

CIAP WEAR Trip Report  
Solomon (population 0)  
August 1, 2014



Alaska Department Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program (Trisha Bower and Rebecca Colvin) conducted a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) site visit for Solomon on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The following narrative is a brief description of our findings during the August inspection.

**Community Summary**

Solomon was a bustling mining community from around 1900 - 1918. The BIA constructed a school in 1940; however over the next several years, local residents moved to surrounding communities. The school was discontinued in 1956 and has since been converted into the Solomon Bed and Breakfast.

Currently, the community of Solomon does not have a year-round population. It is seasonally inhabited by near-by residents from Nome other surrounding areas as a subsistence use area. The Solomon Bed and Breakfast is operated seasonally for visitors and during the Iditarod. Since Solomon does not have a landfill, waste is driven to the Nome Landfill by residents and visitors via the Nome/Council Road. There was no evidence found of historic landfills. All materials and supplies are driven into and out of the community.

**WEAR Sites:**

- **Bonanza River Dock Area, 64.546043/-164.435112 (Closed)** – This site is located one mile south of Solomon. It served as a dock area and contained several structures in addition to the Bonanza River Ferry and the Council City and Solomon River Railroad. The Bonanza River Ferry operated around 1900 – 1958 and was discontinued when a bridge was constructed across the river. The Council City and Solomon River Railroad (CC&SRR) was in operation from around 1903 – 1913 when a storm washed out the Solomon River crossing, stranding the cars and engines at this site. The remains of the railroad and ferry currently serve as a tourist attraction for those venturing down the Nome/Council Road. The remains of a large fuel tank dating back to the early 1900s are also at this site. The fuel tank collapsed next to its original location. The site is located approximately 105 feet from the Bonanza River, which is separated from Norton Sound by a sand spit.



