

December 10, 2024

RE: USFWS/BLM GALENA JOINT HEADQUARTERS PROJECT NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (2025-0026283-NEPA-001)

To Whom it May Concern:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are considering construction of a new headquarters office building for both USFWS and BLM employees in Galena, Alaska. Pursuant to Section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (§§ 1500–1508 of Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations), the USFWS and the BLM announce their intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of the USFWS/BLM Galena Joint Headquarters Project (see enclosed Figure 1 site map).

The USFWS/BLM are currently leasing office spaces in Galena that are not sufficient for the needs of USFWS and BLM employees. Pursuant to the CEQ regulations, the USFWS and BLM invite public participation in the NEPA process. This notice requests public participation in the scoping process, establishes a public comment period, and provides information on how to participate.

Currently, we are planning to evaluate a No Action alternative, which retains the existing leased office spaces for USFWS and BLM, and the Proposed Action alternative, which would construct a new joint headquarters building for both agencies. Because of the history of contamination in the general area of the proposed project site, hazardous materials and contamination are the primary concern that will be addressed in the EA. Visual/aesthetics, air quality, climate change, geology and soils, wildlife, wetlands, land use/zoning, utilities, socioeconomics, and environmental justice will also be considered. The State Historic Preservation Officer has already concurred with the USFWS's assessment that the proposed project would not affect cultural and historic resources, so further evaluation will not be required in the EA.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the USFWS's environmental consultant for this project, Dana Fjare with Shannon & Wilson, at (907) 987-7174 or dana.fjare@shanwil.com. Written comments may be submitted to Dana Fjare via email by January 10, 2025. We do not plan to hold public meetings; however, if there are sufficient requests for a public meeting, the USFWS/BLM will announce the date(s), time(s), and location(s) and will provide written notice of the meeting(s) to all respondents.

Sincerely,

SHANNON & WILSON

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Environmental Scientist
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907-987-7174

Enc. Figure 1 – Project Location

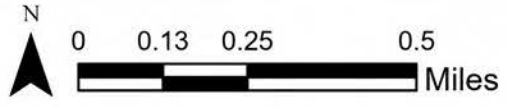
113858



https://services.arcgis.com/ArcGIS/arcgis/rest/services/World_Imagery/MapServer. Accessed November 2024.

LEGEND

 Project Area



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1