BEN-004 (Brakes Bottom): Mining camp location
- BEN-010 (Dahl, Quartz Creek): Former mining camp active from about 1900-1914, with a post office from 1905-1913.
- BEN-067 No information; likely a placer gold mining area.
- BEN-125 (Kuzitrin River Bridge): Howe truss metal bridge building in 1915 by the Penn Bridge Company, erected in Fairbanks in 1917, and moved to its present location over the Kuzitrin River in 1958-1959.
- BEN-127 (Kougarok River Bridge): Bowstring Arch Pony steel truss bridge fabricated by the Duffin Iron Company in 1940 and constructed over the Kougarok River in 1941 by the Alaska Road Commission. The bridge is in its original location.
- BEN-128 (Shelton, Selton, Lanes Landing): Settlement started about 1907 where the Kougarok mining trail crossed the Kuzitrin River. The Shelton Post Office was established in 1907 and the town was active until about 1918. It served as the northern terminus of the Seward Peninsula Railroad from 1906 to 1935. Several structures remain standing.
- BEN-141 (Coffee Creek to Dahl Creek Ditch): Ditch related to hydraulic mining, about 1903; the first long ditch in the Kougarok Mining District.
- BEN-142 (Camp Creek to Wonder Creek Ditch): Ditch related to hydraulic mining, about 1906.

- BEN-164 (Dahl Creek Cabin): A large cabin or roadhouse at Dahl Creek, apparently dating to about 1918 and the 1950's.
- BEN-165 (Historic Mining Equipment): Collection of mining equipment.\

BEN-125 and BEN-127 lie immediately adjacent to the south and north ends of the APE respectfully, and are not within the APE. No previously unrecorded cultural resources were identified within the project area for the road or material sites.

Wetlands: A review of the USFWS National Wetland Inventory website (www.wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/wtlnds/launch.html) indicated that no wetland data is available for the majority of the study area. DOWL Engineers performed a wetland delineation in June 2007. A report outlining the findings will be available Fall 2007.

Anadromous Fish Streams/Essential Fish Habitat: A review of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game *Atlas of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* (www.gis.sf.adfg.state.ak.us) identified two anadromous streams in the project area. Kuzitrin River (#332-00-10250) is a known spawning area for chum and pink salmon. Kougarok River (#322-00-10250-2285) is a known rearing area for Dolly Varden and for the presence of chum, pink and coho salmon.

Current plans do not include any work below the ordinary high watermark for the Kuzitrin or Kougarok Rivers. Therefore, DOT&PF does not anticipate the need for a Title 41 Permit from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) or an Essential Fish Habitat Assessment and consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

State Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries: A review of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) website listing critical habitats in the State of Alaska (www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/SARR/SpecialAreas/SpecialAreas.cfm) found that there are no refuges, critical habitat areas or sanctuaries within the project area.

State Land Use Plans/State Parks: The following State land use plans will be considered as part of this analysis:

- City of Nome Comprehensive Plan, Phase I (2003)
- Nome Land Use Plan (2005)

Land Ownership and Use: The proposed project will occur within the existing ROW of Serpentine Hot Springs Access Road. Therefore, no additional land acquisition will be required to accomplish the proposed improvements.

Navigability, Floodplain Management: A review of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District website (www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/NavWat.htm) revealed that the Kuzitrin River is considered navigable waters of Alaska. The Corps of Engineers definition of navigable waters includes: "those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce."

Flood Insurance Rate Maps from the Federal Emergency Management Agency were checked to see if the project lay within a floodplain. There is no community within the project corridor that participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and flood hazard maps are not available. The Corps of Engineers Floodplain Management website notes that no flood events have been documented for the project area.

Federal Recreation Areas: There are no Federal Recreation Areas located within, or adjacent to the project area.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The proposed project will take place within the DOT&PF ROW; therefore no BLM land will be affected.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Review of the USFWS Alaska Region website (<http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/endangered/pdf/SPPLIS0206.pdf>) revealed there are two species listed as threatened and occur in the proposed project area, the spectacled (Somateria fischeri), and Steller's (Polysticta stelleri) eiders. Neither species currently nests on the Seward Peninsula and although both migrate through the area the proposed road improvement activities are not anticipated to have any adverse effects to either species. An area of Norton Sound is also designated as a critical habitat unit to protect molting spectacled eiders, however, as the proposed activities will take place in the terrestrial environment no adverse effects to critical habitat are anticipated.

Essential Fish Habitat: Under the current design there will be no impacts to anadromous fish streams; therefore no essential fish habitat consultation is required.

National Wildlife Refuges: A review of the USF&WS website (<http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/map.htm>) was consulted to determine if National Wildlife Refuges exist in the project area; none are present.

National Parks, Preserves, Monuments, and Wild and Scenic Rivers: The project area is not located within any national parks, preserves, or monuments therefore there will be no impacts to these resources. Furthermore, there are no wild and scenic rivers within the project area.

Material, Disposal and Staging Sites: Material source and disposal sites will be Contractor furnished. Per DOT&PF specifications, if the Contractor elects to develop their own material site, they will be responsible for implementing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and obtaining all permits and clearances necessary for undeveloped material and disposal sites.

Water Quality: A SWPPP and 401 Certification from the ADEC will be needed for project construction.