

APPENDIX C

Correspondence about Sensitive Areas and Wetlands

AKNPH

To: Al Weilbacher, Air Force Centre for Engineering and the Environment, 2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155, Lackland ABF, TX 78236-9853

Re: Request for List of Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species or Other Species and Communities of Conservation Concerns for the Former Galena Forward Operating Location, Galena, Alaska

Date: April 7, 2010

Mr. Al Weilbacher:

Please find the attached excel file which consists the list of sensitive species that occur within your area of concern.

The other attached file, RANKS.doc, explains the “sensitivity” ranking system of the Natural Heritage Programs in case you are unfamiliar with our ranking system. This is a two rank system where there is a Grank for the global status of the species plus a Srank for the state (or sub-national) rank of a species. The numbers range from 1 to 5 with 1 indicating a very sensitive species and 5 indicating an abundant and secure species.

The information provided here comes from a search of our Biotics Conservation Database. This is the best information we can provide, but it should not be considered comprehensive. While we strive to populate the Biotics database to the best of our abilities, we are not able to capture all information for all G1-G3 and S1-S3 species all the time. We hope that this information provided here will help guide you in your decision making processes, but also advise you to consult with experts in the field, who might be able to identify areas or species that we may be lacking information for.

We update the rare and sensitive species database and lists regularly. We cannot guarantee that the information provided here will be valid for more than one year from today’s date. Therefore, if your company is still working in this area next year and information on rare plant/animal occurrences is needed, we would have to issue a second data request.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Santosh K C
Data Manager
Alaska Natural Heritage Program
University of Alaska Anchorage
707 A Street Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel. 907 257 2781
Fax. 907 257 2789

SCI_NAME	COMM_NAME	NAME_CATEGORY	GRANK	SRANK
Accipiter gentilis	Northern Goshawk	Vertebrate Animal	G5	S4
Catharus minimus	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Vertebrate Animal	G5	S4S5B
Clangula hyemalis	Long-tailed Duck	Vertebrate Animal	G5	S4B, S4N
Contopus cooperi	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Vertebrate Animal	G4	S4S5B
Cygnus buccinator	Trumpeter Swan	Vertebrate Animal	G4	S4B,S3N
Dendroica striata	Blackpoll Warbler	Vertebrate Animal	G5	S4B
Falco peregrinus anatum	American Peregrine Falcon	Vertebrate Animal	G4T2	S3B
Lynx canadensis	Canadian lynx	Vertebrate Animal	G5	S4
Melanitta nigra	Black Scoter	Vertebrate Animal	G5	S3S4B, S3N
Melanitta perspicillata	Surf Scoter	Vertebrate Animal	G5	S4B,S4N
Sorex yukonicus	Alaska Tiny Shrew	Vertebrate Animal	GU	S3
Tringa solitaria	Solitary Sandpiper	Vertebrate Animal	G5	S4B

Species Ranks used by The Alaska Natural Heritage Program

Species Global Rankings

- G1: Critically imperiled globally. (Typically 5 or fewer occurrences)
- G2: Imperiled globally. (6-20 occurrences)
- G3: Rare or uncommon globally. (21-100 occurrences)
- G4: Apparently secure globally, but cause for long-term concern. (Usually more than 100 occurrences)
- G5: Demonstrably secure globally.
- G?: Unranked.
- G#G#: Rank of species uncertain, best described as a range between the two ranks.
- G#Q: Taxonomically questionable.
- G#T#: Global rank of species and global rank of the described variety or subspecies of the species.
- GU: Unrankable.
- GH: Historical Occurrence.
- GX: Extinct.
- HYB: Hybrid.

Species State Rankings

- S1: Critically imperiled in state. (Usually 5 or fewer occurrences)
- S2: Imperiled in state. (6-20 occurrences)
- S3: Rare or uncommon in state. (21-100 occurrences)
- S4: Apparently secure in state, but with cause for long-term concern (usually more than 100 occurrences)
- S5: Demonstrably secure in state.
- S#S#: State rank of species uncertain, best described as a range between the two ranks.
- S?: Unranked.
- SH: Historical Occurrence
- SU: Unrankable.
- SA: Accidental.
- SR: Reported from the state, but not yet verified.
- SRF: Reported falsely.
- SP: Occurs in nearby state. Potential to occur in the state.
- HYB: Hybride.
- SSYN: Synonyme.
- SNA : Not Applicable -A conservation status rank is not applicable because the
Species or ecosystem is not a suitable target for conservation activities.

Qualifiers:

- B: Breeding status
- N: Non-breeding status
- ?: Inexact
- Q: Questionable taxonomy

USFWS



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office

101 12th Avenue, Room 110

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

April 8, 2010



Al Weilbacher,
BRAC Remedial Project Manager
Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment
Building 171, 2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155
Lackland AFT, TX 78236-9853

Re: request for species list for the former Galena Forward Operating Location, Galena, Alaska

Dear Mr. Weilbacher:

Thank you for your letter requesting information on endangered and threatened species, and critical habitats pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

Based on your letter, we understand you are working on the remedial investigation and feasibility study for the former Galena Forward Operating Location, Galena, Alaska.

No listed species occur in the project area, and there are no designated or proposed critical habitat units in the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, the Service concludes that the proposed activities are not likely to adversely impact listed species. Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation under section 7 of the Act regarding this project is not necessary.

This letter applies only to endangered and threatened species under our jurisdiction. It does not preclude the need to comply with other environmental legislation or regulations such as the Clean Water Act.

Thank you for your cooperation in meeting our joint responsibilities under the Act. If you need further assistance, please contact Denise Walther at (907) 456-0277.

Sincerely,

Ted Swem
Branch Chief
Endangered Species