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Pebble Project Wetlands Study

2007 Agency Update



Three **Parameters** Plus, Inc. Employee of the Year Steve Reidsma completes yet another jurisdictional field plot near the "G" Valley.

This was Steve's fourth field season on the project.

Major Study Components

Delineation

Based on Criteria and Indicators Found in the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual & 2006 Interim, and very soon – the 2007 Regional Supplement for the Alaska Region.

Classify Wetlands and Assess Their Functions

Magee Rapid Procedure for Assessing Wetland Functional Capacity (HGM Based)

Consider Wetland Values

Incorporate Subsistence, Recreation, Cultural Resource, and Other Values into the Functional Assessment Evaluation

Identify & Evaluate Potential Compensatory Mitigation Projects

Prepare Compensatory Mitigation Plan

Per June 10, 2004 Final Alaska District Compensatory Mitigation Guidelines (or subsequent guidance)



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Status Report by Study Component



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Field Data Collection Data QC/ Validation Line Drawing Polygon Coding Field Review

Delineation

Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S.

THREE PARAMETERS+ Natural Resource Consulting

Both the 1987 and 2006 Delineation Methods Were Again Applied Concurrently at Pebble During the 2007 Field Season



We're still loosing a lot of hair and sleep trying to reconcile the two methods and get all the data needed. If that wasn't enough of a challenge... Greg Everetts, Ottertail Environmental, working in the Wiggly Lake Area



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In early 2007, the Wetlands Study Area doubled in size over that of our 2006 Study Area -- more than four times the size of our original 2004 Study Area (a mere 66,000 acres...).



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To put this in perspective for you – here's the Anchorage Bowl superimposed over our 2007 Wetlands Study Area Boundary.



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So, it was time to call for reinforcements





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Shrubs, Shrubs, Always More Shrubs!







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Keep Digging!



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JD & FA Plot Locations

In addition to the 1,459 rapid shrub height assessments, mine site crews have also completed 3,806 full jurisdictional determinations or stand alone functional assessments.

This brings the number of holes dug and photographed to over 5,000.







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Or Somebody talking about it...



Dr. Mark Rains explains the focus of the Small Pools Study to a regional citizen's advisory group on a tour last August while Karyn Noyes looks on...

Our hypothesis is that pool electrical conductivity is controlled by water-rock interaction. If pool electrical conductivity is controlled by evaporation, then all conservative dissolved constituents (e.g., Na, K, Mg, Ca, Si, and Cl) should concentrate proportionally. If pool electrical conductivity is controlled by water-rock interaction, then conservative dissolved constituents commonly found in regional sediments (e.g., Na, K, Mg, Ca, and Si but not Cl) should concentrate preferentially. In order to evaluate this hypothesis, we will sample ~90 pools in each of the three basins and collect and analyze water samples according to the objectives listed above.









				HGM	Stream										
Voar	Jurisdictional Determinations	Shrub Height Ranid IDs	Functional Assessments	Reference	Crossing Photos	Waterbody Evaluations	Representative	Representative	Habitat Observations	Done	Photo Points	New Disturbance	Cultural Resources	NO	Totale
2004	Determinations	10010 003	Assessments	Data Fonit	1 110103	Evaluations	opidita i notos	incaula i notos	003014440113	Della	1 011163	Distandance	Ticsources	CODE	TUTAIS
2004	4400				207		400	242	1.4			2	4	245	2526
Number of Plots	1102	0	0	U	307	39	420	313	14	3	0	2	1	245	2526
Number of Crew Field Days	188	0	U	U	126	25	132	136	14	3	0	2	1	28	655
Average Plots/Crew Field Day	6.287	U	U	U	2.436	1.56	3.181	2.301	1	1	U	1	1	8.75	3.856
Number of Pictures	3512	U	U	U	886	78	856	634	28	б	U	4	2	418	6424
2005															
Number of Plots	317	630	350	36	165	291	450	122	12	0	0	2	0	354	2729
Number of Crew Field Days	101	58	90	9	62	66	109	60	11	0	0	2	0	78	646
Average Plots/Crew Field Day	3.138	10.862	3.888	4	2.661	4.409	4.128	2.033	1.09	0	0	1	0	4.538	4.224
Number of Pictures	975	1876	1047	73	491	575	907	248	22	0	0	4	0	880	7098
2006															
Number of Plots	524	125	0	0	196	312	510	422	0	0	1	16	1	0	2107
Number of Crew Field Days	145	11	0	0	58	62	77	74	0	0	1	5	1	0	434
Average Plots/Crew Field Day	3.613	11.363	0	0	3.379	5.032	6.623	5.702	0	0	1	3.2	1	0	4.854
Number of Pictures	1562	367	0	0	580	619	1016	834	0	0	2	32	2	0	5014
2007															
Number of Plots	1355	698	3	0	387	955	1459	664	8	0	1	9	0	6	5545
Number of Crew Field Days	352	170	3	0	117	99	142	117	7	0	1	1	0	3	1012
Average Plots/Crew Field Day	3.849	4.105	1	0	3.307	9.646	10.274	5.675	1.142	0	1	9	0	2	5.479
Number of Pictures	4031	2079	9	0	1156	1899	2918	1329	14	0	2	18	0	11	13466
Summarize (2004 - 2007)															
Total Number of Plots	3378	1453	353	36	1055	1597	2839	1521	34	3	2	29	2	605	12907
Total Number of Crew Field Days	786	239	93	9	363	252	460	387	32	3	2	10	2	109	2747
Total Average Plots/Crew Field Day	4.297	6.079	3.795	4	2.906	6.337	6.171	3.93	1.062	1	1	2.9	1	5.55	4.698
Total Number of Pictures	10080	4322	1056	73	3113	3171	5697	3045	64	6	4	58	4	1309	32002



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This winter, our mappers will also have access to ABR's habitat and vegetation data (shown in green) which increases the site specific observations by another 622 vegetation plots.



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Plot Density By Study Area Boundary



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Collection Validation Drawing Polygon Coding Field Review



= 104,069 Acres

70,000





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Sample Jurisdictional Wetland Mapping

The end result is mapping that will look this detailed, with a comparable sample point density (higher in some areas.

Known inlets and outlets will be clearly shown by arcs. The drainage type will ultimately be symbolized by different line patterns to differentiate perennial from intermittent streams.



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But Lots of Laughter & Just Plain Silly Behavior Make Most of Our

Days Go By Too Quickly

OT WETLAND

RETRIE \ ERS



Major Study Components



Delineation

Based on Criteria and Indicators Found in the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual & 2006 Interim Regional Supplement for the Alaska Region.

Classify Wetlands and Assess Their Functions

Small Pools Study Magee Rapid Procedure for Assessing Wetland Functional Capacity (HGM Based)

Consider Wetland Values

Incorporate Subsistence, Recreation, Cultural Resource, and Other "Values" into the Functional Assessment Evaluation

Identify & Evaluate Potential Compensatory Mitigation Projects

Prepare Compensatory Mitigation Plan

Per June 10, 2004 Final Alaska District Compensatory Mitigation Guidelines



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Classify Wetlands and Assess Their Functions

Magee Holland's Rapid Procedure for Assessing Wetland Functional Capacity

Determine HGM Classification

Collect Key Data (Inlets/Outlets, pH)

Run Models Using Field & Photo Interpreted Data

Multiply Scores of Potentially Impacted Wetlands x Acres Affected

Determine Debits by Function



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Magee Method Variables

- Wetland Size
- Ratio of Wetland Area to Watershed Area
- Juxtaposition
- Land Use/Intensity
- Soil Type
- Underlying Surficial Deposit
- Micro-Relief
- Water Regime
- Surface Water Fluctuation
- Overbank Flooding Frequency
- Sedimentation Evidence
- Basin Topography

- Inlets/Outlet Types
- Outlet Restrictions
- Water pH
- Piezometer Data (where available)
- Seeps & Springs
- Vegetation Types
- Vegetation Density/Dominance

- Interspersion
- Species Diversity
- Animal Food Plants
- Islands
- Woody Debris

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New Database Process to Extrapolate Plant Community Type Summary Data to Plots with the Same Vegetation Type, HGM Class, and in the Same Watershed.



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When Extrapolated Data Are Used it Will Be Clearly Evident

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Site Location	Vegetation CRYP-AK06 MC	DRPH-AK06 HYD-87 HYD-AK06	Soil Profile Ot	her Soil De	termination	Asses	sment				Save Plot	Main Menu	-
Vegetation res	ults have been extrapolated from oth	er site specific observations made in th	e same Watershe	d and Project	Veg Type (and HGI	I type, whe	re applicab Tree	le) Magee	Animal	Subsis.		-
Acronym	Latin Name		Stratum	Status	Cover	Dom.	Height	DBH	Stratum	Food	Food	Delete	
BEPA-SE	Betula papyrifera	Paper birch (seedlings)	SAP	FACU	т	N			Shrub	Y	Food		
SAPL1	Salix pulchra (formerly s. plan	Diamond-leaf willow	S	FACW	77.2	Y		4	SS	Y	Medicine		
SAPL	Salix planifolia s.l.	Diamond-leaf willow	S	FACW	55	Y			SS	Y	Medicine		
SABA	Salix barclayi	Barclay willow	S	FAC	24	Y		4	SS	Y	Medicine		
SAAR	Salix arbusculoides	Little-tree willow	S	FACW	20	Y			TS	Y	Medicine		
VAUL	Vaccinium uliginosum	Bog blueberry	S S	FAC	12.2	N			DS	Y	Food		
EMNI	Empetrum nigrum	Black crowberry	S S	FAC	11.8	N			DS	Y	Food & Mec		
VAVI	Vaccinium vitis-idaea	Mountain cranberry	S S	FAC	10.8	N			DS	Y	Food & Mec		
BENA	Betula nana	Swamp birch	S	FAC	8.2	N			SS	Y	Food		
SACO	Salix commutata	Under-green willow	S S	FAC	8	N			SS		Medicine		
SAAL	Salix alaxensis	Felt-leaf willow	s s	FAC	7.7	N			TREE	Y	Medicine		
RITR	Ribes triste	Swamp red currant	S	FAC	6	N			SS	Y	Food		
ALSI	Alnus sinuata	Sitka alder (shrub)	S	FAC	6	N			TS		Fuel		
SPBE	Spiraea beauverdiana	Beauvered spiraea	S	FAC	6	N			SS	Y			
LEDE	Ledum decumbens	Narrow-leaf labrador-tea	S	FACW	5	N			DS	N	Food & Mec		
SACA	Salix candida	Hoary willow	S	OBL	4.6	Ν			SS		Medicine		
SAGL	Salix glauca	Gray-leaf willow	S	FAC	4	N			SS	Y	Medicine		
SARE	Salix reticulata	Net-leaf willow	S	FAC	3	N			DS	Y	Medicine		
SAHO	Salix hookeriana	Hookers willow	S	NL	3	N			SS	Y	Medicine		
VIED	Viburnum edule	Squashberry	S	FACU	т	N			SS	Y	Food & Mec		
CACA	Calamagrostis canadensis	Blue-joint reedgrass	н	FAC	32	Y			SH				
GYDR	Gymnocarpium dryopteris	Oak fern	н	FACU	31.3	Y			SH				
EQAR	Equisetum arvense	Field horsetail	н	FACU	28.3	Y			SH	Y	Food & Mec		
EQPR	Equisetum pratense	Meadow horsetail	н	FACW	18.8	Y			SH	Y			
PEHY	Petasites hyperboreus	Arctic sweet coltsfoot	н	NL	15	Y			SH		Medicine		
SACA1	Sanguisorba canadensis	Canada burnet	Н	FACW	11	N			SH	Y	Medicine		
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Results can then contribute to the plot's final JD status and the functional assessment.

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MOSS	Moss sp.	i i	Inkeyed moss	1	В	N/A	8.3	N			ML	N		
SPHA-SP	Sphagnum sp.		Inkeyed sphagnum	moss	в	N/A	5.8	N			ML	N	Medicine	
LIVER-SF	Liverwort sp.	l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l	Jnkeyed liverwort		B	N/A	5	N			ML	N		
MUSH	Unkeyed mushroom		Jnkeyed mushroom		В	N/A	т	N			ML	Y	Food	
LICHEN-S	Lichen sp.	L	Jnkeyed lichen		В	N/A	Т	Ν			ML			
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SPHAE	Sphaerophorus sp.						30	Ν						
% of Dominant Species	that are OBL, FACW, or FAC (e)	cluding FAC-):	Calcula	ted: 🚽 67 %	Calculate					5	Add Rows	Delete Sp	becies Modi	fy Species
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Consider Wetland Values

Incorporate Subsistence Use, Recreational Use, Cultural Resources, and Other Values into the Functional Assessment Process



Currently RDI is in the process of implementing a new data entry page in the wetlands application of the database that mimics the Alaska Natural Heritage Program Alaska Rare Species Site Survey Report.

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outine Wetland Determination Show Menu: 🔲 Find Plot: 3PP Go CRYP-AK06 MORPH-AK06 HYD-87 HYD-AK06 Soil Profile Other Soil Determination Site Location Vegetation Completely Surveyed? Yes 🔻 if No, about: % of potential habitat surveyed. Species occupied % of area/length Subsequent Visit? Yes 💌 Compared to last visit: More 💌 New Location Record? Yes 🔻 census methods: # individuals/stems: if different, explain: # colonies/denets: Does this population occur naturally at this site Yes 🔽 Is this population re-introduced: Yes 💌 ⊠ ×°, Phenologic Stages: % dormant % vegetative % budding %flowering %fruiting %seeding Age Structure (all): % mature % juvenile % first-year % newborn/seedling % senescent Site Functions/Uses (animals) 🗖 Breeding 🗖 Foraging 🗖 Wintering 🗖 Roosting 🗖 Denning 🗖 Digital 🗍 Other Interactions (disease, predation, competition, parasitism, symbiosis, pollination, hybridization, dispersal, etc.): ۸ $|\Psi|$ Habitat Description (plant community, landform, dominant species, associates, other rare species, moisture, substrate/soils, aspect/slope, etc.): ۸ 4 Current Site Use / Visible Disturbances and Impacts / Possible Threats: * Excellent • Overall Occurrence Quality: (consider size, viability, condition, and landscape context) Comments on Quality: * Other Comments: $\overline{\mathbf{v}}$ Photographs (check all that apply) Identification of Taxon (Fill in all applicable fields): ID is about % certain. Keyed in reference: Subject: Type: Compared w/photo/drawing in: 🗖 Digital Diagnostic Feature Slide Compared with specimen at: Whole organism(s) By another person (include below: name): Habitat or site Print By personal knowledge Yes Attached Yes 💌 C Other Other: May we obtain copies at our cost? Yes Other Knowledgeable People Name Address Phone Emai Plot 2594 of 10377 << previous next >> ▼

Natural Resource Consulting



Mitigate = Avoid Minimize Compensate +

Identify Potential Compensatory Mitigation Opportunities



Natural Resource Consulting



Prepare Compensatory Mitigation Plan

Per June 10, 2004 Final Alaska District Compensatory Mitigation Guidelines & Pending Rule Changes Published in the Federal Register this Summer

Mitigate = Avoid Minimize Compensate ←





Natural Resource Consulting



2008 Work Plan

(or as I like to say – let the madness continue...)

Mapping Data Entry & QC Lots More Field Work Continued Well Monitoring for the Small Pools Study Continue Review of Abandoned Mine Files HDR Will Prepare EBD

Access Corridor Sections

3PPI will <u>Begin</u> Drafting EBD Sections for Mine Site

