

Index

A

- Access roads, 2-1, 2-4
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1-11
- Affected environment
 - Air quality, 8-3
 - Bears, 5.3-2
 - Birds, 5.3-4
 - Birds of conservation concern, 5.3-5
 - Climate, 8-3
 - Cultural and historic resources, 6-6
 - Cumulative impacts, 16-1
 - Energy resources, 10-1
 - Environmental justice, 15-2
 - Fisheries, 5.4-3
 - Floodplains, 4.4-1
 - Furbearers, 5.3-4
 - Geology and soils, 3-5
 - Groundwater, 4.3-1
 - Hazardous materials and waste sites, 13.3-4
 - Land use, 13.1-3
 - Landbirds, 5.3-5
 - Mammals, 5.3-2
 - Marine mammals, 5.3-4
 - Moose, 5.3-2
 - Navigation, 12-5
 - Noise and vibration, 9-3
 - Other mammals, 5.3-4
 - Parks and recreation resources, 13.2-12
 - Permafrost, 3-14
 - Raptors and owls, 5.3-5
 - Seismic hazards, 3-17
 - Socioeconomics, 14-2
 - Subsistence, 7-6
 - Surface water, 4.2-2
 - Threatened and endangered species, 5.5-1
 - Topography, 3-2
 - Transportation safety and delay, 11-3
 - Vegetation resources, 5.2-1
 - Waterbirds, 5.3-5
 - Wetland resources, 4.5-1
 - Wildlife, 5.3-2
 - Wolves, 5.3-3
- Air quality, 8-1
 - Affected environment, 8-3
 - Alaska Ambient Air Quality Standards, 8-2
 - Analysis methodology, 8-3
 - Class I areas, 8-2
 - Environmental consequences, 8-6
 - National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 8-2
 - Regulatory setting, 8-1
 - Short-term uses and long-term productivity, 17-4
 - Study area, 8-3
- Alaska Coastal Management Act, 4.1-4
- Alaska Heritage Resources, 6-4
- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, 7-1
- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 7-2
- Alaska Native Regional Corporations, 1-14
- Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System, 4.1-4
- Alaska Railbelt Electrical Grid, 10-1
- Alaska REcreational Trails Plan, 13.2-3
- Alaska Resources and Practices Act, 5.1-2
- Alternatives, 2-1
 - Considered in SEA environmental review, 2-9
 - Development, 2-8
 - Eliminated, 2-20
 - Elimination, 2-8
 - No-Action, 2-20
 - Reasonable, 2-9, 2-22
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, 6-1
- Analysis methodology
 - Air quality, 8-3
 - Cultural and historic resources, 6-4
 - Environmental justice, 15-2
 - Fisheries, 5.4-1
 - Floodplains, 4.4-1
 - Geology and soils, 3-5
 - Groundwater, 4.3-1
 - Hazardous materials and waste sites, 13.3-4
 - Land use, 13.1-3
 - Navigation, 12-5
 - Noise and vibration, 9-2
 - Parks and recreation resources, 13.2-12
 - Permafrost, 3-15
 - Seismic hazards, 3-18
 - Socioeconomics, 14-1
 - Subsistence, 7-4
 - Surface water, 4.2-1
 - Threatened and endangered species, 5.5-1
 - Topography, 3-2
 - Transportation safety and delay, 11-2
 - Vegetation resources, 5.2-1
 - Wetland resources, 4.5-1
 - Wildlife, 5.3-1
- Antiquities Act of 1906, 6-1
- Applicable Regulations
 - Cumulative impacts, 16-1
- Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, 6-1

Archaeological and Historical Moss-Bennett Act. See
Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of
1974
Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979,
6-1

B

Background
Project, 1-5
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 5.1-2
Bears, 5.3-2, 5.3-9
Beluga Power Plant, 10-1
Beluga-Wasilla natural gas pipeline, 10-2
Big Lake, 3-2
Big Lake Segment
Description, 2-18
Biological resources, 5.1-1
Regulatory setting, 5.1-1
Short-term uses and long-term productivity, 17-3
Birds, 5.3-11
Landbirds, 5.3-5
Nesting habitat disturbance, 5.3-16, 5.3-20, 5.3-26
Nesting habitat loss, 5.3-16, 5.3-18, 5.3-19, 5.3-25
Of conservation concern, 5.3-5
Raptors and owls, 5.3-5
Waterbirds, 5.3-5
Birds of conservation concern, 5.3-5, 5.3-13
Build alternatives, 1-7

C

Class 4 standards, 2-1
Clean Air Act, 1-11
Clean Water Act, 1-11, 4.1-1, 4.1-2
Clean Water Act Section 401, 4.1-4
Clean Water Act Section 404, 4.1-2
Climate, 8-1
Affected environment, 8-3
Greenhouse gas emissions, 8-10, 16-14
Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 13.1-1
Comment
Meetings, public, 1-15
On the Draft EIS, 1-14
Communications towers, 2-7
Comprehensive Environmental Response,
Compensation, and Liability Act, 1-11
Conceptual engineering, 1-5, 2-8
Connector Segment 1
Description, 2-12
Connector Segment 2
Description, 2-12
Connector Segment 3
Description, 2-12
Construction

Access roads. See
Bridges, 2-5
Communications towers, 2-7
Culverts, 2-5
Facilities, 2-7
Grade crossings, 2-7
Proposed rail line, 2-4
Railbed, 2-4
Right-of-way, 2-4
Schedule, 2-6
Staging areas, 2-5
Track, 2-4
Track sidings, 2-8
Consultation
Government-to-Government, 1-14
Government-to-Government Consultation and
Coordination Plan, 1-14
Tribal, 1-14
Cook Inlet beluga whale, 5.1-1
Cooperating agencies, 1-7, 1-9
Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40
Code of Federal Regulations Part 1502.16), 18-1
Cultural and historic resources, 6-1
Affected environment, 6-6
Affected environment, Alaska Purchase and
Territory, 1867 to 1958, 6-11
Affected environment, cultural landscapes, 6-16
Affected environment, cultural resources in, 6-15
Affected environment, Dena'ina place names and
trails, 6-8
Affected environment, documented historic
cultural resources, 6-16
Affected environment, documented prehistoric
cultural resources, 6-16
Affected environment, early settlement, 6-11
Affected environment, establishing government,
6-12
Affected environment, history, 6-8
Affected environment, prehistoric cultural
sequences, 6-7
Affected environment, prehistoric sites, 6-7
Affected environment, prehistory, 6-6
Affected environment, Russian America, 1740 to
1867, 6-10
Affected environment, statehood, 1959 to 2008, 6-
14
Affected environment, World War II to statehood,
6-13
Agriculture, 6-26
Analysis methodology, 6-4
Dogsledding, 6-18
Field survey, 6-4
Homesteading, 6-23
Impacts, 6-27
Recreation, 6-20
Regulatory setting, 6-1

- Study area, 6-2
- Study area map, 6-3
- Cumulative impacts 1-17
 - Affected environment, 16-1
 - Applicable regulations, 16-1
 - Biological resources, 16-11
 - Climate and air quality, 16-14
 - Cultural and historic resources, 16-12
 - Energy, 16-16
 - Environmental consequences, 16-10
 - Environmental justice, 16-19
 - Geology and soils, 16-10
 - Land use, 16-17
 - Methodology, 16-2
 - Navigation, 16-17
 - Noise and vibration, 16-16
 - Socioeconomics, 16-18
 - Subsistence, 16-13
 - Transportation safety and delay, 16-17
 - Water resources, 16-11
- D**
 - Decisions, 1-8
 - Dena'ina place names and trails, 6-8
 - Denali earthquake, 3-16
 - Department of Transportation Act, 6-1
 - Drinking water
 - Program, 4.3-3
 - Quality, 4.3-2, 4.3-5
 - Sources, 4.3-1, 4.3-2
 - Drinking Water Program, Alaska, 4.1-4
- E**
 - Employment, 14-3
 - Endangered Species Act, 1-12, 5.1-2
 - Energy resources, 10-1
 - Affected environment, 10-1
 - Consumption, 10-2, 10-3
 - Environmental consequences, 10-2
 - Regulatory setting, 10-1
 - Study area, 10-1
 - Essential Fish Habitat, 1-13
 - Environmental consequences. See Impacts
 - Environmental consequences
 - Air quality, 8-6
 - Bears, 5.3-9
 - Birds, 5.3-11
 - Birds of conservation concern, 5.3-13
 - Cumulative impacts, 16-10
 - Energy resources, 10-2
 - Environmental justice, 15-4
 - Fisheries, 5.4-5
 - Floodplains, 4.4-2
 - Furbearers, 5.3-11
 - Geology and soils, 3-7
 - Hazardous materials and waste sites, 13.3-10
 - Land use, 13.1-11
 - Marine mammals, 5.3-11
 - Moose, 5.3-9
 - Navigation, 12-11
 - Other mammals, 5.3-11
 - Parks and recreation resources, 13.2-18
 - Permafrost, 3-15
 - Seismic hazards, 3-17
 - Socioeconomics, 14-3
 - Subsistence, 7-14
 - Surface water, 4.2-9
 - Threatened and endangered species, 5.5-4
 - Topography, 3-2
 - Transportation safety and delay, 11-4
 - Vegetation resources, 5.2-5
 - Wetland resources, 4.5-6
 - Wildlife, 5.3-6
 - Wolves, 5.3-10
 - Environmental documentation, 1-5
 - Environmental justice, 1-11
 - Affected environment, 15-2
 - Analysis methodology, 15-2
 - Environmental consequences, 15-4
 - Regulatory setting, 15-1
 - Study area, 15-1
 - EnvSeismic hazards
 - Environmental consequences, 3-17
 - Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, 4.1-3
 - Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 4.1-3
 - Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites, 6-1
- F**
 - Facilities
 - Rail line support, 2-7
 - Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, 3-1
 - Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 13.2-1
 - Federal regulations
 - Land use, 13.1-1
 - Navigation, 12-1
 - Fire
 - Wildland, 5.2-8
 - Wildland fire and fire management, 5.2-10
 - Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 5.1-2
 - Fish Creek Management Plan, 13.2-3
 - Fisheries
 - Affected environment, 5.4-3
 - Analysis methodology, 5.4-1
 - Environmental consequences, 5.4-5
 - Study area, 5.4-1
 - Floodplains

Affected environment, 4.4-1
Analysis methodology, 4.4-1
Environmental consequences, 4.4-2
Study area, 4.4-1
Furbearers, 5.3-4, 5.3-11

G

Geology. See Topography, geology, and soils
Geology and soils, 3-4
 Affected environment, 3-5
 Analysis methodology, 3-4
 Environmental consequences, 3-7
Goose Creek, 4.5-18
Grade crossings, 2-7
Grade crossing delay, 11-6
Grade crossing safety
 Hazard index, 11-2, 11-5
 Predicted accident frequency, 11-4
Greenhouse gas emissions, 8-10, 16-14
Groundwater
 Affected environment, 4.3-1
 Analysis methodology, 4.3-1
 Environmental consequences, 4.3-7
 Recharge, 4.3-1
 Study area, 4.3-1

H

Habitats
 Fish, wildlife, and plant - loss of, 4.5-7
Hazardous materials and waste sites, 13.3-1
 Affected environment, 13.3-4
 Analysis methodology, 13.3-4
 Environmental consequences, 13.3-10
 Regulatory setting, 13.3-1
 Study area, 13.3-3
Historic properties
 Definition, 6-1
Historic resources. See Cultural and historic resources
Houston North Segment
 Description, 2-18
Houston Segment
 Description, 2-14
Houston South Segment
 Description, 2-18
Hydrologic functions, natural
 Interruption and reduction of, 4.5-8
Hydrologic environment, 4.2-2

I

Iditarod National Historic Trail, 13.2-12

Iditarod National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, 13.2-1
Iditarod Trail, 14-3

Impacts

 Archaeological sites, 6-29
 Cultural and historic resources, 6-27
 Cultural landscapes, 6-29
 Direct and indirect, 1-16
 Historic trails, structures, and sites, 6-29
 Noise and vibration, 9-4

Impacts, environmental

 Comparison, 2-20

Invasive plants

 Spread of, 5.2-7

L

Land and Water Conservation Fund, 13.2-2

Land Ownership

 Existing, 13.1-3

Land use

 Affected environment, 13.1-3
 Analysis methodology, 13.1-3
 Environmental consequences, 13.1-11
 Existing land use, 13.1-6
 Existing plans, 13.1-7
 Federal regulations, 13.1-1
 Local regulations, 13.1-2
 Regulatory setting, 13.1-1
 Short-term uses and long-term productivity, 17-1
 State regulations, 13.1-1
 Study area, 13.1-3

Landbirds, 5.3-5

Lead agency, 1-7, 1-8

Little Susitna State Recreation River, 14-3, 14-5

Local regulations

 Land Use, 13.1-2

 Navigation, 12-4

Long Range Transportation Plan, 1-5

M

Mac East Segment

 Description, 2-10

Mac West Segment

 Description, 2-10

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act, 1-13, 5.1-2

Maintenance, 2-8

Marine mammals, 5.3-4, 5.3-11

Marine Mammal Protection Act, 5.1-2

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

 Long Range Transportation Plan, 1-5

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Plan, 13.2-4

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Trails Plan,
13.2-5
Materials acquisition, 2-5
Methodology
 Cumulative impacts, 16-2
Mining Law of 1866, 13.2-1
Migratory Bird Treat Act, 5.1-2
Mitigation
 Limits of the Board's Conditioning Power, 19-1
 Negotiated agreements, 19-2
 Preliminary, 19-2
 SEA's approach, 19-1
 Voluntary, 19-2
Mitigation measures
 Voluntary, 2-8
Moose, 5.3-2, 5.3-9
 Density and generalized movement patterns, 5.3-15

N

Nancy Lake Recreation Area, 14-3
Nancy Lakes State Recreation Area Master Plan,
13.2-3
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 18-1
National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, 4.1-2
National Historic Preservation Act, 1-11
National Marine Fisheries Service, 1-13
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System,
4.1-1, 4.1-2
National Trails System Act, 6-1
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation
Act, 6-1
Navigation
 Affected environment, 12-5
 Analysis methodology, 12-5
 Environmental consequences, 12-11
 Federal regulations, 12-1
 Local regulations, 12-4
 State regulations, 12-2
 Study area, 12-4
Navigation resources
 Regulatory setting, 12-1
NEPA Section 102 (42 United States Code 4332), 18-1
NEPA Process, 1-7
No-Action Alternative, 1-7, 2-20
Noise and vibration, 9-1
 Affected environment, 9-3
 Analysis Methodology, 9-2
 Impacts, 9-4
 Regulatory setting, 9-1
Northern Segments, 2-14

O

Operations, 2-8
Operations Support Facilities, 2-1
Organization of the EIS, 1-16

P

Parks and recreation resources
 Affected environment, 13.2-12
 Environmental consequences, 13.2-18
 Regulatory setting, 13.2-1
Parks and Recreation Resources
 Analysis Methodology, 13.2-12
 Study area, 13.2-5
Permafrost, 3-14
 Affected environment, 3-14
 Analysis methodology, 3-14
 Environmental consequences, 3-15
Permits
 Flood hazard development, 4.1-4
 Floodplain development, 4.1-4
 Temporary water use, 4.1-4
Petition, 2-8
 For authority to construct and operate, 1-1
Plants
 Invasive and noxious, 5.2-4
 Rare, 5.2-5
 Rare, impacts to, 5.2-7
Point MacKenzie Agricultural Area, 3-2
Port MacKenzie Agricultural Project, 2-9, 13.1-6, 14-2
Port MacKenzie District, 10-1, 10-3, 14-2, 14-4
Preliminary study, 1-5
Project area, 1-1
Project context, 1-6
Proposed Action, 1-7, 2-1
 Description of, 2-1
 Purpose and need, 2-9, 2-22
Public Involvement, 1-13
Public participation, 2-8

Q

Quality Criteria for Water, 1986, 4.2-5

R

Railbed, 2-4
Raptors and owls, 5.3-5
Recreation resources. See Parks and Recreation Resources
Red Shirt Lake, 3-2
Regulatory setting
 Biological resources, 5.1-1

- Climate and air quality, 8-1
 - Cultural and historic resources, 6-1
 - Energy Resources, 10-1
 - Environmental justice, 15-1
 - Hazardous materials and waste sites, 13.3-1
 - Land use, 13.1-1
 - Navigation resources, 12-1
 - Noise and vibration, 9-1
 - Parks and recreation resources, 13.2-1
 - Socioeconomics, 14-1
 - Subsistence, 7-1
 - Topography, geology, and soils, 3-1
 - Transportation safety and delay, 11-1
 - Water resources, 4.1-1
 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 1-11
 - Right-of-Way, 2-4
 - Riparian zones
 - Loss of, 4.5-8
 - Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10, 4.1-3
 - Rivers and Harbors Act Section 9, 4.1-3
- S**
- Safe Drinking Water Act, 4.1-1
 - Safety
 - Grade crossing, 11-4
 - Rail, 11-7
 - Scoping, 1-13
 - Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA)
 - mitigation, 19-1
 - Section 4(f), 2-1, 2-10, 2-12, 2-14, 2-18
 - Segments, rail line
 - Big Lake, 2-18
 - Connector 1, 2-12
 - Connector 2, 2-12
 - Connector 3, 2-12
 - Connector segments, 2-12
 - Houston, 2-14
 - Houston North, 2-18
 - Houston South, 2-18
 - Mac East, 2-10
 - Mac West, 2-10
 - Northern segments, 2-14
 - Southern segments, 2-10
 - Willow, 2-14
 - Seismic hazards, 3-18
 - Affected environment, 3-18
 - Analysis methodology, 3-18
 - Short-term uses and long-term productivity
 - Air quality, 17-4
 - Biological resources, 17-3
 - Land use, 17-1
 - Water resources, 17-2
 - Socioeconomics, 14-1
 - Affected environment, 14-2
 - Analysis methodology, 14-1
 - Environmental consequences, 14-3
 - Regulatory setting, 14-1
 - Study Area, 14-1
 - Soils. See Geology and soils, See Topography, geology, and soils
 - Soil compaction and erosion, 5.2-6
 - Soils, hydric
 - Loss and degradation of, 4.5-8
 - Southeast Susitna Area Plan, 13.2-3
 - Southern Segments, 2-10
 - Staging areas, 2-5
 - State regulations
 - Land use, 13.1-1
 - Navigation, 12-2
 - Storm and flood water storage capacity
 - Loss of, 4.5-7
 - Study area
 - Air quality, 8-3
 - Cultural and historic resources, 6-2
 - Energy resources, 10-1
 - Environmental justice, 15-1
 - Fisheries, 5.4-1
 - Floodplains, 4.4-1
 - Groundwater, 4.3-1
 - Hazardous materials and waste sites, 13.3-3
 - Land use, 13.1-3
 - Navigation, 12-4
 - Parks and Recreation Resources, 13.2-5
 - Socioeconomics, 14-1
 - Subsistence, 7-4
 - Surface water, 4.2-1
 - Threatened and endangered species, 5.5-1
 - Topography, geology, and soils, 3-1
 - Vegetation resources, 5.2-1
 - Wetland resources, 4.5-1
 - Wildlife, 5.3-1
 - Subsistence, 7-1
 - Affected environment, 7-6
 - Analysis methodology, 7-4
 - Environmental consequences, 7-14
 - Regulatory setting, 7-1
 - Study area, 7-4
 - Subsistence access, 7-13
 - Subsistence competition, 7-13
 - Subsistence resource availability, 7-12
 - Subsistence use areas, 7-7
 - Surface water
 - Affected environment, 4.2-2
 - Analysis methodology, 4.2-1
 - Environmental consequences, 4.2-9
 - Study area, 4.2-1
 - Water quality, 4.2-5
 - Susitna Area Plan, 13.2-3
 - Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan, 13.2-3
 - Susitna Flats Game Refuge, 14-4

Susitna Flats State Game Refuge Management Plan,
13.2-4

T

Threatened and endangered species

- Affected environment, 5.5-1
- Analysis methodology, 5.5-1
- Environmental consequences, 5.5-4
- Study area, 5.5-1

Topography, 3-2

- Affected environment, 3-2
- Analysis methodology, 3-2
- Environmental consequences, 3-3
- Slope analysis, 3-2, 3-4

Topography, geology, and soils, 3-1

- Regulatory setting, 3-1
- Study area, 3-1

Toxic Substances Control Act, 1-11

Track Sidings, 2-8

Train traffic

- Anticipated on proposed rail extension, 1-1

Transportation safety and delay, 11-1

- Affected environment, 11-3
- Analysis methodology, 11-2
- Environmental consequences, 11-4
- Grade crossing delay, 11-6
- Grade crossing safety, 11-4
- Regulatory setting, 11-1

Tribes

- Federally recognized, 1-14
- Tribal organizations, 1-14

U

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1-12

U.S. Department of Transportation Act
Section 4(f). See Section 4(f)

V

Vegetation resources, 5.2-1

- Affected environment, 5.2-1
- Analysis methodology, 5.2-1
- Clearing and fill placement, 5.2-6
- Dust deposition, 5.2-7
- Environmental consequences, 5.2-5
- Fragmentation, 5.2-8
- Impacts to rare plants, 5.2-7
- Impacts to, summary, 5.2-17
- Invasive and noxious plants, 5.2-4
- Maintenance clearing, 5.2-9
- Rare plants, 5.2-5
- Runoff and sedimentation, 5.2-10
- Study area, 5.2-1

Wildland fire and fire management, 5.2-10
Wildland fires, 5.2-8
Vibration. See Noise and vibration

W

Waterbirds, 5.3-5

Water quality

- Degradation, 4.5-7
- Surface water, 4.2-5

Watersheds, 4.2-2

Wetland resources

- Study area, 4.5-1

Wetland resources, 4.5-1

- Affected environment, 4.5-1
- Analysis methodology, 4.5-1
- Environmental consequences, 4.5-6
- Functions and values, 4.5-5
- Regulatory setting, 4.1-1
- Short-term uses and long-term productivity, 17-2
- Unique or sensitive, 4.5-3

Wetlands

- Definition, 4.5-2
- Emergent, 4.5-3
- Forested, 4.5-2
- Mitigation bank lands, 4.5-3
- Riverine, 4.5-3
- Scrub/shrub, 4.5-2

Wildlife, 5.3-1

- Affected environment, 5.3-2
- Analysis methodology, 5.3-1
- Study area, 5.3-1

Wildlife habitat

- Fragmentation, 5.3-23
- Loss of, 5.3-14, 5.3-18, 5.3-21

Willow Creek State Recreation Area, 14-3, 14-5

Willow Segment

- Description, 2-14

Wolves, 5.3-3, 5.3-10

Z

Zoning

- Existing zoning, 13.1-6