

\_\_\_\_. Proposed Classification of 420 acres of Borough Land Located in the Anchor Point Area, Pursuant to KPB Code of Ordinances, Chapter 17.10.080(G).

STAFF REPORT

PC Meeting: June 14, 2021

**Petitioner:** Ronald and Charlotte Broste.

**Basis for Classification:** To establish the most appropriate use and management intent of borough land. This parcel is not classified.

**Proposed Classifications:**

Rural

Rural means lands which are located in a remote area. This classification will have no restrictions.

Agriculture

Agriculture means activities that result in products for human or animal use. Agriculture activities may include raising crops, animals, or grazing animals. Agriculture does not include human habitation.

**Location of Borough Land Proposed for Classification:** As shown on the attached map, the land proposed for classification is located in the Anchor Point area on Epperson Knob, Section 01, Township 05 South, Range 14 West, Seward Meridian, Homer Recording District, Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, containing 420 acres more or less (APN: 17104022).

**Public Notice:** Public notice was published in the Peninsula Clarion Newspaper on May 16 & 26, 2021 and in the Homer News on May 20 & 27, 2021. Public notice is sent to all land owners and/or leaseholders within a one-half mile radius of the land proposed to be reclassified, applicable agencies, and interested parties. The notice consists of a cover letter, map and list of land classification definitions. Written public comments were requested to be returned by 5:00 p.m. on June 2, 2021 to be included in the Planning Commission mail-out packets.

**Anchor Point Advisory Planning Commission (APAPC) Review:** The APAPC is scheduled to hold a public meeting on June 10, 2021. The APC's recommendation will be forwarded to the Planning Commission.

**Department / Agency Review:** The following agencies provided written comments:

- KPBSD; No Comment
- River Center; No Objection. Any development within 50 feet of ordinary high water of the regulated anadromous stream along the southeastern property line is subject to KPB Chapter 21.18.
- Maintenance/Roads; No Objection

**Findings of Fact:**

1. Property Status: The borough received title by State patent. The patent is subject to the petitioners lease issued by the State of Alaska in 1974 as ADL 63239 for a 55-year term. The parcel is subject to a Community Trail Management Agreement with Snomads, Inc. Hidden Hills Trail is shown as traversing through the property, however, the trail, its location and status is unverified and not currently maintained by Snomads.
2. Topography: Subject parcel is located on east side Epperson Knob and contains many areas of escarpment. The parcel is relatively steep with discharge and riverine ecosystems which feed into \*Unknown (13) river, Anchor River, and North Fork Anchor River, each being cataloged as anadromous waterbodies. There are a few areas of relatively flat, rolling terrain.

Source Data: Homer Soil & Water Conservation District

Land cover on the parcel is primarily white or black spruce, with areas of dwarf, low, and tall shrub.

Source Data: UAA, [Alaska Land Cover and Wetlands](#)

3. Soil:

3.3% Chuniina mucky silt loam. 8% to 25% slopes, poorly drained with a depth to water table at 28 inches or less, very limited for a dwelling with a basement and for a commercial building site, somewhat limited for a dwelling without a basement.

4% Cohoe silt loam. 4% to 8% slopes, well drained with a depth to water table at more than 80 inches, not limited for a dwelling with or without a basement, somewhat limited for a commercial building site.

1% Doroshin mucky peat. 4% to 8% slopes, very poorly drained with a depth to water table at more than 80 inches, very limited for a dwelling with or without a basement and for a commercial building site.

2.3% Iliamna silt loam. 4% to 15% slopes, well drained with a depth to water table at more than 80 inches, somewhat limited for a dwelling with or without a basement and very limited for a commercial building site.

1.5% Kachemak silt loam. 8% to 15% slopes, well drained with a depth to water table at more than 80 inches, somewhat limited for a dwelling with or without a basement and very limited for a commercial building site.

0.9% Kachemak silt loam. 15% to 25% slopes, well drained with a depth to water table at more than 80 inches, very limited for a dwelling with or without a basement and a commercial building site.

1.5% Killey and Moose River soils. 0% - 2% slopes, poorly drained with a depth to water table between 12 and 24 inches, and very limited for dwellings with or without a basement and a commercial building site.

10.7% Mutnanla silt loam. 15% to 25% slopes, well drained with a depth to water table at more than 80 inches, very limited for dwellings with or without a basement and a commercial building site.

0.9% Nikolai peat. 0% to 4% slopes, poorly drained with a depth to water table about 0 to 18 inches, very limited for dwellings with or without a basement and a commercial building site.

3.5% Puntilla silt loam. 4% to 15% slopes, well drained with a depth to water table at more than 80 inches, somewhat limited for a dwelling with or without a basement and very limited for a commercial building site.

2.7% Redoubt silt loam. 4% to 15% slopes, well drained with a depth to water table at more than 80 inches, somewhat limited for dwellings with or without a basement and very limited for a commercial building site.

42.6% Redoubt silt loam. 15% to 45% slopes, well drained with a depth to water table at more than 80 inches, very limited for dwellings with or without a basement and a commercial building site.

12.4% Spenard peat. 4% to 8% slopes, very poorly drained with a depth to water table about 8 to 24 inches, very limited for dwellings with or without a basement and a commercial building site.

8.8% Spenard peat. 8% to 15% slopes, very poorly drained with a depth to water table about 8 to 24 inches, very limited for dwellings with or without a basement and a commercial building site.

2.7% Truuli muck. 0% to 4% slopes, poorly drained with a depth to water table about 8 to 18 inches, very limited for dwellings with or without a basement and a commercial building site.

1.2% Tuxedni silt loam. 0% to 8% slopes, somewhat poorly drained with a depth to water table about 14 to 30 inches, very limited for a dwelling with a basement, somewhat limited for a dwelling without a basement and a commercial building site.

Source Data: USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service [Web Soil Survey](#)

4. Surrounding Land Use. Subject land is a large acre parcel containing 1,115.64 acres. The parcel is situated between the North Fork Anchor River and the Anchor River and is surrounded by recreational land uses. Some residential uses exist to the west, while land to the east is primarily undeveloped, large acre parcels.
5. Surrounding Land Ownership. The borough owns five other parcels which abut the subject parcel or are within close proximity. Nine privately owned parcels abut the north, west, and south of the parcel. The remaining surrounding ownership is State of Alaska and Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
6. Access. Access to the parcel is provided by Knob Hill Road, an existing gravel road located at approximately MP 10 of North Fork Road. The borough provides maintenance on the first 2,350 feet of Knob Hill Road, which ends approximately 2,900 feet from the subject parcel.

A 50' wide section line easement exists on each side of the section lines common to Section 1, T05S, R14W and Section 31, T04S, R13W, Section 1, T05S, R14W and Section 6, T05S, R13W, and Sections 1 & 12, T05S, R14W. A 33' wide section line easement exists on each side of the section line common to Sections 1 & 2, T05S, R14W, Seward Meridian.

Knob Hill Road is a prior existing road which has been dedicated in part. A 100'-wide grant of right of way easement was issued in 1974 to the Alaska Department of Highways along the existing road for ingress and egress to a gravel pit known as Material Source 21-1-04-1, recorded in Book 88 Page 980, Homer Recording District.

When the subject parcel is subdivided, rights-of-way will be dedicated, including Knob Hill Road and a matching dedication at Biblegum Street.

7. Utilities. Electric and telephone utilities are available. No other utilities are available at this time.

**Analysis:**

Access to the parcel is from Knob Hill Road and utilities are within close proximity. Over the last 42 years, the parcel has been developed to support grazing operations, and is currently operated as *Circle B Ranch*. Since 2011, the petitioners have maintained a non-commercial land use permit for structures used to support farming and agriculture but were not allowed under the grazing lease. An approved Grazing Lease Conservation Plan for the leasehold was developed in conjunction with the Homer Natural Resource Conservation Service. The draft South Peninsula Plan recommends a rural classification for this parcel. There is no comprehensive land use plan for borough lands in the Anchor Point area.

The intent of this classification is to reflect the uses currently conducted within the leasehold and the recommendation of the draft South Peninsula Plan. Land Management has identified this parcel as being capable of supporting agriculture and is proposing to classify 380-acres as agriculture. In consideration of a negotiated sale of 40-acres, Petitioners are willing to release the south 695 acres from the lease. Classification of this area is not proposed.

An agriculture classification meets the objectives of Goal 1, Focus Area: Agriculture and Mariculture, Objective A, Strategies 1 & 2, as well as Objective B, Strategy 1 and Goal 2, Focus Area: Land Use, Objective C, Strategies 1 & 2 of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan.

**Conclusion:**

RURAL CLASSIFICATION: (40-acres)

The proposed Rural classification is compatible with the surrounding land use. A Rural classification is consistent with the recommendation of the draft South Peninsula Plan and is appropriate for the current onsite activities.

AGRICULTURE CLASSIFICATION: (380-acres)

The proposed Agriculture classification is compatible with the surrounding land use in that the parcels abutting the subject land are large acreage parcels of undeveloped land. An Agriculture classification is appropriate and is supported by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Based on the findings of fact, analysis, and conclusion, KPB staff recommends that the KPB Planning Commission recommend adoption of the resolution classifying subject 40-acres as Rural and 380-acres as Agriculture, as shown on Attachment 'A' of the Resolution.

END OF STAFF REPORT