

From: Nancy Welch <nancywe@dnr.state.ak.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 1999 10:03 AM
To: John F. Bennett
Cc: Linda_Medeiros@dnr.state.ak.us; Mike_Sullivan@dnr.state.ak.us;
Judy_Chapman@dnr.state.ak.us; Rick Thompson
Subject: Re: Valdez Goldrush Trail

John, et al:

To recap our previous conversation, I'll answer a few of your comments here.

RS2477s are managed like any other general state land as far as permits go. Policy within the last five years (by Ron Swanson) requires an authorization from Div of Land for construction to take place on section lines or RS2477s. In one situation, NRO issued a permit for the construction of a road within a section line easement and an RS2477 ROW. The authorization may include the necessity to locate/survey the easement first, depending on the level of construction proposed.

Since RS2477s on state land are managed like general state land, authorizations for their use are issued by the region with management authority. This particular site is state land managed by SCRO and any authorization would come from SCRO, not NRO.

RS2477s not on state land are another matter entirely. The state has yet to develop a policy on their use. NRO has generally held that the ROW exists, but the underlying land owner must be contacted for permission to use it. If permission is not granted, we enter into a whole new battle. We don't need to go there today, however.

Questions as to RS2477 validity can be addressed to the NRO, where the RS2477 project is housed and the original RS2477 files are maintained. We continue to research RS2477s as they are brought to our attention and as time permits. Tish Conley and Lisa Harbo are reviewing the records for information on this route and will work with you on this.

Nancy

"John F. Bennett" wrote:

> Good afternoon and Happy New Year! You're probably all wondering why
> I've called you all together today. Actually, Linda already knows
> because I just got off the phone with her. My question relates to the
> Valdez Gold Rush Trail project we're working on. Background quoted
> from the Design Study
> Report: "The Valdez Trails Association has been locating and
> rehabilitating the historical path through Keystone Canyon. This
> project is located on the old Valdez to Eagle Trail. To establish
> trail continuity a new footbridge will be constructed at Snowslide
> Gulch and the bridge at Bear Creek will be redecked to accomodate pedestrians."
>
> We are planning to advertise in the spring/summer of 1999. It appears
> that the trail & bridges are a part of a valid RS-2477 trail that
> crosses DNR managed lands. My question is regarding what type of
> permit DOT should apply for to proceed with this project. When I

> talked with Nancy last week, she thought it might be only a TUP or
> maybe nothing at all depending on the whims of SouthCentral. Linda
> suggests that as any permit issued would lie within an RS-2477 trail,
> that perhaps Northern Region would have jurisdiction to issue it.
> Apparently, both Linda and Judy have had experience dealing with the Valdez Trails Assn on this particular trail.
>
> I also talked with Trish Conley this afternoon regarding her work on
> the assertion package for this trail. Apparently she is waiting for a
> response from the Valdez Trails people regarding the limits of their
> planned projects. She said that given all the documentation she has
> on the trail, there will be no problem getting the formal assertion approved.
>
> I also just talked with our Project manager to verify that DOT will
> retain responsibility for the bridges including any structural
> maintenance. It is our understanding that the Valdez Trails Assn will
> be responsible for maintaining the trails and minor maintenance on the
> bridges (i.e. debris removal).
>
> Given all of this I am hoping all you DNR folks can get together and
> advise me as to which section in DNR will be taking jurisdiction and
> what type of permit I should apply for.
>
> Thanks, JohnB