

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645

CHAIRPERSON

Mike Wood

VICE CHAIR

Andy Couch

MSB STAFF

Ted Eischeid



BOARD MEMBERS

Howard Delo

Larry Engel

Tim Hale

Peter Probasco

Jesse Sumner

Kendra Zamzow

Ex officio: Jim Sykes

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Supplemental Handout – TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Planning and Land Use Department - Planning Division

Cell Phone (907) 795-6281

<http://www.matsugov.us> • planning@matsugov.us

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Date: 21 April 2022

Re: FWC Staff Report

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1. West Susitna Access Road Project Update.

- a. Public Information Outreach summary released.

2. Assembly RS 21-128

- a. Quarter 1 2022 summary of FWC wildlife actions submitted to Manager and presented at the 19 April Assembly meeting.

3. Recreation Rivers Board Update

- a. RRB meetings May through September will move to the 4th Wednesday of each month, 10 AM – 12 PM.
- b. At 4/20/22 meeting RRB passed a motion to place on May 25th meeting agenda a vote to remove Sport Fishing rep Bruce Knowles and Mining rep Aaron Benjamin due to meeting nonattendance. There was discussion that Andy Couch would be a good Sport Fishing rep for the RRB.
- c. MSB Planning Commission rep Chris Elder will be replaced by Stafford Glashan.

4. Legislative Update

- a. Two members of the FWC presented an overview of the FWC's work to the Alaska State Senate Resources Committee on 4/20/22.

5. June 2 Special FWC Meeting Update

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[Member](#)

[Detail](#)

[Hughes](#)

SENATE SHELLEY HUGHES

28TH-32ND LEGISLATURE (2013
-2022)



Senator Shelley Hughes
Majority Leader

Email: Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov

District: F

Party: Republican

Toll-Free: 800-565-3743

Session Contact

State Capitol Room 30

Juneau AK, 99801

Phone: 907-465-3743

Fax: None

Interim Contact

600 E Railroad Ave

Wasilla AK, 99654

Phone: 907-376-3725

Fax: 907-376-4768

Legislative Service

2013-2016 Representative

2017-2020 Senator

2021-2022 Senator Majority Leader

[Bio](#)

[Committee
Membership](#)

[Legislature Bill
Sponsorship](#)

[Voting Record](#)

Date/Place of Birth:

- Canton, Ohio - 01/06/58

Residency in Alaska:

- Resident of District 11 since 1990



Online

- Resident of Alaska since 1976
- Resident in following Alaskan communities 1976-1990: Hoonah, Bethel, Fort Yukon, Fairbanks, Seward

Occupation:

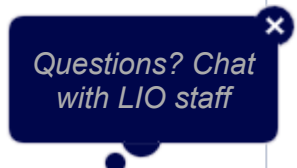
- Government Affairs Director, Alaska Primary Care Association 10/05 - 11/11
- Special Projects Volunteer Director, Crossroads Community Church, Palmer 01/95 - 12/05;
- Contract Academic Instructor, Mat-Su Pre-Trial Facility, Palmer Correctional Center 10/98 - 12/03;
- Summer Theatre Conservatory Director, LCCP/Haines VPA/Wasilla 1999, 2000, 2003;
- Substitute Teacher, Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District 09/95 - 05/97;
- Fort Yukon School District Resource Center Assistant 08/87 - 05/88;
- Data Coordinator/Secretary, Phillips Alcoholism Treatment Center, Bethel, Alaska 11/85 - 11/86;
- KYUK Newscaster, Volunteer, Bethel, Alaska 09/85 - 05/87;
- Teacher, Mount Bethel Christian School, Hoonah, Alaska 09/76 - 09/81;
- Proud Stay-at-Home Mother of 4 (interspersed with contracts and part-time work) 1980 - 2003

Family:

- Husband - Roger (married 38 years)
- Children - Peter, Clara, Emily, and Tyler
- Grandchildren - Keithan, Caden, Noah, Owen, Avelyn

Education:

- University of Alaska, Bachelor of Arts in English, 2002. Summa cum Laude. Rhetoric.
- Cuyahoga Community College, Assoc. of Arts, 1985. Magna cum Laude, Valedictorian. Cleveland, Ohio.
- Alaska Public Health Association Health Achievement Award 2009
- Betsey K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award 2008
- Chancellor's Scholar 2001
- National Collegiate Mathematics Award 2002
- English Department Scholarship Award Spring 2002
- International English Honor Society Sigma Tau Delta
- Golden Key National Honor Society
- The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi



Online

Military:

- Alaska All Academies Association, Founder, Past-President
 - (support organization for cadets/plebes and families at 5 military academies)
- Son and Son-in-Law: USAF Reserves, USAF Officer, Active Duty
- Husband: Vietnam Veteran

Other Political and Government Positions:

- Legislative Aide for Representative Gatto, Alaska State Legislature 12/03 - 01/05

Service Organizations and Community Involvement:

- Alaska All Academies Association, Founder, Past-President
- Alaska Outdoor Council
- Commonwealth North
- American Association of University Women
- Resource Development Council
- Make Alaska Competitive Coalition
- National Rifle Association
- Mat-Su Republican Women's Club
- Valley Republican Women's Club
- Wasilla Chamber of Commerce
- Palmer Chamber of Commerce
- Mat-Su Health Foundation
- Mat-Su Business Alliance
- Palmer Toastmasters
- Palmer Lions Club
- Alaska State Fair
- State Agriculture and Rural Leaders - Alaska Representative
- Outdoor Heritage Council
- Recover Alaska
- NCSL Labor and Economic Development
- NCSL Redistricting and Elections
- CSG Public Safety and Justice Task Force
- Troop 49 Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts Bear Paw Council Nominating Committee
- Mat-Su Young Life Executive Committee
- Galena Young Life Executive Committee
- Alaska Republican Assembly

Questions? Chat
with LIO staff

Online

- Alaska Tourism Marketing Board
- United for Liberty
- NCSL UAS Partnership

Other Information:

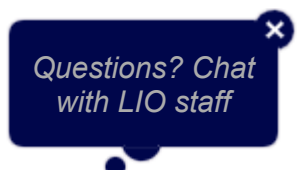
- Previous Volunteer Affiliations
 - Palmer Little League
 - Girl Scouts
 - Pioneer Peak PTA
 - Colony Middle School Band Boosters
 - Valley Festival of Arts
 - Colony High School Boys and Girls Basketball

Special Interests:

Grandchildren, Military, Church, Volunteer Work, Speed Walking*, Comedy, the Arts, Travel, Outdoors**

*I like the fact I walk so fast that I pass tall men in airports.

**My children have offered to teach me to snow board but I have not yet accepted the invitation.



Online



WEST SUSITNA ACCESS ROAD PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Comment & Outreach Summary

April 15, 2022

Prepared by:
Yehle & Associates LLC on behalf of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough

General Information

Total Comments: 1,368 comments received

Public Meeting 1: 146 people attended

Public Meeting 2: 180 people attended

Online Survey 1: 194 responses

Online Survey 2: 498 responses

Total Subscribers: 550 email addresses

Mailing List: 13,234 addresses

Website Views: 4,403 views

Effective Dates: December 7 to March 31, 2022

Purpose: To provide a forum for the public to comment on the project directly to the Borough

Website: <https://west-susitna-access.matsugov.us/>

Project Team: Brad Sworts, Borough Project Manager, Pre-Design & Engineering
 Camden Yehle, Public Involvement Lead (Yehle & Associates LLC)
 Mike Brown, Borough Manager
 George Hays, Deputy Borough Manager
 Stefan Hinman, Borough Public Affairs
 Eric Phillips, Community Development
 Terry Dolan, Public Works

Outreach & Events

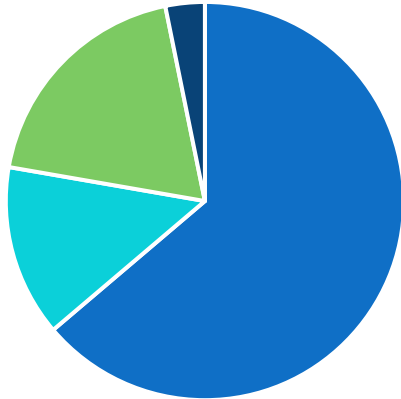
Date	Description
Project duration	Correspondence and documentation
Project duration	Mailing list and email list updates
Project duration	Website updates
12/7/2021	Assembly meeting, 24 comments
12/21/2021	Assembly meeting, 42 comments
1/25/2022	Public Involvement Plan
2/5/2022	Website launch
2/5/2022	Mailing and email list development
2/7/2022	Postcard sent to 13,200 addresses, including property owners and residents in Big Lake, Point MacKenzie, Houston, Willow, Alexander Creek, and Skwentna
2/8/2022	Meeting notice to Borough homepage
2/8/2022	Meeting notice to project website
2/9/2022	Text message survey, 23 responses
2/9/2022	Online survey 1, 194 responses
2/9/2022 2/22/2022	Email notice and reminder sent to subscriber list
2/10/2022	Request to forward meeting notice sent to interested groups

Date	Description	Date	Description
2/12/2022	<i>Anchorage Daily News</i> article		open rate
2/14/2022	Email notice sent to AIDEA project list	3/10/2022	Request to forward meeting notice sent to interested groups
2/15/2022	Facebook post to the Borough Facebook page: 137 shares, 146 comments	3/11/2022	<i>Anchorage Daily News</i> online ad, 40,000 impressions, 66 clicks
2/16/2022	<i>Anchorage Daily News</i> online ad: 40,000 impressions, 59 clicks	3/11/2022	Postcard sent to 13,200 addresses, including property owners and residents in Big Lake, Point MacKenzie, Houston, Willow, Alexander Creek, and Skwentna
2/17/2022	<i>Frontiersman</i> online ad: 13,055 impressions, 36 clicks	3/14/2022	<i>Frontiersman</i> online ad: 23,357 impressions, 49 clicks
2/21/2022	Alaska News Source online ad: 23,691 impressions, 102 clicks	3/15/2022	Alaska News Source online ad: 27,499 impressions, 104 clicks
2/22/2022	<i>Frontiersman</i> article	3/23/2022	Facebook post to Borough Facebook page
2/23/2022	Online Public Open House 1, 146 people attended	3/23/2022	Online Public Open House 2, 180 people attended
2/24/2022	Alaska News Source article	4/18/2022	Public involvement summary and chronology to project website
3/8/2022	Meeting notice to Borough homepage	4/19/2022	Assembly Meeting
3/8/2022	Notice to project website, https://west-susitna-access.matsugov.us/	4/29/2022	Closeout documentation
3/9/2022	Online survey 2, 498 responses		
3/9/2022 3/22/2022	Email notice and reminder sent to subscriber list: 428 addresses, 50%		

Comment Summary

Do you support the road?

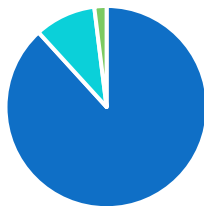
■ No ■ Yes ■ Yes, but only if it is public ■ Undecided



Note 1: This chart should not be considered a “vote,” but can be considered an indication of current public sentiment. It includes 1,033 comments that indicated level of support either directly or by tone and were only counted once per commenter (if known).

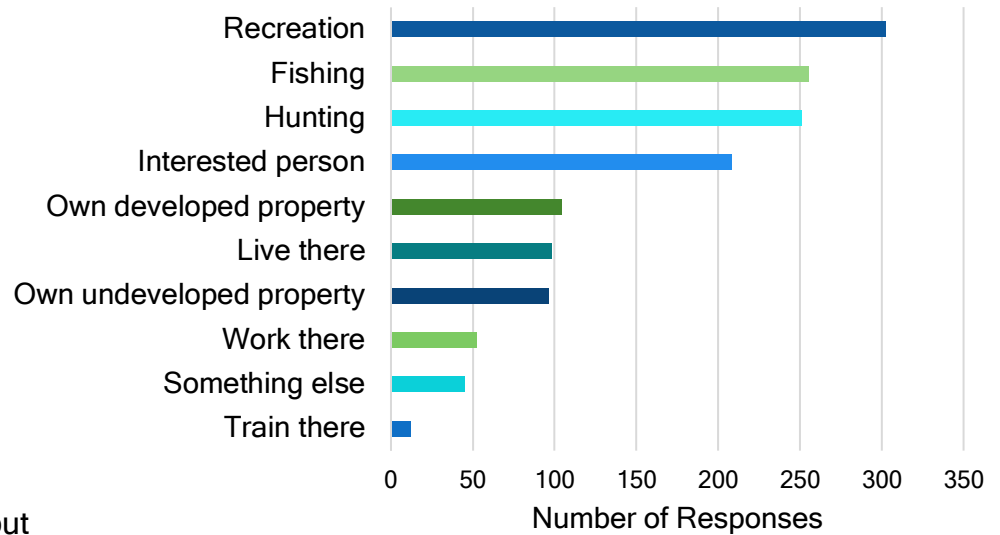
Note 2: For comparison, the chart below shows the level of support at Public Meeting 2 (51 comments).

Do you support the road? (Public Meeting 2)



■ No
 ■ Yes
 ■ Yes, but only if it has public access

What is your relationship to the project area?



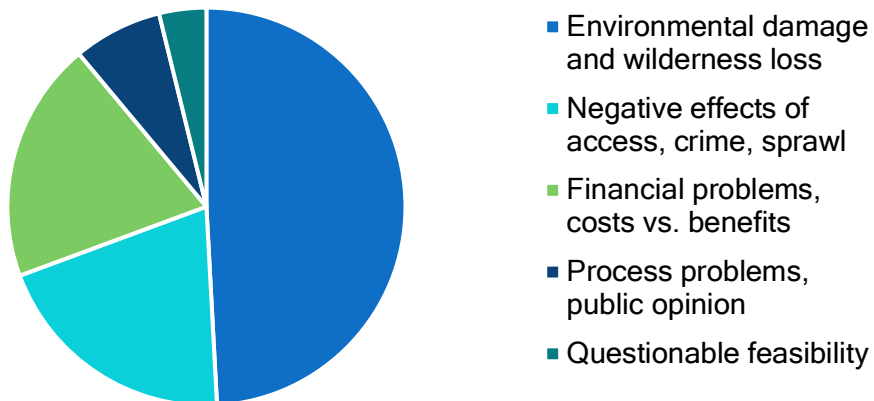
Note 3: This chart uses data from Online Survey 2. Respondents could choose as many as applied. 493 people responded to the question.

Next steps

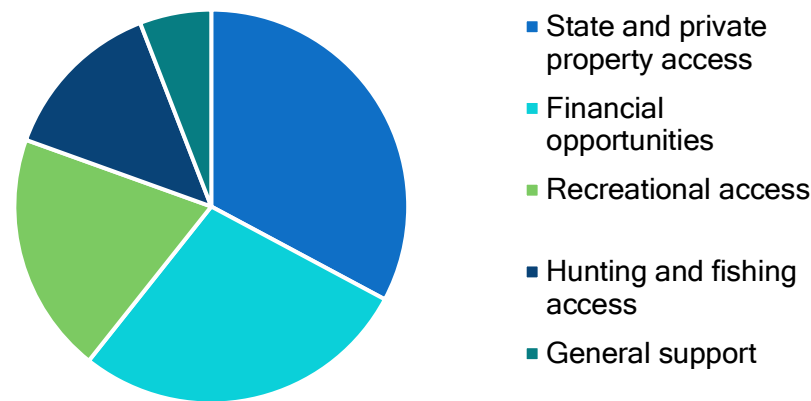
- ⇒ Present this Comment and Outreach Summary to the Borough Assembly
- ⇒ Submit this Comment and Outreach Summary to agencies during Environmental permitting
- ⇒ Closeout documentation

What are the concerns?

Project Opposition: Comment Themes



Project Support: Comment Themes



Note 4: This chart includes comment themes provided by those opposing the project and were only counted once per commenter (if known), representing 470 comments.

Sample comments:

- Will the road be public or private?
- This project would hurt our lodges that depend on the remoteness of the area to attract visitors.
- Please provide an independent cost benefit analysis.
- The team should consult with the Troopers who are under-staffed and under-funded already.
- 156 water crossings could negatively affect the Susitna basin fishery with cascading negative results.

Note 5: This chart includes comment themes provided by those supporting the project and were only counted once per commenter (if known), representing 323 comments.

Sample comments:

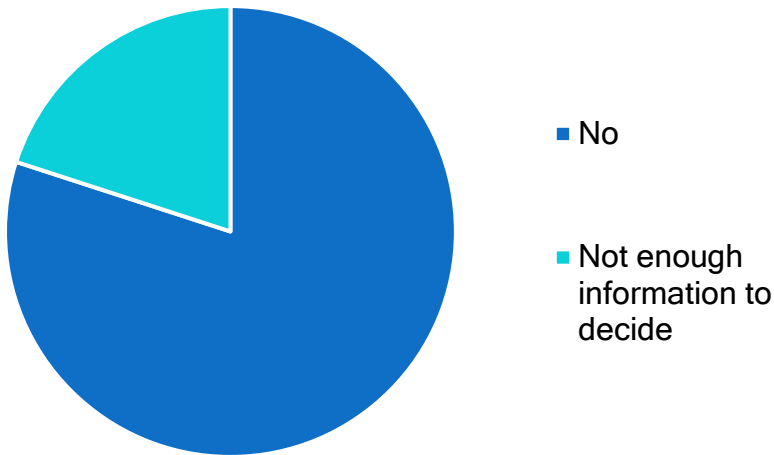
- I have a cabin at Shell Lake. We have always hoped for a road into that area.
- If there was a road out there, we would still live there.
- I think Alaska needs this project; however, it should be designed not to harm the environment.
- We have the railbed and the port; this road would be a great addition.
- We live in the Point MacKenzie area and would enjoy the access to new fishing, hunting, and recreation.

Comments from Tribal Entities

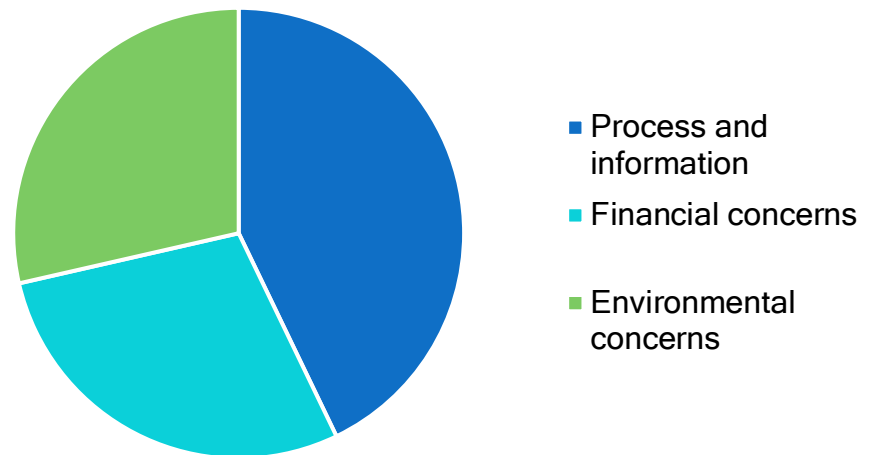
The following entities submitted a total of seven comments. Their two primary concerns were subsistence/environmental preservation and project process.

- Alexander Creek Inc, Member
- Chickaloon Village Traditional Council
- Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Historical Advisor
- Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Member
- Knik Tribe, Tribal Transportation Program Manager
- Tal, Inc., President
- Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

Do you support the road?



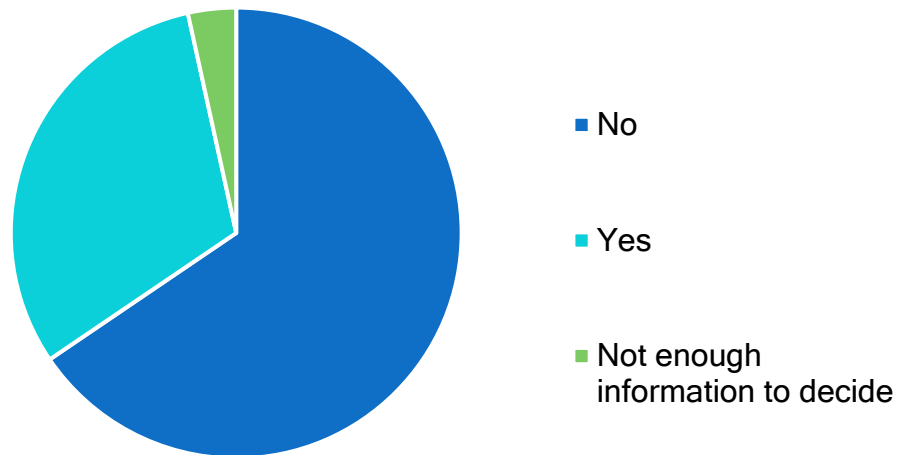
Comment Themes



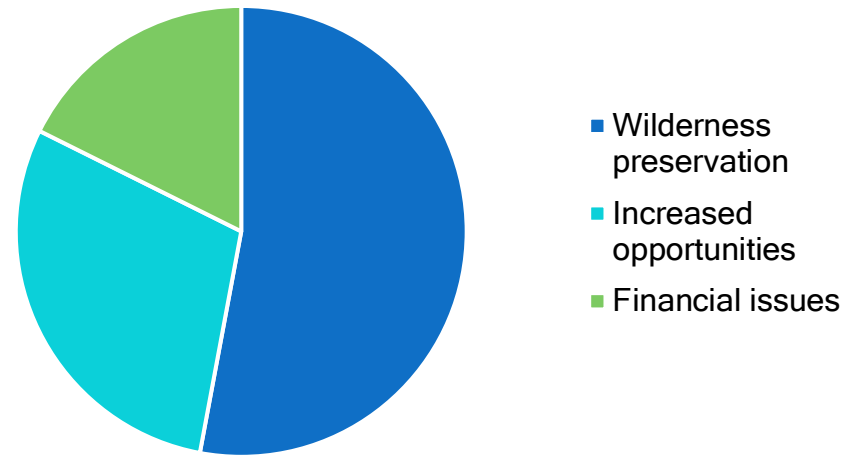
Comments from Businesses

These charts include comments from representatives of businesses including mining interests, lodges, fishing and guiding services, air taxis, and agricultural businesses. Comments were only counted once per commenter (if known), for a total of 29 comments, although many businesses commented more than once and some represented groups of businesses or memberships. Generally, businesses preferred more access or the existing limited access depending on their business model.

Do you support the road?

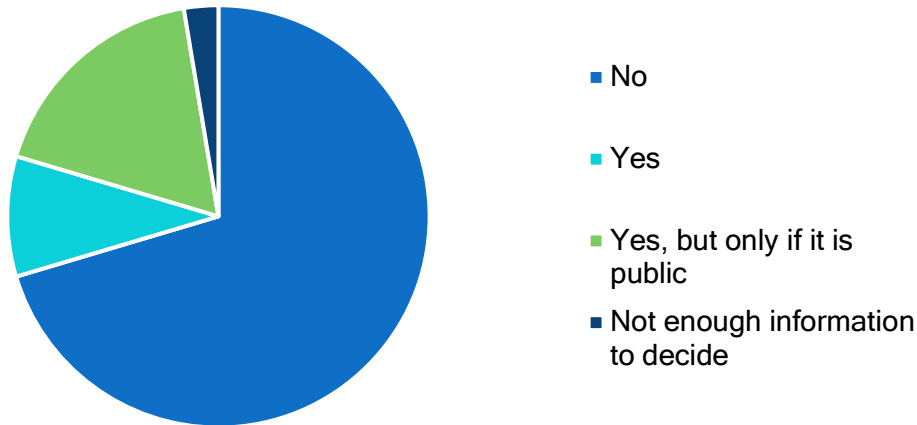


Comment Themes



Comments from Residents

Do you support the road?

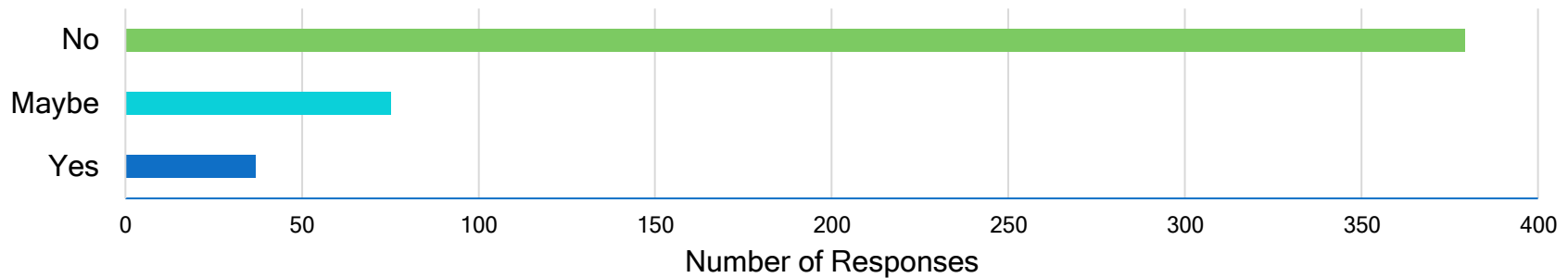


The chart to the left summarizes comments submitted by project area residents, representing 152 comments. The majority of resident comments preferred maintaining the wilderness lifestyle, although a substantial segment preferred lower cost road access, additional recreational access, and increased emergency services.

Job Opportunities

This chart uses data from Online Survey 2. 491 people responded to the question.

Would you apply for work at one of the industrial or commercial businesses that could be developed as a result of this project?

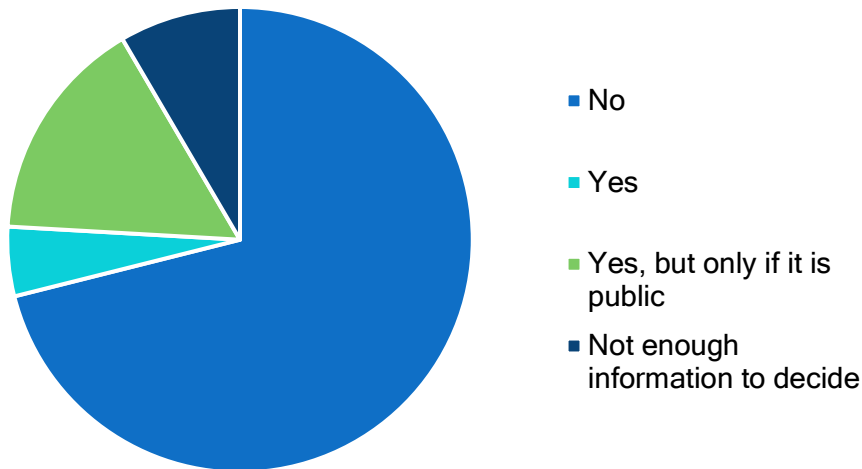


Comments from Private Property Owners

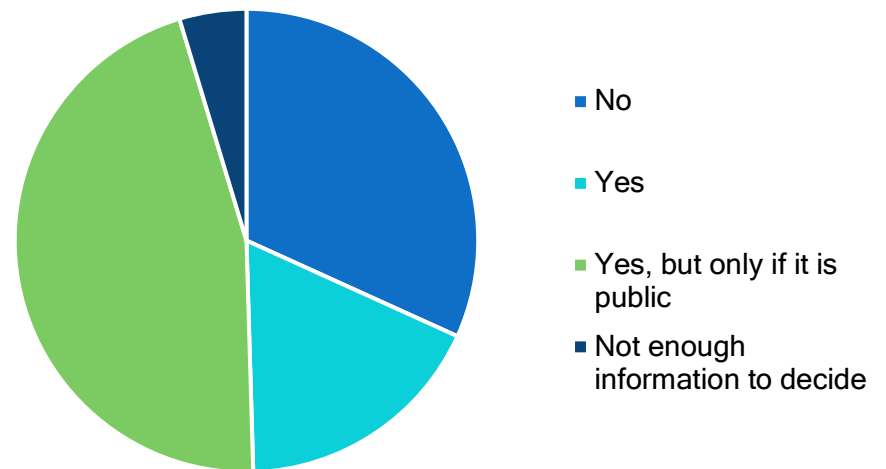
The following charts summarize the level of project support by private property owners and show the differing sentiment between those who own developed properties (83 comments) and those with undeveloped land (107 comments).

- ⇒ The primary concerns of owners of developed properties were wilderness lifestyle preservation and crime.
- ⇒ The primary comment themes from owners of undeveloped properties were reducing costs to access/develop their properties and wilderness lifestyle preservation.

Owners of Developed Properties:
Do you support the road?



Owners of Undeveloped Properties:
Do you support the road?



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Mat-Su

New transmission line for Little Susitna River corridor raises trespass and salmon concerns

By Zaz Hollander

Updated: 20 hours ago

Published: 21 hours ago



Ben Raevsky, left, and his brother-in-law Brad Cook look at a map of a proposed Matanuska Electric Association power line on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at the Northern Lights Elk Ranch in Palmer. Cook's father owns the ranch, and they are concerned about impacts to salmon streams and the viewshed. (Loren Holmes / ADN)

FISHHOOK — As a spring snowstorm blankets the herd, Northern Lights Elk Ranch manager Ben Raevsky eyes a map of a transmission line proposed for the north and east side of the sprawling property at the foot of the Talkeetna

Mountains.

[Matanuska Electric Association](#) is proposing a 20-mile, 115-kilovolt transmission line with roughly 80-foot-tall towers from the Fishhook area near Hatcher Pass to Meadow Lakes, a booming 100-square-mile area inside one of Alaska's fastest-growing regions.

It will take at least seven years to complete the project.



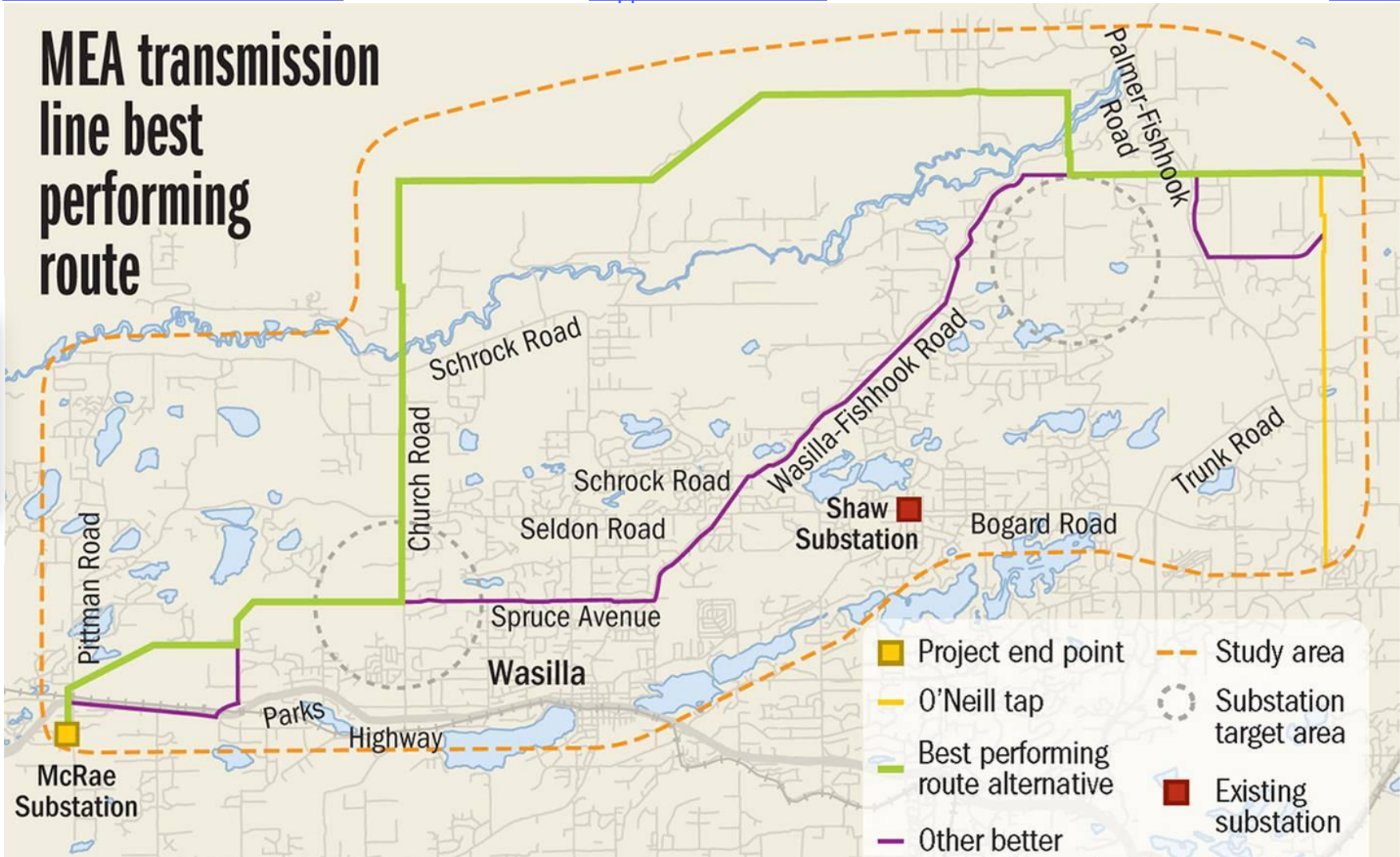
The elk ranch sits among other farms and large parcels along Edgerton Parks Road, a two-lane ribbon that provides access to popular ski, biking and hiking trails at Government Peak Recreation Area in the shadow of Hatcher Pass.



The proposed route of the line also cuts into remote territory north of the Little Susitna River, where it would create a newly cleared corridor before dropping to Pittman Road.

Project officials say that along with passing through busy residential areas near Hatcher Pass and along Church Road, the line would run about 10 miles from one crossing of the Little Su to the next – a stretch that's undeveloped except for a short section along a road called Solitude Street.

Property owners in the path of the line say the proposed route may avoid more homes than other options, but threatens the rural character of large farm lots as well as scenery in an area popular with visitors from all over Southcentral.



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Along with the visual intrusion, Raevsky said, he's worried the line will increase the risk of wildland fire, trespass by ATVs and damage to salmon habitat.

"Nobody planned for an industrial powerline to go through here," he said.

‘Trying to be proactive’

The ranch and other properties enjoy relative seclusion and quiet. But just a few miles away sit hundreds of dense fourplexes along Wasilla-Fishhook Road and scores of new subdivision homes, part of a dense cluster of growth that extends to Meadow Lakes.

Matanuska Electric, which serves 54,000 members in Mat-Su and Chugiak/Eagle River, has been adding 1,000 to 1,400 new services annually for the past five years, according to spokeswoman Jennifer Castro.



Some of the fastest growth is in the area to be served by the new transmission line, Castro said.

“We don’t want to run into reliability or outage issues in the future,” she said. “We’re just trying to be proactive.”

MEA started planning for the new line, as well as a new substation, in January 2021 and held a public hearing in January as well as two open houses and numerous presentations.

Earlier route proposals were met with concerns over proximity to homes, churches and schools in neighborhoods in the densely populated suburbia between Palmer and Wasilla, Castro said.



Elk gather in a snowy field on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at the Northern Lights Elk Ranch in Palmer. (Loren Holmes / ADN)

So by September, the utility announced the new possible route crossing the Little Su. Another route to the south, following busy Wasilla-Fishhook Road, was rated the second-best option.

Last week, the Little Su route was officially selected in a decisional document filed with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

The new line would connect an existing transmission line to a existing substation and provide a parallel path from the utility's Eklutna Generation Station into Palmer and Wasilla, according to the document.

The northern route is less intrusive to property owners than the southern one, according to MEA's analysis: It crosses 154 parcels and comes within 75 feet of 13 residential buildings, as compared to 357 parcels and 55 buildings.

It's estimated to cost \$17 million instead of almost \$25 million.

Putting the line along Wasilla-Fishhook would also complicate any future efforts to widen the busy, winding road because state transportation officials would have to move the line at "huge expense," Castro said. "That would be a lot of disruption, a lot of outages."

[\[Plans for a disputed mega-road through the Susitna Valley backcountry are moving forward again\]](#)

Wide-ranging opposition

The new decisional document includes more than 400 public comments – most expressing a preference for locating the new line along heavily used roads or routes with existing power lines. There were few comments opposing the southern route along Wasilla-Fishhook.

Raevsky, a former wildland firefighter, said his concerns over fire danger stem from MEA's plans to use a "hydro ax" to clear vegetation for the line. On other fires, he said, the wood chips left behind can provide fuel for embers.



Raevsky said ATVs taking advantage of new access under the line could add potential fire sources, not to mention hard-to-police traffic running up into Hatcher Pass.

“People shoot the elk now,” he said. “If we have ATVers traveling along this route ... we have the potential of people driving by and shooting the elk all the time.”

The Fishhook Community Council last month approved a resolution asking the borough to reject any route that conflicts with the area’s comprehensive plan guiding future growth.

Seventy-five landowners have signed a petition opposing the northern route.



Ben Raevsky, left, and his brother-in-law Brad Cook walk through the Northern Lights Elk Ranch on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 in Palmer. (Loren Holmes / ADN)

‘Stay clear of undeveloped areas’

State biologists last fall expressed concerns about any route crossing the Little Su in undeveloped areas, especially if it creates new access points to the upper river or trails cutting across tributaries, according to a [review](#) of the project.

Routes like that should be avoided, especially if alternative routes along existing roads are options, wrote Sam Ivey, Palmer-based area sport fish biologist. The northern route includes king salmon spawning grounds.

“The Little Susitna River is major producer of Chinook, coho, chum, sockeye and pink salmon and the river supports approximately 30,000 angling days of sport fishing effort in its lower reaches,” Ivey wrote, adding about 10,000 silvers are caught every year in the river.

New crossings could also increase salmon poaching, already an issue at other river crossings, he wrote.



Wildlife biologist Tim Peltier said the northern route would increase ATV use, potentially leading to wetland damage.

“We should encourage the MEA to stay clear of undeveloped areas,” Peltier wrote. “It is not that a power line in an undeveloped area would alter wildlife movement, but if there was a lot of human activity in these areas as a result of the clearing that may.”

MEA officials say they plan to “mitigate” potential effects on salmon and are discussing ways to limit ATV traffic using various deterrents such as bollards, boulders, fences, gates and signs.

[At symposium, Alaska communities pursue their share of ‘transformational’ infrastructure bill funding]



Appeal process

While Matanuska Electric was required to submit the decisional document to the borough, planning officials say they don’t have the authority to approve or reject the project outright.

Borough code requires MEA hold a certain number of public meetings and summarize comments, communicate the chosen course of action, a construction timeline and outline the appeal process.

The utility doesn’t have to prove it addressed every comment, planning officials say.

The utility has a separate — and complicated — appeals process, with a deadline of April 26. Any appeals must be supported by at least five unrelated people based on a specific objection, and people can sign only one appeal.

The appeals will be heard April 28 by a three-member appeals committee appointed by Matanuska Electric’s CEO. A decision will be made by May 28.

Amber McDonough, an engineer who owns property in the path of the line, opposes the northern route and favors the path along Wasilla-Fishhook.

McDonough and another resident in an email this week asked MEA to extend the appeal deadline to give the public a chance to digest the 800-plus-page decisional document.

They also asked the utility to address what McDonough calls “holes and potential bias” in the appeal process. That includes limiting people to just one appeal and encouraging the utility’s publicly elected board to pick five people from the community instead of the CEO.



“Since MEA’s Administration and the CEO made the project decisions outlined by the (decisional document) they cannot, without prejudice, fairly and democratically be the authority with exclusive control over the appeals process,” the email states.

If the utility’s selected route goes forward, the next hurdle will be securing easements with landowners for the line’s path.

That could be tricky given the number of residents who oppose the northern route, including elk ranch owner Paul Cook, Raevsky’s father-in-law.

Cook said he would not support granting an easement for the line at this point.

“When you talk to MEA, they’re for the most part pretty polite and professional, but it seems like they’re just going through the motions and they’re just going to do what they want to do anyway,” he said. “In Alaska, it’s all about open space and nature and wildlife. When you could go down a road that already has power, why are you cutting through new places?”



Zaz Hollander



Longtime ADN reporter Zaz Hollander is based in the Mat-Su and is currently focused on coverage of the coronavirus in Alaska. She also covers the Mat-Su region, aviation and general assignments. Contact her at zhollander@adn.com.



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MEA ATV Management Strategies

From: [Jon D. Sinclair](#)
To: [Theodore Eischeid](#)
Cc: [William A. Klatt](#); [Manny M. Lopez](#)
Subject: RE: MEA Routing Study
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 8:58:40 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Ted,

Will is out this week and I am filling in for him. We do have several examples where various types of barriers were used to prevent unauthorized access. These barriers typically work best on remote lines that already have limited access, which would be similar to the line discussed in the Decisional Document. One example is along a remote line near Sutton. We had a lot of ATV and other traffic along that line until we installed barriers, like the one below. This significantly reduced traffic and help minimize disturbances to that adjacent property owners.

Jon Sinclair, PE
Director of Engineering
Matanuska Electric Association
Office: 907-761-9280
Cell: 907-632-2946



From: William A. Klatt <William.Klatt@mea.coop>

Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 7:45 AM

To: Jon D. Sinclair <jon.sinclair@mea.coop>; Manny M. Lopez <Manny.Lopez@mea.coop>

Subject: Fwd: MEA Routing Study

Jon,

Heres a question from one of the MSB planners, they would prefer an answer back by tomorrow if possible.

Will Klatt, P.E.
Site Engineer

Matanuska Electric Association
163 E. Industrial Way, Palmer, Alaska 99645

--
From Ted Eischeid, MSB Staff - Additional ATV Management Discussions:

1. MEA Decisional Document #1, pp. 11-12 (see FWC meeting packet)
2. Also see DD#3 detailed discussion of biological resources PDF pages 10-13 and DD#4 PDF pages 284 and 289-295 MEA responses to comments (available online: at: <https://www.mea.coop/news/decisional-document-submitted-for-fishhook-to-pittman-transmission-line-route-and-substation-sites>)

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Possible Amendments to RS FWC 22-02**Kendra Zamzow**

These are offered with the perspective that

- a) a new transmission line is a good idea
- b) the transmission line itself is unlikely to cause damage to fish and wildlife or their habitat
- c) the concern is with the right-of-way that would open up access to off-road vehicles

Amendment 1: propose a change in how we present ADFG's concerns in the resolution

Amendment 1a: clarify ADFG reason for concern in the "WHEREAS" section

Change:

WHEREAS, Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff submitted concerns about negative impacts to fish and wildlife from the proposed Northern Route option being considered for this project relative to other route options under consideration;

To:

WHEREAS, Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff submitted concerns about negative impacts to fish and wildlife from **off-road vehicles accessing the Little Su area through** the proposed Northern Route option

Amendment 1b: clarify ADFG reason for concern in the "Be it Resolved" section

Change:

The FWC shares the concerns the Alaska Department of Fish and Game expressed about impacts to fish and wildlife from the Northern Route option on the Little Susitna River watershed

To:

The FWC shares the concerns the Alaska Department of Fish and Game expressed about impacts to fish and wildlife from the Northern Route option on the Little Susitna River watershed, **particularly by opening up access to off-road vehicles.**

Amendment 1c: support ADFG concerns with a stand-alone statement from FWC

ADD to the "be it resolved" section:

The FWC believes it is extremely difficult to close right-of-way corridors to off-road vehicle traffic.

Amendment 2: provide supporting information that off-road vehicles damage fish streams and habitat

ADD:

WHEREAS, off-road vehicle traffic has caused considerable damage to wetlands and

anadromous streams in the Mat-Su Borough; and

WHEREAS, the MSB budgeted \$280,000 to repair damage to stream and riparian areas at Wasilla Creek, including installation of bridges for off-road vehicles and barriers to reduce the potential for them to leave the trail; and

Commented [KZ1]: <https://www.matsugov.us/projects/wasilla-creek-headwaters-trail>

WHEREAS, off-road vehicle traffic damage to wetlands and anadromous streams resulted in the need for extensive public engagement and MSB staff time to create and develop management plans for the Knik River and the Jonesville Public Use Areas including an inventory of off-road trails in what is now the Knik River Public Use Area; and

WHEREAS, the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership continues to recognize off-road vehicles as one of the top ten threats to salmon habitat in the MSB;

Commented [KZ2]: http://www.matsusalmon.org/dev/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/MatSu-Salmon-Plan-Exec-Summary-2013_revOct15.pdf

Amendment 3: support MEA's intent to add a transmission line
In the "Whereas" section? In the "be it resolved" section?

ADD:

The FWC recognizes the need for additional transmission lines to support a growing population in the MSB.

Amendment 4: clarify that the FWC recommendation revolves around concerns about ORV access to undeveloped areas, not an issue with the transmission line itself. Adding "route *or design*" option allows consideration of an underground utilidor with a smaller right of way.

Change:

The FWC recommends a route option with less potential impact on fish and wildlife resources in the Little Susitna River watershed.

To:

The FWC recommends a route **or design** option with less potential **to allow off-road vehicle access to undeveloped areas, particularly** in the Little Susitna River watershed.

ADD:

The FWC recommends a route that avoids crossing undeveloped lands as much as possible, as the most effective way to prevent off-road vehicle traffic impacts on streams and wetlands.