



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

November 26, 2008

Colonel Kevin J. Wilson  
District Engineer, Alaska District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 898  
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-6898

Re: POA-2008-1413  
Jordan Creek

Attn: Randall Vigil

Dear Col. Wilson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the General Permit Agency Coordination (GPAC) document for the above referenced permit application submitted by Mr. Mark Sogge, Inter-Fluve Inc., agent to City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ). The GPAC is for Nationwide Permit #27, Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities. The project site is located within Section 20, T. 40 S., R. 66 E., Copper River Meridian; United States Geological Survey Quadrangle Map Juneau B-2; Latitude 58.384° N., Longitude 134.563° W.; near Evergreen Park Subdivision, at the end of Jennifer Drive, in Juneau, Alaska.

The applicant's stated purpose is two fold: 1) to restore essential fish habitat (EFH) in Jordan Creek, anadromous stream # 111-50-10620, by removing large volumes of sediment; and 2) to build sediment retention ponds in a manmade tributary to Jordan Creek, reducing sediment input to Jordan Creek in the future.

The applicant proposes excavating approximately 3,015 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from Jordan Creek and an unnamed manmade tributary that was created to divert water around the upslope portion of the East Valley Reservoir (EVR). The applicant also proposes discharging approximately 1,025 cubic yards of Class III Riprap, 61.4 cubic yards of concrete, 60 cubic yards of logs, and 25 cubic yards of boulders into approximately 0.08 acres of waters of the United States (U.S.).

Jordan Creek, which supports wild stocks of coho and pink salmon, Dolly Varden, and cutthroat trout, is an urban stream whose EFH has been seriously impacted by decades of developmental activities. It has also been the subject of several well received restoration projects. Historically sediment laden waters came down Thunder Mountain and were dispersed over a large (15-20 acre) alluvial fan at the base of the mountain. Water ran over or percolated through the fan, reemerging as numerous springs that then fed into Jordan Creek (Inter-Fluve 2008). These numerous ground channels and springs filtered fine sediments, introduced water into Jordan



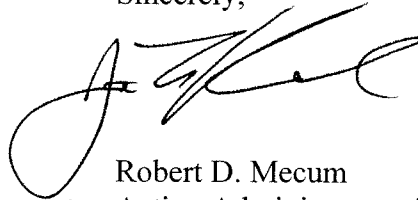
Creek at several different points, and dispersed the sediment load. In 1985 CBJ built the EVR to service portions of the Mendenhall Valley. At the same time they created a ditch above and around the EVR to prevent runoff from damaging the EVR access road. As a result of this channelization, water and sediment were confined to a 4.5 acre area below the road (Inter-Fluve 2008). The development of this smaller alluvial fan has pushed Jordan Creek west towards residences, increased upstream flooding, and caused the bed of Jordan Creek to become raised due to the influx of sediment at a single location (Moselle 2008). This in turn has rendered former EFH unusable.

NMFS has discussed the project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist and the Corps project manager, and strongly supports CBJ's plans to restore EFH in Jordan Creek by removing sediment. However, due to the large amount (3,015 cubic yards) of proposed dredge material and the hydrologic complexity of the project site, we believe a site visit with Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fish biologists, Fish & Wildlife biologists, Corps personnel, NMFS biologists, the applicant, and the agent is warranted. We would like to discuss different methods of sediment removal that may minimize the impact on EFH at the project site and downstream.


Because the CBJ project manager is not available until after December 3<sup>rd</sup>, NMFS requests a time extension for the comment period. We have discussed the project with the Corps project manager who supports extending the comment period and postponing the final decision.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to address the issues discussed above. If you have any questions regarding this time extension request, please contact Ms. Chiska Derr by email at [Chiska.Derr@noaa.gov](mailto:Chiska.Derr@noaa.gov) or by phone at (907) 586-7345.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Mecum

 Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

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References:

Inter-Fluve, Inc., 2008. Hydrologic and geomorphic evaluation and alternatives analysis for stream rehabilitation for East Valley Reservoir Tributary alluvial fan or Jordan Creek, Juneau, Alaska. Report prepared for Juneau Watershed partnership. IN: Moselle, K. October 30, 2008. Jordan Creek Restoration trip report.

Moselle, K. October 30, 2008. Jordan Creek Restoration trip report. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Division, Juneau