

**Conditional Use Permit
Anadromous Waters Habitat Protection District
Staff Report**

KPB File No.	2021-19
Planning Commission Meeting:	June 28, 2021
Applicant	Chugach National Forest
Mailing Address	161 East 1st Ave. Door 8 Anchorage, AK 99501
Legal Description	T 9N R 2W SEC 1 SEWARD MERIDIAN SW ENTIRE TOWNSHIP EXCEPT USS 2761 & USS 2636 & USS 2642 & US MIN SUR 1449 & US MIN SUR 1451 & ASLS 88-13 & SAXTONS BIRCH ACRES SUB & KINGS CASTLE ACRES SUB & E1/2 NW1/4 OF SEC 3 & W1/2 NE1/4 OF SEC 4
Physical Address	n/a
KPB Parcel Number	03510013

Project Description

A Conditional Use Permit is sought pursuant to KPB 21.18 for the construction of a 100 by 20-foot bridge, the placement of a 3 by 52-foot culvert, and the placement of approximately 70 cubic yards of fill within the 50-foot Habitat Protection District of Resurrection Creek, as established in KPB 21.18.040.

Background Information

1. This project is in support of the ongoing Resurrection Creek Phase I and II Restoration Projects. Phase I was implemented in 2005-2007, and Phase II is planned for 2022-2027. These sections of Resurrection Creek were hydraulically mined between 1900 and 1942, leaving the main channel in a degraded state. The Resurrection Creek Phase I and II Restoration Projects include: rebuilding the degraded stream channel with natural meanders, constructing pools, installing logs and root wads in the new stream channels, constructing side channels and ponds, and restoring lost soil and vegetation in the riparian areas.
2. Proposed structures will provide access for the applicant perform the Resurrection Creek Phase II Restoration Project, which is scheduled to begin in 2022.
3. This project proposes the installation of these structures to mitigate the number of in-water crossings that heavy equipment will have to make for the development of Resurrection Creek Phase II Restoration Project.

Project Details Within the 50-foot Habitat Protection District

1. Installation of a 100 by 20-foot bridge across Resurrection Creek.
2. Installation of a 3 by 52-foot culvert and approximately 70 cubic yards of alluvial gravel to cross a settling pond running parallel to Resurrection Creek.
3. Structures will provide the applicant with access perform the Resurrection Creek Phase II Restoration Project, a bank restoration project that will be 2 miles in length, and is scheduled to begin in 2022.
4. Bridge, culvert, and fill will be removed at the conclusion of the Resurrection Creek Phase II Restoration Project (approximately 5 - 10 years), and the area will be revegetated pursuant to KPB 21.18.071(A)(1).

General Standards

Pursuant to 21.18.081(D) General Standards, the following standards shall be met before conditional use approval may be granted:

1. The use or structure will not cause significant erosion, sedimentation, damage to the habitat protection district, an increase in ground or surface water pollution, or damage to riparian wetlands and ecosystems;
2. Granting of the conditional use shall be consistent with the purposes of this chapter, the borough comprehensive plan, other applicable chapters of the borough code, and other applicable planning documents adopted by the borough;
3. The development of the use or structure shall not physically damage the adjoining property;
4. The proposed use or structure is water-dependent;
5. Applicant and/or owner must be in compliance with other borough permits and ordinance requirements.

Findings of fact pursuant to KPB 21.18.081 Conditional Use Permit

1. Portions of this proposed project are within the 50-foot habitat protection district as defined by KPB 21.18.040.
2. Pursuant to KPB 21.18.081(B)(5), the construction of transportation and utility infrastructure may be approved within the habitat protection district under a conditional use permit.
3. Pursuant to KPB 21.18.081(D), staff finds that the proposed project meets the five general standards above.
4. Pursuant to KPB 21.18.020(A), this chapter was established to protect and preserve the stability of anadromous fish through controlling shoreline alterations and disturbances along anadromous waters and to preserve nearshore habitat.
5. Pursuant to KPB 21.18.020(A)(2), the installation of the proposed structures will preserve nearshore habitat by reducing the number of in-water crossings that heavy equipment will make to complete the development of Resurrection Creek Phase II Restoration Project.
6. Pursuant to KPB 21.18.20(B)(5), one purpose of this chapter was established to separate conflicting land uses.
7. Access to the site and all construction activities will occur along active mining roads used by Hope Mining Company and will not affect neighboring parcels.
8. Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission Resolution 2015-35 defines water-dependent as:
"...a use or structure located on, in or adjacent to water areas because the use requires access to the waterbody. The definition is applicable to facilities or activities that must be located at or near the shoreline and within the 50-foot buffer. An activity is considered water dependent if it is dependent on the water as part of the intrinsic nature of its operation. Examples of water dependent facilities may include, but are not limited to, piers, boat ramps, and elevated walkways."
9. The River Center found the application complete and scheduled it for public hearing on June 28, 2021.
10. Agency review was distributed on June 2, 2021. No comments or objections have been received from resource agencies to date.
11. KPB 21.11.030 requires that public notice be mailed to all property owners within a 300-foot radius of the project. The applicant is the only property owner within the 300-foot radius.
12. Pursuant to KPB 21.11.020, public notice was published in the Peninsula Clarion on June 17, 2021 and June 24, 2021.

Permit Conditions

1. Construction techniques and best management practices shall be utilized to ensure that land disturbing activities do not result in runoff or sedimentation to Resurrection Creek.
2. The bridge, culvert, and fill must be designed and installed to meet KPB floodplain requirements.

3. The permittee shall minimize damage to all vegetation and shall revegetate all disturbed areas with native vegetation.
4. For each tree removed, two seedlings less than 5.5-feet tall of a species native to the region will be planted within the 50-foot HPD.
5. Storage or use of fuel is prohibited within 50-feet of any open water.
6. The River Center shall be notified at least 3 days prior to the start of the project.
7. If changes to the approved project described above are proposed prior to or during its siting, construction, or operation, the permittee is required to notify the River Center to determine if additional approval is required.
8. The permittee shall be held responsible for the actions of the contractors, agents, or others who perform work to accomplish the approved plan.
9. The construction or installation phase of this Conditional Use Permit must be completed within one calendar year from the date of the permit's issuance, or the Conditional Use Permit shall expire unless the Planning Commission finds that more time is necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter, in which case the commission may extend the deadline for a maximum of six years from the date of issuance. Prior to its expiration date and upon written request, the Planning Director may grant a Conditional Use Permit extension for 12 months (KPB 21.18.081 (H)).
10. In addition to the penalties provided by KPB 21.18.110, and pursuant to KPB 21.50, the permit may be revoked if the permittee fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter or the terms and conditions of a permit issued under this chapter. The Borough Clerk shall provide at least 15 day's written notice to the permittee of a revocation hearing before the hearing officer (KPB 21.18.082).
11. The permittee shall comply with the terms, conditions and requirements of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Code of Ordinances Chapter 21.18, and any regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.
12. The permittee is responsible for abiding by all other federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and permitting requirements applicable to the project (KPB 21.18.081 (G)).

Attachments

Multi-Agency Application
Draft Resolution 2021-19

Recommendation

Based on the findings, staff finds that the proposed project meets the five general standards of KPB 21.18.081. The Planning Commission could consider additional permit conditions to mitigate for any habitat loss if it chooses.

Staff recommends the Planning Commission grant a Conditional Use Permit for the proposed project details subject to adopted conditions as set forth in 2020-27.

Note: An appeal of a decision of the Planning Commission may be filed to the Hearing Officer, in accordance with the requirements of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter 21.20.250. An appeal must be filed with the Borough Clerk within 15 days of date of the notice of the decision using the proper forms and be accompanied by the filing and records preparation fee.

END OF STAFF REPORT