

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645



## CHAIRPERSON

Mike Wood

## VICE CHAIR

Howard Delo

## MSB STAFF

Ted Eischeid

## BOARD MEMBERS

Tam Boeve

Andy Couch

Larry Engel

Tim Hale

Pete Probasco

Kendra Zamzow

*Ex officio:* VACANT

## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### AGENDA

MSB DSJ Bldg, Lower Level Conference Room, Palmer AK

March 18, 2021 – 4:00 PM

### **Remote Participation Options:** Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 907-290-7880,,791054415# United States, Anchorage

Phone Conference ID: **791 054 415#**

Landlines: use \*6 to mute/unmute.

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Meeting Documents available on the FWC Web Page: <https://www.matsugov.us/boards/fishcommission>

**MSB Directive #10 for COVID-19:** Cloth facial coverings or a face shield are required (with limited exceptions) while in a Mat-Su Borough facility; face masks are available upon request.

## REGULAR MEETING

4 P.M.

March 18, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; ESTABLISH QUORUM

- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - a. February 18, 2021
- IV. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS & PARTICIPATION (3 min./person, chair's discretion)
- V. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS
  - a. West Susitna Access Road Project Update-Brad Sworts (MSB) and Jesse Peterson (AIDEA).
  - b. Staff report/correspondence-Ted Eischeid.
  - c. Senator Scott Kawasaki-[Senate Bill 44](#) on Personal Use Fisheries Priority.
  - d. Supplemental Wetland Mitigation Ordinance follow up-Ted Eischeid & Alex Strawn.
- VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS
  - 1. West Susitna Access Road Project
  - 2. MSB Supplemental Wetland Mitigation Ordinance – Resolution FWC 21-01/Public Hearing.
  - 3. Federal Subsistence Board upcoming wildlife regulatory cycle/proposals
- VII. MEMBER COMMENTS
- VIII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING – April 15, 2021, 4 PM – AGENDA AND PRESENTATION IDEAS?
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

**MSB Lower Level Conference Room //TEAMS Remote Participation Option**

**Minutes prepared by Ted Eischeid, Planner II**

**REGULAR MEETING**                      **4 P.M.**                      **February 18, 2021**

**I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Meeting called to order at 4:05 PM.

Roll Call:

Present: Mike Wood (MW), Howard Delo (HD), Tam Boeve (TB), Andy Couch (AC), Larry Engel (LE), Kendra Zamzow (KZ).

Absent: Tim Hale, Pet Probasco (excused).

Quorum established.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- Motion: Moved to approve LE;
- Second: AC
- Discussion: None
- Action: Passed unanimously without objection.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. January 21, 2021**

- Motion: Moved to approve by AC
- Second: LE
- Discussion:
  - KZ:
    - add “FWC Candidate” after her name under IV. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS & PARTICIPATION.
  - AC:
    - Under I-b. Present: add “Andy Couch”.
    - On p. 3 of the minutes under VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS, 1-i-b: add “hunts” after “moose” on line 2; on line 3 change “bear exemption fees” to “brown bear fee exemptions”; on line 4 change “would” to “may”.
- Action: Motion passed unanimously as corrected.

IV. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS & PARTICIPATION (3 min./person, chair's discretion)

1. Mike Brown, staff
2. Bill Stoltze, phone, Birchwood
  - Gave AK Legislative update.
3. Neil Dewitt, phone: shared comment on subsistence.
4. Becky Long, phone, Talkeetna: supports SWMO; thanks FWC for monthly updates on WSAR, shared some concerns about WSAR project.
5. Melissa Heuer, Susitna River Coalition.
6. Steve Braund, Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet.
7. Marlowe Scully.
8. Roberta Budnik, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

V. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. West Susitna Access Road Project Update
- b. Staff report/correspondence
- c. Supplemental Wetland Mitigation Ordinance presentation

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. West Susitna Access Road Project
  - No updates
2. Alaska Board of Game Actions
  - a. Proposals/brown bear & antlerless moose-Comments and Action
  - b. FWC request to BOG providing public opportunity to submit new, withdraw old, or amend current proposals.
    - Motion: AC that FWC submit the letter to BOG on p. 17 of packet with minor modifications to the header.
    - Second: HD
    - Discussion: Ensued.
    - Action: Motion passed unanimously.
3. Federal Subsistence Board upcoming wildlife regulatory cycle/proposals
  - Discussion:
    - MW: not familiar with this in the MSB; HD- PP would be very helpful on this issue, perhaps doing a presentation at the next meeting.

- MW: does any know about Subsistence activities happening in the MSB<sup>5</sup>  
HD – yes, this deals with federal land within the MSB;
- Bill Stoltze: HD is probably right.
- LE: SC Subsistence will be meeting next week, maybe some of us should attend; HD – I can listen into part of it. MW will try to learn more about it.
- Motion: AC moved to look at this in the next meeting/agenda with input from PP
- Second: HD
- Discussion:
- Action: Passed without objection.

4. MSB Supplemental Wetland Mitigation Ordinance – approve public hearing for 3/18/21 FWC agenda.

- Motion: LE moved to add SWMO to March agenda and hold a public hearing.
- Second: AC/HD
- Discussion:
- Action: Passed without objection.

5. ADFG King Salmon Fishing Regulation for upcoming MSB sport fishery (AC).

- Discussion:
- AC: red p. 39+; gave some background; Doesn't have a motion, but plans to further investigate this issue.
- Motion:
- Second:
- Discussion:
- Action:

6. Appointing a committee to discuss FWC history and priorities with MSB Management.

Discussion:

- AC: moved to create a committee of up to three people to meet with Manager Mike Brown to discuss the FWC; AC, HD, LE.
- Second: HD

- Discussion:
- Action: Passed without objection

## VII. MEMBER COMMENTS

1. HD: This was a good meeting; getting ready for warmer weather; Stefan Hinman sent me some radio interview about UCIDA/CIK.
2. TB: none.
3. AC: not sure what's happening with the fishing season; tour boats won't be running; far from a full season of bookings; I would welcome and opportunity to get FWC members out on my boat this summer like I've done in the past, showing some of our local fisheries; king salmon, dip net fishery, silver salmon trip.
4. LE: thank for the meeting materials
5. Ted: need questions from FWC members regarding SWMO.
6. MW: congrats to Ted on NFHP.

## VIII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING – March 18, 2021, 4 PM – AGENDA AND PRESENTATION IDEAS?

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

- LE: moved to adjourn;
- HD: second.
- Lost quorum when MW was disconnected; meeting ended at 6:07 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Wood, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Eischeid, Planner II Staff

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated



# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

## Planning and Land Use Department

### Planning Division

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-7833

<http://www.matsugov.us> • [planning@matsugov.us](mailto:planning@matsugov.us)

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**Date:** 18 March 2021

**Re:** FWC Staff Report

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#### 1. National Fish Habitat Partnership Board update:

- First meeting with new board was Feb. 19; orientation and future work.
- Will be meeting monthly to implement requirements of ACE Act.

#### 2. Supplemental Wetlands Mitigation Ordinance 21-025 update

- Recent changes to timeline:
  - Planning Commission work on SWMO is now scheduled as follows:
    - April 5<sup>th</sup>, Introduction.
    - April 19<sup>th</sup>, public hearing and action.
- Some changes to language in SWMO 21-025 since last meeting:
  - Ordinance title modified to specify what “large-scale” specifically means;
  - Deleted references to “jurisdictional waters” and replaced with “waters of the United States”; removed the former from definitions;
  - Changes in “Applicability” section:
    - (C)(1)(b): deleted “5” and replaced with “10”;
    - (C)(2): deleted “initiated with”, replaced by “issued a permit decision document by”.

#### 3. Anchorage Watershed and Natural Resources Advisory Committee Update

- a. February meeting – Canceled.
- b. March 24<sup>th</sup>, 12-1 PM, via Teams.

#### 4. FWC committee meeting with Manager Brown update.

*Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community*

*Ted Eischeid, Planner II*

*Supporting Environmental Planning and the MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission.*

[Ted.eischeid@matsugov.us](mailto:Ted.eischeid@matsugov.us) Ph. 907.861-8606, Cell 795-6281

3/18/2021

MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission

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**5. Agenda items-staff review:**

1. West Susitna Access Road Project – open house and public comment summary.
2. MSB Supplemental Wetland Mitigation Ordinance – Resolution FWC 21-01/Public Hearing.
3. Federal Subsistence Board upcoming wildlife regulatory cycle/proposals



**SENATE BILL NO. 44**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR KAWASAKI

Introduced: 1/25/21

Referred: Resources, Finance

**A BILL****FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1   **"An Act requiring the Board of Fisheries to prioritize personal use fisheries when**  
2   **implementing fishing restrictions to achieve a management goal."**

3   **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4    \* **Section 1.** AS 16.05.251 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5           (j) Except as provided in AS 16.05.258, when the harvest of a stock or species  
6           is limited to achieve a management goal, the Board of Fisheries shall place restrictions  
7           on all other fisheries before restricting personal use fisheries. In this subsection,  
8           "management goal" means the escapement or estimated population size of the  
9           exploited stock that provides the greatest potential for sustained yield as established by  
10          the board.





## Public Outreach Summary

### Online Open House and Virtual Public Meeting

Alaska Industrial Development and Export  
Authority

West Susitna Access Road Project

Anchorage, Alaska  
November 13 – December 20, 2020

West Susitna Access Road Project

### Welcome!

The West Susitna Access Road Project meeting will  
begin shortly.

Webex Help: 866.229.3239

Visit us online: [westsusitnaonline.org](https://westsusitnaonline.org)

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- Attachment C: Postcard
- Attachment D: Advertisement in the *Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman*
- Attachment E: E-Blasts
- Attachment F: Project Flyer
- Attachment G: Radio Public Service Announcement
- Attachment H: Comment Log

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# Introduction

This public outreach summary is used for tracking and documentation of public involvement activities. It outlines some of the public involvement strategies and tactics used to engage the public on the West Susitna Access Road Project. The summary includes a description of the November 13 to December 20, 2020, Online Open House and Virtual Public Meeting on December 3, 2020.

## Online Open House and Virtual Meeting

On Friday, November 15, 2020, the West Susitna Access Road Project team kicked off an online, interactive, self-guided public open house on the project website that was available through Sunday, December 20, 2020. The Online Open House consisted of a total of 13 sections that outlined project information and 1 section that included ways to comment on the project. The purpose of the Online Open House was to invite the public to learn about the project and provide feedback on the upcoming project phases.

In conjunction with the Online Open House, the project team hosted a Virtual Public Meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2020, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at which 44 members of the public interacted with the project team through a WebEx Event (Attachment A).

## Attendance

A total of 162 users visited the Online Open House on Thursday, December 3, 2020, with a total of 44 users (peak of 25 users at 5:00pm) visiting the site during the Virtual Public Meeting from 4:00pm to 6:00pm (Attachment B). For the duration of the comment period (November 13 through December 20, 2020), the site was viewed 1,327 times (Attachment B).

## Advertising

The Online Open House was advertised in the following ways:

- Meeting information on the project website:  
<http://www.aidea.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx>
- Postcard mailer to residents near the project area (total of 198; Attachment C)
- One advertisement in the *Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman* newspaper (Attachment D)
- Two E-Blasts sent to the project distribution list (total of 59 contacts; Attachment E)
- Personalized calls and email notifications, containing the meeting flyer (Attachment F), were sent to local stakeholders including the Alaska Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Alliance, Alaska Miners Association, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, Resource Development Council, and Associated General Contractors of Alaska.
- Radio Public Service Announcements (Attachment G) played from December 1, 2020 through December 4, 2020 on KAYO 100.9 Classic Country and Kool 97.3.
- Announcements of the Online Open House and Virtual Public Meeting were delivered at the November 11, 2020 Mat-Su Borough Assembly Meeting and the November 19, 2020 Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting.

## Summary of Comments

The comments received during the Online Open House and the Virtual Public Meeting (Attachment H) focused primarily on the details of the estimated project cost, mining claims, environmental impacts, outreach to affected landowners, and agency collaboration.



## Attachment A

### Virtual Meeting Transcript

West Sustina Access Road Project Virtual Public Meeting  
December 3, 2020 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Activity Detailed Report

Attendance Count		Event Start Date	Event Start Time	First Name	Last Name	Company	Email	Join Time	Leave Time	Attendance Duration	Chat	Chat sent at	Question	Question sent at	Question sent to	Priority	Answer	Answer sent at	Answered by	Responded to
	1	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Rachel	James	none	rachelanjanmes@gmail.com	4:04 PM	5:03 PM	117.0 mins	N/A	N/A	Thank you for the presentation. Please give some specifics regarding the 3,000 mining claims you mentioned earlier in the presentation: Who holds the claims and are they Alaskan? If not, where are they from? Please provide details on the company/companies.	3:10 PM	All Panelists	N/A	Answered verbally and will follow-up with more information.	5:18 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
	2	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Marleanna	Hall	Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.	marleanna@akdc.org	4:01 PM	5:35 PM	93.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	3	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Stephanie	Rowland		stephaniefrowland@hotmail.com	3:52 PM	5:04 PM	131.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4a	4b	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Jason	Rockvam	Wilderness Place Lodge	jrockak@yahoo.com	3:56 PM	5:04 PM	127.0 mins	N/A	N/A	There are mainly wetlands, and a volatile floodplain. Surface water contamination is unavoidable. How can you convince the public that this is environmentally responsible? Not just the road, but logging, gas, development are inevitable future threats.	4:30 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	4:51 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
	5	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Geoff	Johns		gjohns@aidea.org	4:07 PM	4:30 PM	23.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Geoff	Johns		gjohns@aidea.org	4:33 PM	5:04 PM	30.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Ryan	Peterson		rpeterson@westmountaingold.com	4:06 PM	5:04 PM	117.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Julie	Anderson	State of Alaska	julie.anderson@alaska.gov	4:22 PM	4:39 PM	17.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	9	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Jeff	Logan		jefflogan@gci.net	4:30 PM	4:35 PM	4.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



23	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	John	Lamborn		jlamborn@yahoo.com	4:06 PM	4:48 PM	41.0 mins	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A					
24	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Melissa	Heuer	Coalition For Sustna Dam Alternatives	melissa@sustnrivercoalition.org	3:37 PM	3:37 PM	1.0 min	N/A		N/A	N/A		Do you know when this will be posted?	6:04 PM	All Panelists	N/A	N/A	N/A	
25	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Melissa	Heuer	Coalition For Sustna Dam Alternatives	melissa@sustnrivercoalition.org	3:55 PM	5:04 PM	129.0 mins	N/A		N/A	N/A		Do you know when this will be posted?	6:04 PM	All Panelists	N/A	N/A	N/A	
26	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Kendra	Zamzow		kizamzow@chickaloonnsn.gov	4:01 PM	5:24 PM	82.0 mins	N/A		N/A	N/A		Will AIDEA commit to having an independent third party, possibly through the MSB, to review the estimated costs?	4:45 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
27	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Richard	Porter	Knik Tribe	rporter@kniktribe.org	4:18 PM	6:09 PM	110.0 mins	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
28	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	steve	& denise perrins	The Perrins' Rainy Pass Lodge	theperrins@rainypasslodg.e.net	4:04 PM	6:04 PM	119.0 mins	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
29a		4:00 pm Alaska Time				israelbof@gmail.com	4:21 PM	6:09 PM	107.0 mins	N/A		N/A		Pretty easy, to find the stakeholders, get on Mat su bourgh website tax map and send mail outs.	6:02 PM	All Panelists	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
29b	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Israel	Payton			4:21 PM	6:09 PM		N/A		N/A		thanks,	6:02 PM	All Panelists	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
30a		4:00 pm Alaska Time				bobl@jadenorh.com	3:59 PM	6:04 PM	125.0 mins	N/A		N/A		I'm just curious. How many attendees are there?	4:09 PM	Host	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	4:34 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
30b									December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Bob	Loeffler								You are estimating the cost of the road in Ph II. What is the width of the road	5:14 PM
31	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Mark	Byers		mbyers61@outlook.com	4:04 PM	5:01 PM	57.0 mins	N/A		N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
32	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Stefan	Hinman		stefan.hinman@matsugov.us	3:57 PM	6:04 PM	127.0 mins	N/A		N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
33	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Ryan	Schryver	SalmonState	ryanschryver@gmail.com	4:13 PM	4:37 PM	24.0 mins	N/A		N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
34	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Stefan	Saldanha		stefan.saldanha@alaska.gov	4:02 PM	4:49 PM	47.0 mins	N/A		N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
35	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Steve	Charles		scharles@mtaonline.net	4:09 PM	4:16 PM	7.0 mins	N/A		N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

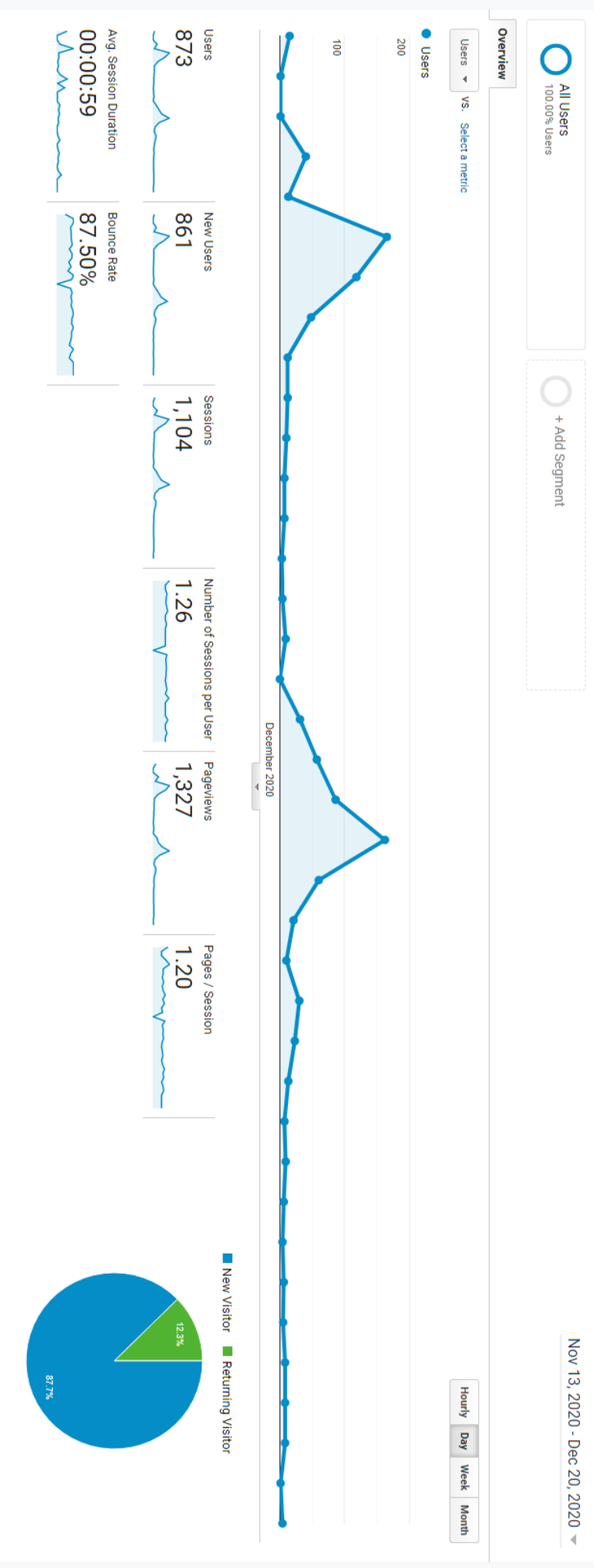
			4:00 pm Alaska Time	Stephanie	Nowers		stephanienowersdistrict2@gmail.com	4:57 PM	5:51 PM	114.0 mins	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
36	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Rod	Arno	Alaska Outdoor Council	rodarno@gmail.com	4:11 PM	4:41 PM	29.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
37	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Rod	Arno	Alaska Outdoor Council	rodarno@gmail.com	4:11 PM	4:41 PM	29.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
38	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Rod	Arno	Alaska Outdoor Council	rodarno@gmail.com	4:42 PM	5:53 PM	71.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
39	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Wayne	Brosman	Pacific Consulting Group	pcgwhb@gmail.com	3:56 PM	6:09 PM	133.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Thank you for your hard work team! I am looking forward to this project working for everyone locally and for all of Alaska.	5:04 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:16 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
40a	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time								N/A	N/A	If this is a public meeting, why are the names of the attendees hidden?	4:40 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	4:54 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly			
40b	December 3, 2020												N/A	N/A	Please listen to the concerns of the private land owners. The track record you boast of does not exist. Where are the salmon going. If you really want to brag about wildlife just take the time to compare the wildlife harvests of other states vs. Alaska.	5:58 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	6:01 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
40c	December 3, 2020												N/A	N/A	When you have time the data to compare is available.	6:02 PM	All Panelists	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
41	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	eric	phillips	Mat Su Borough	eric.phillips@matsugov.us	4:03 PM	6:04 PM	121.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
42	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Randy	Ruaro	State of Alaska	randy.ruaro@alaska.gov	3:54 PM	5:30 PM	96.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
43	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Steve	Perrins	Rainy Pass Lodge	guide88@hotmail.com	3:59 PM	6:05 PM	124.0 mins	N/A	N/A	I sent in a comment email but never heard back a response, can you check if it was received at your end?	5:47 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:51 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly			
44	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Jillian	Jablonski	Tyonek Tribal Conservation District	jjablonski@ttcd.org	4:01 PM	6:02 PM	120.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
45	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Jok	Bondurant		n3829j@yahoo.com	5:40 PM	6:04 PM	23.0 mins	N/A	N/A	will any attempt be made to prevent decimation of game in the road area?	5:52 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:52 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly			
46	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	C	G		cger1@hotmail.com	4:30 PM	6:05 PM	95.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
47	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Taunnie	Boothby	PO box 962	tboothby@gmail.com	4:22 PM	6:09 PM	106.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		

		4:00 pm Alaska Time	Kirsten	Dixon	Within The Wild Adventure Co	kirsten@withinthewild.co	4:22 PM	5:41 PM	78.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
48	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Kirsten	Dixon	Within The Wild Adventure Co	kirsten@withinthewild.co	4:22 PM	5:41 PM	78.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
49	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Kirsten	Dixon	Within The Wild Adventure Co	kirsten@withinthewild.co	5:53 PM	5:59 PM	5.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
														There are 100s if not thousands of cabins and homesteads in the area of the proposed road. They are largely off-grid and cannot comment via email or web submission. You need to find another way to do outreach to those land owners.		All	N/A	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:55 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
50a		4:00 pm Alaska Time				contactkevinhere@yahoo.com				N/A	N/A			This area is the playground for Mat-Su and the greater Anchorage area; most of Alan just mentioned a 2nd email address. Can you pls verify that adderss and speak to if it is a better or worse place to comment than the westsusitnaaccess.org email address? Which one is guaranteed to make the public record?	5:52 PM	All	N/A	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:55 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
50b	December 3, 2020		Kevin	Masterson			3:51 PM	6:09 PM	137.0 mins							All	N/A	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:55 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
51a										N/A	N/A					All	N/A	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:46 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
														omits and under deliver on resource impacts and mitigation, how can the public be certain they are not left holding the bag on cleaning up the mess that is left behind once the private corporations and lease holders finish extracting resources and move on?		All	N/A	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.		Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
51b														Being embroiled in years of expensive litigation isn't an option. The public does	5:53 PM	All	N/A	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:57 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
51c		4:00 pm Alaska Time														All	N/A	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:57 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
51d	December 3, 2020		Eric	Lubell		lubellski@gmail.com	3:55 PM	6:03 PM	128.0 mins					Sorry, first part of question: If and when the project proponents over promise...	5:54 PM	All	N/A	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:57 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
52	December 3, 2020	pm Alaska Time	Dan	Graham		dan@tfsengin eering.com	4:05 PM	6:03 PM	118.0 mins	N/A	N/A			Thanks panel. Well handled.	5:59 PM	All	N/A	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	6:01 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly

## Attachment B

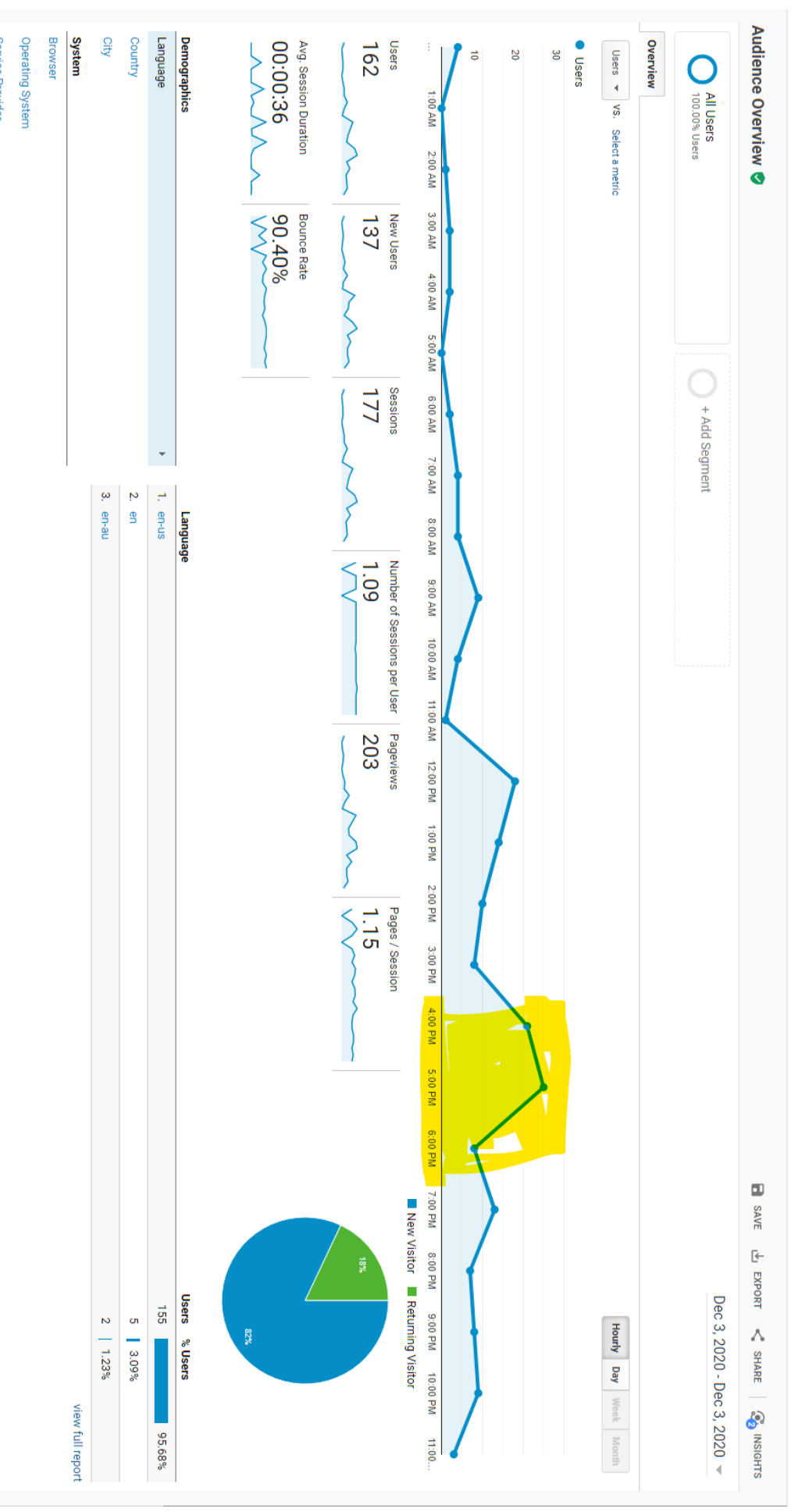
### Online Open House and Virtual Meeting Data

Participation during the Online Open House comment period (November 13 through December 20, 2020





Day of the Virtual Public meeting (December 3, 2020). There were a total of 25 users at peak time (5:00 PM) and an overall total of 162 users for the day.



## Attachment C

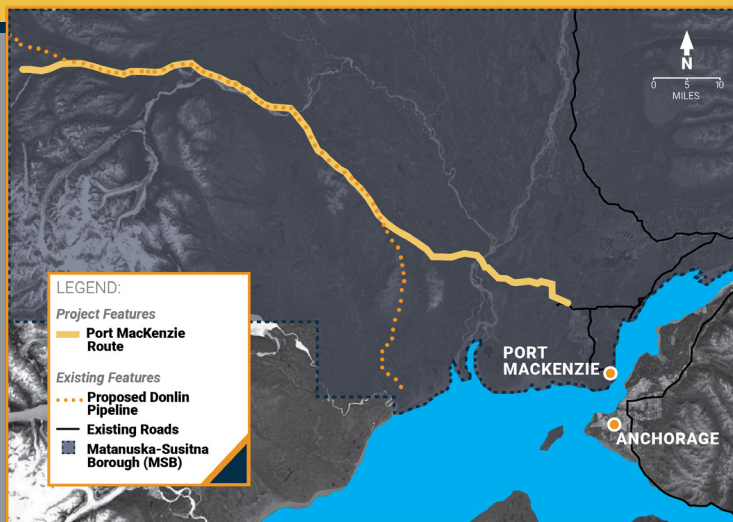
### Postcard

# ONLINE OPEN HOUSE NOTIFICATION

## West Susitna Access Road Project

Thursday, December 3, 2020

West Susitna Access  
Road Project  
C/O Alaska Industrial  
Development and Export Authority  
813 West Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



[www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx](http://www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx)

3/18/2021

MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission

27

# West Susitna Access Road Project

Scan Me!



## Online Open House Notification

Virtual Public Meeting  
Join the project team live!

**Thursday, December 3**

**4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Please Join the Team by going to this link at the time of the meeting:



**bit.ly/WSARP2020**



**Meeting Number (Access code):** 146 816 6093 | **Password:** WSARS2020

**To Join by Phone Call:** 1-408-418-9388

**Meeting Number (Access code):** 146 816 6093



Can't join us on December 3? An online open house will be available to review project materials and submit comments between **November 13 and December 20, 2020**, at [www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx](http://www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx)



**Interested in receiving project updates? Join our mailing list!**

[projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org](mailto:projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org)

*If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Josie Wilson, Public Involvement Lead, at (907) 644-2000.*

3/18/2021

MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission

28

## Attachment D

Advertisement in the  
*Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman*

# Palmer closes facilities to slow the spread of COVID-19

BY TIM ROCKEY  
Frontiersman.com

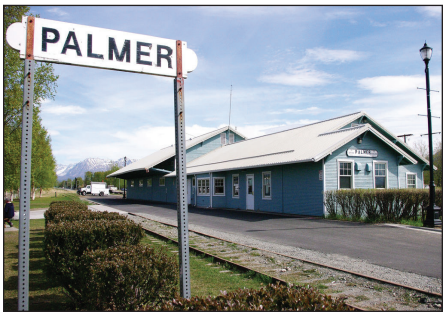
PALMER — On Friday, Palmer Manager John Moosey announced the closure of most city facilities as a precaution to slow the spread of COVID-19 in support of Gov. Dunleavy’s emergency action.

The MTA Event Center, Train Depot, City Hall, and visitor information center are all closed to the public. The visitor information center restroom will remain open to the public and the library will be closed to in-person reading but will offer curbside delivery. The buildings will remain closed from November 13 until December 1.

“Please, be aware that additional impacts to the City services may occur. The city of Palmer will strive to provide full service in the safest way practical,” wrote Moosey.

On Tuesday, the Palmer City Council will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m., for public hearing on Ordinance 20-016 that would enact a mask mandate in Palmer. The ordinance is sponsored by Deputy Mayor Sabrena Combs and Councilwoman Dr. Jill Valerius.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a public health emergency that threatens to overwhelm our health system, endangering the lives and well-being of our cit-



izens. The Governor has issued an emergency alert asking citizens to remain diligent is social distancing and masking. The CDC recommends wearing masks or face coverings in public settings in addition to maintaining six feet physical distancing. In line with his recommendation, the city puts forth this emergency ordinance to preserve the health and safety of our community,” reads the ordinance.

There were 584 new COVID-19 cases among Alaskans on Friday and there have been 21,275 total residents that have tested positive. In the Mat-Su, the 82 cases announced on Friday were tied for the second highest day since the start of the coronavirus pandemic with October 25. There have been 2,224 COVID-19 cases among Mat-Su residents. Of those, 626 were from Palmer and 247 of those remain active.

# 119 inmates test positive in Goose Creek COVID-19 outbreak

BY TIM ROCKEY  
Frontiersman.com

POINT MACKENZIE — The largest prison in Alaska now has the largest outbreak of inmates who have tested positive for COVID-19.

After an inmate initially tested positive for COVID-19 on October 28, 119 inmates have now been confirmed as positive at Goose Creek Correctional Center, which houses over 1,300 inmates. Inmates have been required to quarantine after transferring facilities since the spring, but additional protocols have been put in place at Goose Creek due to the outbreak.

“All transfers in and out of Goose Creek have been suspended for the time being. Additionally, staff are now required to wear surgical face masks (not cloth coverings) as they provide a higher degree of protection. Finally, testing of the quarantine and isolation mods is being conducted every three days until no positive results are received for 14 days instead of on an as needed basis,” said Department of Corrections Public Information Officer Sarah Gallagher.


An inmate at Goose Creek was the



FRONTIERSMAN FILE PHOTO  
**The Goose Creek Correctional Center.**

first housed inside Alaska correctional facilities to test positive for COVID-19 in late April and the effort to limit the infection to just one inmate was commended by Gov. Mike Dunleavy. Now two weeks after the first inmate tested positive, 119 have now also tested positive. Of the housing mods that each contain approximately 100 inmates, one mod is quarantined and another mod is isolated with confirmed positive or symptomatic inmates. There have been 618 tests conducted on inmates. Only one member of the Goose Creek staff has tested positive thus far.

“Staff are advised to seek testing in the community,” said Gallagher.



Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District  
School Board Meeting  
**November 18, 2020**  
Regular Meeting 6 PM  
MSBSD Central Office  
501 N Gulkana, Palmer  
Occupancy may be limited due to distancing

### Tentative Agenda

Call to Order/Quorum/Pledge of Allegiance/Approval of Agenda  
Oath of Office for Member Elected November 3, 2020  
Reorganization of the Board – Selection of Officers

Persons to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (as governed by BP 9323)  
Borough and City Reports

Administrative Reports  
A. Education Support Professional Recognition  
B. Federal Programs

Superintendent Update /Student Advisory Board Report

Consent Agenda  
A. Minutes, October 21, 2020  
B. Request for Grant Acceptance – All Federal Funds

Action Items

Non-Action Items  
A. Houston High School 95% Design  
B. FY21 Legislative Priorities

Persons to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items – (as governed by BP 9323)

Future Items/Future Business  
December 2, 2020 6 PM Regular Board Meeting, MSBSD Central Office

Correspondence/Board Committee Reports

Comments from School Board and Administration

Executive Session (AS 44.62.310 & BP 9321)

All regular School Board meetings are broadcast on Radio Free Palmer KVRF 89.5  
Live streaming is also available at [www.matsuk12.us](http://www.matsuk12.us) - School Board page  
Publish: November 13 & 15, 2020

## West Susitna Access Road Project Virtual Public Meeting



**Virtual Public Meeting Details:**  
**Date:** December 3, 2020  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.



**Please Join the Team by going to this link at the time of the meeting:**

 **[bit.ly/WSARP2020](https://bit.ly/WSARP2020)**

**Meeting Number (Access code):** 146 816 6093  
**Password:** WSARS2020

 **To Join by Phone Call:** 1-408-418-9388  
**Meeting Number (Access code):** 146 816 6093

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, in coordination with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and industry partners, is in the pre-development feasibility stage of planning for a multi-use public access road leading to resource development opportunities, that will diversify the state and borough economy and lead to job creation.

Can't join us on December 3? An online open house will be available to review project materials and submit comments between November 13 and December 20, 2020 at

**[www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx](http://www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx)**

 **Interested in receiving project updates?**  
Join our mailing list at  
[projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org](mailto:projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org).

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Josie Wilson, Public Involvement Lead, at (907) 644-2000.

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Arctic Warrior: Every Friday  
Anchorage Press: Every Thursday  
The Eagle: Every Thursday

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READERS**  
BETWEEN GRIWOOD  
AND TALKEETNA

## Attachment E

### E-Blasts



[View this email in your browser](#)

# West Susitna Access Road Project



The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, in coordination with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and industry partners, is in the pre-development feasibility stage of planning for a multi-use public access road leading to resource development opportunities, that will diversify the state and borough economy and lead to job creation.

## **Online Open House**

**When:** November 13 to December 20, 2020

**Location:** <https://westsusitnaonline.org/>

## **Virtual Public Meeting**

**When:** December 3, 2020 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

**Location:** Visit this link to join the meeting: [bit.ly/WSARP2020](https://bit.ly/WSARP2020)

**Meeting Number:** (Access code):146 816 609

**Password:** WSARS2020



Interested in receiving project updates? Join our mailing list at  
[projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org](mailto:projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org)

**PROJECT WEBSITE**

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You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

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2525 C St  
Anchorage, AK 99503-2651

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**REMINDER:**  
**December 3, 2020**  
**Virtual Public Meeting**

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, in coordination with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and industry partners, is in the pre-development feasibility stage of planning for a multi-use public access road leading to resource development opportunities, that will diversify the state and borough economy and lead to job creation.

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**Meeting Number:** (Access code):146 816 609

**Password:** WSARS2020

Interested in receiving project updates? Join our mailing list  
at [projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org](mailto:projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org)

**PROJECT WEBSITE**

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## Attachment F

### Project Flyer

# West Susitna Access Road Project<sup>37</sup>

## Virtual Public Meeting Join Us!

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, in coordination with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and industry partners, is in the pre-development feasibility stage of planning for a multi-use public access road leading to resource development opportunities, that will diversify the state and borough economy and lead to job creation.



### Online Open House

#### When:

November 13 to December 20, 2020

#### Location:

<https://westsusitnaonline.org>

#### Project Updates:

Interested in receiving project updates or have questions, email the project team at [projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org](mailto:projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org)

### Virtual Public Meeting

**December 3, 2020**  
**from 4 to 6:00 p.m.**

**Visit this link to join the meeting:**  
[bit.ly/WSARP2020](https://bit.ly/WSARP2020)

**Meeting Number (Access code):**  
146 816 6093  
**Password:** WSARS2020

**Join by Phone Call:**  
1-408-418-9388

**Meeting Number (Access code):**  
146 816 6093

### Project Website:

<http://www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx>  
3/18/2021 MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission 37

## Attachment G

### Radio Public Service Announcement

## 1.0 West Susitna Access Road Project Radio PSA

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Join the West Susitna Access Road Project team at the upcoming virtual public meeting to provide input and learn about the project. The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2020 from 4 to 6 p.m. Visit [bit.ly/WSARP2020](https://bit.ly/WSARP2020) and use the access code: 146 816 6093 with password: WSARS2020 to participate in the meeting. The public is invited to view the online open house on the project website and provide comments from November 13, 2020 to December 20, 2020. Project website is: [www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx](http://www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx)

## Attachment H

### Comment Log



Comment Number		Date	Comment Type	Commenter	Conact Information	Organization	Comment
1		11/18/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Tom Harris	a.tom.harris@gmail.com	Public	Please place me on your contact list to receive West Susitna Access information.  Thank You Tom Harris Sent from my iPhone
2		11/27/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Steve H. Perrins II	Guide88@hotmail.com	Public	Can you please add me to your mailing list and include me in any project updates. Thank you very much, Steve H. Perrins II
3		12/1/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Russell Joyce	mail@westsusitnaonline.org	Public	Russell Joyce Rjoyce@mtaonline.net Please add me to any mailing list you compile in support of this project.
4		12/1/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Glenn Helmuth	helmuth@gci.net	Public	Glenn Helmuth helmuth@gci.net I support this, Alaskans need more access to our state, not everyone owns a plane or boat
5		11/23/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Willi Prittie	willi@mtaonline.net	Public	Dear AIDEA, Mat-Su borough, and others, I will log into your online open house and try to keep an open mind. But for now, I cannot imagine a worse use of public money in a difficult economic time than building a new long-distance road into an roadless area of Alaska, one that will only benefit large mining corporations. If this is such a great thing for Alaskans, then let the corporations in question build their own road with their own money and go through whatever permitting process is necessary to do so. Pebble is not even approved yet, and I sincerely hope it will never be approved. Make no mistake about it, this is simply another project to benefit the infrastructure that Pebble wishes to put in. I am not anti-mining per se, but I believe there are deposits that should remain in the ground until our grand kids or great grand kids are smart enough to figure out how to get it out of the ground without totally f_____ing up everything in the process. To put a mine of the scale and type that Pebble would be in the middle of the watershed of the richest wild salmon spawning in the world is the ultimate in human hubris and folly...or perhaps it is being proposed only by people who really don't give a s_ it because they don't live here and they really could care less about what kind of a mess they will leave and what impact it will have on an already stressed changing climate and environment? When are all you planner and development types going to get the message that we humans need too be doing and developing things VERY differently in the future? Sincerely, Willi Prittie Sunshine, Alaska
6		11/16/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Ted Eischeid	Ted.Eischeid@matsugov.us	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Subscribed. Thank you.
7		11/21/2020	Email to Project Email Address	James C Golia	jagolia909@aol.com		Please add me to this list Property Owner James C Golia 714-420-3225

8			Mark Miller	mark@talaheimlodge.com	Talaheim Lodge	I would like to comment on the upcoming virtual meeting on the access road. I hope that this road planning doesn't continue until we can have a real live meeting. A virtual meeting can't cover real live bodies in a room discussing this issue. Most of the tourist businesses in the valley and many of the private businesses have been hurt by the covid lockdowns and travel restrictions. The only people that haven't been hurt are state and local employees. I think it's about time you suffer with us and plan on a real meeting sometime this spring when interested parties can all group together and perhaps ask questions to the developers that this road will benefit. Good Fishing, Mark Miller Lodge Owner PO Box 1072 Willow, Alaska 99688 talaheimlodge.com (907) 440-0614
9	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Rachel James	rachelannjames@gmail.com		Thank you for the presentation. Please give some specifics regarding the 3000 mining claims you mentioned earlier in the presentation: Who holds the claims and are they Alaskan? If not, where are they from, please provide details on the company/companies.
10a	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Jason Rockvam	jrockak@yahoo.com	Wilderness Place Lodge	The are is mainly wetlands, and a volatile floodplain. Surface water contamination is unavoidable. How can you convince the public that this is environmentally responsible? Not just the road, but logging, gas, development are inevitable future threats.
10b						Overall, the road development is of minor concern. After the road is built, it is built. That opens access to many people for many uses. There must be guidance and a plan for the area at large before you propose access to this special, wild area.
11	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Lynn Fuller	lfuller@mtaonline.net		You indicated that this project is driven by both resource industry interest and by significant interest from the public for the road. Do you have any documentation of the public interest?
12	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Eric Booton	ebooton@tu.org		On station 6, which part of the process are me at? Is it MSB Assembly Approval?
13	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Brittany Hartman	brittany@agcak.org	Associated General Contractors of Alaska	Hey Josie! It's Brittany with AGC. I have a brief comment to put on record simply stating taht AGC looks forward to watching this project proegress. How do I get in the queue?
14	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Ted Eischeid	ted.eischeid@matsugov.us	Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB)	What's the rationale for not allowing participants being able to seei who else is on the meeting? Not allowing this does not help build trust.
15	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Melissa Heuer	mellissa@susitnarivercoalition.org	Coalition For Sustna Dam Alternatives	Do you know when this will be posted?
16	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Kendra Zamzow	kizamzow@chickaloon-nsn.gov		Will AIDEA commit to having an independent third party, possibly through the MSB, to review the estimated costs?
17	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Israel Payton	israelbof@gmail.com		Pretty easy, to find the stakeholders, get on Mat su bourgh website tax map and send mail outs. I'm just curious. How many attendees are there? You are estimating the cost of the road in Ph II. What is the width of the road you are designing to? And what is the width of the bridges you are cost-estimating? Thanks.
18a	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Bob Loeffler	bobl@jadenorth.com		
18b						

19	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Wayne Brosman	pcgwhb@gmail.com	Pacific Consulting Group	Thank you for your hard work team! I am looking forward to this project working for everyone locally and for all of Alaska.
20a	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Tom Harris	a.tom.harris@gmail.com	KI Energy for Alaska Village Initiatives	If this is a public meeting, why are the names of the attendees hidden?
20b						Please listen to the concerns of the private land owners. The track record you boast of does not exist. Where are the salmon going. If you really want to brag about wildlife just take the time to compare the wildlife harvests of other states vs. Aska.
20c						When you have time the data to compare is available.
21	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Steve Perrins	guide88@hotmail.com	Rainy Pass Lodge	I sent in a comment email but never ehard back a response, can you check if it was received at your end?
22	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Jillian Jablonski	jjablonski@ttcd.org	Tyonek Tribal Conservation District	N/A
23	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Jok Bondurnat	n3829j@yahoo.com		Will any attempt be made to prevent decimation of game in the road area?
24a	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Kevin Materson	contactkevinhere@yahoo.com		There are 100s if not thousands of cabins and homesteads in the area of the proposed road. They are largely off-grid and cannot comment via email or web submission. You need to find another way to do outreach to those land owners.
24b						This area is the playground for Mat-Su and the greater Anchorage area; most of the State's population. A road through it to largely benefit a few commercial mine operations and find a mission for Port Mackenzie.
25a	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Eric Lubell	lubellski@gmail.com		Alan just mentioned a 2nd email address. Can you pls verify that address and speak to if it is a better or worse place to comment than the westsusitnaaccess.org email address? Which one is guaranteed to make the public record?
25b						omise and under deliver on resource impacts and mitigation, how can the public be certain they are not left holding the bag on cleaning up the mess that is left behind once the private corporations and lease holders finish extracting resources and move on?
25c						Being embroiled in years of expensive litigation isn't an option. The public does not want to be stuck subsidizing the profits of a few private corporations or lease holders.
25d						Sorry, first part of question: If and when the project proponents over promise...
26	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Dan Graham	dan@tfsengineering.com		Thanks panel. Well handled.

					I request that you put me on the stakeholder list to notify me during this process and send communications to my postal mail address. I listened to your December 3, 2020 virtual public meeting. I am completely opposed to this proposed project. There is no way that the plentiful fish and game in the West Susitna area will maintain itself with this industrial development throughout the area. Many folks have concerns about maintaining salmon runs and putting in the right culverts for fish passage and such things. Well, as of now in December 2020, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has gone public with a possible shutdown of the Cook Inlet commercial fishery. As a retired gillnetter in several areas in Alaska, I find this completely unacceptable. Since well before statehood, the headwaters and wetlands above all fisheries were very remote and undeveloped visited only by occasional pilots and wilderness travelers. This is why fisheries survived. No one was upstream dumping arsenic, bringing thousands of gallons of fuel, diverting water flows, creating sewage, and so on. This is exactly why Pebble Mine is being shut down. Headwaters and wetlands have to be preserved. Fish are ultimately floating belly up. Spawning grounds are trashed. The West Susitna area is accessible right now. There are aircraft, boats, snow machines, ATVs, and recreational trails. Hunting and fishing is available year round. Thousands of Alaskans have property as homesteaders, recreationists, clients, and just plain wilderness travelers. Some folks do want better access. They want to cruise out in comfort in their highway pickups and RVs keeping clean and dry all the way and never missing a meal or a convenient rest stop o campground. That is not the essence of traditional, last frontier, traditional wilderness travel. And you can be sure that they will complain when the fish and wildlife populations become moreregulated due to human impacts. Game will gradually be diminished. Fishing creeks will be wiped out. I have already seen areas that get so-called "improved" access. The fish and wildlife always gets hurt in the long run. The road will be a gift to a few industrial developers namely out of state corporations with money to burn. And we, the public, will be left with dealing with the negative impacts. Off grid residents and property owners of the area may never get a chance to testify. Their lives will be turned upside down with little to no say in the matter.
27	12/4/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Denis Ransy	denisnak@gmail.com	
28	12/10/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Pat Daniels	patdinalaska@yahoo.com	Please see the attached. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for your time. Thanks, Pat Daniels 907-315-3301 patdinalaska@yahoo.com
29	12/12/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Blythe Marston	blythe.marston@gmail.com	Dear Sirs, Although I have previously commented on the West Susitna Road Project I was unaware of the virtual open house held last week. Could you please provide me all information that was presented at that meeting and a status report on the project? Also, I would like to be placed on your outreach list as an interested party so that I will be notified of future developments, requests for comments, and meetings regarding the West Susitna Access Project. Thank you, Blythe Marston
30	12/14/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Robin Song	robinsong2004@yahoo.com	Greetings~I just finished reading the report about the onproposed road on the West side of Cook Inlet. I live in Talkeetna and have been an active participant in fighting against the building o the Su Dam. It is with heavy heart that I read what is being proposed with this road and the impact it would have on the relatively pristine wilderness on that side of the Inlet, the wildlife, salmon streams, and the pressure- once again- to raise the issue of the dam. Human greed is indeed insidious, and knows no bounds. The future of the wilderness, its wildlife, the safety of salmon, migratory birds... all of that vanishes in the face of what money can bemade from extracting minerals, oil, and whatever else humans decide is more valuable. It was a long, exhausting fight to get the Su Dam project scrapped. And it wasn't because of the devastating impact on Salmon or the concerns of all the down-river communities that the dam could collapse in a big earthquake. Ultimately it was the pricetag to build the monstrosity that wasn't needed in the first place. And here we are again; having to 'fight the good fight' to get humans to see that building a road, bridges, culverts, etc., in sensitive habitats where fish, birds, plants, and mammals will once again lose out to man-made destruction and pollution, is the wrong thing to do, just to bring more money to those who have no interest in preserving Alaska's beautiful wilderness for the future. It is with weary but hopefully heart that sane minds will prevail and this nightmare of a ecologically disastrous road will never be built. Sincerely, Robin Song Talkeetna



					<p>Hello,</p> <p>I noticed the West Susitna Access Road Project on the Borough website on Monday. Unfortunately I missed the presentation but the website has a lot of good information. Roads are critical for the development and expansion of industry and a community but along with the road the broadband infrastructure is also vital. I would like to propose for your planning the placement o conduit along the right of way for future fiber optics. This would be used in the future to help speed development in the area by provided the lowest cost possible to place a fiber network. The borough could either sell or lease the conduit to a provider or a mine operator. Donlin mine has plans to place fiber along the proposed gas pipeline for the purpose of monitoring but also for their our broadband needs. As identified in this project there is an extensive section where the pipeline and road are in the same route and a conduit for fiber optic would be valuabl to the pipeline project. Further in order to gain access to the existing fiber optic network the road provides the shortest path. In the Palmer and Wasilla area Donlin and any other future develop would have access all fiber networks owned by MTA, ACS, GCI and AT&amp;T, which together provide access to five fiber optic routes through Alaska and out of the state to multiple poin in the lower 48 states. Conversely fiber extended to the Beluga and Tyonek area will dead-end. The is currently no existing fiber connecting Beluga and Tyonek to the rest of the state. MTA has the largest fiber optic network in the Matanuska Susitna Valley and as the local co-operative is very interested in the expansion of economic opportunity. If MTA can be of any assistance in the plan process please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Eric</p>
31	12/10/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Eric Anderson	MTA   1740 S. Chugach Street   Palmer, Alaska 99645 office: 907-761-2795   mobile: 907-355-2795   eanderson@mtasolutio ns.com	MTA
					<p>Greetings;</p> <p>The Mat-Su Borough has areas served by roads, and also a lot of the kind of wild, roadless area that makes Alaska the awesome place we have long appreciated. It would be unwise to permanently convert the Susitna and Yentna into another place penetrated by roads and the massive changes that follow them. It is especially sad when the proponents want to do this for the nebulous benefit of possible resource development that can't even make it's presence and Greetings;</p> <p>The Mat-Su Borough has areas served by roads, and also a lot of the kind of wild, roadless area that makes Alaska the awesome place we have long appreciated. It would be unwise to permanently convert the Susitna and Yentna into another place penetrated by roads and the massive changes that follow them. It is especially sad when the proponents want to do this for the nebulous benefit of possible resource development that can't even make it's presence and identity known in the public eye.</p> <p>A good example of the value of this wild area is the Iditarod Trail and sled dog race who's mystique comes from the wild undeveloped areas it passes through. Wildlife will be another inevitable victim of the proposed road, as it has near every road pushed through the back country so far in our state. When masses of the urban population can quickly access and put pressure on the resources there, it will have a dramatic negative effect.</p> <p>It is disingenuous to list timber as a resource that justifies the road, considering the disastrous record of timber production in the upper Susitna Valley. The mines in the area impress me as being mom and pop level deposits. The moms and pops are probably there because there isn't a road through their country. There is no Prudhoe Bay-like resource that demands nor justifies a road.</p> <p>In short, there is no reason for the road that would justify the great harm done. There is mainly an abstract desire on the part of some folks to "develop" a large swath of Alaska, without much respect for the great pristine value that many of us find in the area's wildness.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jok Bondurant</p>
32	12/21/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Jok Bondurant	n3829j@netscape.net	Public
33a					<p>To whom it may concern at AIEDA,</p> <p>Please accept the attached comments on behalf of Trout Unlimited as part of the Online Open House for the West Susitna Access Road Project.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Eric Booton</p>
33b					<p>Thank you for hosting the Open House and Virtual Public Meeting for the proposed West Susitna Access Road Project. Please accept the following comments regarding the proposed project on behalf of Trout Unlimited (TU). We encourage AIEDA, and the State, to not move forward with the West Susitna Access Road Project because of the significant adverse impacts it will have to the area's important fish and water resources, its impacts to local businesses that rely on the remote character of the region, and the unnecessary costs and financial burden this project will cause for the State of Alaska's already short budget. Trout Unlimited has strong local roots -- with approximately 1,100 members and 20,000 supporters throughout the state that are passionate anglers, lodge owners, fishing and hunting guides, and commercial fishermen, among various other occupations. TU is dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring coldwater fisheries and their watersheds, and has long participated in effort to protect and conserve fishery resources within southcentral Alaska.</p> <p>Many of our members and supporters frequent the Susitna River's west-side tributaries and other nearby areas for hunting, fishing and extended wilderness trips. Additionally, our business members operate lodges, guiding and outfitting operations, fly-in trips, or multiple-day rafting trips on the very rivers that will be impacted if this road is built. These businesses are viable because the region is wild and difficult to access, where clients can get a remote wilderness experience with healthy habitat, intact river systems and robust fish and wildlife populations.</p>

33c				<p>Improve Public Notice &amp; Engagement</p> <p>Public notice for the West Susitna Access Road Project has been minimal and ineffective so far, as reiterated numerous times during the December 3rd Online Open House. TU would not have known about the proposal had it not been for the Susitna River Coalition. Similarly, many of our business members who own sportfishing lodges or operate in the area were unfamiliar with the proposal until contacted by TU. TU also requests to be included on your stakeholder list and would appreciate being notified of upcoming meetings, comment periods, and release of documents and studies. Please re-visit your public notice strategy to help better disseminate information about this proposal and associated comment periods to the public. The west Susitna River basin is a popular destination for hunters and anglers throughout southcentral Alaska, please ensure that an effort is made to notify individual hunters and anglers throughout the region as well.</p>		
33d				<p>Study Economic Loss</p> <p>The numerous hunting and fishing lodges and operators in the west Susitna River basin are viable not only because of the healthy fish and game populations of the area, but because they offer a remote wilderness experience. Remote recreation is an important economic driver for the region, and creates a demand that few others can meet. Several lodges commented during the Online Open House that this project has the potential to severely alter or terminate their business. These are serious concerns that must be taken more seriously. Trout Unlimited highly encourages AIEDA to conduct an economic loss study during the Feasibility Study for the West Susitna Access Road Project.</p>		
	12/21/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Eric Bootton	Eric.Bootton@tu.org	Trout Unlimited	<p>Impacts to Fish Habitat</p> <p>Impacts to fish habitat as a result of building the West Susitna Access Road Project is a large concern for Trout Unlimited and our supporters. Intact river systems and healthy fish habitat are a dwindling resource. The West Susitna Access Road Project would cross through an area rich in wetlands and rivers and require 24 bridges and approximately 440 culverts. The road will have sprawling impacts to our rivers, streams and wetlands. And as we have seen before, each culvert, stream crossing and disturbed stream or wetland adds up to a much larger cumulative impact as sedimentation and erosion increases, and access for salmon to important spawning and rearing habitat is blocked or impeded. The consequences of improperly constructed or poorly maintained culverts has been observed throughout the MatSu Borough. Studies have found that 80% of the borough’s culverts failed to allow adequate fish migration and affected access to more than 400 miles of rearing habitat for juvenile fish. The Borough and State have spent more than \$18 million in recent decades replacing around 115 of these culverts that blocked salmon migration, and that’s only a portion of the culverts that need replaced. While recent road construction projects have sought to meet state standards for allowing salmon passage, there is a large backlog of problematic culverts and growing costs associated with road maintenance that continue to draw from the already thin budgets of local governments and state agencies. The West Susitna Access Road would need to be built to the fish friendly culvert standards of the Matanuska Susitna Borough, at a minimum, in order to best limit impacts to fish and their habitat. This means that adequate fish passage and culverts for nearly 500 stream, river, and wetlands crossings would need to be researched, designed and constructed for the full extent of the 108-mile road and draws into question the economic viability of the proposed project.</p> <p>Transparency</p> <p>As a “road to resources”, the impacts to fish habitat and water quality associated with the West Susitna Access Road Project are not limited to those associated with only the development of the road. There is an untold amount of impacts that will occur as a result of this road and the development projects it will support. These future impacts need to be simultaneously weighed when determining whether or not the proposed project is in the best interest of Alaskans. Little has been made public about what industries and projects intend to utilize the West Susitna Access Road other than Nova Minerals, a foreign mining company, who as we heard from businesses and area landowners during the December 3rd Online Open House, has proven to be a bad actor so far. All of the industries and projects interested in utilizing the road need to be released to the public for transparency, to have any idea what the true impacts of the proposed project, aid in analysis of the proposal, and judge the economic potential. The West Susitna Access Road Project is being proposed for the benefit of private industries to access development projects for their gain, while simultaneously impacting an unknown amount of public lands and resources. Additionally, it is unclear as to whether the road will be private, public or some sort of hybrid. This needs to be clarified for all parties and stakeholders. If the road is built, it should inherently be public, however its construction would still clearly be for the benefit of resource development projects. Public money should be reserved for clear, public benefit and not be spent to subsidize roads for the benefit of private industry, especially as we experience routine budget shortfalls.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Thank you for accepting and considering these comments from Trout Unlimited. The construction of the West Susitna Access Road Project will come at a large cost to existing area businesses, the regions fish and their habitat, and be an unnecessary expense to the State of Alaska’s limited budget and should not be further pursued. Should AIEDA move forward with the West Susitna Access Road Project, we ask that the necessary measures be taken to provide appropriate public notice and time for stakeholders to learn about the project and provide meaningful comments. Additionally, please include adequate fish passage in the preliminary engineering and an economic loss study in Phase II research and disclose the potential resource development projects that may come of this road and whether it will be public, or not - decision makers and the public cannot truthfully weigh the cost and benefits of the West Susitna Access Road Project without having accurate information</p>
33e						
33f						
33g						

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH INFORMATION MEMORANDUM****IM No. 21-051**

**SUBJECT:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTING MSB 17.31 SUPPLEMENTAL WETLANDS MITIGATION PROVISIONS FOR PROJECTS REQUIRING UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS INDIVIDUAL PERMITS UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT THAT PERMANENTLY IMPACT 10 OR MORE ACRES OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES; AND AMENDING MSB 1.45.100 SCHEDULE OF FINES FOR INFRACTIONS.

**AGENDA OF:****ASSEMBLY ACTION:**

**MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:** Introduce and set for public hearing.

**APPROVED BY MIKE BROWN, BOROUGH MANAGER:** \_\_\_\_\_

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator		
	Capital Projects Director		
	Public Works Director		
	Planning and Land Use Director		
	Finance Director		
	Borough Attorney		
	Borough Clerk		

**ATTACHMENT (S) :** Fiscal Note: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ordinance Serial No. 21-025 (10 pp)  
 RS 19-074  
 RS FWC 19-03

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

This ordinance is being brought forth as a result of the assembly adoption of Resolution 19-074 on August 6, 2019. The resolution supports the continued efforts to develop provisions for supplemental wetland mitigation for large-scale development projects that impact wetlands and salmon habitat in the borough. The ordinance was produced as the culmination of a March 2019

presentation from agency stakeholders that explored supplemental wetland mitigation by the borough, along with a resolution from the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission supporting that effort. The process envisioned is for the MSB to require compensatory mitigation fully offsetting project impacts by using the existing US Corps of Engineers (USACE) process for larger 10+ acre wetland development projects. Staff was charged with drafting an ordinance that would ensure the process works efficiently and seamlessly with a minimum of staff time required, as the MSB works to support major development projects while continuing the essential work to protect and restore borough wetlands when impacted by that development.

By regulatory definition, discharges of dredged or fill material authorized by USACE individual permits result in aquatic resource impacts that are more than minimal. For the residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to continue benefitting from the aquatic resources that support our economy and quality of life, authorized impacts must be offset.

The availability of third-party mitigation credits makes compensating for authorized impacts practicable.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has the authority to require compensation and prohibit discharges that are not fully offset.

**PROCESS:** Applicants submit copies of the materials they send to the USACE to the Borough, along with any USACE decisional documents produced. In addition, they must also calculate the debits from their project and propose compensation to fully offset those debits using USACE-approved compensatory mitigation options within the boundaries of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Borough staff evaluates the calculated debits and proposed compensation to determine if the compensation credits would fully offset project debits.

If the USACE authorizes the discharge, the permittee provides the evidence of compensation fully offsetting project debits and the Borough certifies that the project complies with the MSB requirement to fully offset impacts. The permittee may utilize any one of the three USACE compensatory mitigation options as long as the credits used to fully offset the authorized impacts accrue within the MSB boundary.

The requirement to fully offset authorized impacts would be a development standard like platting or road design standards. Development may proceed when Borough staff documents that the standard has been met, and all other federal, state, and local



requirements are met.

**ALIGNMENT WITH THE EXISTING CWA 404 PERMIT PROCESS:** The proposed Borough certification process is intended to align seamlessly with the existing wetland permitting process under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**What if the USACE doesn't require compensation or not enough to fully offset the authorized impacts?** The Borough compensation requirement is being proposed because all authorized impacts are not currently being offset in all cases. If the compensation requirement is adopted, permittees will have to provide the Borough with evidence that compensation has been provided to receive the certificate of compliance for their project. This ordinance only applies to larger projects that impact jurisdictional wetlands of 10 or more acres, and excludes wetlands within the cities of Houston, Palmer, and Wasilla.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- (A) Many of the wetlands of the MSB core area have already been lost to drainage and fills. This has increased downstream water pollution, flooding, and loss of fisheries habitat. This ordinance has been adopted to conserve and protect remaining wetlands and aquatic resources. It is an integral component in implementing the Wetland Management Plan and is the driver for the MSB Mitigation Bank. It shall be an integral tool in MSB 17.29, Flood Damage Prevention.
- (B) This ordinance meets several of the goals in the MSB Comprehensive plan, including but not limited to:

**Land Use Goal 4:** Protect and enhance the borough's natural resources including watersheds, groundwater supplies and air quality.

Policy 1 - Identify, monitor, protect, and enhance the quantity and quality of the borough's watersheds, groundwater aquifers, and clean air resources.

**Public Open Space Goal 2:** Protect and preserve natural resource areas

Policy 1 - Work cooperatively with numerous resource management agencies, community councils, and citizens to care for lakes, wetlands, streams, rivers, and wildlife habitat and corridors while providing public access for recreational opportunities that have minimal impacts to such areas.

Policy 3 - Identify, through analysis,

potential natural resource areas throughout the borough that should be protected.

**Community Quality Goal 1:** Protect natural systems and features from the potentially negative impacts of human activities, including but not limited to land development.

Policy 1 - Use a system-wide approach to effectively manage environmental resources. Coordinate land use planning and management of natural systems with affected state and local agencies as well as affected Community Council efforts.

Policy 2 - Manage activities affecting air, vegetation, water, and the land to maintain or improve environmental quality, to preserve fish and wildlife habitat, to prevent degradation or loss of natural features and functions, and to minimize risks to life and property.

**Community Quality Goal 2:** Manage the natural and built environments to achieve minimal loss of the functions and values of all drainage basins; and, where possible, enhance and restore functions, values and features. Retain lakes, ponds, wetlands, streams, and rivers and their corridors substantially in their natural condition.

Policy 1 - Using a watershed-based approach, apply best available science in formulating regulations, incentives, and programs to maintain and, to the degree possible, improve the quality of the borough's water resources.

(C) Wetlands and associated buffers provide a variety of functions and services that include:

1. Flood conveyance and storage;
2. Stormwater detention and stormwater purification;
3. Breeding, nesting and feeding environments for wildlife including salmon, trout, waterfowl, shorebirds, and moose;
4. Linkages between aquatic resources such as lakes and rivers;
5. Maintenance and regulation of the quantity and quality of potable water supplies;
6. Treatment of polluted surface and subsurface waters through biological degradation and chemical oxidation;
7. Prevention of additional nonpoint pollution of waters by providing vegetative buffers;
8. Conserving soil and water for agriculture and forests;
9. Serving as nursery grounds and sanctuaries for fish; and

10. Providing the economic sustainability of recreation areas the MSB relies on for fishing, boating, hiking, bird watching, photography and other recreational uses.
- (D) Activities that occur in Wetlands are often subject to flood, erosion, and subsidence and exacerbate hazards on other lands.
- (E) Further loss of wetlands quality and quantity is contrary to the public health, safety and general welfare. The capacity of wetlands to provide these services can be hindered by direct physical disturbance, as well as by activities outside of a wetland that alter the course of water and sediments flowing into or through the system, the sustainability, protection and restoration of wetland hydrology and habitat is a matter of public concern to the people of Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

**RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the attached ordinance.



Adopted: 08/06/19

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 19-074**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING PROVISIONS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL WETLAND MITIGATION FOR LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT IMPACT WETLANDS AND SALMON HABITAT IN THE BOROUGH.

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WHEREAS, salmon fish populations in Borough rivers and streams have seriously declined over the past 30 years where 8 of the 16 salmon stocks of concern within the state of Alaska lie within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough was one of four originating organizations that established the Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership that has grown to over 60 organizations and individuals dedicated to restoring and sustaining our salmon runs; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission was created in February 2007 to represent the interests of the Borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Commission has made positive strides in directing funds to local fisheries research and fish passage projects while encouraging stakeholder groups to prioritize fishery needs in Upper Cook Inlet and its critical watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission has successfully worked with the Alaska State

Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska State Board of Fisheries to improve salmon returns for the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Commission and the Borough continue to support robust opportunities for sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries in the Borough and recognize the importance of restoring historic health to threatened fisheries and the associated wetlands that remain critical for supporting salmon populations; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission recognizes the need for new development that may sometimes impact wetlands while supporting the concept of avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating these impacts; and

WHEREAS, some major developments that require wetland protection or mitigation may not be fully addressed by other agencies and regulatory bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly hosted a work session with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission, Alaska State Department of Fish and Game, and Ms. Gail Terzi, Wetland and Compensatory Mitigation Specialist, in March 2019 to explore critical issues for sustaining salmon and their habitat within the Borough; and



WHEREAS, it was clear at the close of the work session in March that all agencies were open to the Borough having a role in mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission approved resolution FWC 19-03 in support of the Borough being able to provide supplemental wetland mitigation, in addition to agencies and regulatory bodies, as they do in many other cities and counties across the United States, in order to protect, enhance and restore salmon populations in the Borough as it continues to develop and grow; and

WHEREAS, the Borough hosted the Principal Deputy Director for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, along with other members of the Matanuska-Susitna Salmon Habitat Partnership, to review the activities that are now in progress to keep our salmon populations sustainable; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the Borough devote particular attention to the supplemental mitigation issue in preparation for the upcoming 3-year Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish Meeting in February of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Borough certification process is intended to align seamlessly with the existing federal wetland permitting process, by reviewing only large development projects and related proposal documents required by the United States Army

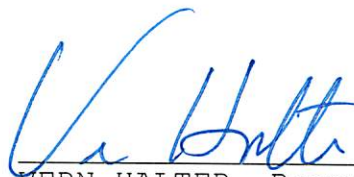
Corps of Engineers, without adding to staff or project length review times; and

WHEREAS, the necessity for the Borough to become part of the supplemental mitigation process, like other municipalities across the United States, is being explored because all authorized impacts are not currently being offset or adequately considered for the importance of sustaining wetlands habitats that support restoration of critical salmon runs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly supports exploring supplemental wetland mitigation for projects with input from state and federal agencies that currently review and comment on large projects that require United States Army Corps of Engineers approval. (Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish & Wildlife Commission Resolution Serial No. FWC19-03 attached to the accompanying Informational Memorandum).



ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 6 day  
of August, 2019.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



YES: Sykes, Beck, Mayfield, and Boeve

NO: Sumner, Leonard, and McKee



RECEIVED  
MAY 21 2019  
CLERKS OFFICE

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. FWC19-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT THAT THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL WETLAND MITIGATION FOR LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT IMPACT WETLANDS AND DEGRADE SALMON HABITAT IN THE BOROUGH.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission was created in February 2007 to represent the interests of the borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat; and

WHEREAS, salmonid fish populations using Matanuska-Susitna Borough rivers and streams have seriously declined over the past 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough contains 8 of the 16 salmon stocks of concern as of April 2019 for the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission has made positive strides in directing funds to local fisheries research and fish passage projects while encouraging stakeholder groups to prioritize fishery needs in Upper Cook Inlet and its critical watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Commission has successfully worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Fisheries to improve salmon returns for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

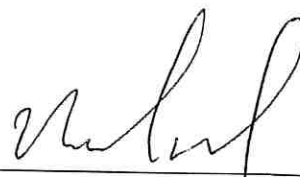
WHEREAS, the Commission continues to support robust opportunities for sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and recognizes the importance of restoring historic health to threatened fisheries and the associated wetlands that remain critical for supporting salmon populations; and

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Commission recognizes the need for new development that may sometimes impact wetlands while supporting the concept of avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating these impacts; and

WHEREAS, some major developments that require wetland protection or mitigation may not be fully addressed by other agencies and regulatory bodies.

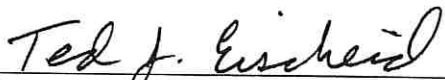
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission supports the concept that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough provide for supplemental wetland mitigation in addition to what other agencies and regulatory bodies may require in order to both protect and enhance the salmonid populations as the Matanuska-Susitna Borough continues to grow.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.



MIKE WOOD, Chair

ATTEST:



TED EISCHEID, Staff

(SEAL)



CODE ORDINANCE

Sponsored by:  
Introduced:  
Public Hearing:  
Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 21-025**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTING MSB 17.31 SUPPLEMENTAL WETLANDS MITIGATION PROVISIONS FOR PROJECTS REQUIRING UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS INDIVIDUAL PERMITS UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT THAT PERMANENTLY IMPACT 10 OR MORE ACRES OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES; AND AMENDING MSB 1.45.100 SCHEDULE OF FINES FOR INFRACTIONS.

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WHEREAS, the rationale and intent of this ordinance are found in IM No. 21-051 which accompanies this ordinance.

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Borough Code.

Section 2. Adoption of chapter. MSB 17.31 is hereby adopted as follows:

**CHAPTER 17.31 SUPPLEMENTAL WETLANDS MITIGATION**

17.31.010 Purpose and Intent

17.31.020 Applicability

17.31.030 Application Requirements

17.31.040 General Standards for approval

17.31.050 Final Action

17.31.100 Violations, Enforcement and Penalties

17.31.110 Definitions

**17.31.010 PURPOSE AND INTENT**

(A) The purpose of this chapter is to protect health and safety, property, infrastructure, and promote economic stability while maintaining functions of wetlands and aquatic resources.

(B) The intent of this chapter is to

(1) Seek full compensation for impacts to aquatic resources that:

(a) minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions;

(b) prevent and control water pollution;

(c) prevent soil loss and erosion of stream beds and banks;

(d) preserve natural drainage features and minimize the need to construct, repair, maintain, or replace structural water management systems;

(e) maintain and support stream base flow and temperature, lake levels, and shallow groundwater supplies; and

(f) preserve and improve fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and open space.



### **17.31.020 APPLICABILITY**

(A) This chapter applies to all private and public lands in the borough.

(B) This chapter does not apply within the cities of Houston, Palmer, or Wasilla.

(C) A Compensatory Mitigation Certificate of Compliance (CMCC) is required prior to discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough authorized by a United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Permit.

(1) A CMCC is not required for discharges of dredged or fill material within the borough that:

(a) are authorized by a USACE Nationwide Permit or other General Permit as permitted by 33 CFR 325.5(C); or

(b) impact less than 10 acres of Waters of the United States.

(2) Individual permit applications that have been issued a permit decision document by the USACE on or before May 18, 2021 are not required to obtain a CCMC under this chapter.

### **17.31.030 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

(A) Pre-Application Meeting. The applicant is encouraged to schedule an appointment with the Planning Department to discuss the proposed development and explain what information must be submitted.

(B) Application for a CMCC shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) CMCC application form;
- (2) A complete copy of the USACE application materials and mitigation determination;
- (3) USACE decisional documents associated with the project;
- (4) A calculation of the aquatic function debits associated with the proposed discharge or fill, and a specific proposal to fully offset the debits through compensatory mitigation; and
- (5) Appropriate filing fee as established by the assembly, payable to the borough.

#### **17.31.040 GENERAL STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL**

(A) The amount of compensatory mitigation shall be sufficient to fully offset the aquatic resource functions lost as a result of the discharge or fill.

- (1) For the use of credits generated by permittee-responsible mitigation, authorized impacts

shall be considered offset when the permittee submits documentation that the USACE has approved the final mitigation plan.

(B) The total number of credits purchased shall be equal to or greater than the number of debits calculated for the discharge or fill.

(C) Credits purchased through a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program shall be from an USACE approved provider within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary.

#### **17.31.050 FINAL ACTION**

(A) The CMCC shall be issued by the director following review of the application and demonstration that the aquatic resource impacts authorized by the USACE individual permit have been fully offset in accordance with this chapter.

#### **17.31.100 VIOLATIONS, ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

(A) Violations, enforcement and penalties shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 1.45, Violations, enforcement and penalties.

(B) Except as otherwise specified in this chapter violations of this chapter are infractions.

#### **17.31.110 DEFINITIONS**

(A) For the purpose of this chapter, the following

definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

- "Aquatic resources" mean surface waters, including wetlands, and the habitat they provide for both plant and animal communities.
- "Compensatory mitigation" means the restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment, creation, enhancement, or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.
- "Credit" means a unit of measure (e.g., a functional or areal measure or other suitable metric) representing the accrual or attainment of aquatic functions at a compensatory mitigation site. The measure of aquatic functions is based on the resources restored, established, enhanced, or preserved.
- "Debit" means a unit of measure (e.g., a functional or areal measure or other suitable metric) representing the loss of aquatic functions at an impact or project site. The measure of aquatic

functions is based on the resources impacted by the authorized activity.

- "Dredged material" means material that is excavated or dredged from waters of the United States.
- "Fill material" means material placed in waters of the United States where the material has the effect of:
  - (a) Replacing any portion of a water of the United States with dry land; or
  - (b) Changing the bottom elevation of any portion of a water of the United States. Examples of such fill material include, but are not limited to: rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mining or other excavation activities, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in the waters of the United States. The term fill material does not include trash or garbage.
- "Functions" means the physical, chemical, and biological processes that occur in ecosystems.
- "Individual permit" means a Department of the Army authorization that is issued following a case-by-case evaluation of a specific project involving the

proposed discharge(s) in accordance with the procedures of this part and 33 CFR part 325, and a determination that the proposed structure or work is in the public interest pursuant to 33 CFR 320.

- "In-lieu fee program" means a program involving the restoration, establishment, enhancement, and/or preservation of aquatic resources through funds paid to a governmental or non-profit natural resources management entity to satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements for USACE permits. Similar to a mitigation bank, an in-lieu fee program sells compensatory mitigation credits to permittees whose obligation to provide compensatory mitigation is then transferred to the in-lieu program sponsor. However, the rules governing the operation and use of in-lieu fee programs are somewhat different from the rules governing operation and use of mitigation banks. The operation and use of an in-lieu fee program are governed by an in-lieu fee program instrument.
- "Mitigation bank" means a site, or suite of sites, where resources (e.g., wetlands, streams, riparian areas) are restored, established, enhanced, and/or preserved for the purpose of providing compensatory

mitigation for impacts authorized by Department of Army permits. In general, a mitigation bank sells compensatory mitigation credits to permittees whose obligation to provide compensatory mitigation is then transferred to the mitigation bank sponsor. The operation and use of a mitigation bank are governed by a mitigation banking instrument.

- "Permittee-responsible mitigation" means an aquatic resource restoration, establishment, enhancement, and/or preservation activity undertaken by the permittee (or an authorized agent or contractor) to provide compensatory mitigation for which the permittee retains full responsibility.
- "Waters of the United States" means those areas subject to the jurisdictional authority of the Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act as defined in 33 CFR Part 328.

Section 3. Amendment of Subsection: MSB 1.45.100 (C) is hereby amended by adding the following to the schedule of fines:

Code Reference	Description	Fine Amount
<b><u>17.31.020 (C)</u></b>	<b><u>Failure to Obtain Compensatory Mitigation Certificate of Compliance</u></b>	
	<b><u>1st Offense</u></b>	<b><u>\$150</u></b>
	<b><u>2nd Offense</u></b>	<b><u>\$300</u></b>
	<b><u>3rd &amp; Subsequent Offenses</u></b>	<b><u>\$500</u></b>

Section 4. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. FWC 21-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION RECOMMENDING ASSEMBLY ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 21-025 THAT PROVIDES FOR SUPPLEMENTAL WETLAND MITIGATION FOR LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT IMPACT WETLANDS AND DEGRADE SALMON HABITAT IN THE BOROUGH.

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WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) was created in February 2007 to represent the interests of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Borough) in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat; and

WHEREAS, Borough salmonid fish have seriously declined over the past 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the Cook Inlet contains 5 of the 13 salmon stocks of concern as of March 2021 for the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has been the fastest-growing region of Alaska for years, and survey research indicates that Borough residents highly value salmon and the economic benefits they create; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact from sport fishing in the Borough has historically been significant, with direct spending in 2017 of over \$57 million; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission has made positive strides in directing funds to local fisheries research and fish passage projects while encouraging

stakeholder groups to prioritize fishery needs in Upper Cook Inlet and its critical watersheds; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, the Borough's fish passage program has constructed over 100 fish passage culverts that have opened up 66 miles of stream and 6,224 lake acres of fish habitat representing a conservative investment of over 20 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has successfully worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Fisheries to improve salmon returns for the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Commission continues to support robust opportunities for sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries in the Borough and recognizes the importance of restoring historic health to threatened fisheries and the associated wetlands that remain critical for supporting salmon populations; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2019, the Commission passed resolution FWC 19-03 supporting the concept of requiring supplemental wetland mitigation for large development projects impacting wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the need for new development that may sometimes impact wetlands while supporting the concept of avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating these impacts; and

WHEREAS, significant developments that require wetland protection or mitigation may not be fully addressed by other

agencies and regulatory bodies resulting in lost ecological functions and a corresponding negative impact on local fisheries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission recommends Assembly adoption of Ordinance 21-025 providing for supplemental wetland mitigation in addition to what other agencies and regulatory bodies may require to fully offset unavoidable wetland impacts to both protect and enhance the salmonid populations as the Matanuska-Susitna Borough continues to grow.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

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MIKE WOOD, Chair

ATTEST:

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TED EISCHEID, Staff

(SEAL)



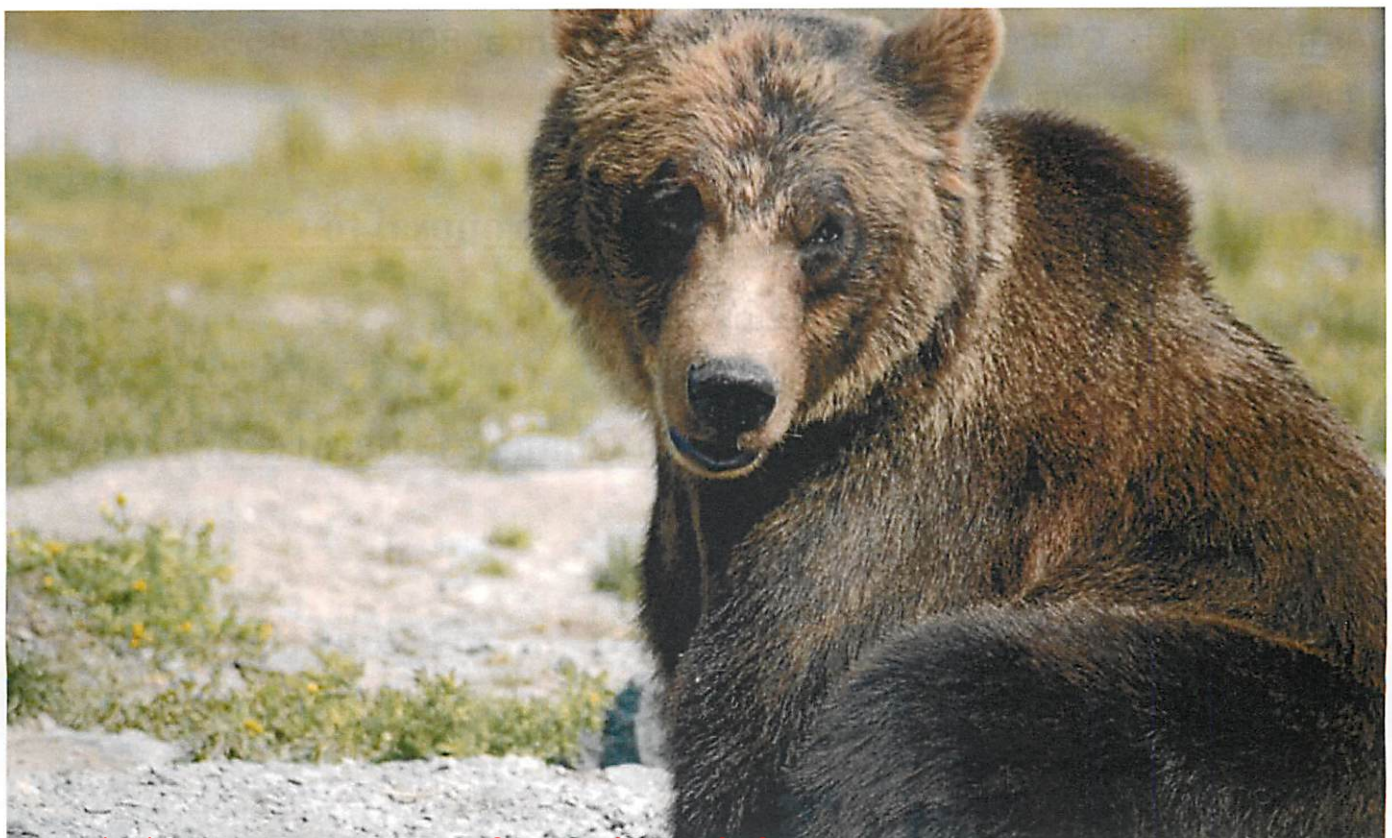


## Federal Subsistence Management Program

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# Current Proposals

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) is accepting proposals through May 24, 2021 to change Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of wildlife on Federal public lands for the July 1, 2022–June 30, 2024 regulatory years. The Board will consider proposals to change Federal subsistence hunting and trapping seasons, harvest limits, methods of harvest, and customary and traditional use determinations.



## Submit proposals:

- **By mail**

Federal Subsistence Board  
Office of Subsistence Management – Attn: Theo Matuskowitz  
1011 East Tudor Road, MS-121  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199

- **Online at <https://www.regulations.gov>**

Search for docket number FWS-R7-SM-2020-0077.

- **At any Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting**

A current list of meeting dates and locations can be found at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions>, or by contacting the Office of Subsistence Management at [800-478-1456](tel:800-478-1456) or email [subsistence@fws.gov](mailto:subsistence@fws.gov).

The proposed rule, *Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska – 2022–23 and 2023–24, Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations*, published in the Federal Register on February 23, 2021 ([86 FR 10899](#)).

You may call the Office of Subsistence Management at 800-478-1456 or email [subsistence@fws.gov](mailto:subsistence@fws.gov) with questions.

## **Informational flyer on How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations**

## **Video - How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations**

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

## Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



Forest Service

**Contact:** Regulatory Affairs Division Chief  
(907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456  
subsistence@fws.gov

### How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

Alaska residents and subsistence users are an integral part of the Federal regulatory process. Any person or group can submit proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations, comment on proposals, or testify at meetings. By becoming involved in the process, subsistence users assist with effective management of subsistence activities and ensure consideration of traditional and local knowledge in subsistence management decisions. Subsistence users also provide valuable wildlife harvest information.

A call for proposals to change Federal subsistence fishing regulations is issued in January of even-numbered years and odd-numbered years for wildlife. The period during which proposals are accepted is no less than 30 calendar days. Proposals must be submitted in writing within this time frame.

You may propose changes to Federal subsistence season dates, harvest limits, methods and means of harvest, and customary and traditional use determinations.

#### **What your proposal should contain:**

*There is no form to submit your proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations. Include the following information in your proposal submission (you may submit as many as you like):*

- Your name and contact information (address, phone, fax, or E-mail address)
- Your organization (if applicable).
- What regulations you wish to change. Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state, "new regulation."
- Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written in the regulations.
- Explain why this regulation change should be made.
- You should provide any additional information that you believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) in evaluating the proposed change.

1011 East Tudor Road MS-121 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199 • subsistence@fws.gov • (800) 478-1456 / (907) 786-3888  
This document has been cleared for public release #0605132015.

**You may submit your proposals by:**

1. By mail or hand delivery to:  
 Federal Subsistence Board  
 Office of Subsistence Management  
 Attn: Theo Matuskowitz  
 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121  
 Anchorage, AK 99503
2. At any Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting (A schedule will be published in the Federal Register and be announced statewide, bi-annually, prior to the meeting cycles)
3. On the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>

Submit a separate proposal for each proposed change; however, do not submit the same proposal by different accepted methods listed above. To cite which regulation(s) you want to change, you may reference [50 CFR 100](#) or [36 CFR 242](#) or the proposed regulations published in the Federal Register: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. All proposals and comments, including personal information, are posted on the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

For the proposal processing timeline and additional information contact the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456/ (907) 786-3888 or go to <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/proposal/submit.cfm>.

**How a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is processed:**

1. Once a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is received by the Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) validates the proposal, assigns a proposal number and lead analyst.
2. The proposals are compiled into a book for statewide distribution and posted online at the Program website. The proposals are also sent out the applicable Councils and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Interagency Staff Committee (ISC) for review. The period during which comments are accepted is no less than 45 calendar days. Comments must be submitted within this time frame.
3. The lead analyst works with appropriate agencies and proponents to develop an analysis on the proposal.
4. The analysis is sent to the Councils, ADF&G and the ISC for comments and recommendations to the Board. The public is welcome and encouraged to provide comments directly to the Councils and the Board at their meetings. The final analysis contains all of the comments and recommendations received by interested/affected parties. This packet of information is then presented to the Board for action.
5. The decision to adopt, adopt with modification, defer or reject the proposal is then made by the Board. The public is provided the opportunity to provide comment directly to the Board prior to the Board's final decision.
6. The final rule is published in the Federal Register and a public regulations booklet is created and distributed statewide and on the Program's website.

**A step-by-step guide to submitting your proposal on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov):**

1. Connect to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) – there is no password or username required.
2. In the white space provided in the large blue box, type in the document number listed in the news release or available on the program webpage, (for example: FWS-R7-SM2014-0062) and select the light blue “Search” button to the right.



3. Search results will populate and may have more than one result. Make sure the Proposed Rule you select is by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and **not** by the U.S. Forest Service (FS).
4. Select the proposed rule and in the upper right select the blue box that says, "Comment Now!"
5. Enter your comments in the "Comment" box.
6. Upload your files by selecting "Choose files" (this is optional).
7. Enter your first and last name in the spaces provided.
8. Select the appropriate checkbox stating whether or not you are providing the information directly or submitting on behalf of a third party.
9. Fill out the contact information in the drop down section as requested.
10. Select, "Continue." You will be given an opportunity to review your submission.
11. If everything appears correct, click the box at the bottom that states, "I read and understand the statement above," and select the box, "Submit Comment." A receipt will be provided to you. Keep this as proof of submission.
12. If everything does not appear as you would like it to, select, "Edit" to make any necessary changes and then go through the previous step again to "Submit Comment."

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**Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues?** If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing [fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov](mailto:fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov). Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at [www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm) or by visiting [www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](https://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska).