



City of Valdez
ALASKA
Planning Department

July 18, 2020

Candice Snow
Natural Resource Specialist III
Alaska DNR – Division of Mining, Land & Water
Southcentral Regional Land Office
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 900C
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3577

Re. Review Notice: LAS 33373 – Joseph Wolf

Dear Ms. Snow,

This letter is in response to the request for agency review for the Land Use Permit application, LAS 33373, for a helicopter landing zone, parking and fuel storage on a site located off Corbin Loop Road at milepost 6.5 of the Richardson Highway in Valdez, as requested by for Joseph Wolf dba Alaska Backcountry Guides, LLC.

We respectfully request the following residential and environmental considerations regarding this site:

- Proximity of the site to an established residential neighborhood. The proposed permit site sits in the center of the Robe Lake Subdivision, which contains 54 privately owned lots that are zoned rural residential and intended for low-density living.
- Proximity to a known swan nesting area. The proposed site sits above a known swan nesting area located on Tract A of the Robe Lake Subdivision. This area is frequently visited by residents throughout Valdez as a known swan and wildlife viewing area.
- Nearby stream, wetlands and adjacency to a FEMA designated special flood hazard area for the Lowe River.
- Lack of established road system. The residential area dirt roads are maintained by the local residents year-round and would not be suitable for an extensive increase in vehicle traffic, especially during the winter.

Proposed helicopter operations, a landing zone, parking and fuel storage near residential dwellings and a stream could have adverse effects on the quality of life and safety of the residents, and potentially lead to harmful effects to the established natural environment and wildlife that residents and visitors appreciate and enjoy.

We hope these concerns will be vetted by our State of Alaska partners and departments regarding this permit request. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance regarding these matters.

Sincerely,

Kate Huber
Planning Director
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