

EI-H.99



"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

HeHo Dave,

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

Daniel A. Czelusniak  
ICF International  
9300 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22011  
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 OSFWS.

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

Phone: (907) 563-0438  
FAX: (907) 563-0439  
Cell Phone: (907) 333-4394

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

Maureen de2eeuw@

ws.gov

To

04/36/2008 12:14

MNagy@entrinx.com

FM

cc

Subject

Port MaeKongie Rail scoping  
comments

Dear Michael,

We have reviewed the NOI concerning the proposed Port MacKenzie Road 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 Lindanood) on October 19, 2008.

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 a 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 Bud Conservation Region A habitat map which has just been completed by the Nitt Agency/NGO organization Borua I Partners in Flight, via the Alaska Lurtti Observatory (ABO) in Fairbanks. The map and additional information is available from Susan Sharbaugh at AE^O (907-461-7159). Also, we are aware of a habitat restoration project (Mat Gu Borough sponsored?) between Anna Lake and Stephen Lake. Chuck Kau 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 this project is in its beginning stages only. It may prove to be efficient and worthwhile to coordinate efforts to work on bird habitat use in the over-Jacking area. We expect more developments regarding the bird habitat viability 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/Ha How 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.

H: m-erely,

Margaret Zeeuw  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 60  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
PH: (907) 211-7111  
FAX: (907) 271-2786

NOTICE:

This message is for the designated recipient only and may contain privileged or confidential information. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this e-mail by you is prohibited.