

January 30, 2025

Patrick Allen Atkins
Chief, North Section Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1046 Marks Road
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

Transmitted via email to: regpagemaster@usace.army.mil

Subject: Binkley Gravel Road and Gravel Harvest Project in Fairbanks, Alaska
Application for Individual Permit

Dear Mr. Atkins:

John Binkley (Godspeed Leasing, LLC) proposes to construct a gravel road using gravel extracted from the Tanana River which runs adjacent to his property in Fairbanks. The proposed project would occur southwest of the City of Fairbanks (Township 2S, Range 3W, Section 14, Fairbanks Meridian). The gravel borrow area would occur at approximately latitude 64.733635, longitude -148.107454 and the proposed road end points would be at latitude 64.740864, longitude -148.112298 and latitude 64.741065, longitude -148.086665. Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc. (SolsticeAK) is providing permitting support for the project.

The proposed project would involve the installation of an approximately 4,067-foot (about 2.23 acres) gravel road and the removal of approximately 15,000 cubic yards of river gravel from about 2.89 acres of the Tanana River. Work would occur within wetlands and waters of the U.S. and is expected to begin in spring 2025.

The proposed gravel borrow area was previously permitted under POA-2001-0845.

With this letter, we are requesting that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) delegate SolsticeAK to conduct Section 106 consultation with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office and with local Tribal entities on behalf of the USACE. We are also requesting a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination for the proposed road site.


If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 907.929.5960 or email me at emma@solsticeak.com. Thank you for your efforts on this project.

Sincerely,



Emma Kimball
Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc.

Attachments: Department of the Army Permit Application; Project Description; Project Figures
Copies: John Binkley

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)		Form Approved - OMB No. 0710-0003 Expires: 2027-03-31	
APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT			
For use of this form, see 33 CFR 325. The proponent agency is CECW-COR.			
The public reporting burden for this collection of information, OMB Control Number 0710-0003, is estimated to average 11 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil . Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO THE ABOVE EMAIL.			
PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT			
Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of a public notice as required by Federal law. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued. One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and/or instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned. System of Record Notice (SORN). The information received is entered into our permit tracking database and a SORN has been completed (SORN #A1145b) and may be accessed at the following website: http://dpcl.d.defense.gov/Privacy/SORNsIndex/DOD-wide-SORN-Article-View/Article/570115/a1145b-ce.aspx			
(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)			
1. APPLICATION NO.	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE	3. DATE RECEIVED	4. DATE APPLICATION COMPLETE
(ITEMS BELOW TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)			
5. APPLICANT'S NAME First - John Middle - Last - Binkley Company - Godspeed Leasing, LLC E-mail Address - john@riverboatdiscovery.com		8. AUTHORIZED AGENT'S NAME AND TITLE (agent is not required) First - Emma Middle - Last - Kimball Company - Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc. (SolsticeAK) E-mail Address - emma@solsticeak.com	
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: Address- 5325 Small Tracts Road City - Fairbanks State - AK Zip - 99709 Country - USA		9. AGENT'S ADDRESS: Address- 2607 Fairbanks Street Suite B City - Anchorage State - AK Zip - 99503 Country - USA	
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOS. w/AREA CODE a. Residence b. Business c. Fax (907) 479 6673		10. AGENTS PHONE NOS. w/AREA CODE a. Residence b. Business c. Fax (907) 929 5960	
STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION			
11. I hereby authorize, <u>SolsticeAK</u> to act in my behalf as my agent in the processing of this application and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this permit application. <div style="text-align: center;"> <u>1.29.2025</u> SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT DATE</div>			
NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY			
12. PROJECT NAME OR TITLE (see instructions) Fairbanks Gravel Road and Tanana River Gravel Harvest			
13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNOWN (if applicable) Tanana River		14. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (if applicable) Address City - State- AK Zip-	
15. LOCATION OF PROJECT Latitude: °N Sec attached Longitude: °W			
16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF KNOWN (see instructions) State Tax Parcel ID Municipality Fairbanks North Star Borough Section - 14 Township - 2S Range - 3W			

17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE

From Fairbanks, take the Parks Highway toward Ester and continue past Ester for approximately 3.5 miles. Turn left onto Cripple Creek Road and continue for 3.7 miles. Turn right onto Rosie Creek Trail. The west end of the proposed gravel road is located approximately 3.5 miles down Rosie Creek Trail on the left. The proposed gravel harvest area is located approximately 0.5 miles farther down Rosie Creek Trail on a gravel bar in the Tanana River.

18. Nature of Activity (Description of project, include all features)

See attached project description.

19. Project Purpose (Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions)

See attached project description.

USE BLOCKS 20-23 IF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCHARGED

20. Reason(s) for Discharge

Construction of a gravel road.

21. Type(s) of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards:

Type Amount in Cubic Yards	Type Amount in Cubic Yards	Type Amount in Cubic Yards
8,340 of river gravel		

22. Surface Area in Acres of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled (see instructions)

Acres 1.77 acres filled; 2.89 acres of gravel excavated
or
Linear Feet

23. Description of Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation (see instructions)

See attached project description.

24. Is Any Portion of the Work Already Complete? ☐ Yes ☒ No IF YES, DESCRIBE THE COMPLETED WORK

25. Addresses of Adjoining Property Owners, Lessees, Etc., Whose Property Adjoins the Waterbody (if more than can be entered here, please attach a supplemental list).

a. Address- 5100 Rosic Creek Trail

City - Fairbanks

State - AK

Zip - 99709

b. Address- 6115 E San Cristobal Street

City - Tucson

State - AZ

Zip - 85715

c. Address- 3700 Airport Way

City - Fairbanks

State - AK

Zip - 99709

d. Address- 1150 University Avenue

City - Fairbanks

State - AK

Zip - 99709

e. Address- 122 1st Avenue

City - Fairbanks

State - AK

Zip - 99701

26. List of Other Certificates or Approvals/Denials received from other Federal, State, or Local Agencies for Work Described in This Application.

AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL*	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE APPLIED	DATE APPROVED	DATE DENIED
ADF&G	Fish Habitat			N/A	
AK DNR	Land Use Permit			N/A	
AK DNR	Material Sale Permit			N/A	
FNSB	Floodplain Permit			N/A	

* Would include but is not restricted to zoning, building, and flood plain permits

27. Application is hereby made for permit or permits to authorize the work described in this application. I certify that this information in this application is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.


SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

1.29.2025
DATE


SIGNATURE OF AGENT

1/30/2025
DATE

The Application must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity (applicant) or it may be signed by a duly authorized agent if the statement in block 11 has been filled out and signed.

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

Godspeed Leasing, LLC
Fairbanks Gravel Road and Tanana River Gravel Harvest
January 2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW

John Binkley (Godspeed Leasing, LLC) proposes to construct an approximately 4,067 linear foot gravel road in Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), Alaska, to access his property and an existing cabin. Gravel for the proposed road would be sourced from the Tanana River which runs adjacent to the property.

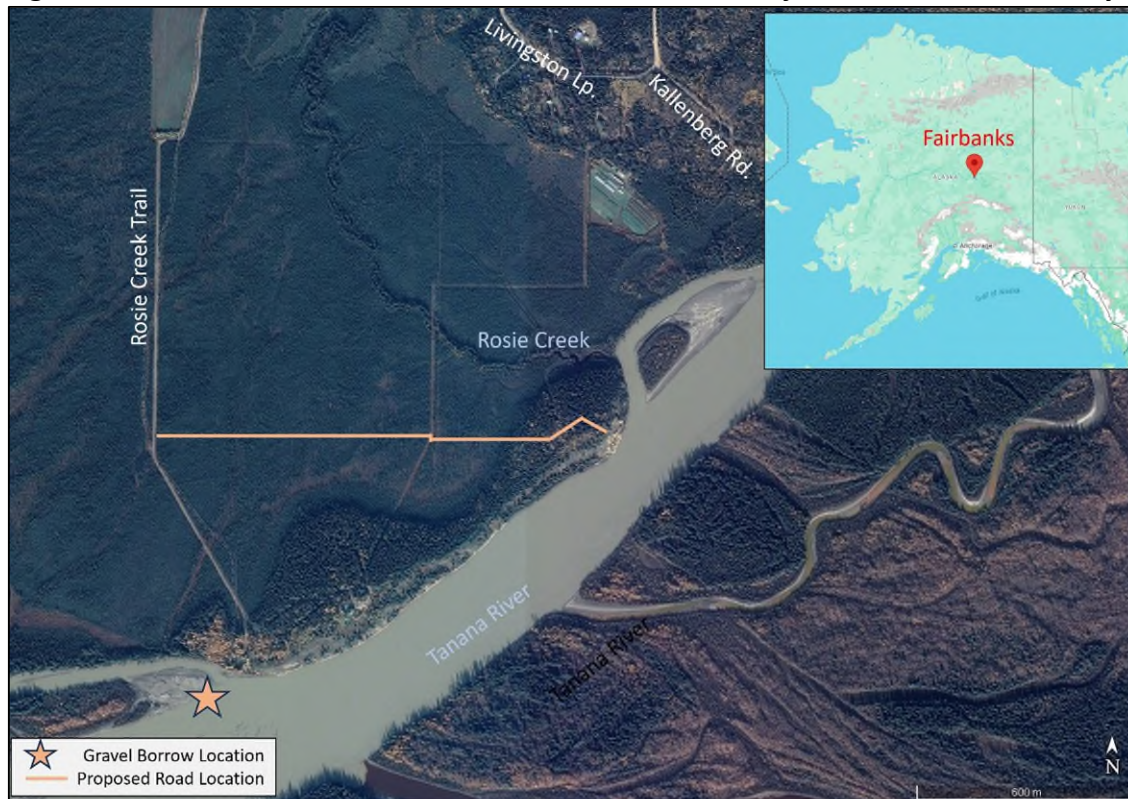
Gravel harvest would occur in spring 2025 during low water. Road construction would begin in late fall or winter 2025 and would occur for an estimated 18 months.

Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc. (SolsticeAK) is providing permitting support for the project.

LOCATION

The proposed project is located within the FNSB; Township 2S, Range 3W, Section 14, Fairbanks Meridian; USGS Quadrangle Fairbanks C-3 NE. The gravel borrow area would occur at approximately latitude 64.733635, longitude -148.107454 and the proposed road end points would be at latitude 64.740864, longitude -148.112298 and latitude 64.740870, longitude -148.086633 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Gravel Road and Tanana River Gravel Harvest Project Location and Vicinity Map



PURPOSE AND NEED

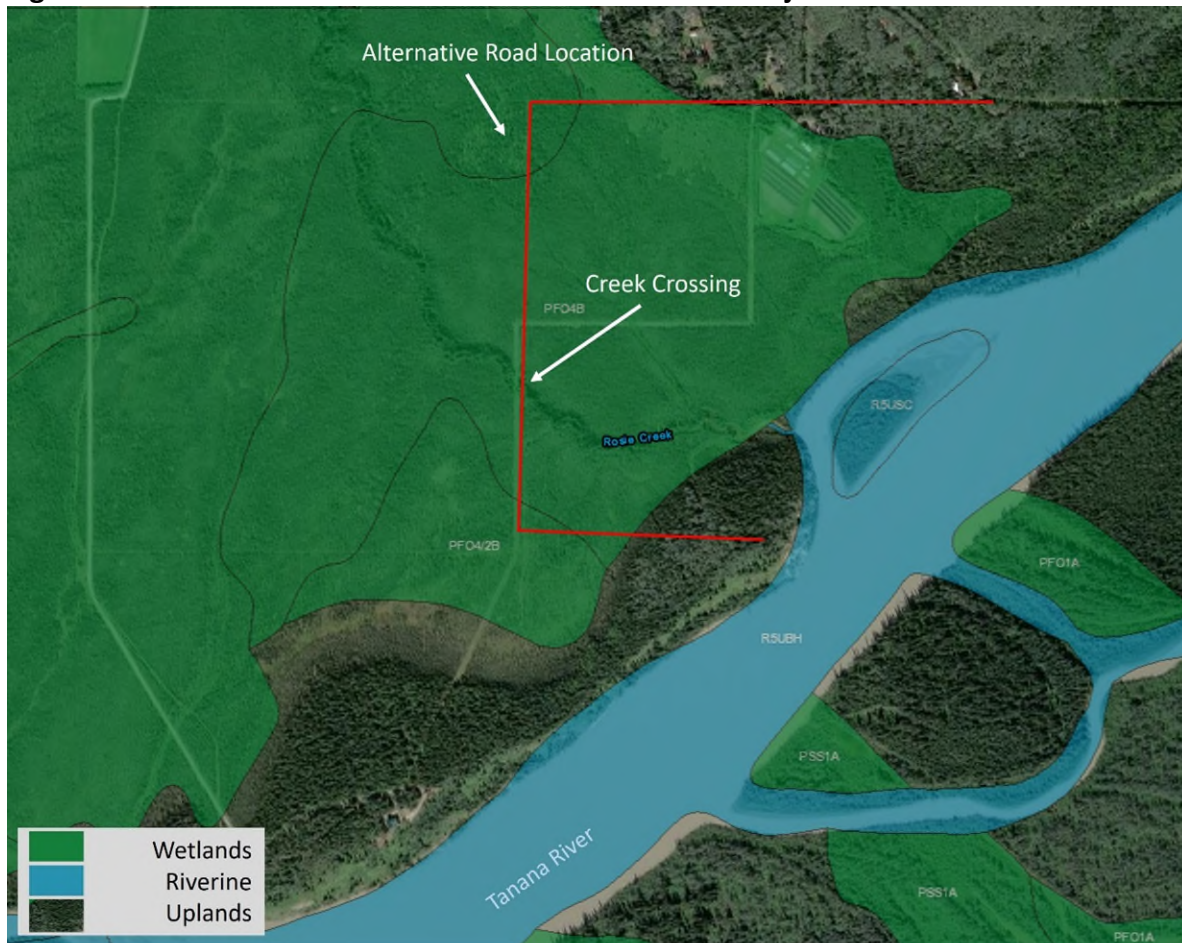
The purpose of the project is to construct a road using gravel from the Tanana River to connect property owned by John Binkley to the existing Rosie Creek Trail. The project is needed to access an existing cabin and two parcels of land owned by John Binkley, all of which are only accessible by snowmachine or by foot.

In the FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan, the property where the proposed project would occur is designated as Preferred Residential Land (FNSB 2024). Preferred Residential Land is described in the FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan as “land determined to be more suitable than other lands for development because it is generally: a) on slopes of 20% or less, b) not designated wetlands, c) has a lower probability of containing detrimental permafrost conditions” (FNSB 2005).

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In addition to the proposed alternative, one other alternative was considered. This alternative involved constructing a road that would tie into Kallenberg Road, northeast of the project site. This alternative had a larger footprint than the proposed alternative (approximately 6,700 linear feet; 4.4 acres). Approximately 4,100 linear feet of this alternative would be placed in wetlands. This alternative would also cross Rosie Creek, where Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has documented resident fish (ADF&G 2021; Figure 2).

Figure 2. Gravel Road and Tanana River Gravel Harvest Project Alternative Road Location



Source: USFWS 2024

PROPOSED ACTION

Road Construction

The proposed project would involve the installation of an approximately 4,067 feet long by 20 feet wide gravel road. To construct the road, geotextile would be placed along the length of the proposed road alignment and overlain with river gravel. Approximately 3,208 feet of the road, from where it would intersect with the existing Rosie Creek Trail to where the road would enter an uplands area (Attachment A, sheet 6), would consist of two feet of gravel with four-foot shoulders. Approximately 858 feet of the road constructed within the uplands area would consist of one foot of gravel with two-foot-wide shoulders. One car pullout, approximately 20 feet by 50 feet, would be constructed (Figure 3). For the proposed road, approximately 2.23 acres (8,340 cubic yards) of gravel fill would be discharged.

Drainage

Three culverts would be installed at natural drainage points along the proposed road as shown in Figure 3. These culverts are expected to be standard 24-inch diameter steel pipe or similar.

Gravel Harvest

The proposed project would include the removal of approximately 15,000 cubic yards of river gravel from below ordinary high water (OHW) of the Tanana River (Figure 3).

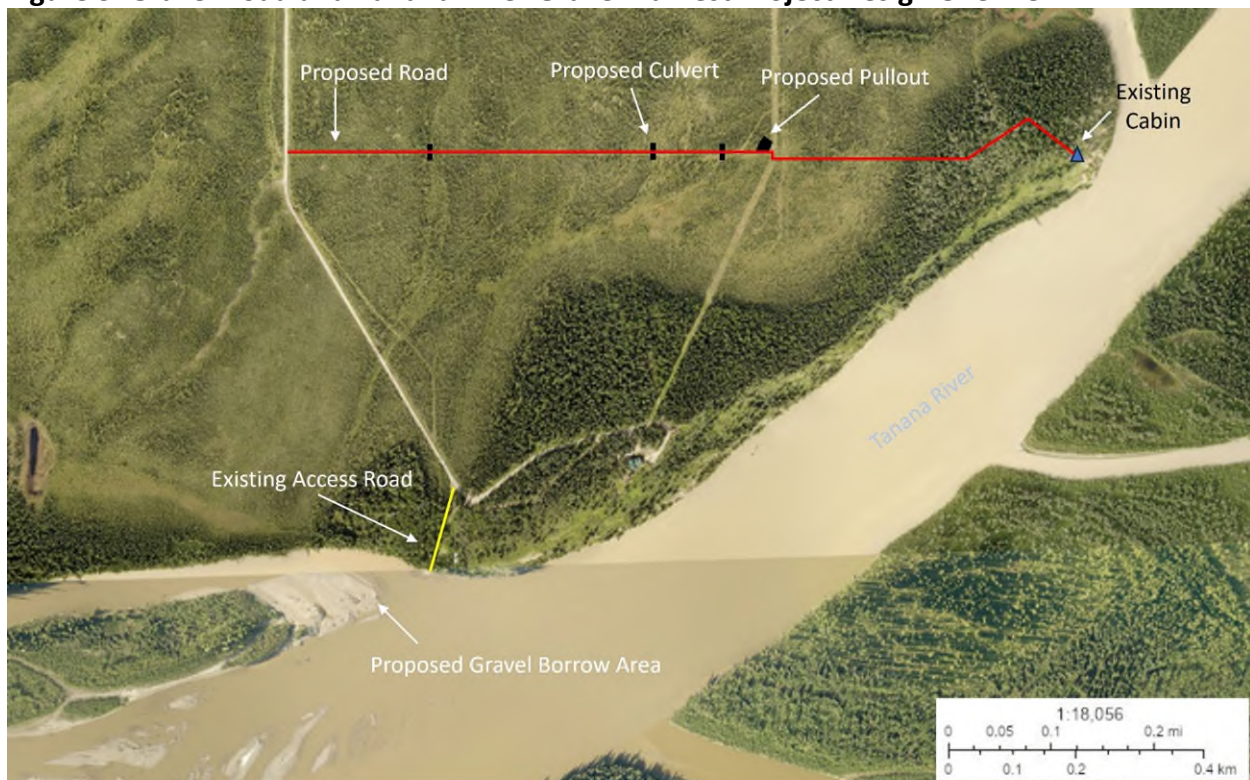
Gravel would be removed from a gravel bar in the Tanana River using an excavator, dozer, and dump truck during low water in early spring, and brought by truck over an existing access road to the existing Rosie Creek Trail, then to the project site (Figure 3; Attachment A, sheets 2 and 3). Prior to the winter road construction window, approximately 2,500 cubic yards of the removed gravel would be stockpiled on an existing road surface near the removal site for ongoing road maintenance.

Clearing

Approximately 2.23 acres of land along the proposed 4,067-foot road site would be cleared. Approximately 2,500 feet of this is along a previously cleared property line boundary (Attachment A, sheet 1).

Proposed project details are shown in Figure 3 and in the attached project drawings (Attachment B).

Figure 3. Gravel Road and Tanana River Gravel Harvest Project Design Overview



(Note: gravel bar shown during high water. See Attachment A, sheets 4-5 for gravel bar during low water)

DATES AND DURATION

Gravel removal would occur during low-water in spring, 2025. Road construction would begin late fall or winter, 2025 and continue for approximately 18 months.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

According to a review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory mapper, the proposed project would impact riverine habitat (classified as R5UBH) and freshwater forested/shrub wetland (classified as PFO4B and PFO4/2B; USFWS 2024). See Figure 4.

Approximately 126,000 sf, (2.89 acres) of riverine habitat (R5UBH) would be impacted by gravel extraction from a previously permitted area in the Tanana River, a navigable water. Approximately 77,000 square feet (1.77 acres) of freshwater forested/shrub wetland (consisting of approximately 1.22 acres of PFO4/2B and 0.55 acres of PFO4B) would be impacted by road construction.

Figure 4. Gravel Road and Tanana River Gravel Harvest Project Wetlands



Source: USFWS 2024

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT-PROTECTED SPECIES

The USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation website was used to identify protected species, migratory birds, and critical habitat that may occur in the project area. There are no

known protected species, migratory birds, or critical habitats at the proposed project site (USFWS 2024a).

ANADROMOUS FISH

The Tanana River is identified as an anadromous stream by the ADF&G Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC). Chinook, chum, coho, and sockeye salmon are listed as present in the Tanana River on the AWC mapper. Arctic lamprey, humpback whitefish, least cisco, and inconnu/whitefish are also listed as present in the Tanana River. None of these species have been documented spawning or rearing at the project site (ADF&G 2024).

A Fish Habitat Permit would be obtained from ADF&G prior to beginning gravel extraction.

CONTAMINATION

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) contaminated sites database indicates that there are no active contaminated sites at or near the project area (ADEC 2024). The closest contaminated site (Interior Alaska Veterans Cemetery; Hazard ID 26961) is approximately four miles north of the proposed project.

The Tanana River is listed as attaining water quality standards in the 2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (ADEC 2022).

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

On September 23, 2024, Cultural Resource Consultants, LLC (CRC) conducted a literature review based on a search of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) for the proposed project. There is one site, located approximately 200 feet south of where the proposed road would run. The Simpson Site (FAI-01999) is a precontact site that was surveyed in 1998 and is located in a wooded area above the bank of the Tanana River. The site has not been evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (CRC 2024).

The proposed project would not affect any historic or cultural properties because the Simpson Site falls outside of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), which extends 25 feet from the center of the proposed road out along either side. The cabin located on the property near the proposed road was constructed in 1990, and therefore would not be considered historic. National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation will be completed with the State Historic Preservation Office and local Tribes.

AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES MITIGATION STATEMENTS

Avoidance of Impacts to Waters of the United States

To meet the project's purpose and need construction must occur within wetlands and waters of the United States.

Minimization of Unavoidable Impacts to Waters of the United States, Including Wetlands:

The proposed project site was chosen to avoid impacts to wetlands and waters as much as feasible while fulfilling the purpose and need of the project. The project uses the most direct

route for the proposed road and uses an existing road as much as possible to minimize impacts to wetlands and waters of the United States. The project would minimize wetlands impacts by sourcing gravel from an existing borrow site in the Tanana River and utilizing an existing road and gravel haul road to transport material to the project site.

General Construction Mitigation Measures

- Construction limits will be clearly staked along the entire road alignment.
- No stockpiles or staging will be placed within the river or in wetlands along the road alignment.
- Water quality will be protected during construction through best management practices, including:
 - Sediment prevention measures (i.e. silt fence or other means) will be placed and maintained. These devices would remain in place until all in-water work is complete.
- Natural vegetation will be retained where possible. Disturbed areas will be re-vegetated with native seeds and restored to preconstruction conditions.
- In-water work will be conducted at a time of year that avoids impacts to fish.

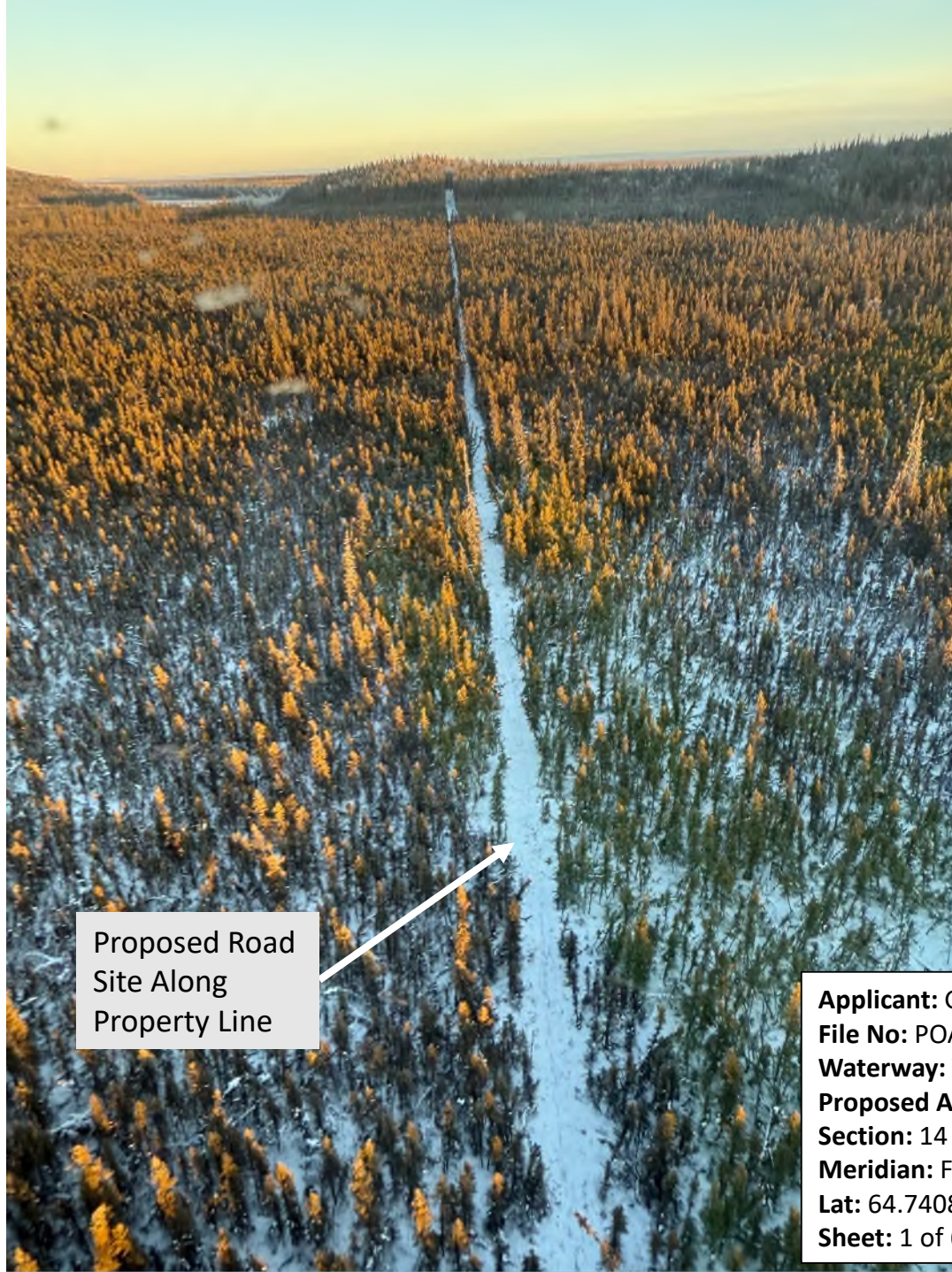
REFERENCES

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). 2024. Contaminated Sites Mapper. Accessed at <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=315240bfbaf84aa0b8272ad1cef3cad3> on September 24, 2024.
- ADEC. 2022. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Fact Sheet 2022 Final Integrated Report. Accessed at <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/> on September 24, 2024.
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). 2024. Anadromous Waters Catalog Mapper. Accessed at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/SARR/AWC/index.cfm?ADFG=main.interactive> on September 24, 2024.
- ADF&G. 2021. Fish Inventory Site FSTY2021A01. Survey date July 30, 2021. Accessed at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/reports/FishSurveys/rptSite.cfm?site=FSTY2021A01> on September 24, 2024.
- Cultural Resource Consultants, LLC. 2024. Fairbanks Gravel Road Project Along Rosie Creek Literature Review. September 23, 2024.
- Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). 2024. Regional Comprehensive Plan Mapper. Accessed at <https://www.fnsb.gov/435/Single-Purpose-Map-Gallery> on September 17, 2024.
- FNSB. 2005. Fairbanks North Star Borough. Regional Comprehensive Plan. Adopted by the FNSB Assembly September 13 2005. Accessed at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcra/admin/PlanMgmt> on September 17, 2024.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2024. National Wetlands Inventory. Accessed at <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html> on September 17, 2024.

USFWS. 2024a. Information for Planning and Consultation. Accessed at <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/> on September 24, 2024.

Attachment A:
Project Figures



Proposed Road
Site Along
Property Line

Applicant: Godspeed Leasing, LLC
File No: POA-XXX-XX
Waterway: Tanana River
Proposed Activity: Gravel Road
Section: 14 **Township:** 2S **Range:** 3W
Meridian: Fairbanks
Lat: 64.740864, **Long:** -148.112298
Sheet: 1 of 6 **Date:** January 2025



Existing Access Road
to Gravel Bar

Applicant: Godspeed Leasing, LLC

File No: POA-XXX-XX

Waterway: Tanana River

Proposed Activity: Gravel Road

Section: 14 **Township:** 2S **Range:** 3W

Meridian: Fairbanks

Lat: 64.740864, **Long:** -148.112298

Sheet: 2 of 6 **Date:** January 2025

An aerial photograph taken from a high vantage point, likely a helicopter, looking down into a dense forest. The ground is covered in a thick layer of snow, and the trees are mostly bare, with some evergreens visible. A winding path or road is visible through the trees, and a label points to it. The bottom left corner shows the interior of the helicopter, including a fuel gauge and part of the rotor hub.

Existing Access Road to Gravel Bar

Applicant: Godspeed Leasing, LLC

File No: POA-XXX-XX

Waterway: Tanana River

Proposed Activity: Gravel Road

Section: 14 **Township:** 2S **Range:** 3W

Meridian: Fairbanks

Lat: 64.740864, **Long:** -148.112298

Sheet: 3 of 6 **Date:** January 2025



Existing Access Road →

Applicant: Godspeed Leasing, LLC

File No: POA-XXX-XX

Waterway: Tanana River

Proposed Activity: Gravel Road

Section: 14 **Township:** 2S **Range:** 3W

Meridian: Fairbanks

Lat: 64.740864, **Long:** -148.112298

Sheet: 4 of 6 **Date:** January 2025



Gravel Bar

Applicant: Godspeed Leasing, LLC

File No: POA-XXX-XX

Waterway: Tanana River

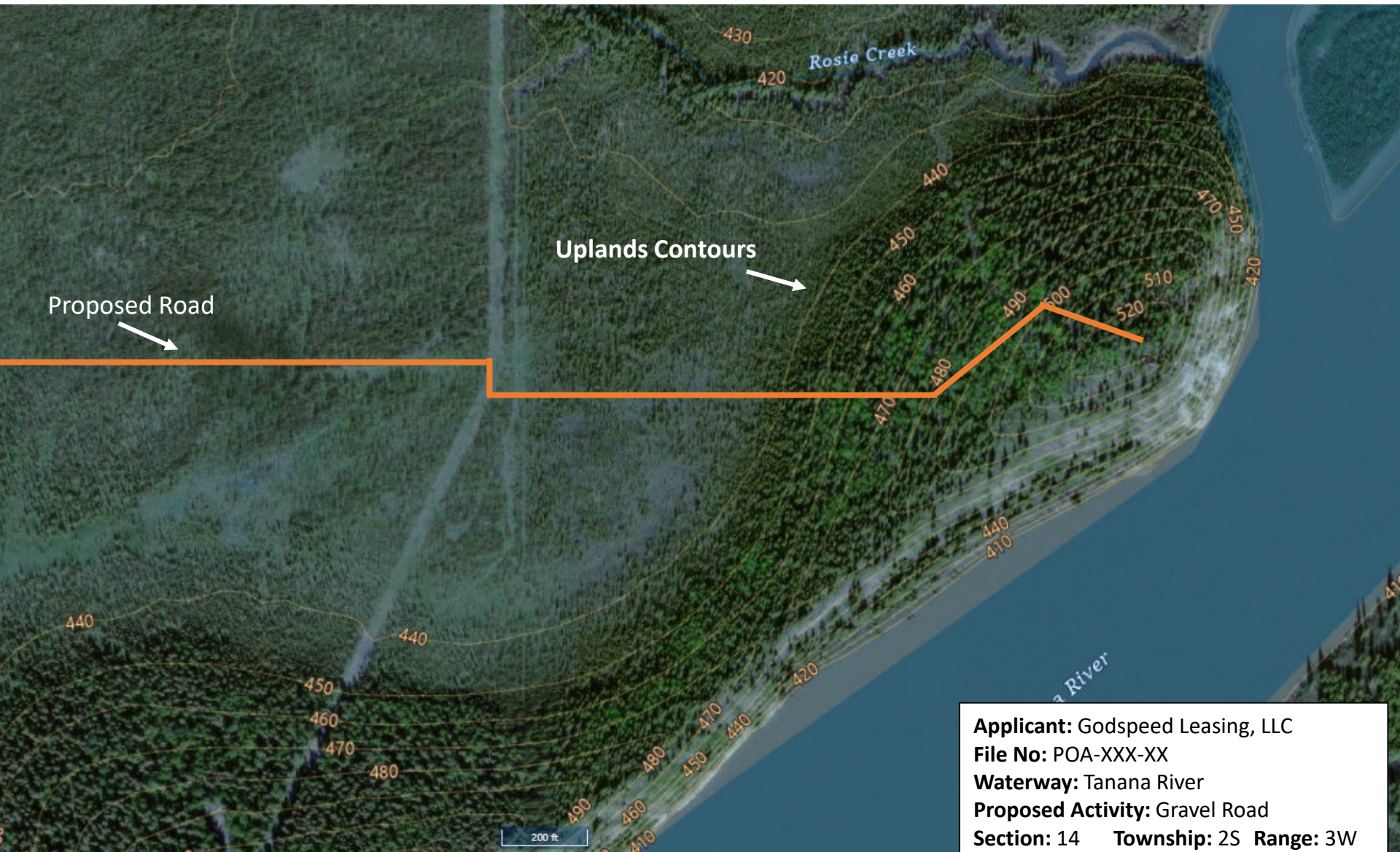
Proposed Activity: Gravel Road

Section: 14 **Township:** 2S **Range:** 3W

Meridian: Fairbanks

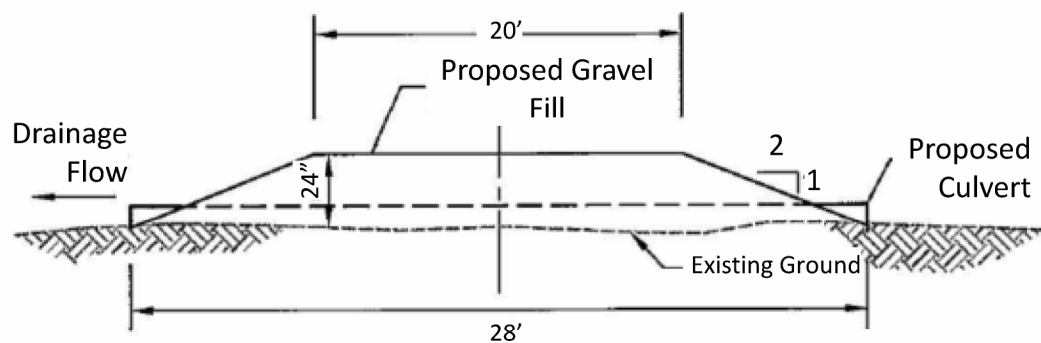
Lat: 64.740864, **Long:** -148.112298

Sheet: 5 of 6 **Date:** January 2025



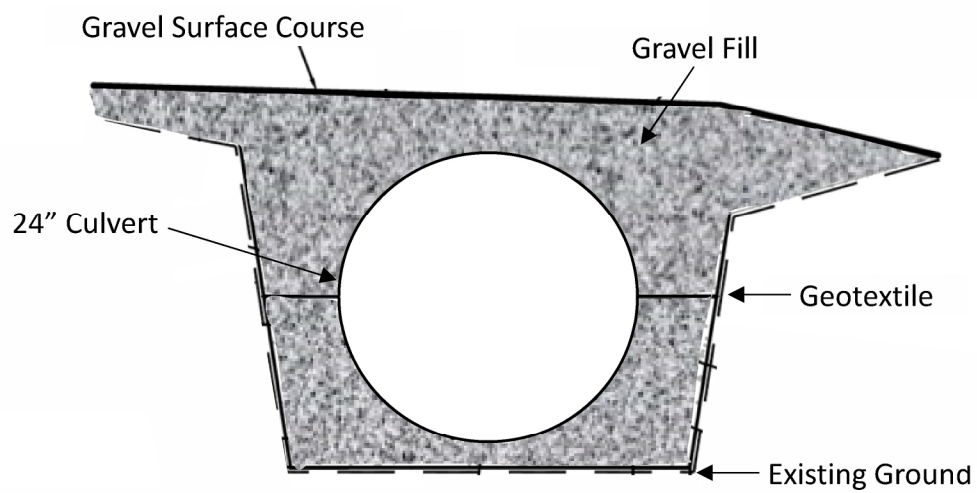
Applicant: Godspeed Leasing, LLC
File No: POA-XXX-XX
Waterway: Tanana River
Proposed Activity: Gravel Road
Section: 14 **Township:** 2S **Range:** 3W
Meridian: Fairbanks
Lat: 64.740864, **Long:** -148.112298
Sheet: 6 of 6 **Date:** January 2025

Attachment B:
Project Design Drawings



Typical Road Section

Applicant: Godspeed Leasing, LLC
File No: POA-XXX-XX
Waterway: Tanana River
Proposed Activity: Gravel Road
Section: 14 **Township:** 2S **Range:** 3W
Meridian: Fairbanks
Lat: 64.740864, **Long:** -148.112298
Sheet: 1 of 2 **Date:** January 2025



Typical Culvert Cross Section

Applicant: Godspeed Leasing, LLC
File No: POA-XXX-XX
Waterway: Tanana River
Proposed Activity: Gravel Road
Section: 14 **Township:** 2S **Range:** 3W
Meridian: Fairbanks
Lat: 64.740864, **Long:** -148.112298
Sheet: 2 of 2 **Date:** January 2025