



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Izembek

National Wildlife Refuge

Land Exchange/Road Corridor

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Executive Summary

NOTE:

This Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange/Road Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Executive Summary totals 50 pages. In the interest of saving paper, this packet includes only the cover, table of contents, and page 1 of the Executive Summary. A full copy of the Executive Summary and complete EIS can be found online, at:
<http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147524796>



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission Statement

The Mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



Refuge System Mission Statement

The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

—National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

On the Cover: Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, 2007

Photo from the NCTC Image Library

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

2003 EIS	King Cove Access Project Environmental Impact Statement (USACE 2003)
Act	Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009; Public Law 111-11, Title VI, Subtitle E
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Coast Guard	U.S. Coast Guard
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
Selected Lands	King Cove Corporation lands selected under rights under the <i>Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act</i> (ANCSA)
Service	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S.	United States of America
U.S.C.	United States Code

LIST OF REFERENCES

- AEB (Aleutians East Borough). 2012. Letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (with enclosures). March 29, 2012.
- FAA (Federal Aviation Administration). 2010. U.S. Terminal Procedures Publication. Alaska Volume 1 of 1. Effective 23 September 2010 to 18 November 2010.
- USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). 2003. King Cove Access Project Environmental Impact Statement. Alaska District, Anchorage, Alaska. Draft July 2003. Final December 2003. Record of Decision January 22, 2004.
- Walker, A. M. 2010. Personal communication regarding operations of the King Cove Airport. Aviation Safety and Security Officer. Central Region, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. November 1, 2010. Joan Kluwe. URS.

ES-1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES-1.1 Introduction

In the *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009* (Public Law 111-11, Title VI, Subtitle E) (Act), Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to exchange lands within the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge for lands owned by the State of Alaska and the King Cove Corporation for the purpose of constructing a single lane gravel road between the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay, Alaska, if it is in the public interest. In the Act, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the terms of the Act and the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and its implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). Congress specified that the EIS must analyze the land exchange, potential road construction and operation, and a specific road corridor through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and the Izembek Wilderness that is to be identified in consultation with the State of Alaska, the City of King Cove, and the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove (Section 6402(b)(2)). To proceed with a land exchange, the Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to make a public interest determination finding that the proposed land exchange (including the construction of a road) is in the public interest.

If determined to be in the public interest, the land exchange would enable construction and operation of a single lane gravel road between the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay, Alaska, that would provide City of King Cove residents road access to the Cold Bay Airport. Congress responded to continuing concerns about reliable access for health and safety purposes on the part of the King Cove Corporation, the City of King Cove, the Aleutians East Borough, and the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the lead federal agency for the EIS. Cooperating agencies are:

Federal	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (Corps) Federal Highway Administration/Western Federal Lands
Tribal	Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove Native Village of Belkofski
State	State of Alaska
Borough	Aleutians East Borough
Local/Other	City of King Cove King Cove Corporation

ES-1.2 Proposed Action

The proposed action is the exchange of land between the federal government, the State of Alaska, and the King Cove Corporation for the purpose of constructing and operating a single lane gravel road between the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay, Alaska. As provided in the Act, the road “shall be used primarily for health and safety purposes, (including access to and from the Cold Bay Airport) and only for noncommercial purposes.” The use of taxis, commercial