

From: [Bellion, Tara](#)
To: [Evans, Jessica](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Donlin Gold Proposed Pipeline Project
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:54:28 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Bryce Lake [mailto:bryce_15a@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 5:30 PM
To: donlingoldeis, POA <POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Donlin Gold Proposed Pipeline Project

Comment on Donlin Gold Project Proposed Pipeline

Here's a couple of things to consider:

I would like to bring up that the proposed pipeline corridor could impact local moose and wolf interactions in a way that maybe hasn't yet been considered, and that this could have implications for human hunters. Here's the logic. Moose are attracted to artificial linear corridors running through a forest, such as those built to bury a pipeline. Not too surprising really, as these corridors provide easier walking and access to new food sources. Wolves catch on that this new landscape feature also provides easier and faster walking, and additionally, contains more moose than the surrounding landscape average. Contact between the two goes up, with the end result being more moose killed on a local scale. Over time, moose might catch on and start to avoid the corridor all together, to the detriment of those persons (or wolves) who might happen to hunt in the corridor vicinity. For the naysayers, these exact scenarios have played out between caribou and wolves in the Alberta oil sands region. For more information, visit [Blockedhttp://sciencecases.lib.buffalo.edu/cs/files/caribou.pdf](http://sciencecases.lib.buffalo.edu/cs/files/caribou.pdf) or google search "Alberta sands linear corridor wolf caribou". In Alaska, the trans-Alaska pipeline could be promoted as evidence that moose and wolves can co-occur around a pipeline without impacts. However, where the pipeline runs through forest, it is also adjacent to a major highway and several communities, a much different situation than what is proposed. Anyway, good to think things through and to know about the possibility of something like this ahead of time. I suggest the proposed EIS should at least acknowledge this possibility.

In addition, ATV/UTV and snowmachine users will undoubtedly use the corridor (whether legally or illegally if their use is not authorized). They will carve up the landscape with feeder trails that connect to the main pipeline corridor to get greater access. In summer, particularly, their trails will become quickly evident. Winter trails will take longer to appear, but over time, and with enough use, they will. The proposed pipeline corridor contains lowland/swampy habitat where scars can occur after just a single pass. This exact trail scar scenario has played out elsewhere in Alaska: Alaska game management units 11, 13, 20D, and 20A, for example. Then the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, has to come in and regulate these activities, at a cost to the state. I feel like this could be summed up as another case of the old adage, you don't get something for nothing.

Bryce Lake
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