

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)

The following sections from Appendix A provided the information most pertinent to your review of the proposed project; please refer to Appendix A for all the preliminary research findings.

Anadromous Fish Streams

A search of the ADFG *Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important to the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* identified two anadromous fish streams in the Prospect Creek area: the Jim River (ADFG Stream #334-40-11000-2125-3740-4080), and Prospect Creek (ADFG Stream #334-40-11000-2125-3740-4080-5030). The Jim River, which is located 1.5 miles northwest of the airport supports spawning king and chum salmon and Prospect Creek, which is located about 2 miles southwest of the airport supports spawning and rearing king salmon. Neither of these waterways is within the project area and would not be affected by the proposed airport improvements.

Essential Fish Habitat: The Jim River and Prospect Creek support anadromous fish populations and thus any activities that may involve these waterways, such as gravel acquisition, would fall under the regulations for Essential Fish Habitat (www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat.efh.htm). Currently no such activities are proposed for this project.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The list of federally listed threatened and endangered species maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was consulted to determine if listed species are of concern in the Prospect Creek area. No species on the list occur within the project area.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) website (<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/default.htm>) was visited to determine if any species under their jurisdiction might be affected by the proposed project. No threatened or endangered marine species occur in the project area. Both Prospect Creek and the Jim River support anadromous fish populations and thus any activities that may involve these waterways would fall under the regulations for Essential Fish Habitat (www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat.efh.htm). No such activities are expected for this project.

Bald Eagles

Bald eagles are protected under the Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712) and are not known to nest in the project area.

State Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries

A review of the ADFG publication, *State of Alaska Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas and Sanctuaries* found that no State Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, or Sanctuaries occur in the proposed project area. No state parks are located in the project area.

Federal Recreation Areas

The Federal recreation website (www.Recreation.gov) was reviewed to determine if any federal recreational areas exist in the proposed project vicinity. The Prospect Creek airport is within the Dalton Highway Recreation Management Area, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (<http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/dalton/programs/default.html>).

State and Local Land Use Plans and State Parks

The Prospect Creek airport is not within a region of the state for which the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) has prepared a regional land use plan. However, the airport is within the area covered by the Dalton Highway Master Plan http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/planning/mgtplans/dalton_highway/index.htm. A local land use plan was not located for the Prospect Creek area. No state parks are located in the project area.

National Wildlife Refuges

The USFWS refuge website (<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/nwr.htm>) indicates that the Prospect Creek is located northwest of the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Wetlands

A wetlands survey of the project area was conducted in summer 2004 and a draft report was completed in December 2004 and submitted to ADOT&PF for review. The preliminary results of that survey (see Figure 3) indicate that wetlands of various types do occur in the project area. Wetlands, dominated by Woodland and Open Black Spruce Forest and Birch-Ericaceous Shrub, accounted for 80% of the mapped area, with uplands, primarily Open Mixed Forest and disturbed uplands, accounting for the remaining 20%. Should any dredge/fill be required in wetlands for this project, the appropriate permits would be acquired before construction.

Coastal Zone Management

According to the ADNR's Coastal Zone and Coastal District Boundaries Map (www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/GIS/boundary.htm), the project area is not located within the coastal zone for Alaska.

Flood Plain Management

Prospect Creek airport is not covered by the National Flood Insurance Program.

Navigable Waters

The USACE Navigable Waters web page (www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/NavWat.htm) does not list either the Jim River or Prospect Creek as navigable waters. The Corps of Engineers defines navigable waters to include "...those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce."

National Parks, Preserves, Monuments, and Wild and Scenic Rivers

The National Park Service website (www.nps.gov/carto/PDF/AKPAAMap1.pdf) was reviewed to determine if any National Parks, Preserves, Monuments, or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist in the proposed project area. No sites were indicated.

Additional Information

In addition to identifying any concerns and/or issues your agency might have with the proposed project, the following information is requested:

1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website was consulted to determine whether any threatened and/or endangered species and their habitats are present in the project area and any findings are identified above. If you have any other information and/or data on threatened and/or endangered species that might potentially be affected by the proposed project please provide that information.
2. The USFW website was consulted to identify National Wildlife Refuge lands in or adjacent to the project area and any findings are identified above. If you know of any other existing or proposed refuge lands in the vicinity of the project, and can identify any refuge objectives or activities that may conflict with the proposed project please provide that information.
3. The USFW National Wetlands Inventory Maps for the project area were reviewed, and any findings are identified above. If you know of any other wetlands that may be impacted by the project please provide that information.
4. Please provide information or data on important fish and wildlife habitats or migration corridors potentially affected by the proposed project.
5. Please identify any permits and/or clearances to be obtained from your agency for the proposed project.

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