

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Mining, Land and Water
July 1, 2002

RECEIVED
JUN 25 AM 9:18

(DRAFT)
SITE-SPECIFIC PLAN
FOR
LAND NORTH AND SOUTH OF HAPPY VALLEY
AND
COLDFOOT

PROPOSED ACTION

This site-specific plan proposes classification of approximately 105,750 acres of state lands along the Dalton Highway and Trans-Alaska Pipeline from Pipeline Milepost (PLMP) 56.5, which is located just north of Pump Station 2, southward to PLMP 117.2 which is located just south of Pump Station 3 at PLMP 104.3, and at Coldfoot from approximately PLMP 232.3 to PLMP 240.1. The land within both locations is unclassified state land. The North Slope Borough has selected portions of the project area as part of its municipal entitlement under AS 29.65. The purpose of this plan is to consider the criteria set out under AS 38.04.065(b) and 11 AAC 55 to determine the proper classification under AS 38.04.065.

For ease and consistency, where possible locations are identified using pipeline milepost distances with PLMP 0 beginning on the North Slope.

SITE FACTORS

Location: Refer to Site-Specific Planning Area Maps

Geographic: The majority of the planning area is in North Slope Coastal Plain and foothills on the north side of the Brooks Range along the Dalton Highway. The remaining smaller portion of the area is at Coldfoot located on the south side of the Brooks Range.

Borough: All lands except those in T28N, R12W FM and T29N, R12W, FM are located within the North Slope Borough. Those lands not in the North Slope Borough are located at Coldfoot and are outside an organized borough.

Native Region: Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and Doyon LTD.

Coastal District: North Slope Borough Coastal Management Zone- The inland boundary extends inland along the Sagavanirktok (including Accomplishment and Section Creeks), Ridbon, Lupine, Echooka, Ivishak, Saviukviayak (including Flood Creek), drainages. Along

to the North Slope Borough, therefore, these lands are designated and classified as “**Resource Management Land**”.

In determining the overall best interests of the state, consideration must also be given to the state’s obligation to fulfill the Borough’s entitlement under AS 29.65. Although this plan recognizes that the borough has selections filed on some lands, the plan does not constitute a decision under AS 29.65 to convey the lands to the borough. The plan considers the selections in determining the appropriate classification that would allow continued state management or conveyance to the borough should the decision be made by the state to convey the land. The classification Resource Management recognizes that the land is presently remote and for which a specific resource allocation decision is not possible because of a lack of adequate resource, economic, or other relevant information. This classification meets the criteria of “vacant, unappropriated, unreserved land” under AS 29.65 and would allow a conveyance should such a decision be made, or continued management by the state.

Happy Valley: T3S, R14E, UM Section 4, 5, 7-9, 16-20, 29-32. A portion of this area will be managed as a development node (Sections 19, 20, 29, 30) to provide facilities that support transportation and utility uses, including public services, tourist and traveler facilities, recreation and other related facilities. The state will retain in state ownership land underlying existing oil and gas transportation facilities such as the pipeline, and land needed for state managed public facilities. Land not needed for existing and future facilities may be conveyed to the North Slope Borough under AS 29.65. The determination of exactly what lands will be conveyed to the Borough will be made through the AS 29.65 and Best Interest Finding (AS 38.05.035(e)) for the Borough’s selection.

This plan recognizes: the possible use of the land at Happy Valley as a development node; the pending selection, ADL 414838, of land by the North Slope Borough; the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities pending application ADL 415414, which overlaps a portion of Borough selection ADL 414838; and, the need to resolve any remaining issues concerning the Happy Valley contaminated site and the resource values associated with the area.

The management intent for these lands is to recognize the existing uses while allowing only short term new activities until the adjudication of the pending applications from the North Slope Borough and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, yet maintaining the state’s ability to use the land for transportation, pipeline and utility corridor purposes. These land are designated and classified as “**Resource Management Land**”.

In determining the overall best interests of the state, consideration must also be given to the state’s obligation to fulfill the Borough’s entitlement under AS 29.65. Although this plan recognizes that the borough has selections filed on some lands, the plan does not constitute a decision under AS 29.65 to convey the lands to the borough. The plan considers the selections in determining the appropriate classification that would allow continued state management or conveyance to the borough should the decision be made by the state to convey the land. The classification resource management is retained for land that is presently remote and for which a specific resource allocation decision is not possible because of a lack of adequate resource, economic, or other relevant information. This classification meets the criteria of “vacant,

unappropriated, unreserved land” under AS 29.65 and would allow a conveyance should such a decision be made, or continued management by the state.

Coldfoot: T28N, R12W UM Section 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22 and T29N, R12E UM Section 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35. The management intend for land within the Coldfoot development node is to provide for continued operation of existing services and additional or expanded services in support of the use of the Dalton Highway by industrial and commercial traffic as well as use by the public. This site-specific plan also recognizes the past, present, and future importance of this land as a transportation and utility corridor for authorized pipeline purposes and for future use because of its location and accessibility. The land at Coldfoot, because of its existing use, physical qualities and suitability for year around commercial development is designated and classified as “**Settlement Land**”.

Remainder of Corridor: The remaining corridor land will be managed for transportation and utility uses and will be retained in state ownership. This site-specific plan recognizes the past, present, and future importance of this land as a transportation and utility corridor for authorized pipeline purposes and for future use because of its location and accessibility. At the same time it is important that other resource values are recognized in the use and development of this land. This is particularly important with the increasing use of the area by the public. The management intent for the land adjacent to the Dalton Highway right-of-way, with the exceptions of the lands at Pump Station 2, Coldfoot and Happy Valley, and the land selected by the Borough, is to provide for existing transportation of oil and gas and to recognize the potential for location and construction of future access, pipelines or utilities while minimizing adverse effects to the environmental and access for other resource use.

Support services that can be located at nodes will not be allowed in this unit. This land is designated and classified as “**Transportation Corridor Land**”.