

MEETING SUMMARY
COOPER LAKE PROJECT RELICENSING
SETTLEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2005 (CHUGACH TRAINING ROOM)

Attendance:

Ole Andersson	Kenai Watershed Forum
Dave Blanchet	USDA Forest Service (USFS)
Phil Brna	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Karen Demsey (phone)	Long View Associates (LVA)
Jim Ferguson	Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)
Suzanne Fisler	Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Parks division (ADNR-Parks)
Ricky Gease	Kenai River Sport Fishing Association
Amber Glenzel	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Bill Hauser	Alaska Flyfishers
Jan Konigsberg	Natural Heritage Institute
Marcie Menefee	ADNR
John Morsell (phone)	Northern Ecological Services (NES)
Karen O'Leary	USFS
Steve Padula	LVA
Larry Peltz	NOAA Fisheries
Gary Prokosch	ADNR, Water Resources division (ADNR-Water)
Andy Schmidt	USFS
Rob Spangler	USFS
Cassie Thomas	National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program (NPS)
Brenda Trefon (phone)	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Burke Wick	Chugach

Planned Agenda:

- Discuss draft Agreement in Principle (AIP) document and redlined comments from non-Chugach parties
- Discuss attachments AIP
- Status check
- Review assignments
- Confirm plans for March meetings

Handouts Provided:

The following documents were distributed prior to the meeting for the SWG's consideration:

- *Agreement in Principle*. Draft dated February 15, 2005; prepared by Chugach.
- *Agreement in Principle*. Draft dated February 18/22, 2005; prepared by non-Chugach SWG parties.

Meeting Summary:

The non-Chugach members requested caucus time at the beginning of the meeting. Upon resumption of the meeting, the focus of the SWG discussion was the non-Chugach counterproposal on Cooper Creek flows. Through extended discussion, the SWG clarified the intent and assumptions behind the counterproposal, and inconsistencies in underlying assumptions / data were identified. The goals of the two competing proposals (Chugach's and the others') and outer bounds of potential areas of agreement were clarified.

It was agreed that the non-Chugach members would reconvene separately the following week to try to develop an alternative flow proposal(s) and would then immediately provide this to Chugach. Chugach would then provide technical evaluation of this and its own proposal for a subset of the SWG to discuss jointly later in the week. Given that some members of the SWG could not be available for this meeting called on short notice, it was agreed that the meeting would be considered to be more of a work session of the SWG as opposed to a formal negotiations session.

The SWG also reviewed the draft AIP document and discussed specific edits made by the non-Chugach SWG members. General approaches for mutually acceptable revisions to the document were identified.

The SWG discussed next steps, as described above, and scheduled a follow up meeting (technical workshop) for the following Friday, March 4.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 P.M.

Action Items:

Non-Chugach members agreed to develop an alternative flow proposal(s). Chugach agreed to provide technical evaluation of the non-Chugach proposal(s) and its own proposal.

Next SWG/TWG Meeting:

Date: March 4, 2005

Location: TBD

Proposed agenda (preliminary):

- Continue discussion of Cooper Creek flow proposals

Calendar Overview:

[*Note:* The following dates are currently being held for settlement negotiations related meetings, including technical working group sessions, Settlement Working Group meetings, and/or caucus sessions as needed. Specific dates and agendas to be confirmed.]

- Mar. 10–11 SWG/TWG/Legal meetings (TBD)