



PUBLIC NOTICE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program/§401 Certification
555 Cordova Street, Anchorage AK9501-2617
Phone: 907-269-6285 | Email: DEC-401Cert@alaska.gov

Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification

Public Notice (PN) Date: March 13, 2024
PN Expiration Date: April 7, 2024

PN Reference Number: POA-2022-00364 v1.0
Waterway: Fish Creek

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into waters of the United States, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), must also apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the CWA and the Alaska Water Quality Standards (18 AAC 70). The scope of certification is limited to the water quality-related impacts from the activity subject to the Federal license or permit (40 CFR 121.3, 18 AAC 15.180).

Notice is hereby given that a request for a CWA §401 Water Quality Certification of a Department of the Army Permit application, Corps of Engineers' PN Reference Number indicated above has been received¹ for the discharge of dredged and/or fill materials into waters of the United States (WOTUS), including wetlands, as described below, and shown on the project figures/drawings. The public notice and related project figures/drawings are accessible from the DEC website at <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/wastewater/>.

To comment on the project or request for a public hearing with respect to water quality, submit comments electronically via the DEC public notice site at <https://water.alaskadec.commentinput.com?id=fStsYETPF> on or before the public notice expiration date listed above.

Applicant: Eaglecrest Ski Area, Dave Scanlan, 155 Heritage Way, Juneau, AK 99801, (907) 790-2000 4297;
Dave.Scanlan@skieaglecrest.com

Agent: City & Borough of Juneau, Alan Steffert, 155 Heritage Way Juneau, AK 99801; (907) 586-0800 4190;
alan.steffert@juneau.gov.

Project Name: Eaglecrest Ski Area Gondola and Summer Activities Development

Location: The proposed activity is located within Section 31, T. 41S, R. 67E, Copper River Meridian, in Juneau, Alaska. 3D1021000010. Project Site (Latitude, Longitude): 58.275450, -134.51456.

Purpose: The gondola/summit house project is the keystone component of Eaglecrest Ski Area's summer visitation plan. Increasing the summer visitation numbers is critical to Eaglecrest remaining financially viable. Summer recreation opportunities require hardened trails to create a durable surface to minimize ground disturbance from high-volume visitation to key vistas within the project area. The new hardened mountain bike trails will allow Eaglecrest to expand youth summer camps to promote healthy outdoor lifestyles.

Construction is expected to start in the summer of 2024, with the gondola expected to be in operation by the 2026 summer season.

Description of Proposed Work: The applicant proposes to discharge 30,381 cubic yards of fill material into 8.8 acres of wetlands in order to construct infrastructure and facilities upgrades to support the Eaglecrest Gondola & Summer Activity Development Project. The proposed infrastructure and facilities in wetlands would include: a gondola base building area pad and path, gondola towers, bike trails, a gondola mid station, a tubing hill, a picnic

¹ Reference submission number: HQ1-WEMG-5NJM5; Received: 3/4/2024 9:17:22 AM

shelter, access and support roads, expansion of parking areas, and quarries for fill material. A wetland impact table is enclosed and includes the breakdown for each upgrade. Additionally, there would be approximately 395 linear feet of stream impacts to upper sections of Fish Creek and other unnamed streams for culvert stream crossings.

The gondola will run 1.3 miles with 1,600-ft in elevation gain from the base terminal by the main lodge to the top terminal on the ridge crest. Work will include development of on-site material borrow sources (~30,000+ CY shot rock); 2.7 miles of new road construction; 2.9 miles of trail/path construction; installation of 24 steel gondola towers with concrete bases; construction of bottom and top gondola terminals and a mid-station, with enclosures; summit house (4,000 sq ft); picnic shelter; vault toilet; tubing hill.

Roads and trails will be constructed of shot rock using end-dump construction methods. Construction access to inaccessible tower locations in alpine areas will be by snow roads in winter or helicopter.

Applicant Proposed Mitigation: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

- a. **Avoidance:** The applicant states that, “due to the expansive and widespread occurrence of wetlands surrounding the base and the lower half of the ski area, impacts to these wetlands cannot be avoided during the construction of the gondola and associated infrastructure. However, they state, “they have made all efforts to avoid high-value peat land and to site the trails into upland corridors when at all possible”. Additionally, where feasible, the applicant would construct bridges that would span Fish Creek to avoid stream impacts.
- b. **Minimization:** The applicant states to minimize gondola wetland impacts, “the area immediately under the gondola rope is a safety ‘no-ski’ or ‘no-go’ zone that will be roped off to prevent access and ultimately will prevent any further development on the wetlands beyond the no-go zone to the west of the terminal area”. Likewise, to minimize trail impacts the applicant states some trails are designed to serve a multipurpose role, serving initially to facilitate gondola construction access, and ultimately providing for gondola maintenance and emergency evacuation access as secondary functions to recreational riding. To minimize road impacts to wetlands that applicant states, “impacts are minimized by sticking to a previously pioneered route, and by taking as direct a path as possible through wetlands”. To minimize wetland impacts associated with the quarries, the applicant stated they would stockpile or dispose of excess overburden in only upland locations. Overall, the applicant states the development upgrades would concentrate usage and impacts to these developed areas, which would then reduce recreational impacts to unhardened areas of the resort where wetlands are common.
- c. **Mitigation:** The applicant states, “that Eaglecrest concentrates usage in a relatively small area of upper Fish Creek Valley, and given that the wetlands are widespread throughout the valley, Douglas Island, and southeast Alaska in general, they feel that their development’s impact on wetlands is small in the overall scheme of things, and that compensatory mitigation is not appropriate for this proposed development”. However, the applicant states, “that instead of compensatory mitigation, they propose to restrict access to and remediate old social trails through wetlands. Remediation will be an ongoing effort centered around the heavily impacted muskegs in the mid-station area and Cropley Lake. The mid-mountain quarry would require slope grading at the completion of extraction. Oversized quarry rock will be placed against the toe of the quarry face and excess stripped overburden will be placed on top, blending the slope into the surrounding wetland on the west side of the quarry”.

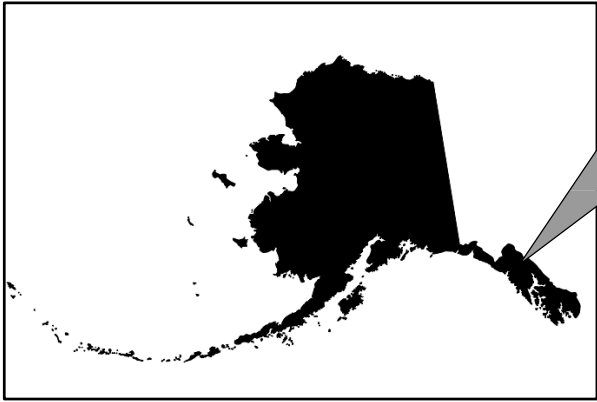
After reviewing the application, the Department will evaluate whether the activity will comply with applicable water quality requirements (any limitation, standard, or other requirement under sections 301, 302, 306, and 307 of the CWA, any Federal and state laws or regulations implementing those sections, and any other water quality-related requirement of state law). The Department may certify (or certify with conditions) with reasonable assurance the

activity and any discharge that might result will comply with water quality requirements. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

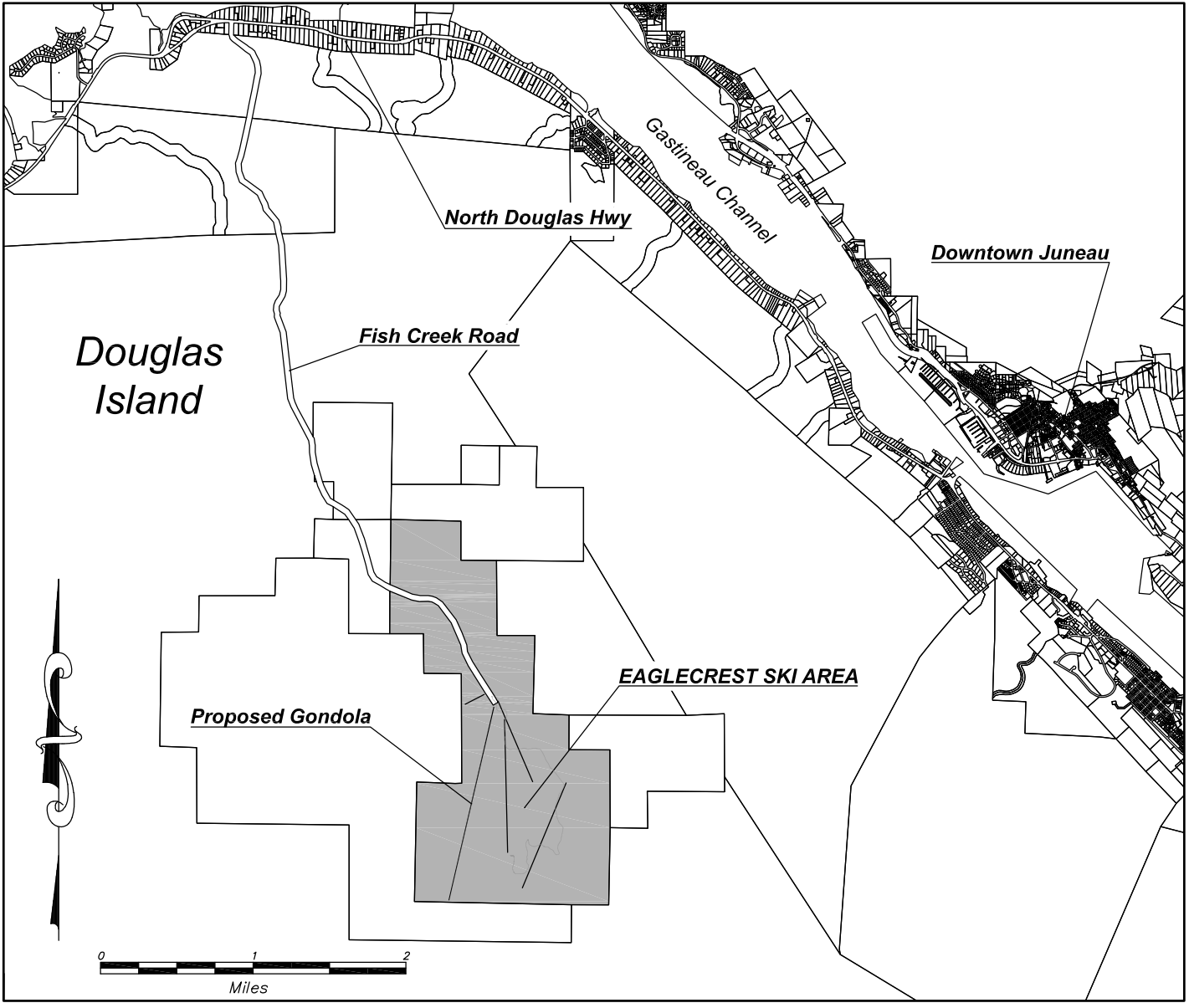
The permit application and associated documents are available for review. For inquiries or to request copies of the documents, contact dec-401cert@alaska.gov, or call 907-269-6285.

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact ADA Coordinator Megan Kohler at 907-269-4198 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 prior to the expiration date of this public notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.



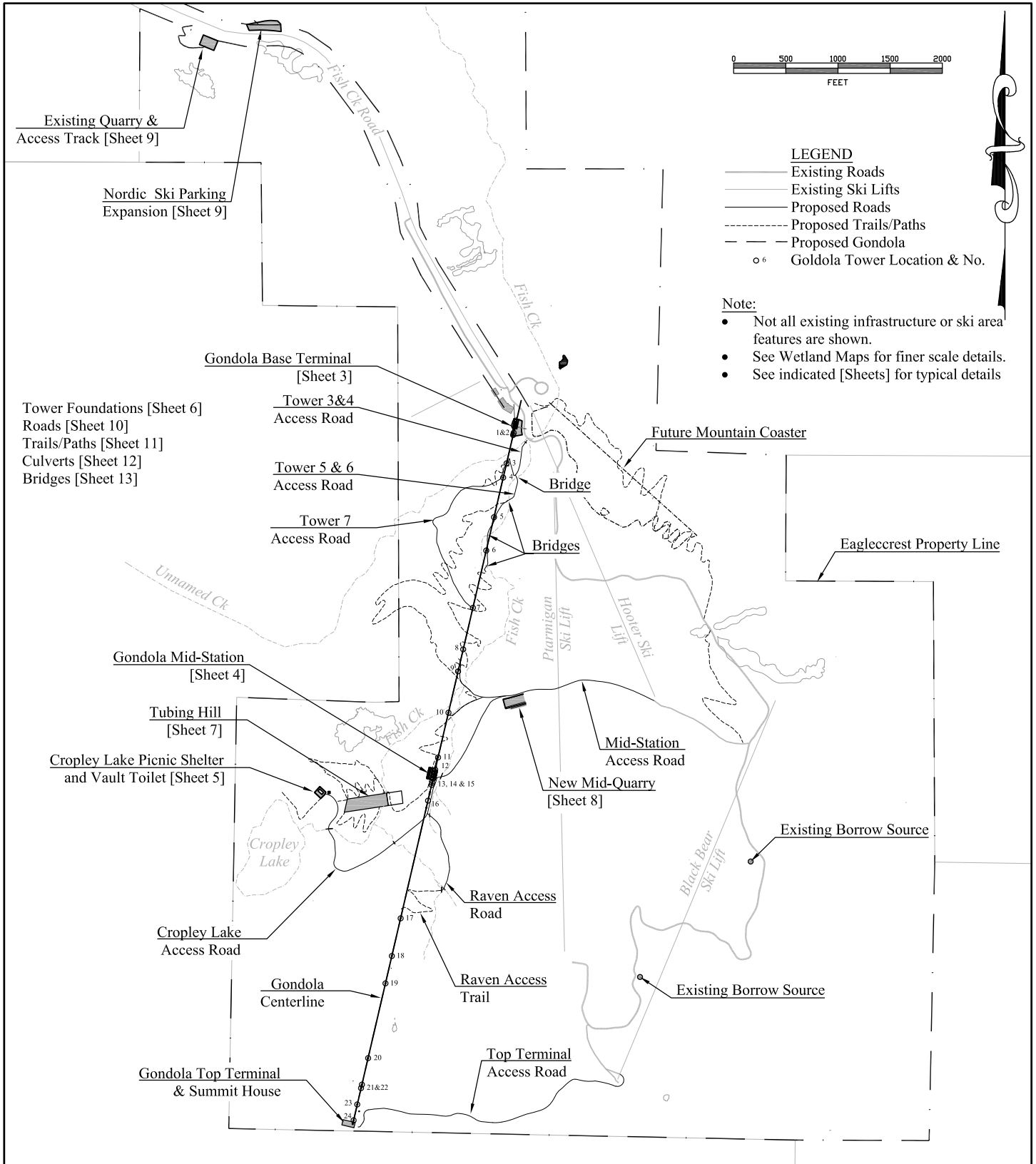
PROJECT LOCATION
DOUGLAS ISLAND



VICINITY MAP

**EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER
ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT**

Applicant: Eaglecrest Ski Area
File No.: POA-2022-00364
Waterway: Fish Creek
Proposed Activity: Gondola with access roads and trails
Sec.31, T.41S R.67E Copper River Meridian
Lat.: N 58.275450 Long.: W 134.514560
Sheet 1 of 14
Date: 9/1/23

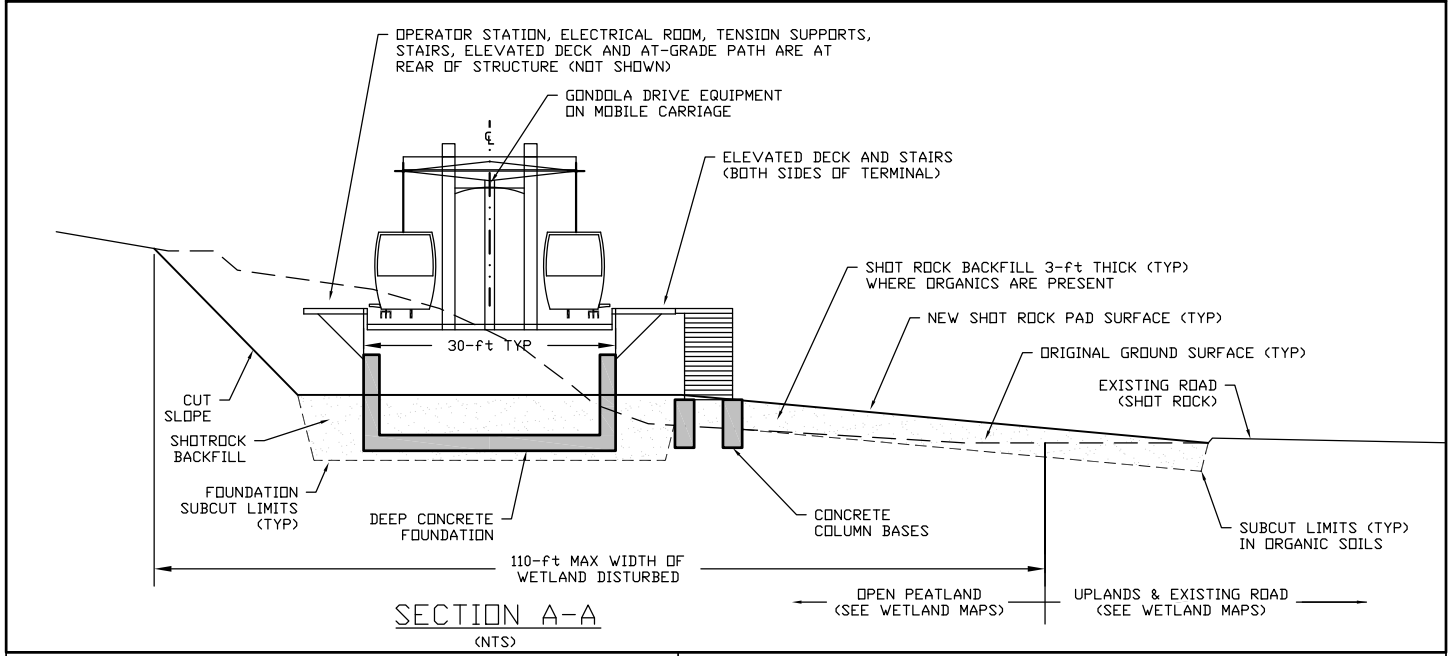
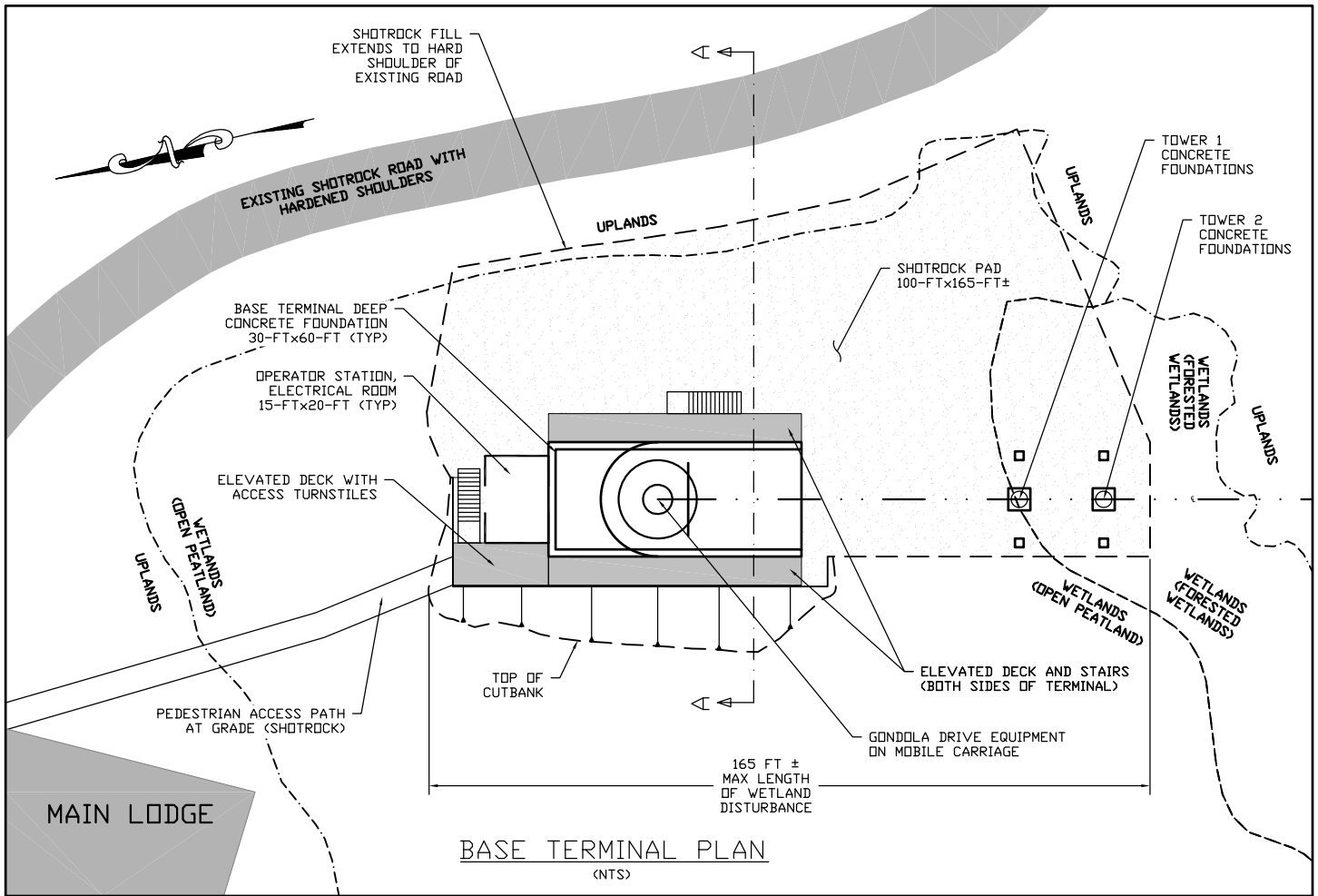


Plan View and Sheet Index

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 Sheet 2 of 14

**EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER
 ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 2/16/24

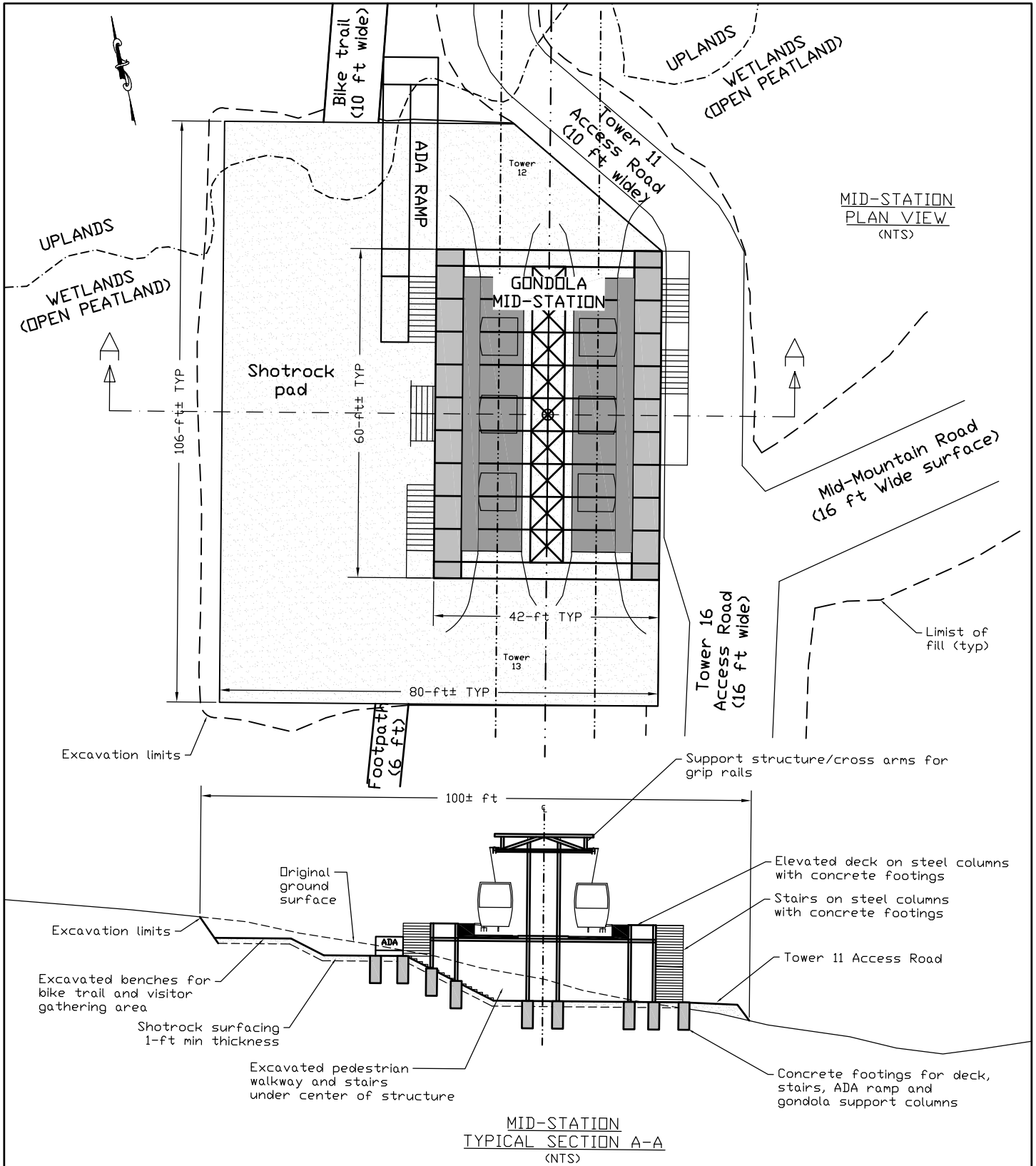


Base Terminal Plan and Section

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 Sheet 3 of 14

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EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT

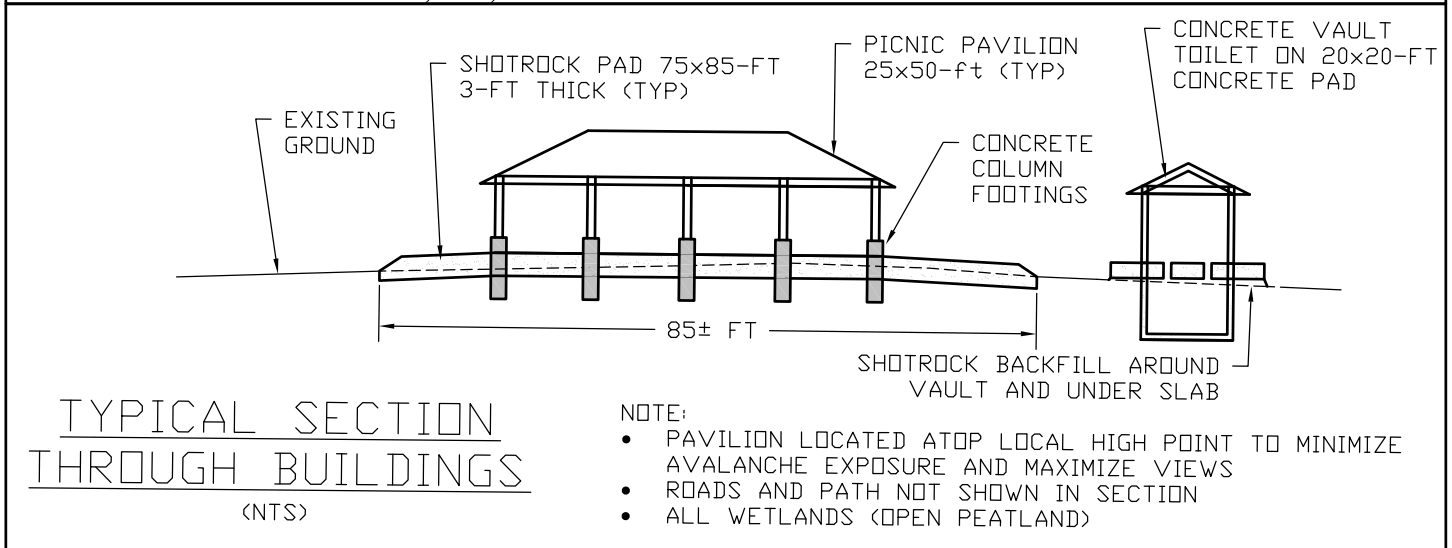
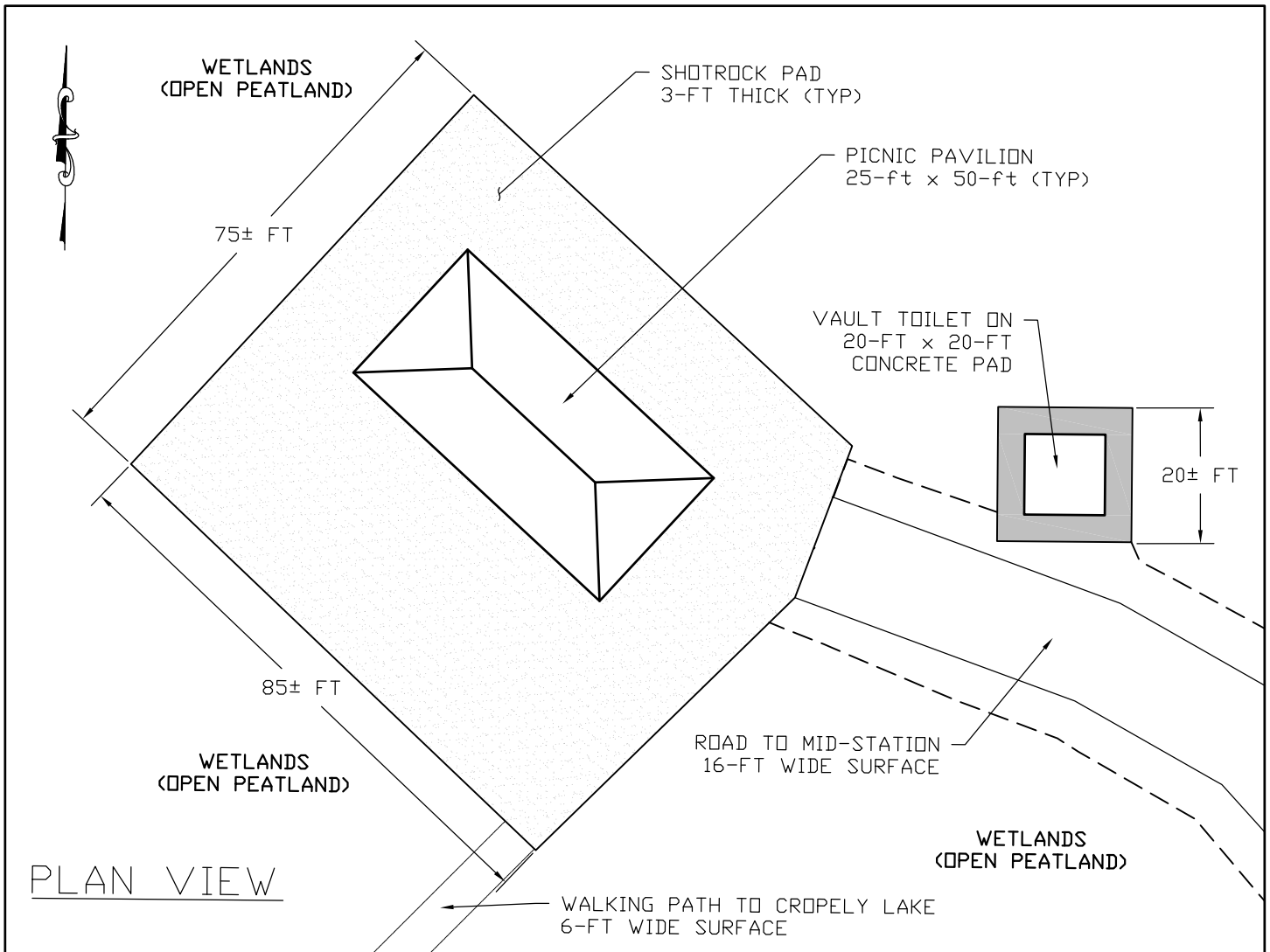


Mid-Station Typical Section and Plan View

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 Lat.: N 58.275450 Long.: W 134.514560
 Sheet 4 of 14

**EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER
 ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 2/1/24



CROPELY LAKE PICNIC PAVILION PLAN & SECTION

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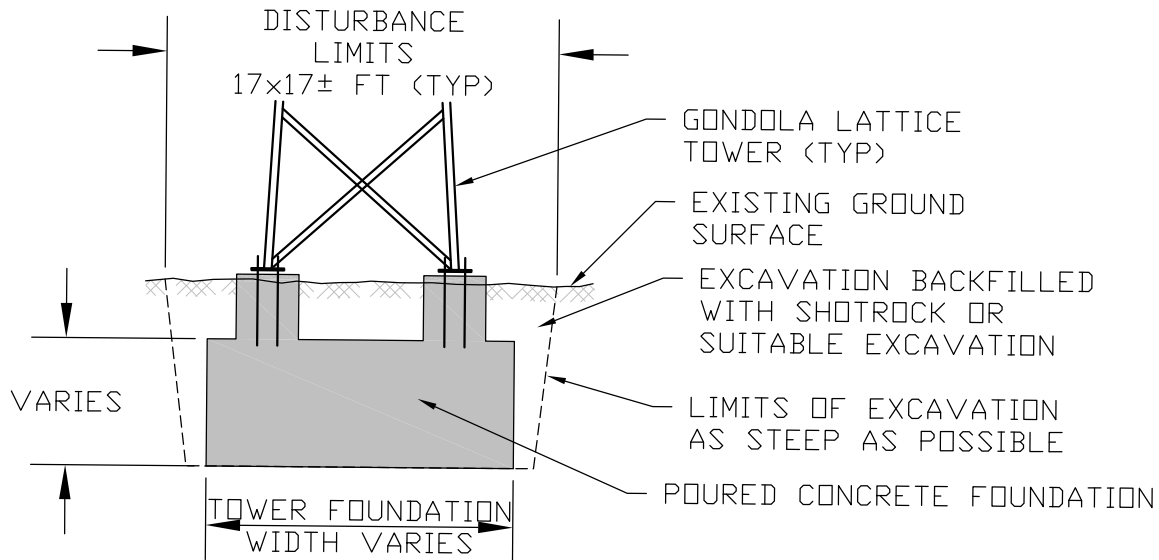
Sec.31, T.41S R.67E Copper River Meridian

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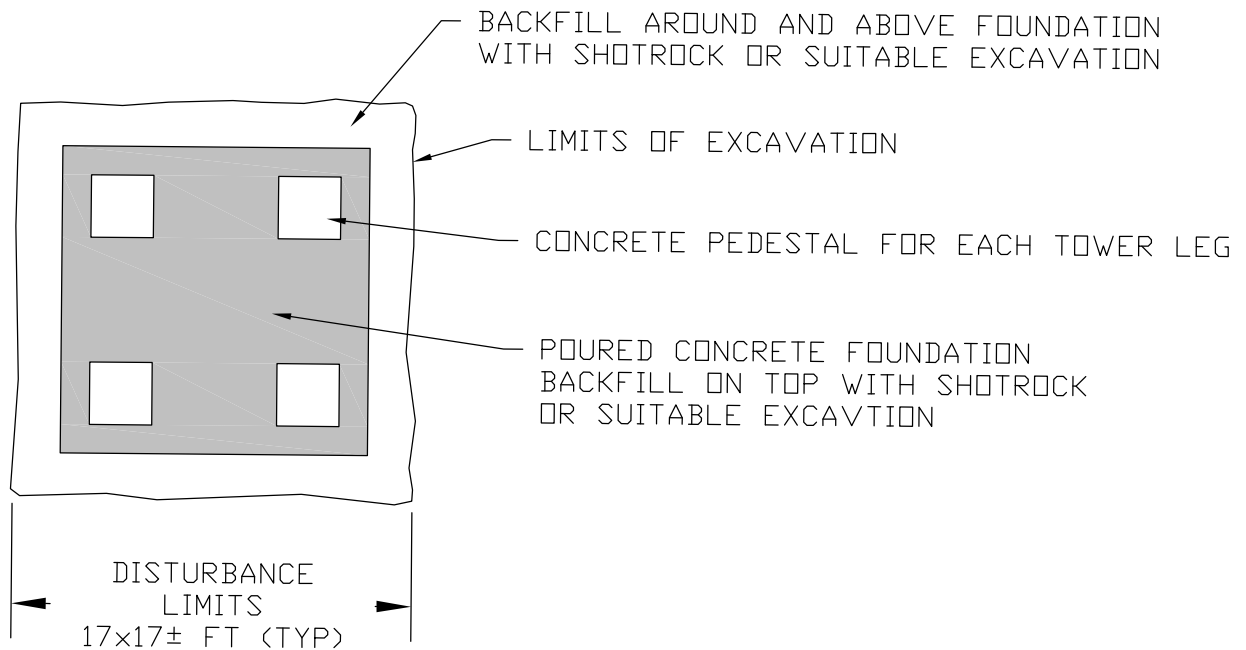
Sheet 5 of 14

Date: 2/1/24

EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT



GONDOLA TOWER FOUNDATION SECTION VIEW (NTS)



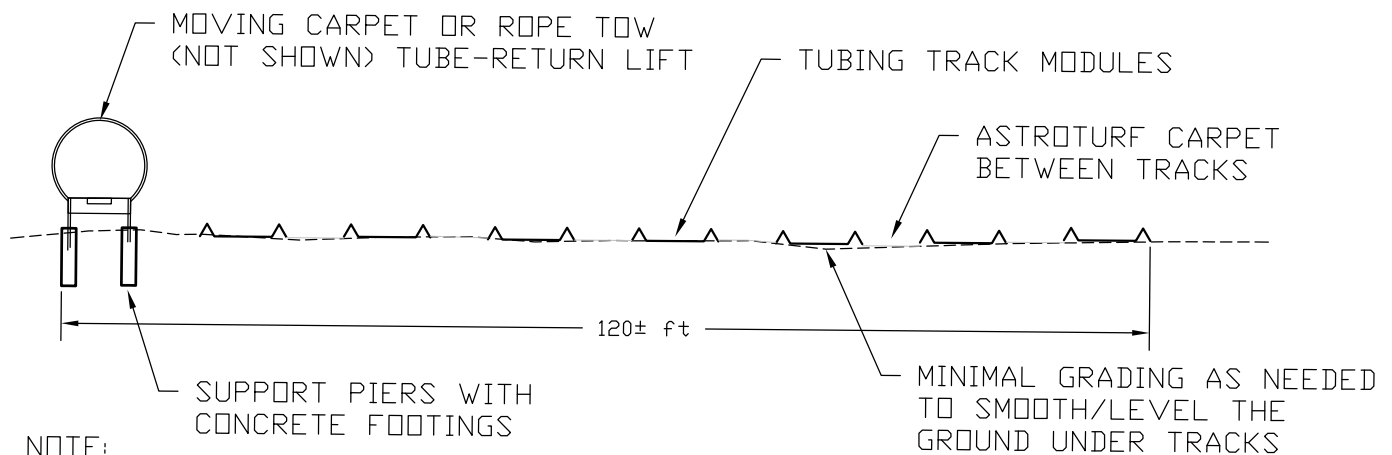
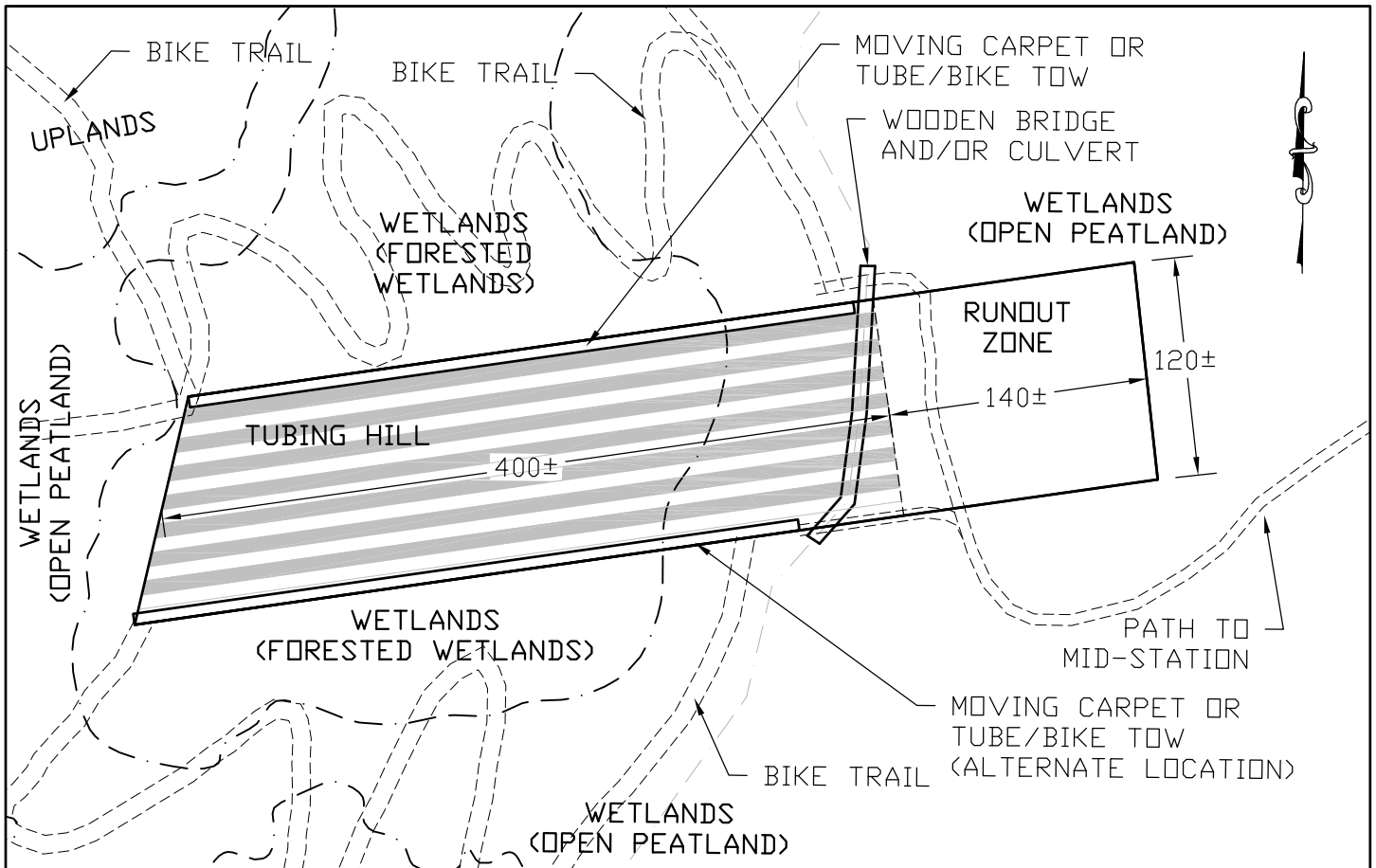
GONDOLA TOWER FOUNDATION PLAN VIEW (NTS)

Tower Foundation Typical Section and Plan View

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 Lat.: N 58.275450 Long.: W 134.514560
 Sheet 6 of 14

**EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER
 ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 2/1/24



NOTE:

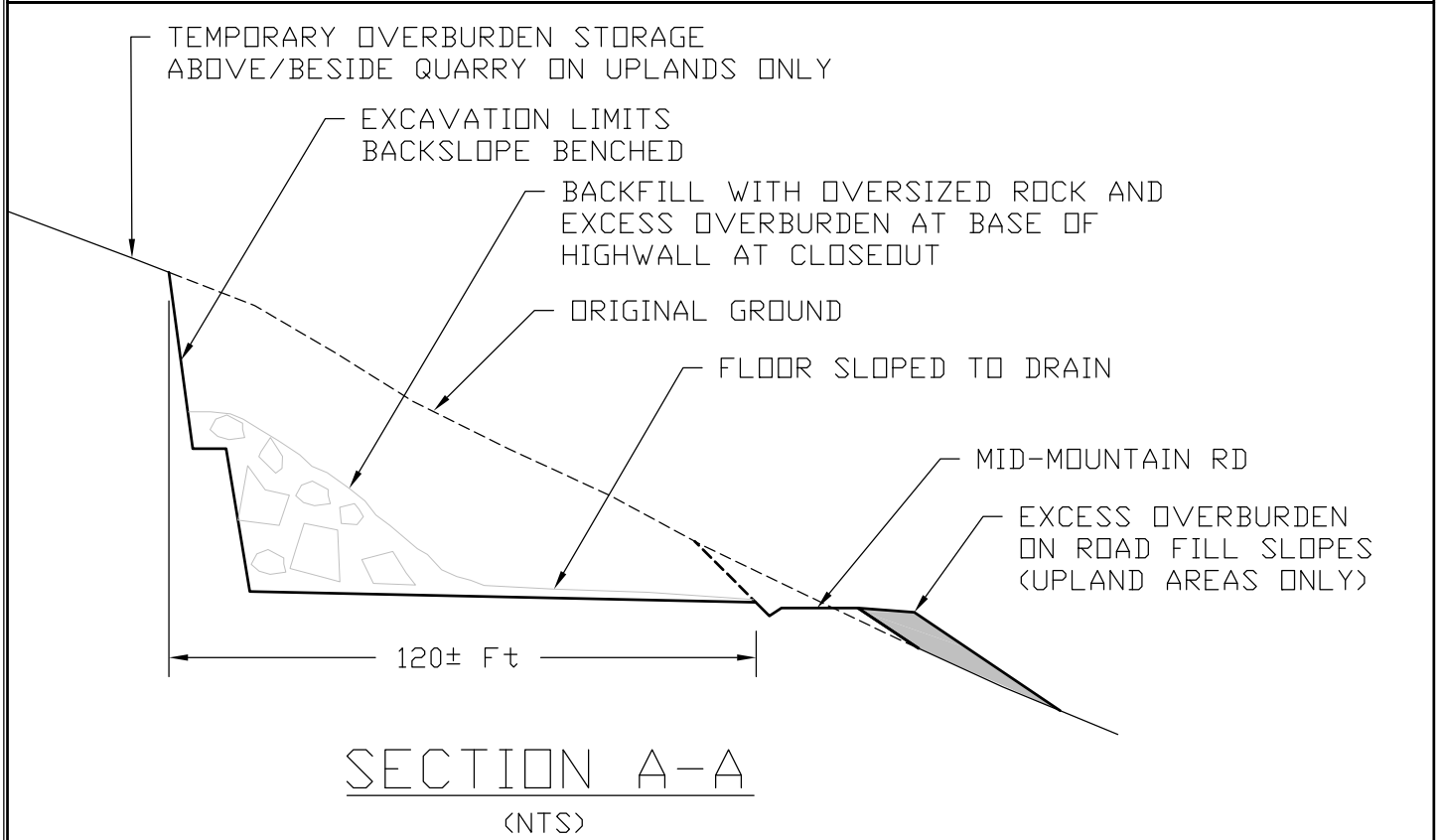
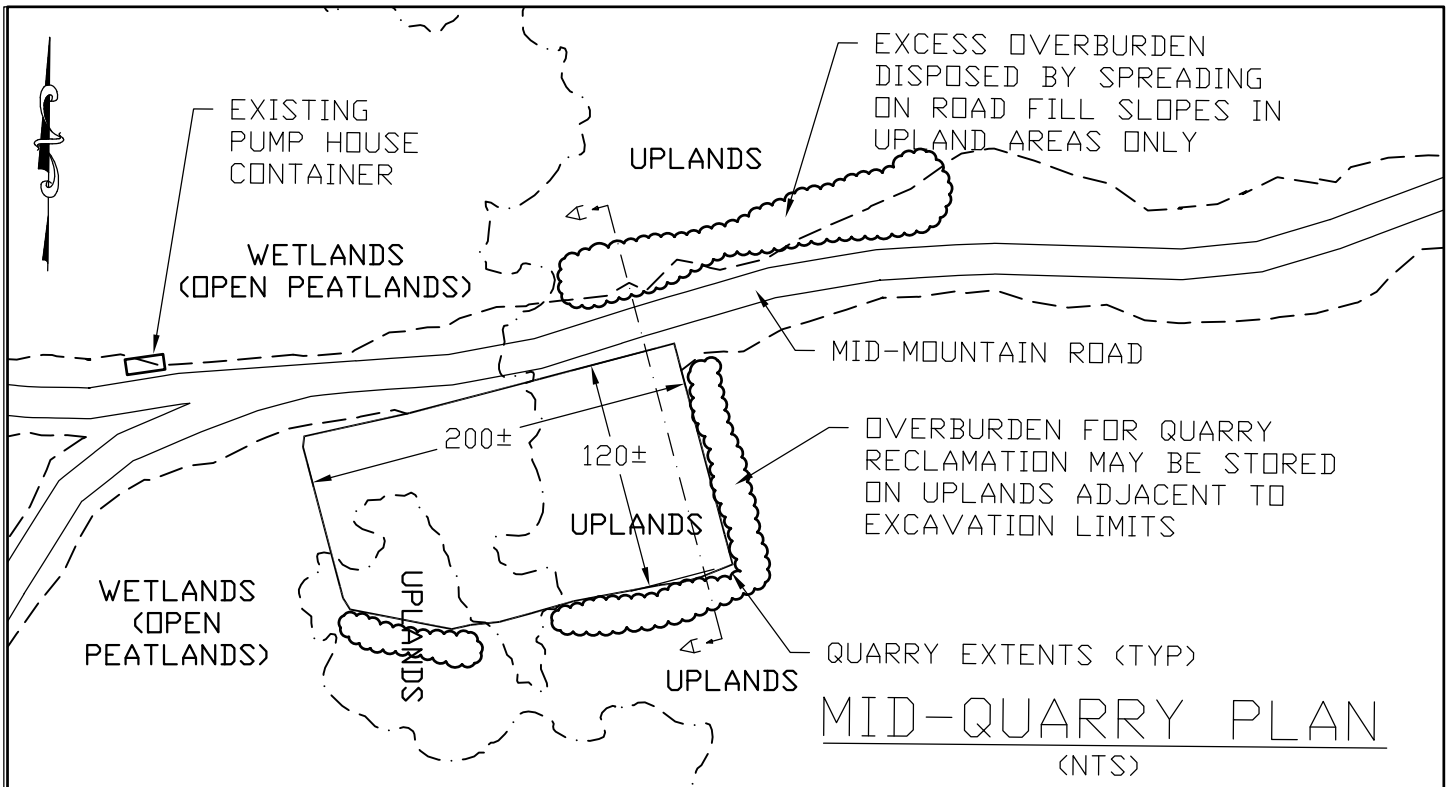
- MINIMIZE GRADING TO THAT REQUIRED TO MAKE A SMOOTH BASE FOR TUBING TRACKS.
- SMALL STREAM BETWEEN BOTTOM OF TUBE HILL AND RUNOUT ZONE WILL BE BRIDGED/CULVERTS AS NEEDED FOR SAFE TUBING

Tubing Hill Typical Section and Plan View

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 Sheet 7 of 14

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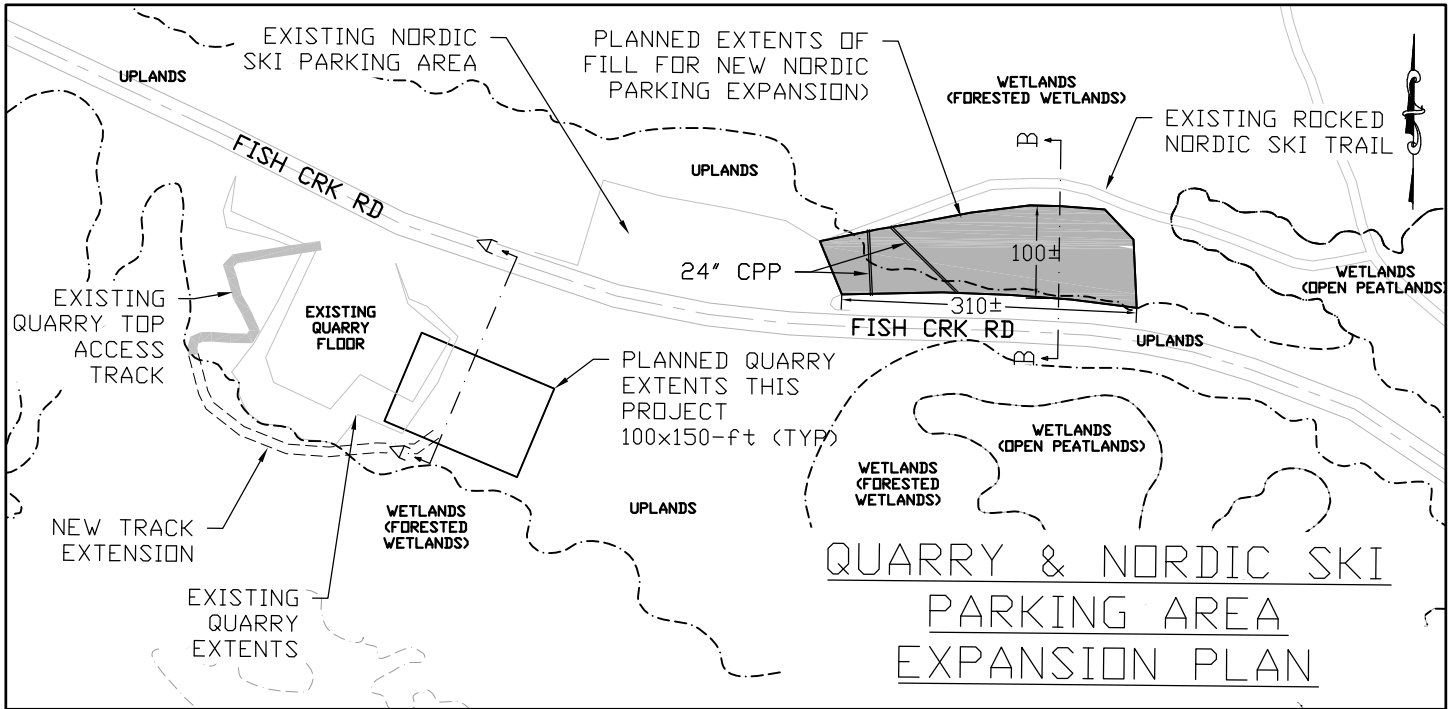


MID-MOUNTAIN QUARRY PLAN and SECTION

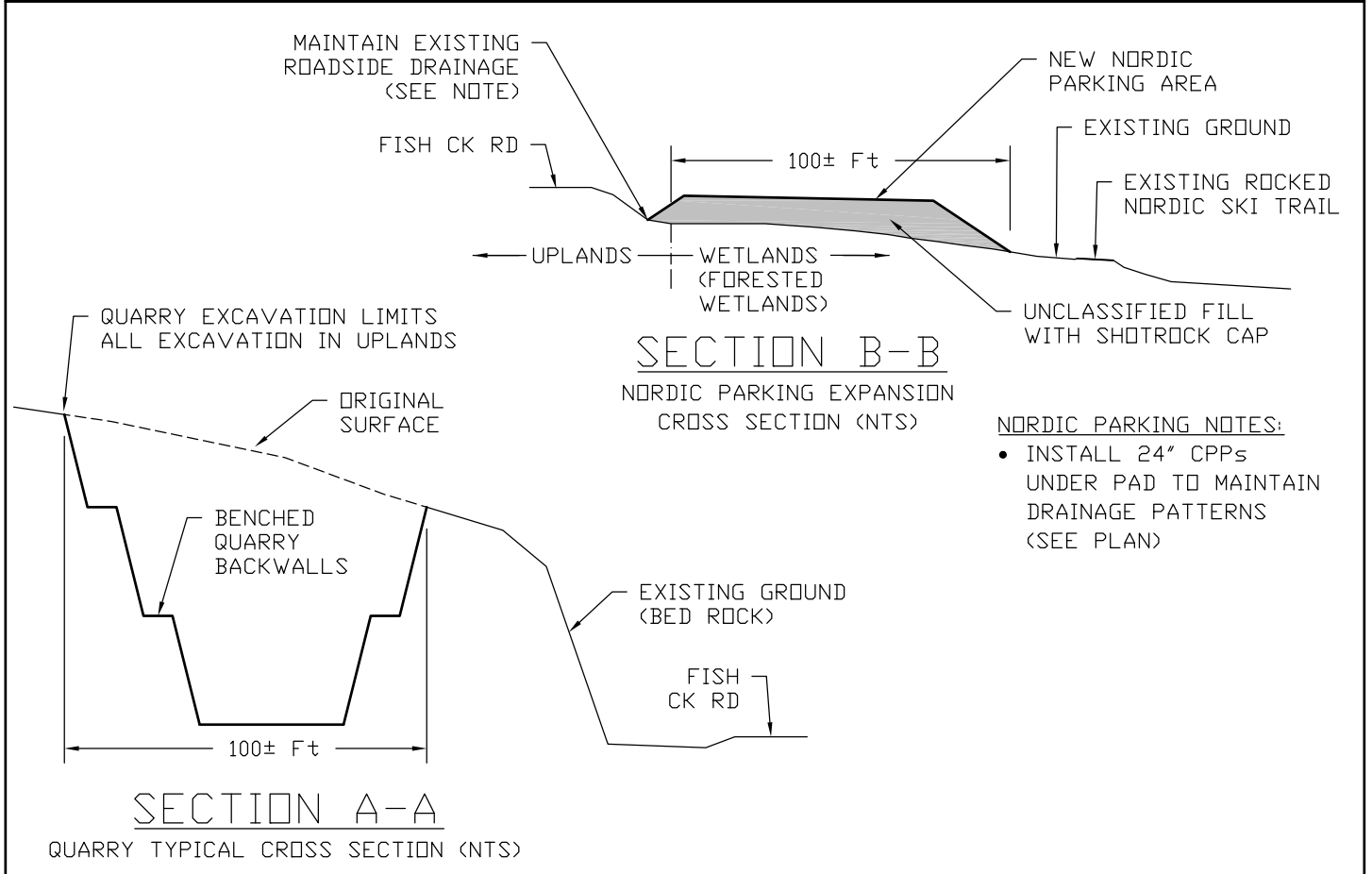
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 Sec.31, T.41S R.67E Copper River Meridian
 Lat.: N 58.275450 Long.: W 134.514560
 Sheet 8 of 14

**EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER
 ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 2/1/24



**QUARRY & NORDIC SKI
PARKING AREA
EXPANSION PLAN**

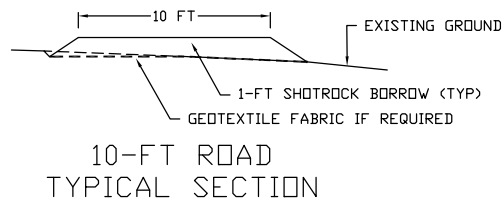
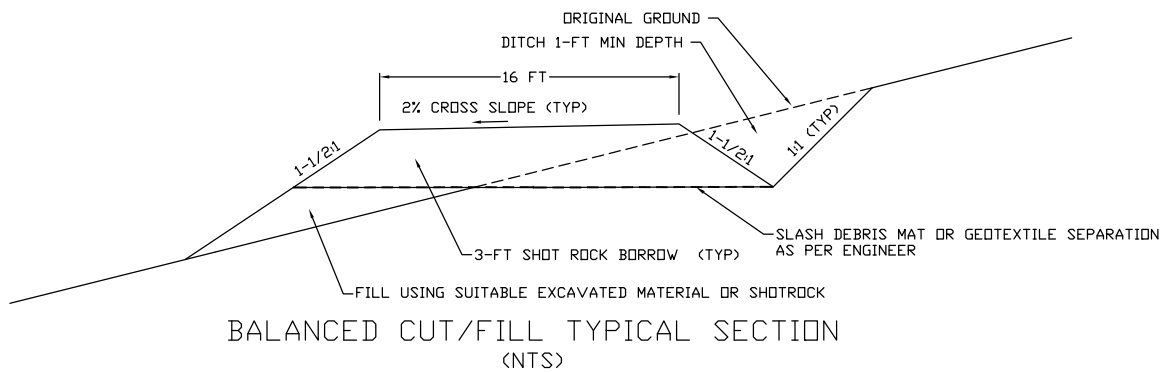
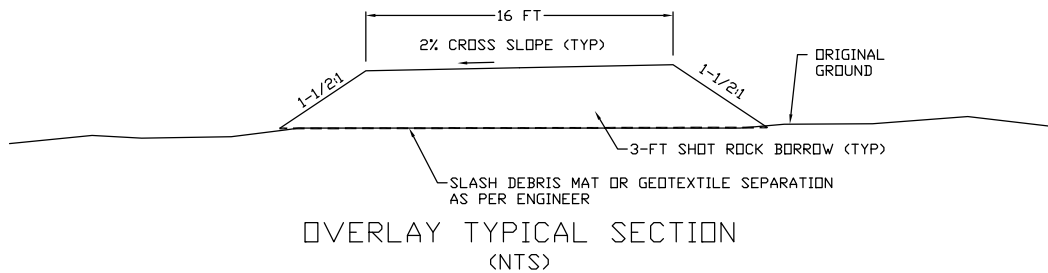


Nordic Parking Area Expansion and Fish Creek Quarry

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 Lat.: N 58.275450 Long.: W 134.514560
 Sheet 9 of 14

**EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER
ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 2/1/24



16-Ft Wide Roads to: Towers 3&4, Towers 8&9, Mid-Station, Towers 13-16, Raven Ski Run, Top Terminal.

10-Ft Wide Roads to: Towers 5&6, Tower 7, Towers 10, Towers 11&12, Cropley Picnic Shelter

Typical Road Sections

Applicant: Eaglecrest Ski Area

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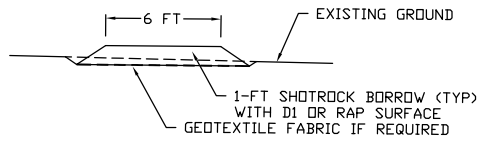
Sec.31, T.41S R.67E Copper River Meridian

Lat.: N 58.275450 Long.: W 134.514560

Sheet 10 of 14

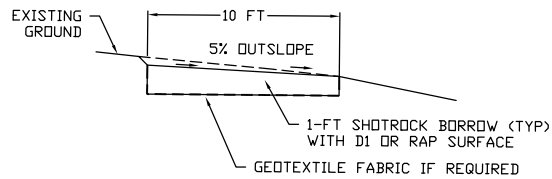
Date: 9/1/23

**EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER
ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT**



WALKING PATH TYPICAL SECTION
(NTS)

Walking paths to: Base Terminal,
Tubing Hill, Cropley Lake



10-FT MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL
TYPICAL SECTION
(NTS)

See map for bike trail locations.
Switchbacks and tight turns will
typically be banked

Walking Path, Bike Trail, and Parking Typical

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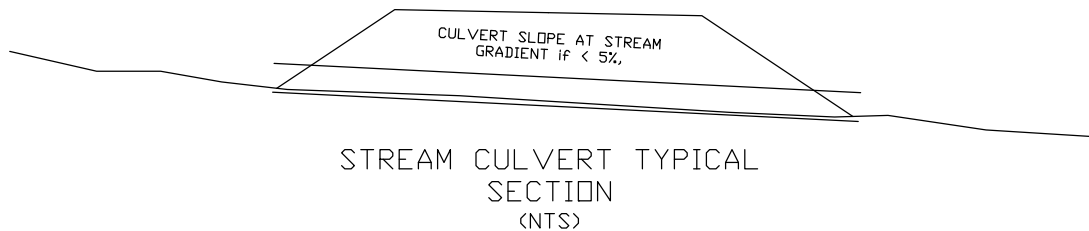
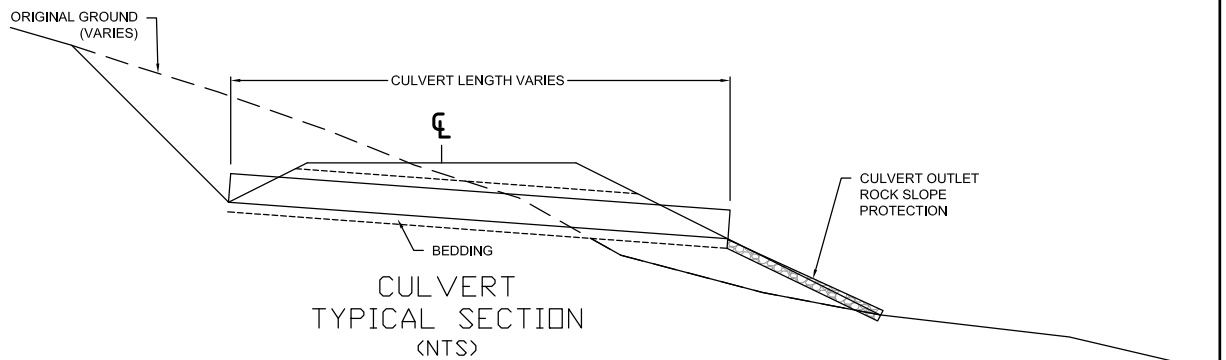
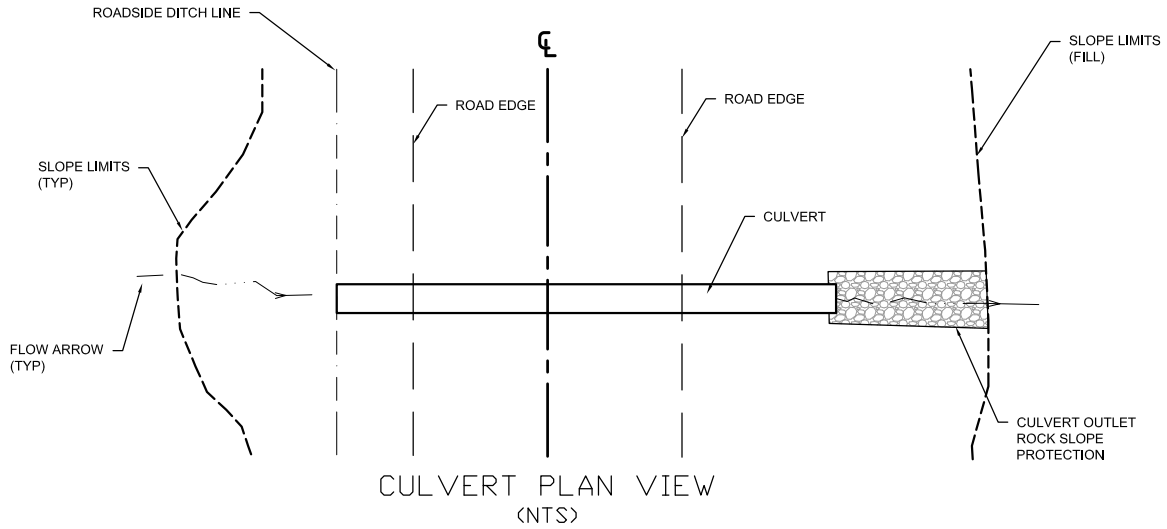
Sec.31, T.41S R.67E Copper River Meridian

Lat.: N 58.275450 Long.: W 134.514560

Sheet 11 of 14

Date: 9/1/23

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ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT**

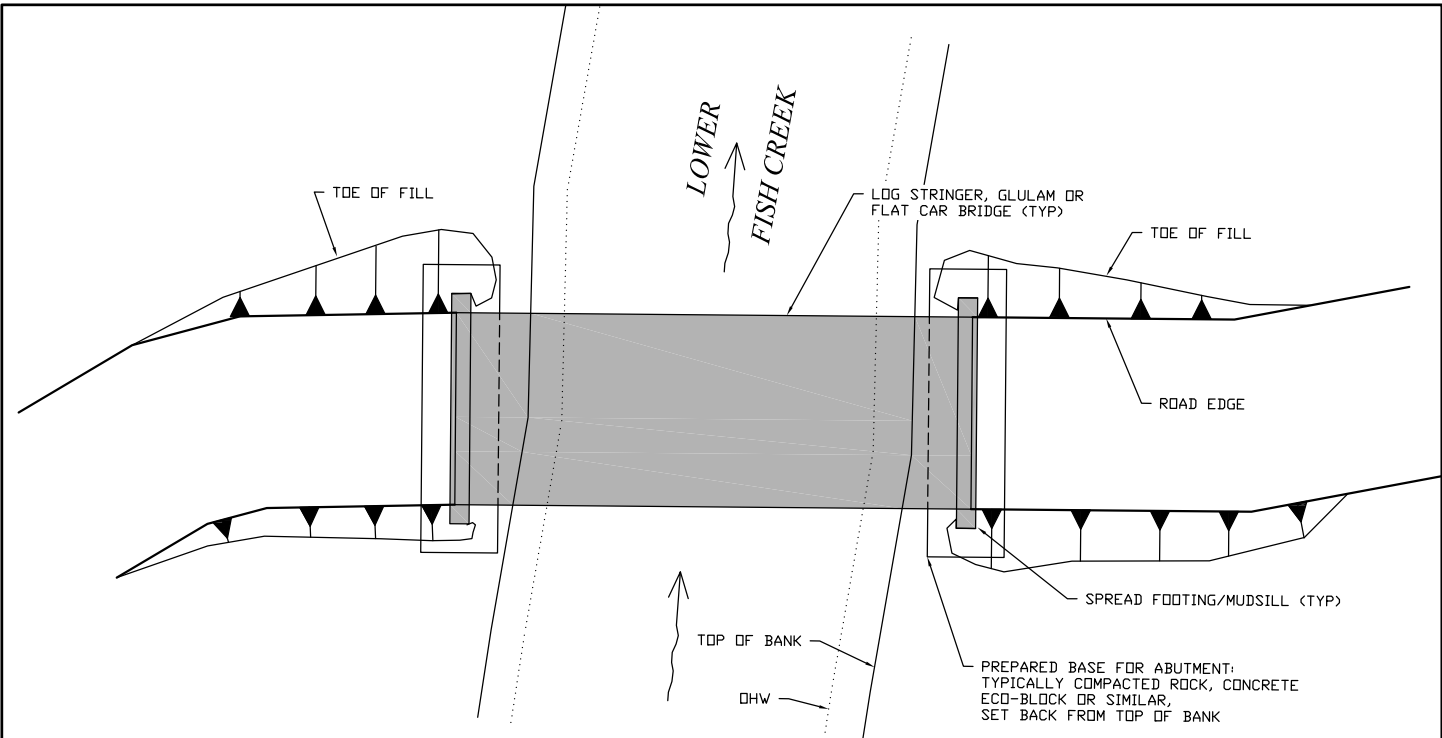


Relief and Small Stream Culvert Crossing Typical

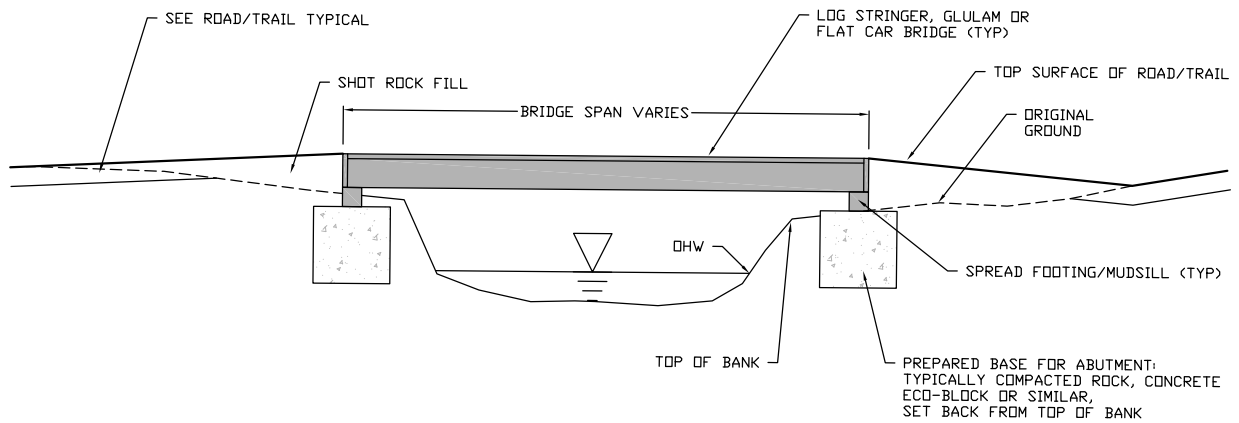
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 Sheet 12 of 14

**EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER
 ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 9/1/23



BRIDGE AT STREAM CROSSING
TYPICAL PLAN VIEW
(NTS)



BRIDGE AT STREAM CROSSING
TYPICAL PROFILE
(NTS)

NOTES:

- FOUR BRIDGES PLANNED ON LOWER FISH CREEK FOR TOWER 5&6 ACCESS ROAD AND BIKE TRAIL CROSSING
- LOG CULVERT BRIDGE AND/OR CULVERTS PLANNED FOR CROSSING UPPER FISH CREEK AT RUNOUT ZONE OF TUBING HILL

Bridge Stream Crossing Typical

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Sheet 13 of 14

EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER
ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT

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Eaglecrest Gondola and Summit Activities Development Project: Wetland Disturbed Area and Wetland Fill Volumes

Feature Name	Feature Centerline Length (Ft)			Wetland Disturbance Area		Wetlands Fill
	Total	Uplands	Wetlands	Ft ²	Acres	Volume (CY)
Gondola Base Building, Area Pad & Path (includes T1 & T2)	161	-	161	13,449	0.309	1,191
Towers 3 & 4 Road (16x3)	753	338	415	10,299	0.236	949
Tower 3 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Tower 4 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Bike Trail - Black Lagoon to T3 (10x1)	630	267	363	3,633	0.083	135
Towers 5 & 6 Road (10x3)	1,021	376	645	13,637	0.313	1,275
Tower 5	17	-	17	293	0.007	32
Bike Trail - T9 to T5 (10x1)	4,502	2,542	1,961	19,605	0.450	726
Tower 6	17	-	17	293	0.007	32
Bike Trail - Mid Station to T6 (10x1)	4,171	1,958	2,213	22,130	0.508	820
Tower 7 Road (10x1)	1,774	290	1,484	26,849	0.616	1,538
Tower 7	17	-	17	293	0.007	32
Tower 8	17	-	17	293	0.007	32
Towers 8 & 9 Road (16x3)	717	121	596	18,882	0.433	1,787
Tower 9	17	-	17	293	0.007	32
Tower 10 Road (10x1)	363	-	363	5,136	0.118	185
Tower 10	17	-	17	293	0.007	32
Tower 11 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Tower 12 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Mid-Mountain Road (16x3)	2,597	1,106	1,491	50,655	1.163	4,889
Mid Quarry (no WL fill - OB to go on uplands)	200	80	120	9,128	0.210	0
Mid-Station Area	106	-	106	8,424	0.193	312
Towers 11 & 12 Access Rd (10x1)	213	124	89			54
Tower 16 Access Rd (16x3)	357	-	357	20,461	0.470	823
Raven Road (16x3)	832	493	339			1,053
Tower 13	17	-	17	293	0.007	32
Tower 14	17	-	17	293	0.007	32
Tower 15	17	-	17	293	0.007	32
Tower 16	17	-	17	293	0.007	32
Raven Trail (10x1) - Uplands	950	950	-	0	0.000	0
Tubing Hill Path (6x1)	732	-	732	4,444	0.102	164
Tubing Hill & Runout Zone (with fill at stream crossing)	540	-	540	65,574	1.505	266
Tubing Hill Bike Trails x3 (North, Middle, South)	3,569	992	2,577	25,770	0.592	954
Cropley Road (10x3 initial track; 16x3 full road)	1,892	1,013	879	25,976	0.596	2,402
Cropley Lake Path (6x1)	610	-	610	3,658	0.084	136
Cropley Lake Picnic Shelter (25x50) & Toilet (20x20) & Pad (75x85)	85	-	85	6,780	0.156	753
Tower 17 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Tower 18 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Tower 19 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Tower 20 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Tower 21 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Tower 22 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Tower 23 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Tower 23 Access - Uplands	150	150	-	0	0	0
Tower 24 - Uplands	17	17	-	0	0	0
Top Terminal Access Road (16x3)	2,968	2,668	300	4,929	0.113	1,103
Top Terminal Development Area - Uplands	160	160	-	0	0	0
Nordic Parking Area Expansion (Fill vol =7,700 CY waste+770 CY SR)	316	46	270	20,790	0.477	8,470
Upper Fish Ck Quarry (existing quarry) - Uplands	150	150	-			
Quarry Access Track (10x1)	566	361	205	2,050	0.047	76
TOTALS	31,459	14,388	17,071	385,189	8.843	30,381

Significant Stream Crossings*

Road/Trail ID	Waterbody ID	Structure	Qty	Length
Towers 5 & 6 Road	Fish Creek	Bridge	3	~20-ft span
Bike Trail - Mid Station to T6	Fish Creek	Bridge	1	~25-ft span
Towers 8 & 9 Road	Fish Creek	Bridge	1	~35-ft span
Tubing Hill Runout & Path	Fish Creek	48" Culvert/Log bridge	1 (long)	155 LF
Cropley Road	No Name - West Bowl main	48" Culvert	1	30 LF
Cropley Road	Fish Creek	48" Culvert	1	65 LF
Mid-Mountain Road	No Name - Waterfall run	36" Culvert	1	60 LF
Raven Road	No Name - Waterfall run	36" Culvert	1	35 LF
Raven Road	No Name - West Bowl main	48" Culvert	2	50 LF

*Minor drainage crossings & ditch relief culverts to be located and sized (<36" CPP) during construction

WETLAND IMPACTS TABLES

**EAGLECREST GONDOLA & SUMMER
ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT**

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Lat.: N 58.275450 Long.: W 134.514560

Sheet 14 of 14

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