



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO
FFO91025
3809 (080)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Steese/White Mountains District
Tok Field Office
P.O. Box 309
Tok, Alaska 99780
(907) 883-5121

February 8, 1994

Mr. Bill Bayless
Costa Rica Fax #011506-23-16-09

Dear Mr. Bayless:

On January 25, 1994, we held a scoping meeting at the BLM district office in Fairbanks for the resource specialists and reviewing staff involved in the preparation of the environmental assessment (EA) for your proposed mining operation on Franklin Creek. The results of that meeting are as follows:

1. The EA will address mining on the claims and access over the two existing trails shown as (A) and (D) on the attached map. Trail (A) is the one you described as the old horse trail and trail (D) is the old winter mail trail to Franklin. Both trails are visible on 1980 aerial photos, however, trail (D) could not be located on the ground during a brief search last summer. Trail (A) may be the only trail in.
2. The proposed access route up Franklin Creek from the South Fork, route (B), will not be addressed in the EA. This route needs to be inspected on the ground with you next summer to adequately identify potential impacts and determine if authorizing the route is environmentally sound.
3. There is no known trail into Franklin Creek from the trail to 45 Pup Creek, route (C). This route, or other alternate routes, will be new access and will have to be inspected next summer with personnel from the Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources (ADNR).
4. To proceed with mining operations this year, you have two options for moving equipment and fuel to the claims. The first option is during the winter. The River Management Plan for the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River restricts travel by vehicles over 1500 lbs. GVW to when the ground is frozen and snow covered, which is normally until April 15. Option two is that we will authorize one trip to the claims this year after the snow is gone but before the frost is completely gone. Both options will be contingent on you obtaining authorization from ADNR for travel across State lands. After 1994, You should plan to transport equipment and fuel during the winter unless a satisfactory all weather route can be found or developed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at fax number 1-907-883-5123.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Burritt
for the Authorized Officer
Steese/White Mountains District

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