



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District**

Special Public Notice

In reply refer to Public Notice No.

SPN-2010-309

Issuance Date:

August 31, 2010

Closing Date:

September 30, 2010

Please address all comments and inquiries to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Regulatory Division

ATTN: CEPOA-RD, Public Notice No. SPN-2010-309

Post Office Box 6898

Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-0898

Phone: (907) 753-2819

Proposed Establishment of a Restricted Area for Eagle River and Eagle Bay, Knik Arm, Alaska

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE ACTION DESCRIBED BELOW. AT THIS TIME, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE REQUESTED ACTION WILL BE GRANTED.

The Alaska District has received a request from the United States Army Garrison, Fort Richardson for the establishment of a Restricted Area encompassing that area of navigable waters extending from where the Bravo Bridge spans Eagle River, located on Fort Richardson, Alaska, downstream to its mouth, as well as the portion of Eagle Bay to the east of a demarcation line to be drawn from two points on Fort Richardson land along the northern and southern portions of that Bay:

APPLICANT: Commanding Officer, United States Army Garrison, Alaska, 724 Postal Service Loop, #6000, Fort Richardson, Alaska 99505-6000. Point of Contact: Mr. David Patterson, USAG Alaska Range Safety Officer, (907) 384-3266.

LOCATION: Those waters of Eagle Bay to the east of a demarcation line to be drawn from a point on Fort Richardson land located at latitude 61° 22' 19.195" N, longitude 149° 43' 20.730" W to a point on Fort Richardson land located at latitude 61° 19' 39.168" N, longitude 149° 46' 32.204" W, as well as those waters of Eagle River from its outflow at Eagle Bay extending upstream to the Bravo Bridge at latitude 61° 18' 39.33" N, longitude 149° 41' 15.68" W on Fort Richardson.

AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. § 1 and 33 U.S.C. § 3

ACTION: The U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Richardson has requested the establishment of a Restricted Area encompassing those waters of Eagle Bay to the east of the aforementioned demarcation line, extending up Eagle River from its outflow at Eagle Bay to the Bravo Bridge on Fort Richardson, Alaska. The purpose of the restricted area is to prevent individuals from entering an active military range munitions impact area or encountering hazardous noise during training exercises. Safety concerns include the inadvertent entry into the impact area during live-fire weapons training, the potential to encounter hazardous noise in the vicinity of the impact area, and the potential to encounter unexploded ordnance along the banks of Eagle Bay and that portion of Eagle River flowing through the active impact area.

PROPOSED RESTRICTED AREA: All waters of Eagle River beginning at the Eagle River Flats Bravo Bridge latitude 61° 18' 39.33" N, longitude 149° 41' 15.68" W on Fort Richardson, downstream to the river's outflow into the Knik Arm, extending westward through Eagle Bay to a demarcation line to be drawn from a point of Fort Richardson land located at latitude 61° 22' 19.195" N, longitude 149° 43' 20.730" W to a point of Fort Richardson land located at latitude 61° 19' 39.168" N, longitude 149° 46' 32.204" W.

PROPOSED REGULATION: To ensure public safety, the Restricted Area shall be closed to watercraft navigation and persons at all times, except for vessels and individuals engaged in operational and maintenance activities authorized by the Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Richardson. This regulation shall be enforced by the Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Richardson or other such agencies as the Commander may designate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Warning signs and markers will be posted at the entrance of the Restricted Area, informing the public that entry into the area is prohibited. In addition, observers will be employed whenever the Eagle River impact area is being used for weapons training. Should an individual or vessel enter the area, weapons firing will cease and authorities will be notified of the trespass and take appropriate action.

The decision to establish the requested Restricted Area will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety and, in general the needs and welfare of the people.

Comments are being solicited from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Alaska Native Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to grant, modify, condition or deny authorization of this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historical properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above.

Comments are used in the preparation of an environment effects analysis. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Individuals may request a public hearing during the open comment period by submitting a letter to the District Engineer outlining the reasons that the hearing is requested.

It is requested that you communicate this information to any persons that may be interested, who did not receive a copy of this notice.

Written comments concerning the proposed action described above may be submitted directly to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Post Office Box 6898, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-0898, ATTN: Ms. Serena Sweet, within the comment period specified above to receive consideration. Inquiries regarding the proposed action may be directed to Ms. Sweet by telephone at (907) 753-2819, or by email at serena.e.sweet@usace.army.mil.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosure

Proposed Navigable Water Restricted Area

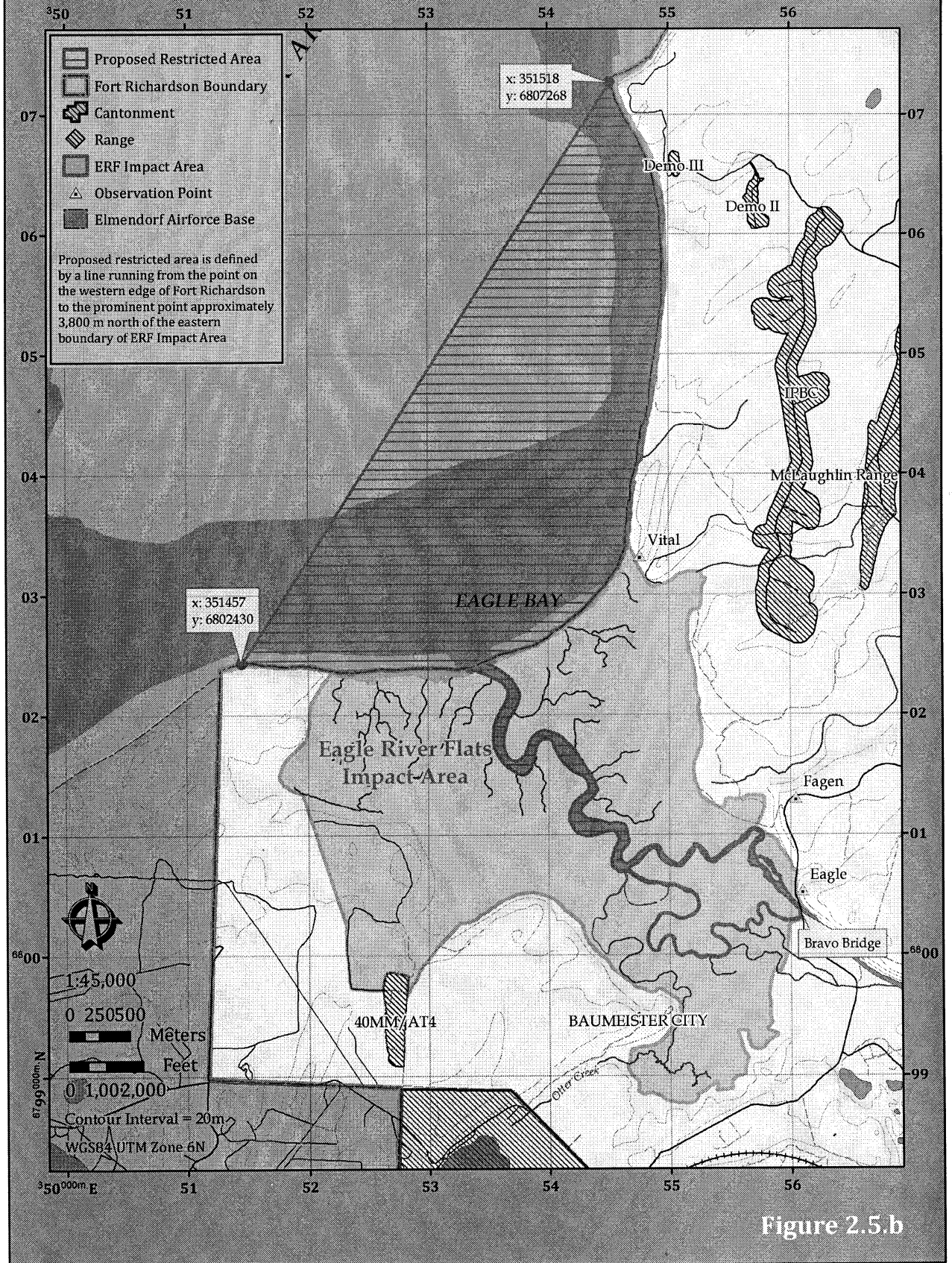


Figure 2.5.b