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EIS Comments

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Mon, Feb 1, 2016 at 9:11 PM

EIS Public Hearing / Bethel

February 1, 2016

Attn: ANILCA 810 Subsistence Public Hearing

BLM-Anchorage Field Office

4700 BLM Road

Anchorage, AK 99507

Subject: Invasive Species and Critical Habitat Areas

The project is upriver and naturally the watershed flows down river. Some base line data had been done mainly to the proposed area.

What steps do you propose to mitigate the possible introduction of invasive species by transport vectors and their impacts to ecosystems downriver?

1. Barges will release their ballast along with organisms, other non-native fish, and water-born plants (i.e, elodea, rock snot, shellfish). I understand that there will be in-river barges that will transfer the equipment from Bethel to the barge landing upriver. While sea-bearing barges will make their stops in Bethel. Will there be monitoring in the Bethel area? And are you planning to do a monitoring program in the Bethel area?
2. Thousands of tons of construction equipment, materials and supplies being brought in by both land and air cargo on a yearly basis will be done for decades. Including the current air cargo that are landing at the site. I understand that there will be monitoring in place. The guarantee of insects, plants, rodents, seeds and airborne infestations is of concern. What current steps are there in place today with the monitoring of the current traffic at the site?
3. The potential impacts to subsistence Native Resources and critical habitat areas important for fish and wildlife is another concern. What steps will there be to correct these invasive species once they have taken hold?

Not everyone in this region will be hired by this project. There will be people still living off fish and wildlife decades from now, while those who worked on this project will be

looking for work and continue to supplement their food off lands and waters once the site closes. And maybe with less of a resource for everyone if corrective measures relating to invasive species are not in place now.

Quyana,

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Sent from my iPhone