

E1-7361



"Czelusniak, Daniel"
<DCzelusniak@icfi.com>
04/21/2008 11:26 AM

To <David.Navecky@stb.dot.gov>
cc "Summerville, Alan" <ASummerville@icfi.com>, "Bauer,
David" <DBauer@icfi.com>
bcc

Subject FW: Port MacKenzie Rail scoping comments

Hello Dave,

Please see Mike Nagy's email below containing a Port Mac scoping comment sent by the USFWS.

Daniel A. Czelusniak
ICF International
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031
Phone: (703) 218-2780
Fax: (703) 934-3270
Email: dczelusniak@icfi.com

-----Original Message-----

From: MNagy@entrinx.com [mailto:MNagy@entrinx.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2008 5:50 PM
To: Czelusniak, Daniel
Subject: Fw: Port MacKenzie Rail scoping comments

Dan,

The attached email should be considered scoping comments from USFWS.

Mike Nagy
ENTRIX, Inc.
1600 A Street, Suite 304
Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone: (907) 563-0438
FAX: (907) 563-0439
Cell Phone: (907) 223-4394

----- Forwarded by Mike Nagy/Entrinx on 04/16/2008 01:45 PM -----

Maureen_deZeeuw@f

ws.gov

To

04/16/2008 12:14

MNagy@entrinx.com

PM

cc

Subject

Port MacKenzie Rail scoping
comments

Dear Michael,

We have reviewed the NOI concerning the proposed Port MacKenzie Rail Extension, and are responding to the February 12, 2008, request from the Surface Transportation Board for comments. We did submit scoping comments

to the Alaska Railroad Corporation (Brian Lindamood) on October 19, 2007.

The plans do not appear to have changed substantially yet, and as you and I

have previously discussed on the phone, the comments of the FWS also remain

little changed at this time and we ask you to refer to them.

In particular, we continue to express three main areas of concern: 1) habitat fragmentation, 2) cumulative impacts, and 3) compensatory mitigation. The first two items also in turn emphasize the need for comprehensive land use planning, including green infrastructure planning,

for this large and relatively undisturbed site. We are particularly concerned that the Scope of Study does not yet address either green infrastructure planning or cumulative impacts. The far west alternative also remains in your plans, and as we have previously expressed, presents

significant habitat fragmentation and cumulative impact challenges.

You have asked us for any additional information, and at this time we wish

to draw your attention to the Bird Conservation Region 4 habitat map which

has just been completed by the interagency/NGO organization Boreal Partners

in Flight, via the Alaska Bird Observatory (ABO) in Fairbanks. The map and

additional information is available from Susan Sharbaugh at ABO (907-451-7159). Also, we are aware of a habitat restoration project (Mat Su

Borough sponsored?) between Anna Lake and Stephen Lake. Chuck Kausic may

be your contact for more information on that project. I believe you are

aware of the wetlands mapping and functional assessment project headed by the Mat Su Borough that overlaps with some of your project area. The FWS is currently involved on the wetlands mapping and functional assessment team, particularly looking at bird habitat use, but the project is in its beginning stages only. It may prove to be efficient and worthwhile to combine forces to work on bird habitat use in the overlapping area. We expect more developments regarding the bird habitat variable of the functional assessment over the coming weeks and months, and would be happy to discuss this issue further with you. Finally, there is a Breeding Bird Survey route for the Nancy Lakes/Willow area.

We look forward to keeping the lines of communication open as your project planning proceeds, and particularly hope to work together on green infrastructure planning. Also, we would also like to provide general support for the scoping comments provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service on March 21, 2008. Please contact me at the address below or this email address if you have any questions concerning these comments.

Sincerely,

Maureen de Zeeuw
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 60
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
PH: (907) 271-2777
FAX: (907) 271-2786

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