

Project: Locating 17(b) Easements Budget: 13K

CATG

Liaison: Wildlife Biologist, Craig Fleener, 907-662-2667

FWS Liaison: Deputy Refuge Manager Barry Whitehill, 907-456-0409 and
Realty Cartographer Scott McGee, 907-786-3440

Purpose: The purpose of this project will be to educate local residents of the Yukon Flats area about easements established by Section 17(b) of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and to locate these easements within the boundary of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Objectives: 1) To inform the residents of Stevens Village, Beaver, Ft. Yukon, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Venetie, Circle, and Arctic Village about the process used to locate, sign, and maintain the approximately 31 site, 30 existing trail (totaling approximately 258 miles), and 28 proposed trail 17(b) easements within the boundary of Yukon Flats NWR.

2) Record the locations of 70-80 miles of existing trail easements using a global positioning system receiver (GPS), that is WAAS (Wide Area Augmentation System) enabled to 3 meters.

3) Discuss the locations of the easements plotted with the GPS with residents of the affected villages.

Study Area: Stevens Village, Beaver, Ft. Yukon, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Venetie, Circle, and Arctic Village and easement locations within the exterior boundary of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

Methods: For Objective 1:

In conjunction with a FWS staff member, and a BLM representative if available, a presentation about easements established by Section 17(b) of ANCSA and the process used to locate, sign, and maintain these easements will be made at a village meeting in each of the following villages: Stevens Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Ft. Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Venetie, Circle, and Arctic Village.

For Objective 2:

1) A prioritized list of existing 17(b) trail easements that can be measured via snow machines based in Ft. Yukon will be developed by the FWS Realty Cartographer, in coordination with the landowner and CATG.

- 2) Using the prioritized list of easements and in the company of a landowner representative (Doyon Corporation) and a USFWS Realty staff member, the exact location of existing trail easements will be recorded, using a GPS capable of being WAAS corrected to 3 meter accuracy. With adequate snow cover for travel, the easements will be traversed in March, or early April, 2005 by snow machine. Doyon, FWS, and CATG representatives will each be responsible for providing a snow machine for their respective use. The FWS will provide the GPS. Locations will be downloaded from the GPS and archived into a database.

For Objective 3:

- 1) Easement locations, which were identified for marking, will be plotted on a map and a second series of meetings will be conducted in each community to inform the community and provide a forum for discussing easement options.

Deliverables: For Objective 1: A formal village presentation on 17 (b) easements will be given jointly with a FWS staff member, and a BLM representative if available, in each of the eight villages identified by this project.

For Objective 2: GPS locations to 3 meter accuracy will be recorded for the entire length of each of the trail easements measured.

For Objective 3: A formal village presentation on 17(b) easements will be given jointly with a FWS staff member in those villages where 17(b) easements have been located and recorded with a GPS.

Timeline: Within 60 days of the annual funding agreement duties begin and continue through the end of July, 2005.

September 1, 2004 – The FWS liaison will submit a list of 17(b) easements to the CATG liaison.

(Dates to be jointly decided) – Presentations on 17(b) easements will be completed in each of the eight villages identified.

(Dates to be jointly decided) -- GPS locations for all measured trail easements will be plotted in preparation for the second round of meetings.

July 31, 2005 – The second round of presentations on 17(b) easements will be completed

