



File Code: 1950

Date: June 6, 2003

## Proposal for Stream and Riparian Restoration on Resurrection Creek

### Dear Interested Citizen

The Seward Ranger District is seeking public comment on a proposed restoration project along an 0.8-mile segment of Resurrection Creek, located five miles upstream from Hope, Alaska.

*Figure 1* shows the project area location.

### PURPOSE AND NEED

Historic placer mining operations have affected Resurrection Creek by straightening and simplifying the stream, and separating it from its floodplain. These impacts have degraded fish rearing and spawning habitat on Resurrection Creek, as well as adjacent wildlife riparian habitat for species such as bears and eagles. Natural recovery from mining impacts has been minimal on this segment of Resurrection Creek. The proposed project would greatly accelerate the recovery of riparian areas, and fish and wildlife habitat on Resurrection Creek.

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

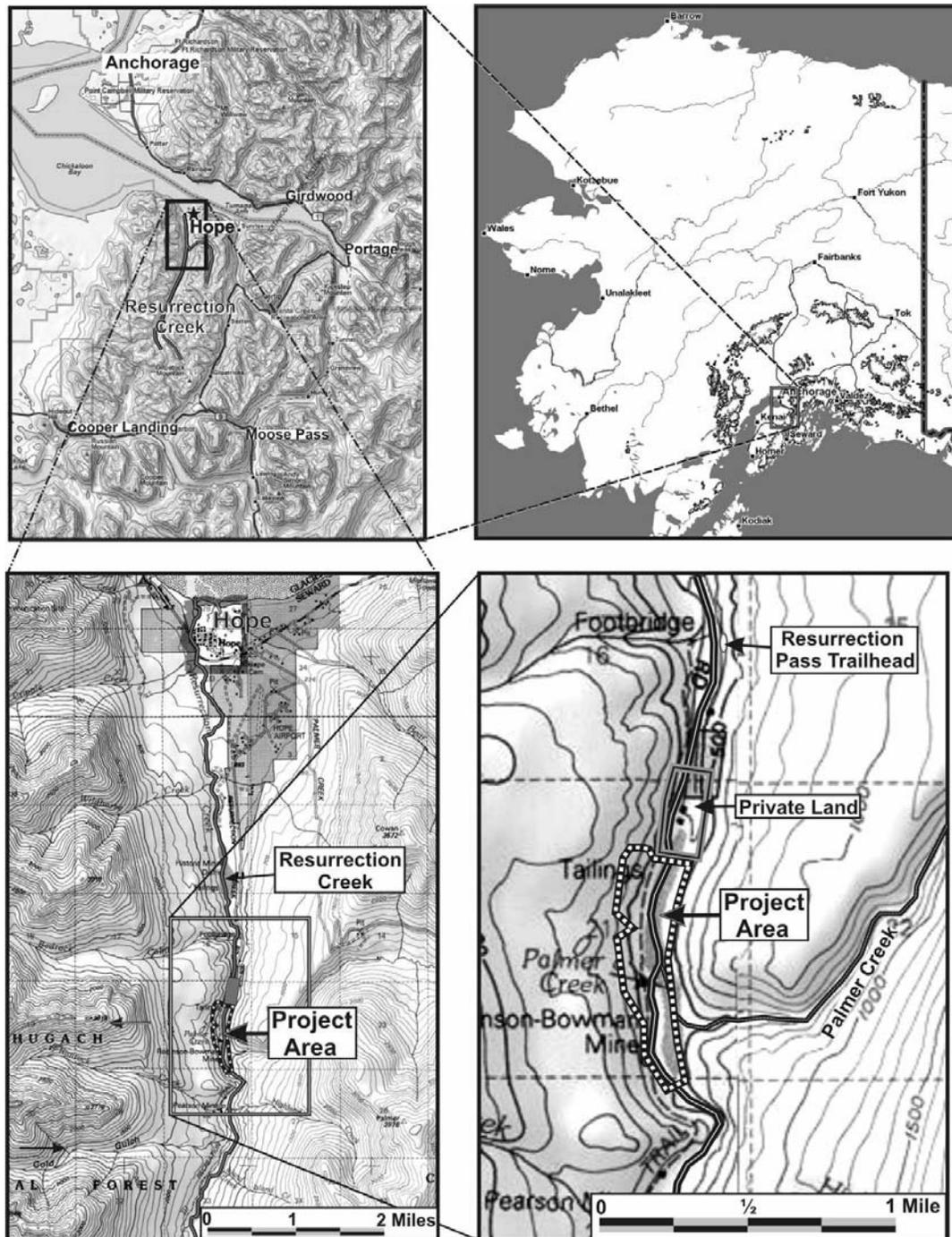
The Seward Ranger District proposes to restore Resurrection Creek's channel, floodplain, and streamside vegetation to pre-mining conditions and enhance fish and riparian wildlife habitat. Restoration work would take place on and adjacent to Resurrection Creek. *Figure 2* shows the project area on Resurrection Creek both in its current conditions and under the proposed restored conditions. Elements of the proposed project implementation include:

- Providing access for heavy equipment, which might include a temporary bridge or stream crossing over Resurrection Creek and Palmer Creek.
- Mechanical manipulation and grading of up to 140,000 cubic yards of mine tailings to recover floodplain width and elevations.
- Excavation of a meandering river channel and adjacent side channels, including the development of a channel with instream pools and spawning habitat.
- Harvesting up to 5,000 trees, with and without root wads, for use on the new river channel and floodplain. Trees would be taken primarily from the project area. If constraints to harvest at the project area are high, additional off-site harvest areas might be needed.
- Replacing soils and organics, stripped away during historic placer mining operations. Soil enhancement would improve growing conditions for native plant communities in constructed floodplains and riparian areas. Soil and sod would likely be gathered from source areas both within and outside the project area.

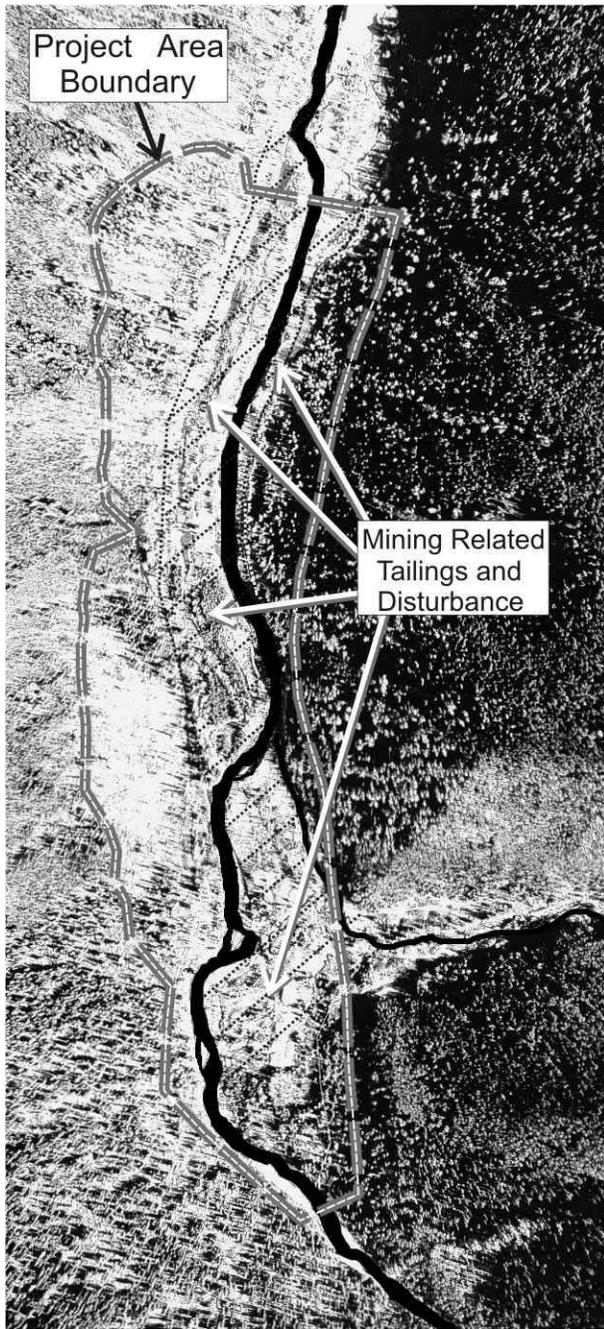


- Thinning existing overstocked riparian sapling spruce and cottonwood stands adjacent to Resurrection Creek.
- Re-vegetation of native plant species on constructed floodplains and riparian areas. Natural re-vegetation (without planting) would be used where seed sources and site conditions are favorable. Where such conditions are lacking, the site would be planted.

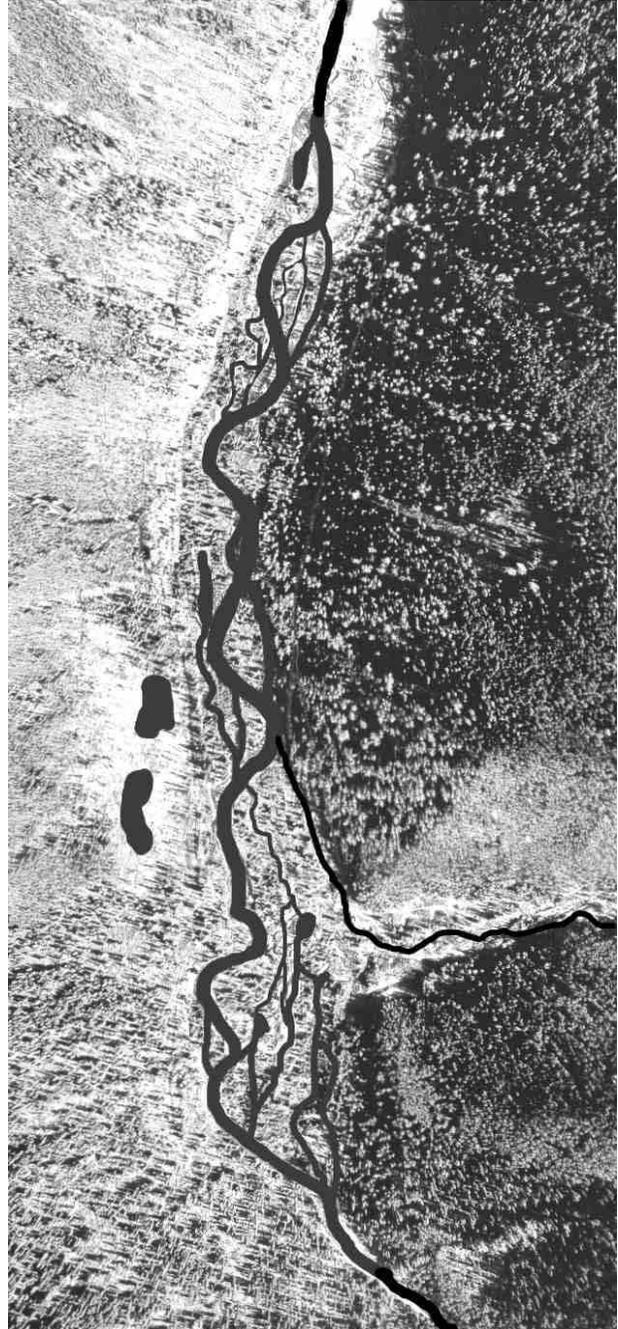
*Figure 1. Locator maps for the proposed Resurrection Creek Restoration Project.*



*Figure 2 –Resurrection Creek Project Area*



**Current Condition**  
(with Project Area outlined)



**Concept Design Channel and Floodplain**

*The left side photo shows Resurrection Creek's current condition. Note the tailings and other mining disturbed lands adjacent to the creek. The right side photo is enhanced to show the proposed channel meanders and side channels on Resurrection Creek, as well as proposed floodplain restoration. Soil excavation may result in creation of one or more ponds in the project area. The proposed restoration is intended to improve both fish and wildlife habitat.*

We are currently evaluating issues related to: channel construction and restoration; heavy equipment access; sources for trees, dirt, sod, and native plants for the project; construction impacts to recreationists and land owners; potential impacts to current fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality. A complete list of the issues raised so far in the process can be found on the Chugach National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/>. Once at the website, navigate to “*Current Projects/News Releases*”, then to “*Resurrection Creek Stream Restoration*”, and then to “*Issues, Concerns and Opportunities for the Proposed Action*”.

The “*Resurrection Creek Stream Restoration*” website also provides access to two documents important in the development of this project, namely the “*Resurrection Creek Landscape Assessment*” (2002), and the “*Resurrection Creek Stream Channel and Riparian Restoration Analysis*” (2002).

I intend that this proposed stream restoration project be conducted so as to minimize adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources. Channel and floodplain construction would follow best management practices for soil and water quality conservation. Cultural resource clearances would be obtained prior to construction activities. Biological evaluations for threatened, endangered, and /or sensitive species will be conducted as part of the environmental analysis.

We are interested in your thoughts and ideas on this project. If you wish to comment, please mail or e-mail written comments to:

Dave Blanchet, Project Coordinator  
Resurrection Creek Restoration Project  
3301 C Street, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-3998

[dblanchet@fs.fed.us](mailto:dblanchet@fs.fed.us)

Comments will be accepted until July 5, 2003. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including your name and address, will be part of the public record and available for public inspection. We will also accept and consider comments submitted anonymously. If, however, you submit comments anonymously, you will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision (36 CFR 215, 217). For additional information, please call Dave Blanchet at (907) 743-9538.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL R. KANIA  
District Ranger