

2005-139



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office
605 West 4th Avenue, Room G-61
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2249



April 13, 2005

Edrie Vinson
U.S. Dept. of Transportation
Alaska Division
709 West Ninth Street, Room 851
P. O. Box 21648
Juneau, AK 99802

Re: Knik Arm Crossing (*consultation number 2005-139*)

Dear Ms. Vinson,

Thank you for your April 11, 2005 letter requesting concurrence that no endangered, threatened or candidate species or their habitat will be affected within the area of the proposed Knik Arm Crossing. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the information on this project and is providing the comments below in accordance with section 7 (a) (2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Our records indicate that there are no species listed as threatened or endangered under ESA in this area; neither are there any species proposed for listing. In addition, there are no areas designated or proposed as critical habitat within the action area of the proposed project. Therefore, the requirements of section 7 of the ESA have been satisfied and no further consultation pursuant to the ESA is required for this project at this time.

This letter relates only to species listed or proposed under ESA and/or designated or proposed critical habitat under our jurisdiction. It does not address species under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service, or other legislation or responsibilities under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, or Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

This concludes section 7 consultation for the proposed Knik Arm Crossing. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting our joint responsibilities under section 7 of the ESA. If you have any further endangered species questions, please contact me at (907) 271-2807. Please refer to consultation number 2005-139 in future correspondence on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory S. Risdahl".

Gregory Risdahl
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Federal Highway
Administration
APR 13 2005
Juneau, Alaska