


MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska


Department of Fish and Game
Division of Habitat

TO: John C. Barnett
Regional Environmental
Manager
ADOT&PF, Southcoast Region

DATE: May 1, 2019

THRU: Ron Benkert 
Regional Supervisor

SUBJECT: Trip Report Port Lions Airport

FROM: Will Frost 
Habitat Biologist

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The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Utilities (ADOT&PF) and the Federal Aviation Administration are proposing safety improvements to the Port Lions Airport. The improvements would address a variety of deficiencies and allow the airport to fulfill its role as a community class airport. The proposed project will increase the runway length from 2,200 feet to 3,300 feet. This will require re-orienting the runway and constructing a new Runway Safety Area, apron, and connecting taxiway. Existing trails and access roads will be relocated and connected.

On April 16, 2019, I met with Emily Haynes, Chuck Tripp, and Peter Jackson from ADOT&PF for the purpose of sampling streams located in the project area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We walked to an unnamed stream located at 57.883 N, 152.853 W. Sampling conducted in May 2018 located resident Dolly Varden upstream and downstream of a perched 5-foot diameter culvert (ADF&G Culvert No. 20703782). As part of this project the culvert will be removed. A new culvert designed for fish passage will be installed upstream of the existing culvert under the new airport access road. The ADOT&PF is proposing to remove rock from a hill adjacent to the stream. The purpose of removing the material is to improve the runway safety area of the new runway and provide locally sourced rock for the new runway construction. An unnamed tributary to the stream may be relocated to accommodate the material removal (Figure 1). The unnamed tributary is about 0.5 meters wide and may support resident Dolly Varden. Access to the stream was restricted because of felled trees from airport maintenance and the stream was not sampled for fish presence (Figure 2). We located a natural depression outside of the material source area that may be used to relocate the unnamed stream. Geotechnical surveys of the material source will occur this summer.

Mr. Jackson and I walked to "Airport Creek" (Stream No. 252-36-10005). The stream is located at 57.882 N, 152.853 W. We sampled upstream of the airport access road 700 meters using an electrofisher (Figure 3). We captured 15 Dolly Varden (Figure 4). Two perched 5-foot diameter culverts are located at the road (ADF&G Culvert No. 20703781). The culverts are likely a barrier to fish passage. The ADOT&PF is working with the US Corps of Engineers to remove the

culverts as mitigation for this project. I used a Garmin GPS to map the correct location of Airport Creek (Figure 5). While walking upstream, we located a 2.5 meter wide stream that flowed into Stream No. 252-36-10005. Stream No. 252-36-10005 as depicted in the Anadromous Waters Catalog is about 1 meter wide and carried less stream flow than the 2.5 meter wide stream. Stream No. 252-36-10005 will be assigned to the larger stream channel (Figure 6). Because of limited time, the smaller stream channel was not sampled but contained quality fish habitat. The stream number and correct location of Airport Creek will be nominated for update to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

The ADF&G requests to conduct one additional fish survey in the unnamed stream located at 57.883 N, 152.853 W to determine if the habitat upstream of the proposed new culvert on the new Airport Access Road is too steep to justify the installation of a culvert designed for fish passage.



Figure 1. Proposed material source location.



Figure 2. Felled timber covering the unnamed tributary.



Figure 3. Airport Creek. View looking downstream.



Figure 4. Dolly Varden captured in Airport Creek.

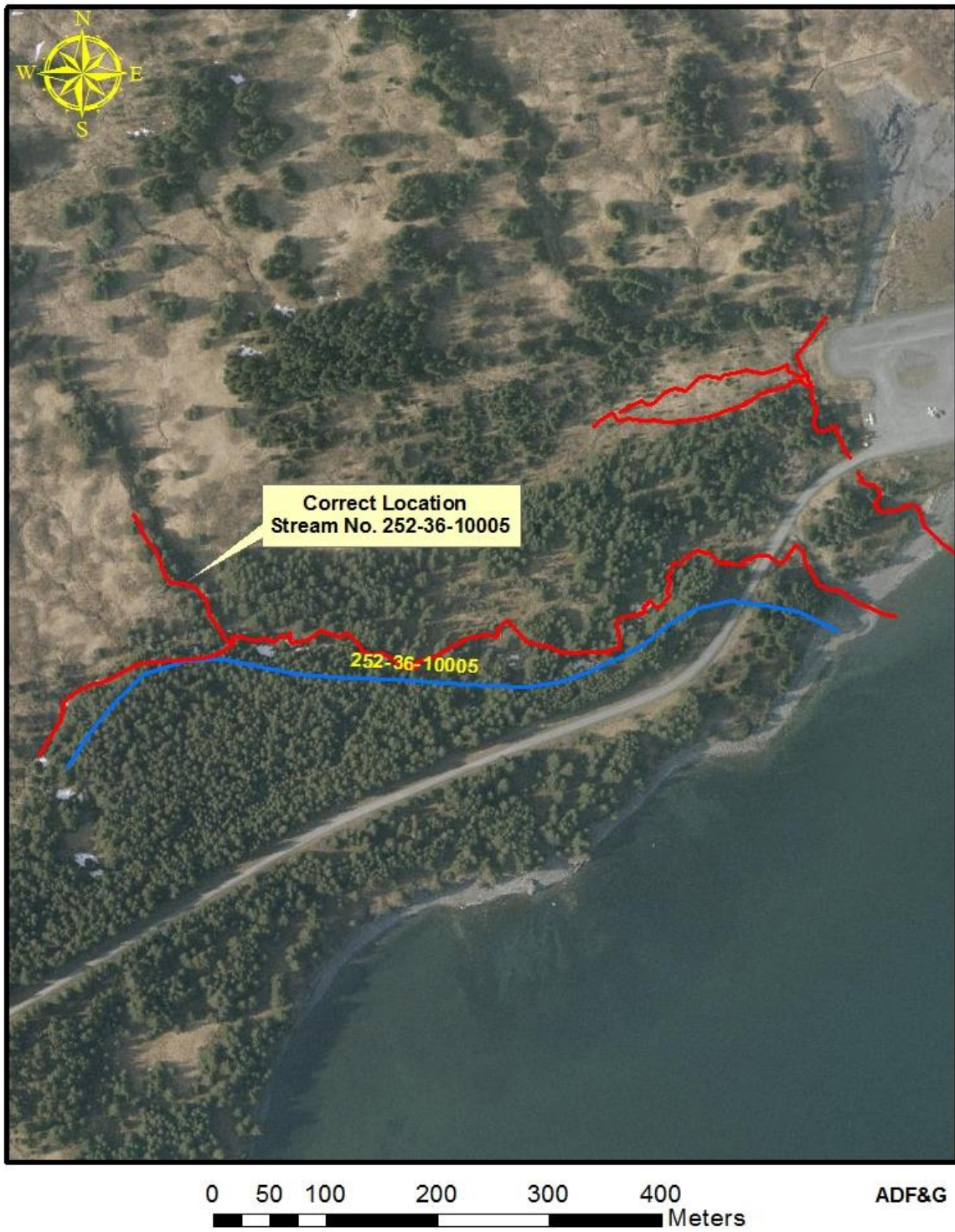


Figure 5. Correct location of Stream No. 252-36-10005.



Figure 6. Unnamed tributary to Airport Creek.

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