

Rehabilitation Plan for West Fork Chena Fire
May 27, 2002
Steve Clautice, Resource Advisor

Situation: Two and a half miles of dozer line was constructed initially on the fire, another mile is anticipated in Division B by end of shift today. Lowland permafrost soils were frozen at the organic layer when cleared, which limited soil disturbance. The soil was saturated and is thawing rapidly once uncovered. The upland soils are coarse, drier, and thaw stable, but they can erode after rains.

Rehabilitation standards on general state land are based on preventing erosion and siltation. Access on public trails must also be maintained. No dozer line was built in the Chena River Recreation Area. Control line was put in adjacent to six private parcels. Landowners should be contacted to see if they have other concerns.

Division C

Site 1 – Chena Hot Springs (Yukon Quest) Trail:

Near DP2 between the “chainlink” cabin and next driveway west – clear obstructions like rootwads, felled trees and divots and smooth the surface with a small dozer on handline.

Site 2 – Dozer line from house to west:

No action needed. The line is narrow, not uncovered to mineral soil, and is not diverting drainage. It is not an erosion threat and locals have requested that it be left open for snowmachines.

Site 3 – Around “D-6” house.

Contact landowner (Karl Benson 369-4166). Erosion is occurring southeast of the house, but is not serious. This earthwork may have not been done under incident control and could be the landowners responsibility.

Division B

Site 4 – Old road, West Fork River to DP-1.

No action needed. The bulldozer only walked down the brush along the road, which later burned over.

Site 5 – North/south cat line at DP1, ¼ mile.

Clear the felled trees blocking the ATV trail at upper (north) end. No other action needed.

Site 6 – Gravel Pit Pond burnout line 150 yards.

Recover the northern half with organic mat and slash. The line is very wide and wet soils are melting and running downhill.

Site 7 – Section line north of DP1A ¾ mile.

Recover the northern 100 yards of dozer line for erosion control. Three to four feet can be left uncovered along the side if needed for fire control.

The south half of the line is stable and is adjacent to two parcels (Pete Higgins and James Sampson owners). Although it is on a section line easement, the landowners should be consulted.

Handline – Refill the trench on the steep stretch from the bottom to rocky shoulder. Intermittent refilling is okay if it can be diverted or prevent continuous water flow

Site 8 – Section 22 east-west dozer line

This line goes through two private parcels (Guy Herrings 488-6009 and John Zimmerli 457-3907, Alaska Division of Parks). Treat to landowner agreed standards, at least waterbar to prevent siltation of creek.

Summary:

Priority is erosion control at sites 6 and 7.

Landowner contacts:

Site 3 – Karl Benson

Site 7 – Pete Higgins and James Sampson

Site 8 – Guy Herring 488-6009, John Zimmerli 457-3907

Open trails Sites 1 and 5