

## **APPENDIX Z**

### **Public Easement Plan**

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# **PUBLIC EASEMENT PLAN**

Donlin Gold Project

December 2017

(Revision 5)



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Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

17(b)	Section 17(b)(3) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
ADOT&PF	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
AS	Alaska Statute
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
Calista	Calista Corporation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
COA	Core Operating Area
Donlin Gold	Donlin Gold LLC
EIN	Easement Identification Number
FAS	Federal-Aid Secondary
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy Management Act
G. V. W.	Gross Vehicle Weight
Lymans	Spencer and Carolyn Lyman
P.L.	Public Law
PLO	Public Land Order
QCD	Quit Claim Deed
R	Range
ROW(s)	Right-of-Way/Rights-of-Way
RS	Revised Statute
RST	Revised Statute Trail
S.	Section
SM	Seward Meridian
T	Township
TKC	The Kuskokwim Corporation
U.S.C.	United States Code
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

## UNITS OF MEASURE

ft	foot/feet
km	kilometer(s)
m	meter(s)
mi	mile(s)

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Donlin Gold LLC (Donlin Gold) is proposing development of an open pit, hardrock gold mine, 277 miles (mi) (446 [kilometers [km]]) west of Anchorage, 145 mi (233 km) northeast of Bethel, and 10 mi (16 km) north of the village of Crooked Creek, Alaska on the north bank of the Kuskokwim River.

The mine would be an active industrial site. The mine workers employed by Donlin Gold will be trained to work in a safe manner and to avoid or mitigate hazards by following strict protocols and procedures. The inherent hazards of an active mine property may not always be apparent to the public engaged in hunting, exploring, hiking, or simply traveling by all-terrain vehicle (ATV). Based on Donlin Gold's experience at the site, the amount of current public access and use is low, however access control measures need to be in place to protect the public and mine workers. Donlin Gold has established a Core Operating Area (COA) to identify the area where public access would be excluded to protect the public from potential hazards associated with hazardous operations at the mine during mine development, operations and post mining reclamation activities.

The COA boundary was determined by outlining the sites where the public has the potential to come in contact with mine workers or mine operations. A conservative approach to defining the boundary was used because of the potential for significant human health and safety impacts associated with the presence of untrained and unsupervised members of the public coming into contact with mine operations. The following parameters were used to delineate the COA:

- Lands controlled by Donlin Gold under agreements with Calista Corporation (Calista), The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC), and Spencer and Carolyn Lyman (Lyman's) where mineral exploration activities or extraction activities are planned, or have the potential to occur.
- Heavy equipment operation areas.
- Explosive handling and planned blasting areas, including allowances for fly rock from blasting.
- Preventing the accidental discharge of electrical detonators as a result of the unregulated use of radio transmitters.
- Controlling access to ancillary facilities and existing historic structures to protect the property from damage or theft.
- Controlling access to environmental monitoring sites that are sensitive to unmanaged interference.
- Maintenance of a suitable buffer from hunting activity around the mine site to prevent unintended bullet strikes.
- Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) site control and safety requirements.

There are currently 15 public access easements and/or rights-of-way (ROWs) (together referred to in this Public Easement Plan as "public easements" or "easements") that intersect the COA. The rights to public access provided by these easements conflict with the imperative of excluding public access within the COA to protect the safety of the general public from the potential hazards of developing and operating a mine. Additionally, in many cases the proposed

land improvements would either block or overlay the footprint of an easement. This Public Easement Plan describes the affected public easements and the proposed plan to both protect public safety and ensure that public access is supported by alternative means.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

Three categories of public easements would be affected by the Donlin Gold Project Public Easement Plan. Brief descriptions of the legal authority of the public easements are presented below.

- A Quit Claim Deed (QCD) was issued from the United States Department of Commerce in 1959 to the State of Alaska under the authority of the Alaska Omnibus Act of the same year. Included in the property rights conveyed to the State of Alaska with the Omnibus Act QCD was a ROW for Federal-Aid Secondary (FAS) Route 231 from Crooked Creek to Iditarod, Alaska.
- Revised Statute (RS) 2477 – The Mining Act of 1866, Section 8, gave rise to RS-2477 ROWs. Congress repealed the law in 1976 with the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA). However, the establishment of new RS-2477 ROWs in Alaska was effectively ended with the issuance of Public Land Order (PLO) 4582 in 1969. PLO 4582 reserved and appropriated federal public domain lands previously available for the establishment of RS-2477 ROWs. RS-2477 ROWs established prior to PLO 4582 and FLPMA continue as valid existing rights.
- Section 17(b)(3) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) (17(b)) provides for the reservation of public easements when the United States conveys lands under ANCSA to Alaska Native Corporations. 17(b) easements allow access from public land to public land, across lands conveyed under ANCSA. State-owned submerged lands beneath navigable waters are included in this definition of public lands. Federal regulations that guide the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the reservation and administration of ANCSA Section 17(b) easements are presented in 43 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 2650.4 through 2650.7.

Further details regarding the three categories of public easements described above and their administration is provided in Sections 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 of this Public Easement Plan.

### 2.1 Omnibus Act Quit Claim Deed Rights-of-Way

Section 21(a) of the Alaska Omnibus Act, enacted on June 25, 1959, directs the Secretary of Commerce to convey to the State of Alaska all lands or interests in lands "owned, held, administered by, or used by the Secretary in connection with the activities of the Bureau of Public Roads in Alaska." On June 30, 1959, pursuant to Section 21(a) of the Alaska Omnibus Act, the Secretary of Commerce issued a QCD to the State of Alaska in which all rights, title, and interest in the real properties owned and administered by the Department of Commerce in connection with the activities of the Bureau of Public Roads were conveyed to the State of Alaska. Although not all of the conveyed ROWs were considered "constructed," the system mileage of the Omnibus Act ROW segments included 2,200 mi (3,541 km) classified as

"primary" system routes, 2,208 mi (3,553 km) of "secondary class A" routes, and 990 mi (1,593 km) of "secondary class B" routes for a total (rounding up) of 5,399 mi (8,689 km) of ROW.

### **2.1.1 Temporary Closures of Omnibus Act Quit Claim Deed Rights-of-Way**

The State of Alaska may restrict the use of an easement or ROW reserved under Alaska Statute (AS) 38.04.050, 38.04.055, or other law in order to protect the public safety (AS.38.04.58).

## **2.2 RS-2477 Rights-of-Way**

RS-2477 (Trails) was originated by the Mining Act of 1866, Section 8, and later re-designated as Section 2477 of the Revised Statutes 1878 (43 United States Code [U.S.C.] 932). RS-2477 provided a federal offer for road easements over public lands. The intent of the grant was to protect the access rights of miners in the early 1800s, when there was virtually complete absence of a federal presence on the public domain lands. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) have joint jurisdictional authority for RS-2477s. Essentially, if a road is listed on the "State Highway System" and the ROW is based on an RS-2477 grant, ADOT&PF has jurisdiction. Otherwise, all other RS-2477s are under the management of ADNR. All asserted RS-2477s in the immediate vicinity of the Donlin Gold COA are not listed in the "State Highway System" and are therefore under the jurisdiction of ADNR. Asserted RS2477 claims must be perfected by a court of competent jurisdiction to be valid on federal lands.

### **2.2.1 Vacation and Disposal of RS-2477 Rights-of-Way**

A vacation plat requires the joint approval of ADNR and ADOT&PF and the written approvals of both agencies and their Commissioners on the final plat. Although ADNR manages the regulatory process for the vacation of RS-2477 ROWs that are not on the "State Highway System," DOT&PF and its Commissioner must still concur with the vacation of non-State Highway System RS-2477 ROW. To ensure that public access is not degraded or eliminated, the vacation statute and regulations establish a requirement that equal or better alternative means of access is available or will be provided through realignment. AS 19.30.410, Vacation of ROWs, and 11 Alaska Administrative Code [AAC] 51.065, Vacation of easements (g) through (k), provide statutory provisions and regulations governing the vacation of an RS-2477 ROW.

### **2.2.2 Temporary Closures of RS-2477 Rights-of-Way**

The State of Alaska may restrict the use of an easement or ROW reserved under AS 38.04.050, 38.04.055, or other law in order to protect the public safety (AS.38.04.58).

## **2.3 ANCSA Section 17(b) Public Easements**

Pursuant to Section 17(b) of ANSCA, easements were reserved for public access across lands conveyed to Alaska Native Corporations. The easement reservations are described in the Interim Conveyances and Patents to ANCSA corporations and graphically depicted on BLM Section 17(b) easement quadrangle maps. The intent was to provide transportation easements for access to public land across ANCSA lands and site easements for changes in transportation mode, such as one-acre site easements at bodies of water and near airstrips. These easements are specific as to use, location, and size (42 CFR 2650-4-7(a)(4)). If the location of the

easement is not accurately shown on the easement quadrangle map, but is still reasonably compatible with the terms and descriptions contained in the Interim Conveyance or patent, the map can be corrected by a written recorded agreement between the easement administrator (federal agency) and the land owner (the ANCSA corporation). Unless there has been a transfer of administration, the BLM administers the easement.

### **2.3.1 Termination of a Section 17(b) Easement**

43 CFR 2650.4 – 7 (a)(13) states:

*“The Director shall terminate a public easement if it is not used for the purpose for which it was reserved by the date specified in the conveyance, if any, or by December 18, 2001, whichever occurs first. He may terminate an easement at any time if he finds that conditions are such that its retention is no longer needed for public use or governmental function. However, the Director shall not terminate an access easement to isolated tracts of publicly owned land solely because of the absence of proof of public use. Public easements which have been reserved to guarantee international treaty obligations shall not be terminated unless the Secretary determines that the reasons for such easements no longer justify the reservation. No public easement shall be terminated without proper notice and an opportunity for submission of written comments or for a hearing if a hearing is deemed to be necessary by either the Director or the Secretary.”*

Also, as per BLM ANCSA Section 17(b) Easement Management Handbook regarding permanent closure procedures:

*“IX. B. The termination and release procedures must be followed for permanent restriction or elimination of uses. Field Offices will coordinate and consult with the State Office on proposed actions.”*

### **2.3.2 Relocation of a Section 17(b) Easement**

The process to relocate a Section 17(b) easement generally includes accepting a new easement donation in exchange for the release or termination of the existing easement. Section VII. B and E. of the BLM ANCSA Section 17(b) Easement Management Handbook provides the guidance to relocate Section 17(b) easements. When the BLM accepts a donation for a 17(b) easement, it is an acquisition of an interest in public lands, and the BLM must follow all requirements and procedures pursuant to the BLM Acquisition Manual Handbook H-2101-1, the Pre-Acquisition Environmental Assessments Manual Handbook H-2101-04, and Department of Justice Standards. A Certificate of Inspection and Possession (CIP) must be performed by the federal agency involved in the acquisition.

### **2.3.3 Temporary Closure of a Section 17(b) Easement**

Generally, the BLM will not close an ANCSA 17 (b) easement to public use except for emergency closures. The procedures for temporary closures are found in the BLM ANCSA Section 17(b) Easement Management Handbook and 43 CFR § 8364. The BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2007-037 clarifies that easements may be temporarily closed or the uses

temporarily restricted to reduce environmental degradation on the easement, or for public safety using existing authorities. The proposed Donlin Gold Mine and its effect on 17(b) easements does not constitute an emergency in nature and therefore temporary closure(s) of 17(b) easements is not a viable option as it is not in accordance with BLM's Handbook and Instruction Memorandum.

### 3.0 PUBLIC EASEMENTS AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT

Fifteen (15) public easements intersect the proposed mine facilities COA (Table 3-1). Figure 1 (all figures are presented in Appendix A) depicts the public easements and proposed alternative access during construction, mining, and reclamation and closure (mine operations).

**Table 3-1: Public Easements Affected by the Project**

Type	File #	Name	Legal Description (SM) <sup>1,2</sup>
FAS	231	Crooked Creek to Iditarod	T22N R49W S. 3, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22 T23N R49W S. 10, 11, 14, 23, 26, 27, 34
RST	545	Return Creek-Crooked Creek	T22N R49W S. 17, 21
RST	546	Return Creek Landing-Crooked Creek Ruins Trail	T23N R49W S. 28, 33, 34
RST	547	Donlin Creek-Dome Creek-Crooked Creek via Omega	T22N R48W S. 5, 7, 8, 9 T22N R49W S. 2, 3, 11, 12 T23N R48W S. 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32, 33 T23N R49W S. 13, 14, 23
RST	548	Dome Creek - Anaconda - Bell Creek Trail	T22N R48W S. 4, T23N R48W S. 20, 21, 22, 28, 33, 34
RST	549	Snow Gulch-Anaconda Creek Trail	T22N R48W S. 5,8, T23N R48W S. 30, 31, 32
RST	550	Crooked Creek Cabin-American Creek Trail	T22N R49W S. 2 T23N R49W S. 26, 27, 34, 35
RST	1475	Willow Creek-Flat Creek Trail	T23N R48W S. 6 T23N R49W 1, 12, 13, 14, 23
EIN	8 C3 L		T23N R49W S. 28, 33, 34
EIN	9 D1 L		T23N R48W S. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 T23N R49W S. 13, 14, 23, 24
EIN	10 D1		T22N R48W S. 4, 5, 7, 8 T22N R49W S. 2, 3, 11, 12 T23N R48W S. 33, 34
EIN	11 D1		T23N R48W S. 3, 10, 15, 22
EIN	15 D1		T22N R49W S. 21
EIN	21 C4		T20N R49W S. 29
	21A C4		

<sup>1</sup> All protracted land survey system references in this document are within the Seward Meridian (SM). Legal description includes only the portions of the easement within the COA.

<sup>2</sup> T = Township; R = Range; S. = Section



## 4.0 PROPOSED PUBLIC EASEMENT ACTIONS

### 4.1 FAS 231: Crooked Creek to Iditarod

FAS Route No. 231 was transferred to the State of Alaska by QCD dated June 3, 1959, executed by the Secretary of Commerce under the authority of the Alaska Omnibus Act, Public Law (P.L.) 86-70, 73 Stat. 141 (FAS 231).

The FAS 231 connects the village of Crooked Creek with Iditarod, and was generally used as a winter trail (Figure 1). This highway easement is in a river valley, and parallels Crooked Creek on the east side. FAS 231 traverse the COA in a north-south direction. Generally all other easements (RST or 17(b)) in the vicinity of the COA either originate or terminate at this easement. The FAS 231 easement width is 100 feet (ft) (30.5 meters [m]) (Burton, 2014).

During mine operations Donlin Gold is proposing that the State of Alaska close approximately 12.9 mi (20.8 km) of FAS 231. The closure would be in effect until mine operations and reclamation activities are completed or when public safety can be assured. The closure would affect the following lands: T22N R49W S. 3, 10, 15, 16, 21, and 22, and T23N R49W S.10, 11, 14, 23, 26, 27, and 34. Donlin Gold proposes to obtain a new public easement on State-owned land, and the State of Alaska would acquire a new alternative easement from the Kuskokwim Corporation to create public access for the portion of FAS 231 which would be closed during mine operations. This alternative access easement would be approximately 18.6 mi (29.9 km) long and 100 ft (30.5 m) wide west of the COA, where suitable travel terrain exists (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The proposed alternative access would carry the same rights for the public as FAS 231. The alternative access route would start at a point along the existing easement, approximately 0.19 mi (0.31 km) south of T22N R49W S. 21. From there, the proposed route would trend west, across Crooked Creek and then continue northwest, ascending to the top of a ridge. The route would then follow the ridge to a point where it intersects and then follows RST 545 through T23N R50W S. 35. From there, the route trends north, intersects RST 546 in T23N R50W S. 26, continuing northeast through T23N R49W S. 23 where it connects to RST 554. From this point, on the route follows RST 554 trending northeast until it reconnects with the FAS 231 in T24N R49W S. 27.

The current FAS 231 is adjacent to Crooked Creek in very wet terrain. The portion of the FAS 231 that would be closed during mine operations is in generally level terrain, on low-lying wetlands, often saturated with water, and summer travel is therefore difficult. The alternative access to FAS 231 traverses terrain of steeper grade, but the terrain is generally dryer, as much of the alternative access route trends over the top of ridges. These dryer portions of the proposed alternative access would enhance public access by providing the public with an access route that may be used in the summer without any trail enhancement. Because most of the proposed alternative access route is over the top of ridges (generally bare ground) and along the existing RST 554 route, only light brush removal would be required to bring the proposed route to the same level of improvement as the existing FAS 231 route and make the proposed route ready for equal use. A description of the alternative FAS 231 route characteristics is included in Appendix B.

While the alternative access trends over steeper grade than the segment of trail it would replace, it is suitable for winter travel. Much of the alternative access would be over existing winter trails (RST 545 and RST 554) or gently rolling ridge tops. The current FAS 231 traverses a low-lying portion of the Crooked Creek valley that is often prone to overflow during early winter and spring. Overflow conditions have the potential to create hazards to snow machine travel that would be mitigated by the relocation. The alternative temporary access avoids this hazard because it would be on higher terrain and the upper portions of the tributary watersheds are not prone to overflow.

The current portion of FAS 231 proposed for replacement includes approximately 10 mi (16.1 km) on The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) land, and 2.9 mi (4.7 km) on State-owned land. The new proposed alignment includes 6.1 mi (9.8 km) on TKC land, and 12.5 mi (20.1 km) on State-owned land.

After mine operations, FAS 231 corridor would be returned to the original location as practicable. The FAS 231 alternative public access on State-owned lands would remain. The FAS 231 alternative access on TKC lands would be terminated and RST 545 returned to its original location. The abandoned access would be allowed to naturally revegetate.

#### **4.2 RST 545: Return Creek – Crooked Creek**

RST 545 is described as originating at the junction of Crooked Creek and the Flat – Crooked Creek Trail (RST 75)<sup>3</sup>. RST 545 connects to FAS 231 in T22N R49W S. 21 (Figure 1). The trail trends northwest, crosses Crooked Creek and Eagle Creek, and terminates 1 mi (1.6 km) east of Return Creek. The route is approximately 8 mi (13 km) long and is within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangles Iditarod A-5 and Sleetmute D-7 (scale 1:63,360) (ADNR-DMLW, 2015).

During mine operations, Donlin Gold proposes that the State of Alaska temporarily close RST 545 in T22N R49W S. 17 and 21. The proposed alternative temporary access corridor for FAS 231 would overlap the existing RST 545 for approximately 3.5 mi (5.7 km) through T22N R49W and T22N R50W, and thus provides alternative access for RST 545.

After mine operations, RST 545 corridor would be returned to the original location as practicable. The temporary RST 545 corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.

#### **4.3 RST 546: Return Creek Landing-Crooked Creek Ruins Trail**

RST 546 is described as a tractor trail, originating at the junction of Crooked Creek and Grouse Creek (Figure 1). The trail parallels Grouse Creek northwest for 3 mi (4.8 km), then continues west 4 mi (6.4 km) and terminates at Return Creek, near a mine and some abandoned airstrips in T23N R50W S. 28. The trail is within the USGS quadrangle Iditarod A-5 (scale 1:63,360) and is approximately 7 mi (11.3 km) long (ADNR-DMLW, 2015).

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<sup>3</sup> RST 75 Flat-Crooked Creek Trail was nominated as a potential RS-2477 ROW. The trail was found to be instead an Omnibus ROW (FAS 231) and thus rejected as an RST ROW. However, the ADNR casefile summaries describing the individual RSTs still make reference to RST 75.

RST 546 crosses the boundary of the COA in T23N R49W S. 28. From this point the trail trends southeast for approximately 1.4 mi (2.2 km) and connects with the existing FAS 231 in T23N R49W S. 34.

During mine operations, Donlin Gold proposes that the State of Alaska close approximately 1.4 mi (2.2 km) of RST 546 in T23N R49W S. 28, 33, and 34. Alternative access from RST 546 to FAS 231 is not proposed, because RST 546 would intercept the proposed alternative access for FAS 231 in T23N R55W S. 26. The public would have access to State owned lands from the alternative FAS 231.

After mine operations, RST 546 corridor would be returned to the original location as much as practicable. The temporary RST 546 corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.

#### **4.4 RST 547: Donlin Creek – Dome Creek – Crooked Creek via Omega**

RST 547 is described as originating at the junction of Dome Creek, Donlin Creek, and the Willow Creek – Flat Creek Trail (RST 1475) (Figure 1). The route trends southeast 2.5 mi (4.0 km) along Dome Creek, then south for 3.5 mi (5.6 km), then continues west 5 mi (8.0 km) and terminates at the junction of Omega Gulch and the Flat – Crooked Creek Trail (RST 75). The trail is within the USGS quadrangle Iditarod A-5 (scale 1:63,360) and is approximately 11 mi (17.7 km) long (ADNR-DMLW, 2015).

RST 547 is entirely within the COA on TKC and Calista lands. Based on Donlin Gold's experience at the site, there is no known public use of this trail.

During mine operations, Donlin Gold proposes that the State of Alaska close this easement within the COA. RST 547 provides access between FAS 231 and the east side of the COA by providing connectivity to multiple easements (RST 1475, RST 548, and RST 76). An alternative public easement named RST 547/548 (Alt.), to connect RST 1475 with RST 76, would be obtained by Donlin Gold on State-owned lands within T24N R48W S.35, 26, 27, 22, 21, 28, 29, 32, 31 and T23N R47W S.2 (Figure 3). A description of the alternative route characteristics is included in Appendix B.

This easement would complete connectivity between FAS 231, RST 1475, RST 76 and BLM lands on the east side of the COA. The proposed RST 547/548 is approximately 7.5 mi (12.1 km) long, traverses generally flat terrain, and is on State-owned land.

After mine operations, RST 547 corridor would be returned to the original location as much as practicable. The temporary RST 547/548 (Alt) corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.

#### **4.5 RST 548: Dome Creek – Anaconda – Bell Creek Trail**

RST 548 is described as originating at the junction of Dome Creek and RST 547 (Donlin Creek-Dome Creek-Crooked Creek via Omega Trail) (Figure 1). The trail trends southeast, paralleling Dome Creek for 3 mi (4.8 km), then trends east for 0.5 mi (0.8 km), skirting the base of Anaconda Mountain. The route continues south 1.5 mi (2.4 km) then trends east to the

termination at a stream. The route is within the USGS quadrangle Iditarod A-5 (scale 1:63,360) and is approximately 6.5 mi (10.5 km) long (ADNR-DMLW, 2015).

RST 548 originates in the COA in T23N R48W S. 20 and trends east. In T23N R48W S. 21, the trail splits into two routes. One route trends south-southeast and exits the eastern boundary of the COA at T23N R48 W S. 3. This portion of the trail terminates at a small creek on BLM land. A second route trends east and connects to RST 76 in T23N R48W S. 23. This route segment of RST 548 provides connectivity between FAS 231 and RST 1475, RST 547, and RST 76. These trails cross Calista, TKC, and BLM lands. Based on Donlin Gold's experience at the site, there is no known recent public use of this trail.

During mine operations, Donlin Gold proposes that the State of Alaska close the portion of the RST 548 easement within the COA. The portion of the trail outside the COA in T22N R48W S. 3, 10, and 15 would remain open. Use of this trail by the public would be infeasible and unsafe within the COA. An alternative easement, RST 547/548 (Alt.), to connect RST 1475 with RST 76 would be created by Donlin Gold on State lands within T24N R48W S.35, 26, 27, 22, 21, 28, 29, 32, 31 and T23N R48W S.2 (Figure 3). A description of the alternative route characteristics is included in Appendix B.

This easement would complete connectivity between FAS 231, RST 1475, RST 76 and the BLM lands on the east side of the COA. The proposed RST 547/548 (Alt.) is approximately 7.5 mi (12.1 km) long, traverses generally flat terrain, and is on State-owned land.

After mine operations, RST 548 corridor would be returned to the original location as much as practicable. The temporary RST 548 corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.

#### **4.6 RST 549: Snow Gulch-Anaconda Creek Trail**

RST 549 is currently listed as "Dome Creek-Bell Ridgetop Trail." However, based on confirmation from ADNR (ADNR-DMLW, 2015), this trail is referred to as "Snow Gulch-Anaconda Creek." The route is within the USGS quadrangle Iditarod A-5 (scale 1:63,360) and is approximately 4 mi (6.4 km) long (Figure 1).

The trail is entirely within the COA (T23N R48W S. 30, 31, 32 and T22N R28W S. 5 and 8) on TKC and Calista lands. There is no known recent public use of this trail.

During mine operations, Donlin Gold proposes that the State of Alaska close RST 549. Use of this trail by the public would be infeasible and unsafe within the COA. Because this trail originates and terminates within the COA, no alternative access is proposed.

After mine operations, the RST 549 easement would be returned to the original location as much as practicable.

#### **4.7 RST 550: Crooked Creek Cabin – American Creek Trail**

ADNR describes RST 550 as originating at the junction of Crooked Creek and the Flat – Crooked Creek Trail (RST 75). The trail trends south, traverses Lewis Gulch and terminates at

American Creek (Figure 1). The trail is within the USGS quadrangle Iditarod A-5 (scale 1:63,360) and is approximately 2 mi (3.2 km) long (ADNR-DMLW, 2015).

RST 550 trail is entirely within the COA on land owned by TKC. During construction and operation of the mine the area traversed by the trail would be improved with the development of the proposed open pit and north overburden soil stockpile. At the end of the mine life the open pit dimensions would be 2.2 mi (3.5 km) by 1 mi (1.6 km) wide, with steep walls up to 1,850 ft (653 m) high. During reclamation, a safety berm would be constructed to surround the perimeter of the open pit, which would then start filling with water to form a lake. It is expected that the water will not meet State of Alaska water quality criteria. A water treatment plant will be installed to treat the water from the pit to meet water quality criteria and discharge it into Crooked Creek. Considering these proposed improvements, the use of this trail by the public would be infeasible and unsafe, and Donlin Gold proposes that the State of Alaska vacates this easement. Based on Donlin Gold's experience at the site, there is no known recent public use of this trail.

#### **4.8 RST 1475: Willow Creek-Flat Creek Trail**

RST 1475 is described as the Willow Creek-Flat Creek Trail, approximately 12 mi (19.3 km) south of the Iditarod Historic Trail. The route trends southwest from Willow Creek, across Bonanza Creek Flats, up Little Eldorado Creek, and then to Donlin Creek and Crooked Creek. The route is within the USGS quadrangles Iditarod A-4, A-5, B-4, and B-5 (scale 1:63,360) and is approximately 26 mi (41.8 km) long (ADNR-DMLW, 2015).

RST 1475 enters the COA at T23N R49W S. 1 and continues south parallel to Donlin Creek, then intersects Dome Creek and EIN 9 D1 L then trends generally southwest across S. 13, 23, and 14, terminating at the junction of Flat Creek and FAS 231. In the proximity, north of the COA, RST 1475 traverses State-owned land until the point where it enters the COA where the land ownership changes to TKC for 5 mi (8.1 km) as it reaches the FAS 231 (Figure 1). Current or recent use of RST 1475 is unknown, but based on aerial inspection it does not appear to have been used in recent years, or even decades, as the trail is barely visible. The platted location of this trail places it west of Donlin Creek, but in actuality the trail trends over Donlin Creek where there are visible trails.

During mine operations, Donlin Gold proposes that the State of Alaska close approximately 4.5 mi (7.2 km) of RST 1475 within the COA. Access to FAS 231 would be by a 3 mi (4.8 km) alternative public access easement referred as RST 1475 (Alt.), obtained by Donlin Gold on State of Alaska owned land, through T24N R48W S. 30, 31, T24N R49W S.25, 26, and 27 (Figure 4). This reroute traverses generally flat terrain. A description of the alternative route characteristics is included in Appendix B.

After mine operations RST 1475 corridor would be returned to the original location as much as practicable. The temporary RST 1475 corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.

#### **4.9 EIN 8 C3 L**

EIN 8 C3, L is comprised of two segments (Figure 1). The eastern segment starts at the FAS 231 within the COA and trends northwest for approximately 1.4 mi (2.3 km) to the crossing of

the COA boundary, onto State-owned land. The western segment starts in T23N R50W S. 26 and trends west through Calista land, follows Return Creek and continues onto BLM lands selected by the State of Alaska in T23N R51W S. 26.

The eastern EIN8 C3, L was reserved to the United States in patent 50-94-0009 granted to TKC for an existing easement access trail from FAS 231 in T23N R49W S. 34, northwesterly paralleling Grouse Creek to public land. The portion of the eastern segment within T23N R49W S. 28 was reserved to the United States in patent 50-2007-0148 to Calista Corporation, subject to the State of Alaska's claimed RS 2477 right-of-way if valid.

The purpose of EIN 8 C3 L two segments is to allow access to public lands (State of Alaska owned and selected lands) from FAS 231 through ANCSA lands (Figure 1). EIN 8 C3 L is a 50-ft (15.2-m) wide easement for an existing access trail that intersects Grouse Creek and Return Creek. Uses for a 50-ft wide easement are described as follows in the patents:

*“travel by foot, dogsled, animals, snowmobiles, two-and three-wheel vehicles, small and large all-terrain vehicles, track vehicles, and four-wheel drive vehicles”*

The portion of the easement's western segment outside the COA was reserved to the United States in patent 50-2007-0148 to Calista Corporation, subject to the State of Alaska's claimed RS 2477 right-of-way if valid. The western segment would not be changed by the easement plan as the public would access this segment by the proposed alternative access of FAS 231. A description of the FAS 231 alternative route characteristics is included in Appendix B.

During mine operations, Donlin Gold's proposed easement plan is for BLM to terminate the eastern segment of EIN 8 C3, L in order to protect the public safety. When mine operations cease, TKC, Calista and the BLM agree that BLM may reacquire the eastern segment to provide for public access once FAS 231 is aligned to its original site.

#### **4.10 EIN 9 D1, L**

EIN 9 D1, L was reserved to the United States in patent 50-94-0009 granted to TKC and in patent 50-2007-0148 to Calista Corporation.

The EIN 9 D1 L is a 50-ft (15.2-m) wide ANCSA Section 17(b) trail easement. Uses are described as follows in the patents:

*“travel by foot, dogsled, animals, snowmobiles, two-and three-wheel vehicles, small and large all-terrain vehicles, track vehicles, and four-wheel drive vehicles”*

The purpose of this easement is to provide access to public lands from an existing access trail across ANCSA land from FAS 231 easterly to public lands. The trail connects to FAS 231 and follows various segments of RST 1475, RST 547, and RST 548 to complete the easement (Figure 1). Approximately 7.2 mi (11.6 km) of the 7.6-mi (12.2-km) easement falls within the COA boundary.

During mine operations, Donlin Gold proposes that the BLM terminate EIN 9 D1, L in order to protect the public from potential mine operational accidents. Access to the federal public lands east of the COA would still be available from the north through adjacent public lands and the

proposed alternative access north of the COA. The travel distance from FAS 231 to federal public lands when using the proposed alternate route and other existing trails is approximately 13 mi (20.0 km). For comparison, the distance along EIN 9 D1 L from the FAS 231 to federal public lands is 7.2 mi (11.6 km). The alternative access is a longer route; however, the difference in travel distance narrows when considering that the alternative route avoids 5 mi (8 km) of travel along FAS 231 when approaching the area from the north, which would be the expected direction of travel. A description of the alternative route characteristics is included in Appendix B. Also, an alternative access (described in discussion of EIN 10 D1 below) would be made available through a public easement donation by TKC.

When mine operations cease, TKC, Calista and the BLM agree that BLM may acquire an alternative easement if necessary for public access.

#### **4.11 EIN 10 D1**

EIN 10 D1 was reserved to the United States in patent 50-94-0009 granted to The Kuskokwim Corporation and in patent 50-2007-0148 to Calista Corporation.

The EIN 10 D1 is a 50-ft (15.2-m) wide easement for an existing access trail from FAS 231 (T22N R49W S. 3), paralleling Omega Gulch eastward to public land. Uses are described as follows in the patent:

*“travel by foot, dogsled, animals, snowmobiles, two-and three-wheel vehicles, small and large all-terrain vehicles, track vehicles, and four-wheel drive vehicles”*

This trail is co-located over the southern portion of RST 547, and then heads east crossing RST 547, RST 548, and RST 549 terminating in T23N R48W S. 34. The purpose of EIN 10 D1 easement was to provide for public access across ANCSA lands from the existing FAS 231 eastward to public lands.

Approximately 7.5 mi (12.1 km) of this easement is within the COA. Donlin Gold’s proposed development would block access to this trail and public access would be unfeasible. In addition, public access along this trail would present a hazard for both the public and workers at the mine. Donlin Gold is proposing that the BLM terminate EIN 10 D1.

Access to public lands in T22N R48W and T23N R48W is available further south via a new 17 (b) public easement donated from TKC in T22N R49W S. 28, 27, and 26 (Figure 1 and Figure 5). The travel distance along EIN 10 D1 from the FAS 231 to the federal public lands is approximately 7.5 mi (12.1 km). In comparison the travel distance for the proposed easement from the FAS 231 to federal public lands is approximately 2.2 mi (3.5 km). This new public easement would be shorter and travel through similar terrain. The proposed easement would also save 4 mi (6.4 km) of travel along the FAS 231 when approaching the area from the south, which would be the expected direction of travel for this easement. A description of the alternative route characteristics is included in Appendix B. After mine operations, when FAS 231 is returned to the original location, TKC and Calista may request the BLM for the termination of the new 17 (b) public easement in exchange for reinstating the EIN 10 D1 to its original location across American ridge if post mine reclamation eliminates any public safety concerns.

Further, as discussed in section 4.12 below, the correction of RST 76 provides the public with alternative access from the existing Flat-Georgetown trail.

#### 4.12 EIN 11 D1

EIN 11 D1 was reserved to the United States in patent 50-2007-0148 to Calista Corporation.

The EIN 11 D1 is a 50-ft (15.2-m) wide ANCSA 17(b) trail easement for an existing access trail from Georgetown to Flat. The easement is subject to the State of Alaska's claimed RS2477 right-of-way, if valid. The uses allowed on a 50-foot wide trail easement are described in the patent:

*“travel by foot, dogsled, animals, snowmobiles, two-and three-wheel vehicles, small and large all-terrain vehicles, track vehicles, and four-wheel drive vehicles”*

The BLM 17(b) easement quadrangle shows this trail starts in T23N R48W S. 23, trends north into the COA and exits the COA boundary at T23N R48W S. 3 (Figure 1). The purpose of this easement was to provide public access through ANCSA land in T23N R48W. Donlin Gold and Calista Corporation propose that the BLM terminate EIN 11 D1 in order to protect the public from the potential hazards of an operating mine and no alternative access be proposed. When mine operations cease, TKC, Calista and the BLM agree that BLM may acquire EIN9 D1 L to have public access east of the COA to reach public lands and tie into RST 76. Alternative public access would also be available through the proposed new easement south of the COA, and the new public easements acquired by Donlin Gold around the COA.

It is also of value to note that EIN 11 D1 was sponsored by the State of Alaska Division of Lands to match the State of Alaska's claimed RST 76. On September 27, 2016 the State of Alaska corrected the location of RST 76. The corrected RST 76 trail runs along the top of a ridge approximately 0.5 mi to 1 mi (0.8 km to 1.6 km) east of the EIN 11 D 1 location, on public lands outside the COA.

#### 4.13 EIN 15 D1

EIN 15 D1 was reserved to the United States in patent 50-2007-0148 to The Kuskokwim Corporation. EIN 15 D1 is a 25-ft (7.2-m) easement for a proposed access trail from FAS 231 in T22N R49 W S.21, to the west, paralleling the right bank of Eagle Creek to public lands in T22N R50W S. 24 (Figure 1). The uses allowed on a 25-foot wide trail easement are described as follows in the patent:

*“travel by foot, dogsleds, animals, snowmobiles, two-and three-wheeled vehicles, and small all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) (less than 3,000 lbs. Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)).*

Approximately 1.4 mi (2.2 km) of this easement is within the COA (T22N R49W S. 21) and public access could be hazardous to the public or the mine workers. The proposed alternative route for FAS 231 would affect the starting point of this easement, by reducing the travel distance from the FAS 231 to public lands from 3.6 mi (5.8 km) to 1.4 mi (2.2 km). A description of the alternative FAS 231 route characteristics is included in Appendix B.



Donlin Gold is proposing that the BLM terminate 1.4 mi (2.2 km) of EIN 15 D1 in T22N R49W S. 21 during mine operations for safety reasons. When mine operations cease, TKC and the BLM agree that BLM may reacquire the 1.4 mi (2.2 km) segment to provide for public access once FAS 231 is aligned to its original site.

#### **4.14 EIN 21 C4 and EIN 21a C4**

EIN 21 C4 and EIN 21a C4 were reserved to the United States in patent number 50-2007-0213 to TKC. EIN 21 C4 was reserved for a one (1) acre site easement upland of the ordinary high water mark in, T20N R49W S. 29, on the right bank of the Kuskokwim River near the mouth of an unnamed creek. The uses allowed for a site easement in the patent are:

“vehicle parking (e.g., aircraft, boats, all terrain vehicles (ATV’s), snowmobiles, cars, trucks), temporary camping, and loading or unloading. Temporary camping, loading, or unloading shall be limited to 24 hours”.

EIN 21a C4 is a 25-ft (7.2-m) easement for a proposed access trail from EIN 21 C4 northwesterly to public lands. The uses allowed on a 25-foot wide trail easement are described as follows in the patent:

*“travel by foot, dogsleds, animals, snowmobiles, two-and three-wheeled vehicles, and small all-terrain vehicles (ATV’s) (less than 3,000 lbs. Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)).”*

TKC has requested that the BLM correct its easement quadrangle to more accurately describe the location of EIN 21a C4 and EIN 21 C4. (See TKC letter to BLM and figures Appendix E – Request to more precisely define the location of EIN 21 C4 and 21a C4 - September 19, 2016). Donlin Gold supports the efforts of TKC to correct the location and requests BLM take action of this request.

### **5.0 PRIVATE PARCEL (PLAT NO. 96-1)**

T23N R49W S. 14 and 23 includes a privately owned land parcel with record of survey recorded on January 17, 1996 as Plat No. 96-1, in the Kuskokwim Recording District. This parcel is located within the COA and the proposed petitions would restrict its public access. In 2012 Donlin Gold and the land owners, Spencer and Carolyn Lyman (Lymans), entered into a lease and assignment agreement that provides Donlin Gold with exclusive control of the property for a period of 20 years, or for as long as required by Donlin Gold’s operations. The Lymans have vacated the private parcel and Donlin Gold has assumed full control of this property. Therefore, the proposed petitions restricting the use of the public easements would have no effect regarding the Lymans’ access to the property. Both Spencer and Carolyn Lyman are signatories of the petitions as applicable. Supporting documentation is provided in Appendix C.

### **6.0 EASEMENT LOCATION DIAGRAMS**

Detailed “Easement Location Diagrams” showing the RS 2477 trails, FAS 231, and ANCSA 17(b) public easements configuration in the vicinity of the mine area, over the life of the project, are included in Appendix D:

- Pre-Mining Operations – Current easement configuration as shown on status plats and other relevant land records (Sheet 1 of 3).
- Mining Operations – Proposed easement configuration during mine construction, operation, and reclamation and closure (Sheet 2 of 3).
- After Mining Operations – Proposed easement configuration after mine closure (Sheet 3 of 3).

## **7.0 ALTERNATIVE ACCESS CHARACTERISTICS**

The proposed alternative access was identified following an evaluation of alternatives and assessment of viability conducted by Steve Rowland, P. E. A summary of the criteria and process followed to identify the alternative access, and a description of routes is provided in Appendix B.

## **8.0 SUMMARY**

This Public Easement Plan provides Donlin Gold's and the land owners preferred approach to providing continued public access to the public lands around the COA boundary. The proposed approach (Table 8-1), provides the best possible practical public access, while still meeting the project's need to control public access to the site to maintain public health and safety.

**Table 8-1: Summary of Petitions**

			Mine Operations (Mine Construction, Operation, Reclamation and Closure) Plan			After Mine Operations Plan
Type	File #	Name	Type	Description <sup>4</sup>	Alternative Access	
FAS	231	Crooked Creek to Iditarod	Restriction	Temporary closure within: T22N R49W S. 3, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22; and T23N R49W S. 10, 11, 14, 23, 26, 27, 34.	Alternative access within: T22N R49W S. 18, 19, 20, 28, 29; T22N R50W S. 1, 2, 12, 13; T23N R50W S. 13, 23, 24, 26, 35; T23N R49W S. 5, 7, 8, 18; and T24N R49W S. 27, 28, 29, 33, 32.	Return corridor to the original location as practicable. The temporary access corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.
RST	545	Return Creek-Crooked Creek	Restriction	Temporary closure within: T22N R49W S. 17, 21.	Alternative access via the proposed alternative access for FAS 231.	Return corridor to the original location as practicable. The temporary access corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.
RST	546	Return Creek Landing-Crooked Creek Ruins Trail	Restriction	Temporary closure within: T23N R49W S. 28, 33, 34.	No alternative access required.	Return corridor to the original location as practicable. The temporary access corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.
RST	547	Donlin Creek-Dome Creek-Crooked Creek Via Omega	Restriction	Temporary closure within: T22N R48W S. 5, 7, 8, 9; T22N R49W S. 2, 3, 11, 12; T23N R48W S. 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32, 33; and T23N R49W S. 13, 14, 23.	Alternative access within: T23N R48W S. 2; and T24N R48W S. 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 35.	Return corridor to the original location as practicable. The temporary access corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.
RST	548	Dome Creek - Anaconda - Bell Creek Trail	Restriction	Temporary closure within: T22N R48W S. 4; and T23N R48W S. 20, 21, 22, 28, 33, 34.	Alternative access within: T23N R48W S. 2; and T24N R48W S. 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 35.	Return corridor to the original location as practicable. The temporary access corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.

<sup>4</sup> All protracted land survey system references in this document are within the Seward Meridian (SM). Legal description includes only the portions of the easement within the COA.

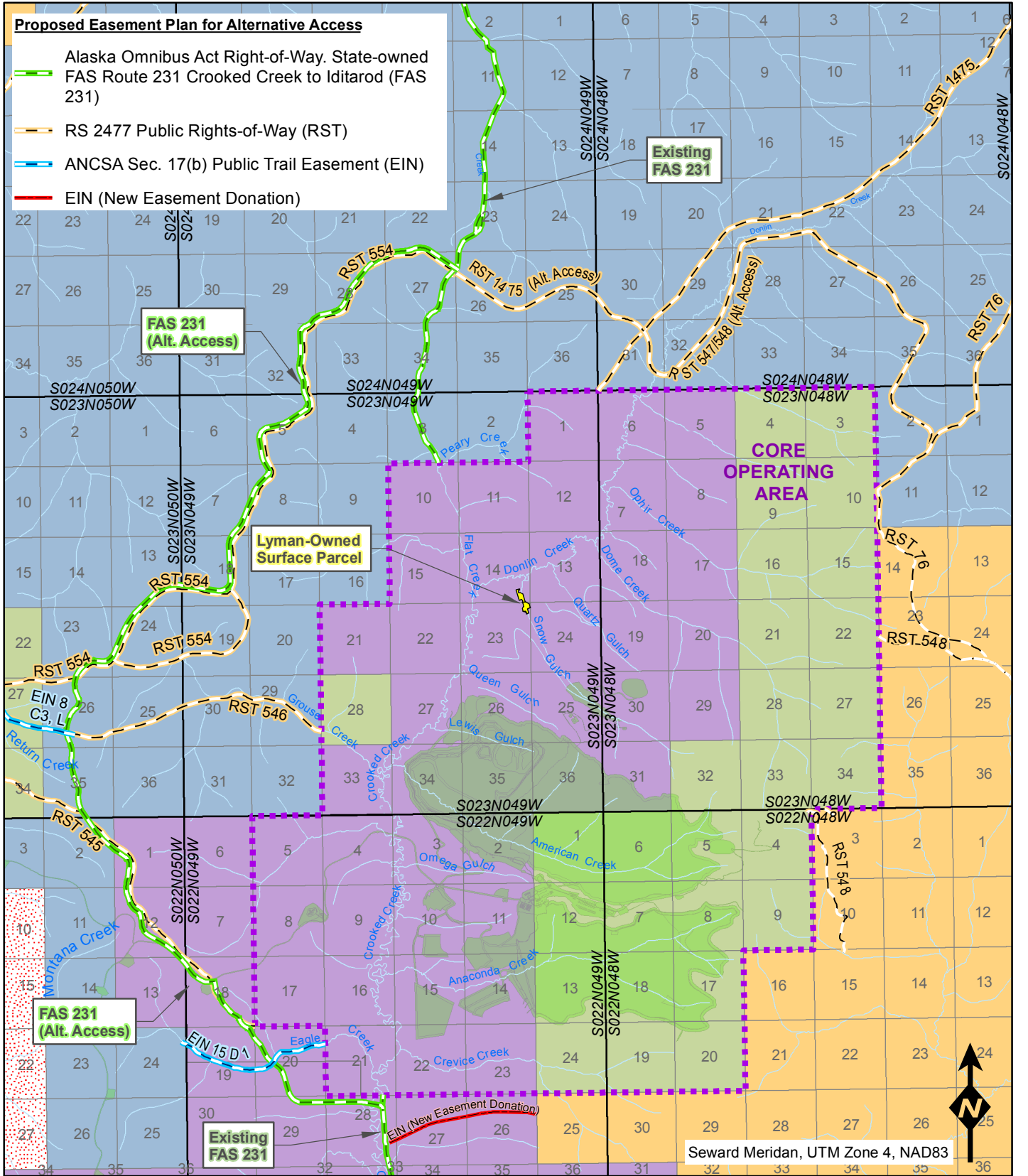
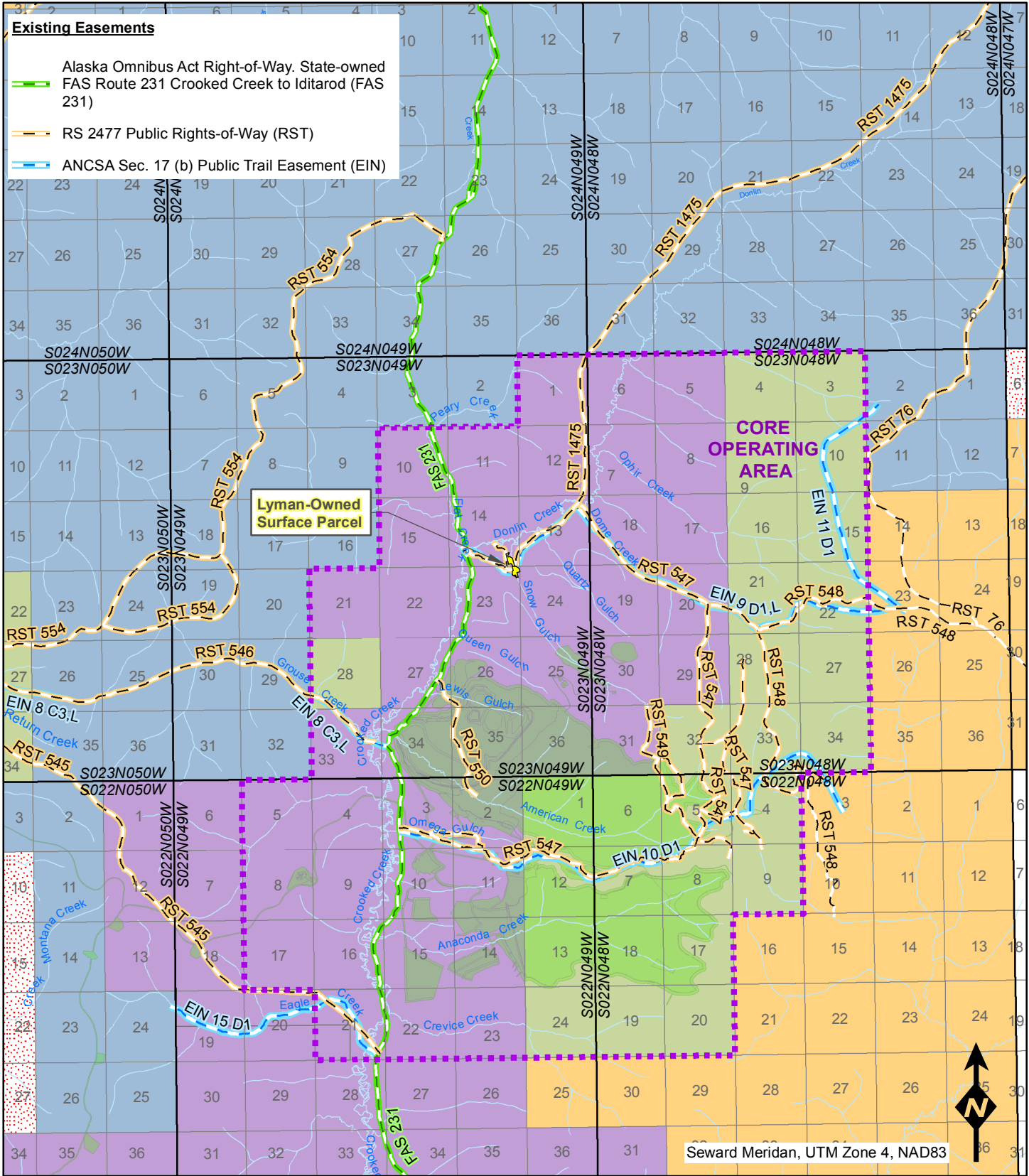
			Mine Operations (Mine Construction, Operation, Reclamation and Closure) Plan			After Mine Operations Plan
Type	File #	Name	Type	Description <sup>4</sup>	Alternative Access	
RST	549	Snow Gulch-Anaconda Creek Trail	Restriction	Temporary closure within: T22N R48W S. 5,8; and T23N R48W S. 30, 31, 32.	No alternative access required.	Return corridor to the original location as practicable. The temporary access corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.
RST	550	Crooked Creek Cabin-American Creek Trail	Terminate	Temporary closure within: T22N R49W S. 2; and T23N R49W S. 26, 27, 34, 35.	No alternative access required.	No action required.
RST	1475	Willow Creek-Flat Creek Trail	Restriction	Temporary closure within: T23N R48W S. 6; and T23N R49W 1, 12, 13, 14, 23.	Alternative access within: T24N R48W S. 30, 31; and T24N R49W S. 25, 26.	Return corridor to the original location as practicable. The temporary access corridor would be reclaimed if possible, or allowed to naturally revegetate.
EIN	8 C 3L		Terminate	Closure within: T23N R49W S. 28, 33, 34.	No alternative access through private ANCSA land is required.	Reacquire corridor to the original location as practicable.
EIN	9 D1 L		Terminate	Closure within: T23N R48W S. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22; and T23N R49W S. 13, 14, 23, 24.	No alternative access through private ANCSA land is required.	Return corridor to the original location as practicable.
EIN	15 D1		Terminate	Closure within: T22N R49W S. 21	No alternative access through private ANCSA land is required.	Reacquire corridor to the original location as practicable.
EIN	10 D1		Terminate	Terminate within: T22N R48W S. 4, 5, 7, 8; T22N R49W S. 2, 3, 11, 12; and T23N R48W S. 33, 34.	New easement donated within: T22N R49W S. 26, 27, 28.	No action required.
EIN	11 D1		Terminate	Terminate within: T23N R48W S. 3, 10, 15, 22.	No alternative access through private ANCSA land is required.	No action required.
EIN	15 D1		Terminate	Terminate within: T22N R49W S. 21.	Alternative access via the proposed alternative access for FAS 231.	Reacquire corridor to the original location as practicable.
EIN	21C4/2 1aC4		Correct	Correct easement to more accurately describe location	No alternative access required	No action required.

## **9.0 REFERENCES**

ADNR-DMLW. (2015, May 7). RS2477 Trails Casefile Online Database. Alaska, USA. Retrieved from [http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/rs2477/rst\\_srch.cfm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/rs2477/rst_srch.cfm).

Burton, L. A. (2014, September 19). DOT. (J. Bruno, Interviewer).

## Appendix A - Figures



**Donlin Gold Project**

- Core Operating Area
- Proposed Facilities

**Land Status Details (2015)**

- Lyman-Owned private parcel approximate location (13.9 ac); surface leased from Lyman to Donlin Gold, LLC. Subsurface owned by Calista
- Calista Corp. Patented Lands [14 (h)(8)]

- The Kuskokwim Corp (surface) and The Calista Corp (subsurface). Patented Lands
- General Grant State Selected. Owned by the US and managed by the BLM
- Federal Land (BLM Managed)
- State Land. Tentatively Approved or Patented

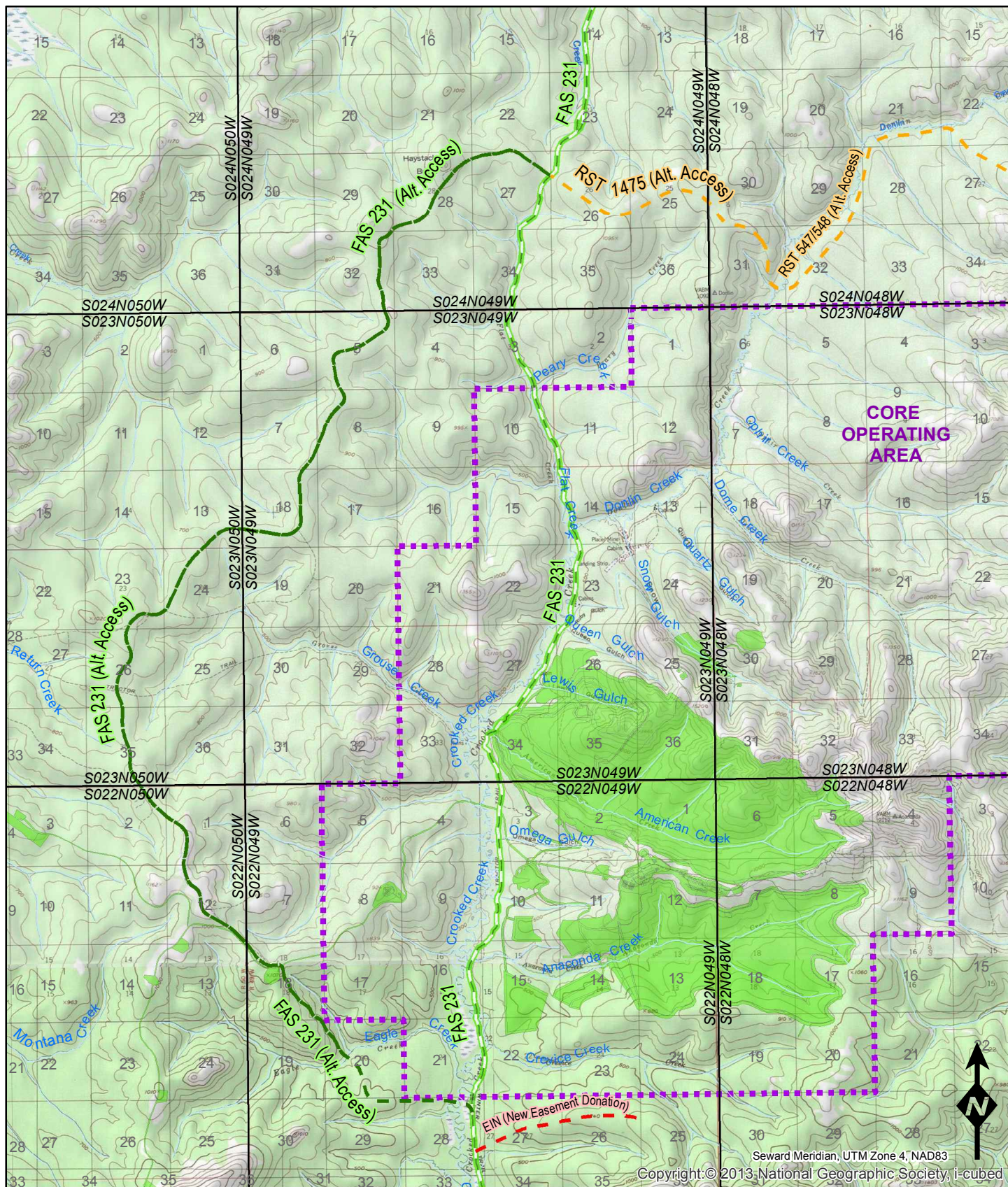
**CORE OPERATING AREA  
EXISTING and PROPOSED  
PUBLIC EASEMENTS**

DONLIN GOLD PROJECT

SCALE: 0 0.5 1 2 mi  
0 0.75 1.5 3 km

FIGURE:  
1





#### Donlin Gold Project

- Core Operating Area
- Proposed Facilities

#### Rights-of-Way and Easements

- Alaska Omnibus Act Right-of-Way. State-owned FAS Route 231 Crooked Creek to Iditarod (FAS 231)

#### Proposed Easement Plan

- Alaska Omnibus Act Right-of-Way. State-owned FAS Route 231 Alternative Access (FAS 231 Alt. Access)
- RS 2477 Public Rights-of-Way (RST Alt. Access)
- EIN (New Easement Donation)



## PROPOSED FAS 231 ALTERNATIVE ACCESS

### DONLIN GOLD PROJECT

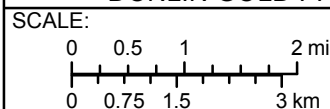
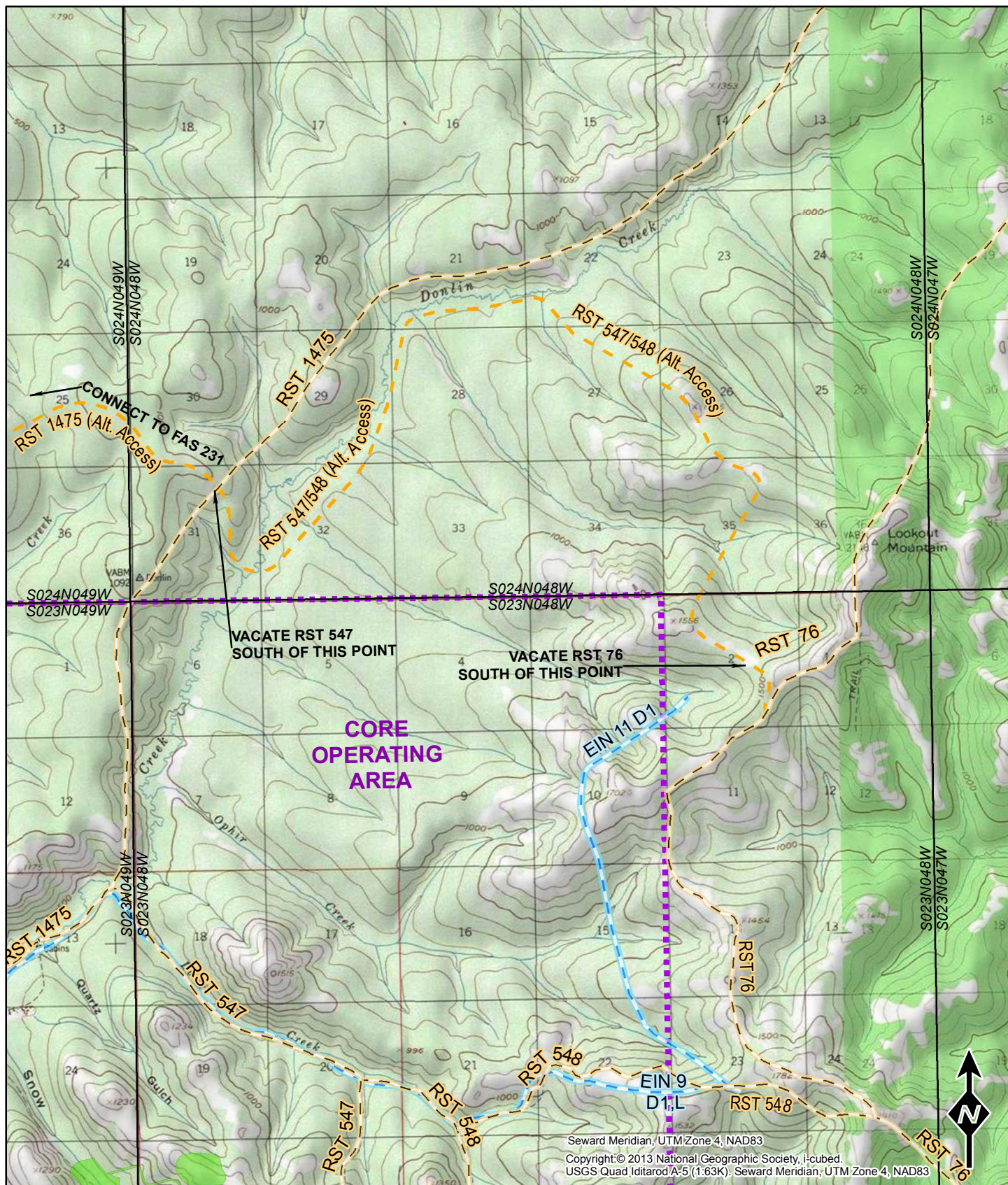



FIGURE:

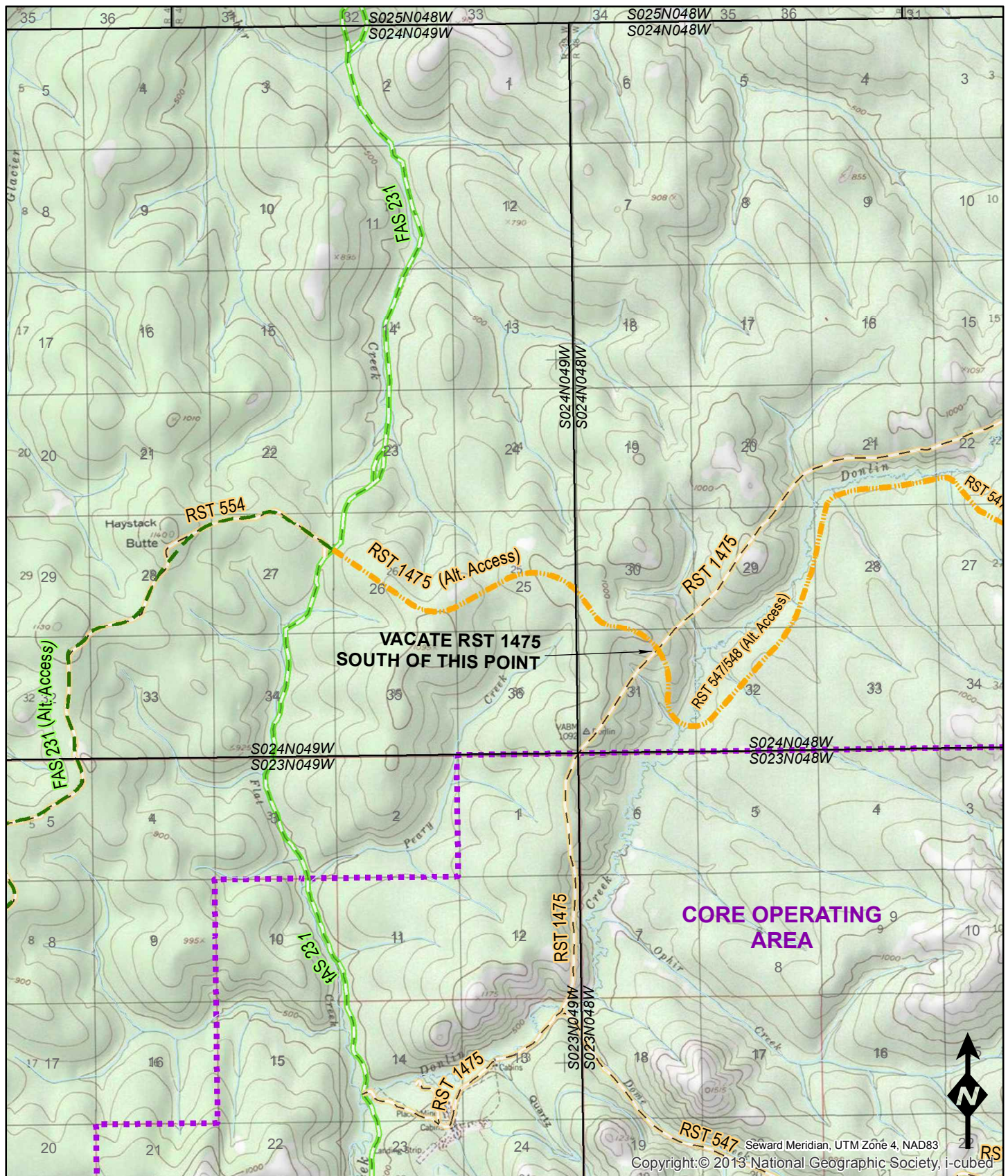
**2**






<p><b>Donlin Gold Project</b></p> <p>Core Operating Area</p> <p>Proposed Facilities</p>	<p><b>Rights-of-Way and Easements</b></p> <p>RS 2477 Public Rights-of-Way (RST)</p> <p>ANCSA Sec. 17 (b) Public Trail Easement (EIN)</p> <p><b>Proposed Easement Plan</b></p> <p>RS 2477 Public Rights-of-Way (RST Alt. Access)</p>		<p><b>PROPOSED RST 547/ RST 548 ALTERNATIVE ACCESS</b></p> <p>DONLIN GOLD PROJECT</p>	
			<p>SCALE:</p> <p>0 0.25 0.5 1 mi</p> <p>0 0.4 0.8 1.6 km</p>	<p>FIGURE:</p> <p><b>3</b></p>







#### Donlin Gold Project


 Core Operating Area


#### Rights-of-Way and Easements

 RS 2477 Public Rights-of-Way (RST)

 Alaska Omnibus Act Right-of-Way, State-owned FAS Route 231 Crooked Creek to Iditarod (FAS 231)

#### Proposed Easement Plan

 RS 2477 Public Rights-of-Way (RST Alt. Access)

 Alaska Omnibus Act Right-of-Way, State-owned FAS Route 231 Alternative Access (FAS 231 Alt. Access)



## PROPOSED RST 1475 ALTERNATIVE ACCESS

DONLIN GOLD PROJECT

SCALE:

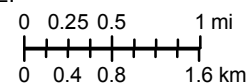
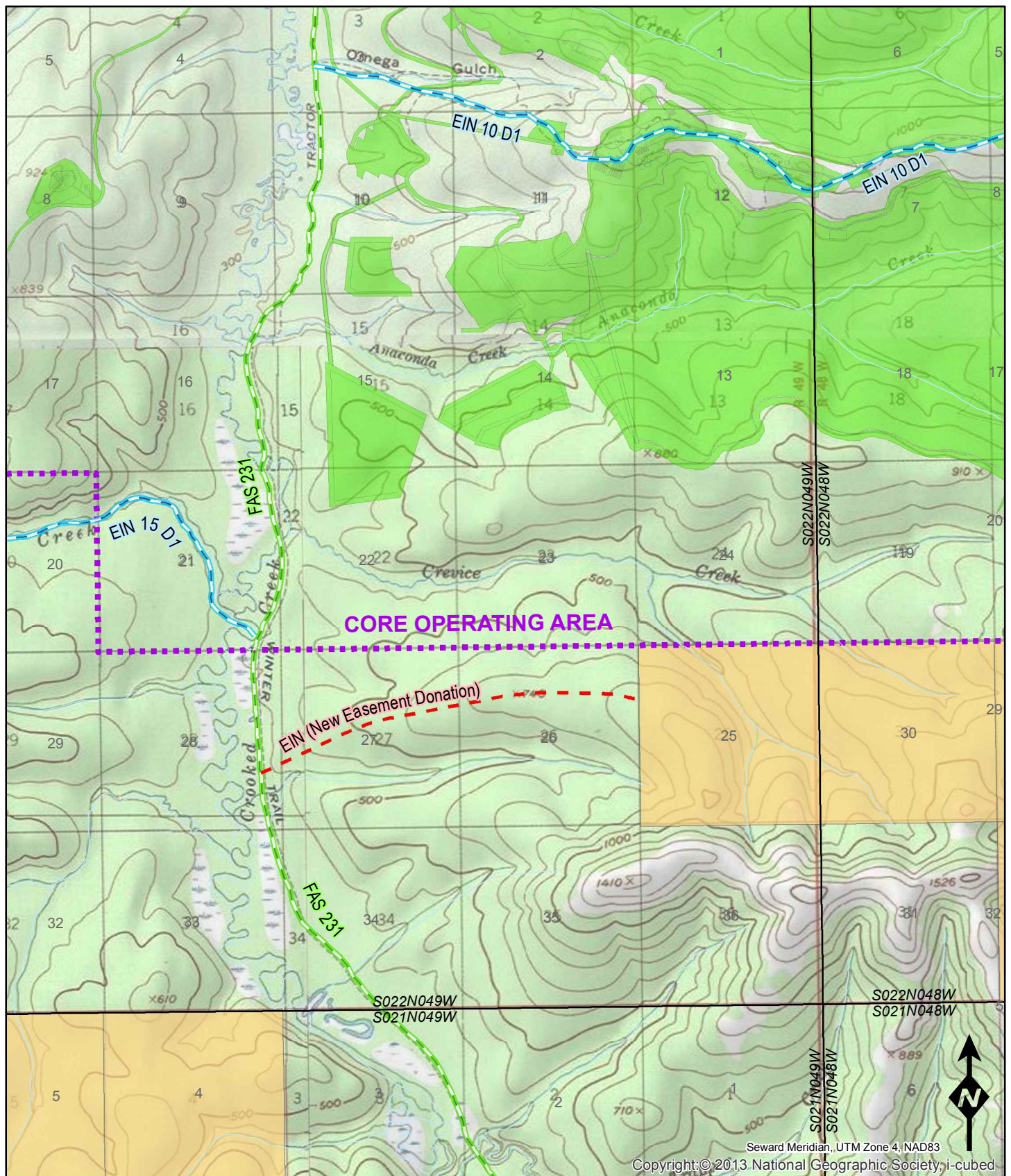


FIGURE:

**4**





Seward Meridian, UTM Zone 4, NAD83  
Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

#### Donlin Gold Project

- Core Operating Area
- Proposed Facilities

#### Federal Land

- Federal Land (BLM Managed)

#### Rights-of-Way and Easements

- Alaska Omnibus Act Right-of-Way. State-owned FAS Route 231 Crooked Creek to Iditarod (FAS 231)
- ANCSA Sec. 17 (b) Public Trail Easement (EIN)

#### Proposed Easement Plan

- EIN (New Easement Donation)



## NEW EASEMENT DONATION for EIN 10 D1 RELOCATION

DONLIN GOLD PROJECT

SCALE:

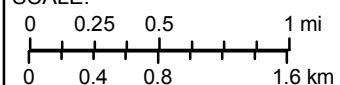


FIGURE:

5

## Appendix B - Alternative Access Characteristics Report



October 17, 2016

Donlin Gold, LLC  
4720 Business Park Blvd., Suite G25  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Attn.: James Fueg

**Re: Route Characteristics for the Proposed Alternative Access to Public Lands  
Surrounding the Donlin Gold Core Operating Area Resulting from the Temporary  
Closure of Omnibus R/W FAS 231, RST 1475, RST 548, RST 547, and EIN 10 D1;  
REVISION-01**

## **Introduction**

Donlin Gold LLC (Donlin Gold) has proposed the development of an open pit gold mine and related infrastructure (proposed project) and designated a Core Operating Area (COA) on the private lands surrounding the project site. This COA will be required for mine operations and to protect the public from the potential hazards associated with mine operations. There are currently 13 federally- or state-managed public access easements and/or rights-of-way (ROWs) that intersect the COA. The right to public access provided by these easements conflicts with the imperative of excluding public access within the COA and, in many cases, the proposed land improvements may block or overlay the footprint of an easement. Rowland Engineering Consultants (RECON LLC, or RECON) has been retained by Donlin Gold to delineate alternative access to the public lands surrounding the COA. The following is RECON's summary of terrain and constructability characteristics for the proposed alternative access routes.

The proposed alternative access was identified following an evaluation of alternatives and assessment of viability conducted by Steve Rowland, PE, between 2013 and 2015. Each of the easements proposed for temporary closure was inspected to determine traditional use and purpose. It was determined through this process that only the Omnibus R/W FAS 231 was used to any substantial degree, and then only for occasional winter travel or freighting. The other easements appear to have had very limited use as historical local routes for transiting the area with mining-related equipment, lacked any evidence of use, or were located in terrain that would not have been utilized as a travel route for any practical purpose. The last reason is particularly true of EIN 11 D1, which would not have been aligned as indicated by the mapped route, which cross-cuts terrain in a manner that inhibits practical travel, while ignoring the nearby proximity of ridgelines that could be traversed relatively easily on foot or with motorized equipment. In addition, RST 1475 is also grossly misrepresented on maps and is shown to traverse terrain that would prohibit any type of functional trail or road development. The observed location of this route is in the valley bottom along Donlin Creek, as opposed to crossing the ridges and side-hilling the slopes to the west of the creek.





### **Criteria for Identification of the Alternative Access**

- Location outside of the boundaries of the COA
- Alignment with the original purpose of the affected route with respect to origin, destination, and transportation mode
- User safety
- Minimization of the overall travel distance
- Facilitation of area-wide travel patterns
- Grade limited to 12% typical and 15% max
- Suitability for winter travel, which was identified as the dominant use
- Potential for development as a functional all-season trail or road route
- Environmental criteria:
  - Minimize stream crossings
  - Minimize impact to wetlands
- Constructability and maintenance criteria:
  - Limit traverse of poor ground conditions, including permafrost
  - Best possible natural drainage
  - Minimize vegetation clearing needs
  - Minimize earthwork requirements
  - Limit cross-slope traverse to allow for winter trail development without significant cut or fill
  - Define alignment using geometry appropriate for future road development

### **Processes Used to Identify the Alternative Access**

- Review of existing alignment descriptions and historic documentation
- Review of available topographic maps, orthophotography, and terrain data to identify alternative options and preliminary routes
- Review of area-wide geologic maps and Donlin Gold project-related geotechnical information
- Review of records of historical use to ascertain type of uses expected for alternative routes
- Reliance on author's extensive history of field studies, knowledge, and observations in the project area
- Observation and inspection of existing trails to confirm historical documentation of use
- Field verification of existing trail locations to ensure alternative routes would provide comparable access
- Location of alternative routes in the field using GIS-grade GPS units and laptop computer with imagery, topographic map layers, and route alternatives displayed in GIS software with real-time GPS positioning.



- Reconnaissance overflights of routes, utilizing a Robinson R44 light helicopter
- Traverse of representative segments of the alternative routes, by the author, on foot or via snowmachine
- Plot of final route relying on a combination of field and GIS data using both GIS mapping software and CAD

## **Route Descriptions**

Each of the routes are shown on the attached Overview Map. Mile post markers included on the map are provided for the following summaries of the route terrain characteristics and constructability.

### Alternative to FAS 231, RST 545, RST 546, and RST 1475

The subject route as described starts from FAS231 to the south of the COA and transitions around the western side of the COA before rejoining FAS231 to the north of the COA. It then continues in an easterly direction to join up with RST76 on the northeastern edge of the COA.

**MP 0** Departure from existing winter trail (Omnibus R/W FAS 231) just east of Crooked Creek in wetland flat adjacent to floodplain.

**MP 0.0-0.3** Proceeds westerly crossing Crooked Creek and associated floodplain. The creek crossing is at a favorable location for winter crossing. Mature timber near active stream channel. Scrub brush and small trees outside active floodplain. Permafrost and ice-rich soils are likely.

**MP 0.3-2.0** Proceeds westerly at gradual gradient to crest of low ridge 230 feet above Crooked Creek, then heads northwest descending to crossing of Eagle Creek. Soils are silt and regolith over bedrock. Discontinuous permafrost is likely. Open scrub brush and trees.

**MP 2.0** Crosses Eagle Creek at a location suitable for winter crossing.

**MP 2.0-3.4** Gradual side-hill ascent to ridge crest and crossing of the proposed mine access road. Cross-slope varies from 20-25%. Mostly open scrub trees and light brush. Potential all-season trail/road would require limited side cut or fill. Soils are shallow colluvium and regolith of weathered bedrock. Route intersects with RST 545 at approximately MP 2.5.

**MP 3.4-21.5** Route trends northwest then northeast as it traverses ridgeline that forms divide between Crooked Creek/Flat Creek and Iditarod River drainages. Ridgeline route is free of drainage crossings and has limited grade differential. Elevation over this 18-mile interval varies from approximately 700 to 1100 feet. Soils are typically thin layer of silt over regolith and weathered bedrock. Permafrost is rare. Vegetation cover varies from tundra to low scrub trees and brush. Route roughly follows the existing RST 545 from MP 2.5 to 6.5 and intersects RST 546 at MP 7.9. At MP 8.8 the new route intersects with existing RST 554 and generally follows the same route to MP 18.6 where both routes intersect with the existing Omnibus R/W FAS 231



trail at divide between the heads of Timber Creek and Flat Creek. Route intersects RST 1475 at MP 21.5.

**MP 21.5-22.5** Route turns southerly as it descends 400 feet along the nose of a ridge to the crossing of Donlin Creek and associated floodplain. Grades are moderate. Soils are a thin blanket of silt over colluvium and regolith with shallow bedrock. Permafrost potential at toe of slope near Donlin Creek.

**MP 22.5** Crossing of Donlin Creek. Narrow channel with gravel bed. Suitable for a winter crossing.

**MP 22.5-25.5** Route heads northeast roughly parallel to and to the east of Donlin Creek. Route crosses over several low and broad ridges with minor drainage crossings between ridges. Soils are likely silt over alluvial gravel. Permafrost is likely discontinuous. Vegetation is scrub spruce and light brush that varies from moderate to open cover. Cross-slope and grade are minimal.

**MP 25.5-30.0** Route trends southeast toward Lookout Mountain, then southerly as it follows ridge lines and crosses the heads of two drainages before ending at the intersection with RST 76. Grades over this section are often at 10-15%. Cross-slopes are limited. Elevation varies from 800 to 1600 feet. Soils vary from silt and regolith over shallow bedrock to broken and weathered rock. Permafrost is rare.

#### Alternative Access for EIN 10 D1

Reroute provides access to public lands east of Crooked Creek and immediately south of the COA. The reroute originates from FAS 231 on the east side of the Crooked Creek valley bottom. Length of the reroute is approximately 2.2 miles, which is shorter than the current route by approximately 5 miles. In general, the reroute ascends along the crest of a low ridge south of Crevice Creek. The alignment ascends this ridge at a fairly constant grade of 3–8%. Ground conditions are typically shallow silt over regolith and weathered bedrock. Discontinuous permafrost is likely present over the westernmost 0.5 mile of the reroute. Vegetation is scrub brush and small spruce with some aspen and birch on west half of the route. Winter trail development will not require grading or earthwork.

#### **Constructability, Marking, and Maintenance**

The establishment of the alternative access trails for winter travel will require clearing of vegetation taller than 1 ft. Limited earthwork consisting of cut-to-fill grading on cross-slope intervals may be required along the FAS 231 Alternative at the following locations:

MP 2.0–3.7, MP 16, MP 17.1, MP 22.4, MP 29.4

Trail markers may be needed in open areas on the ridgelines. Periodic maintenance for vegetation clearing may be required and the frequency would depend on the rate of vegetation regrowth and trail usage.





## **Route Photographs**



*Figure 1 : New Route MP 3.5-4.0*



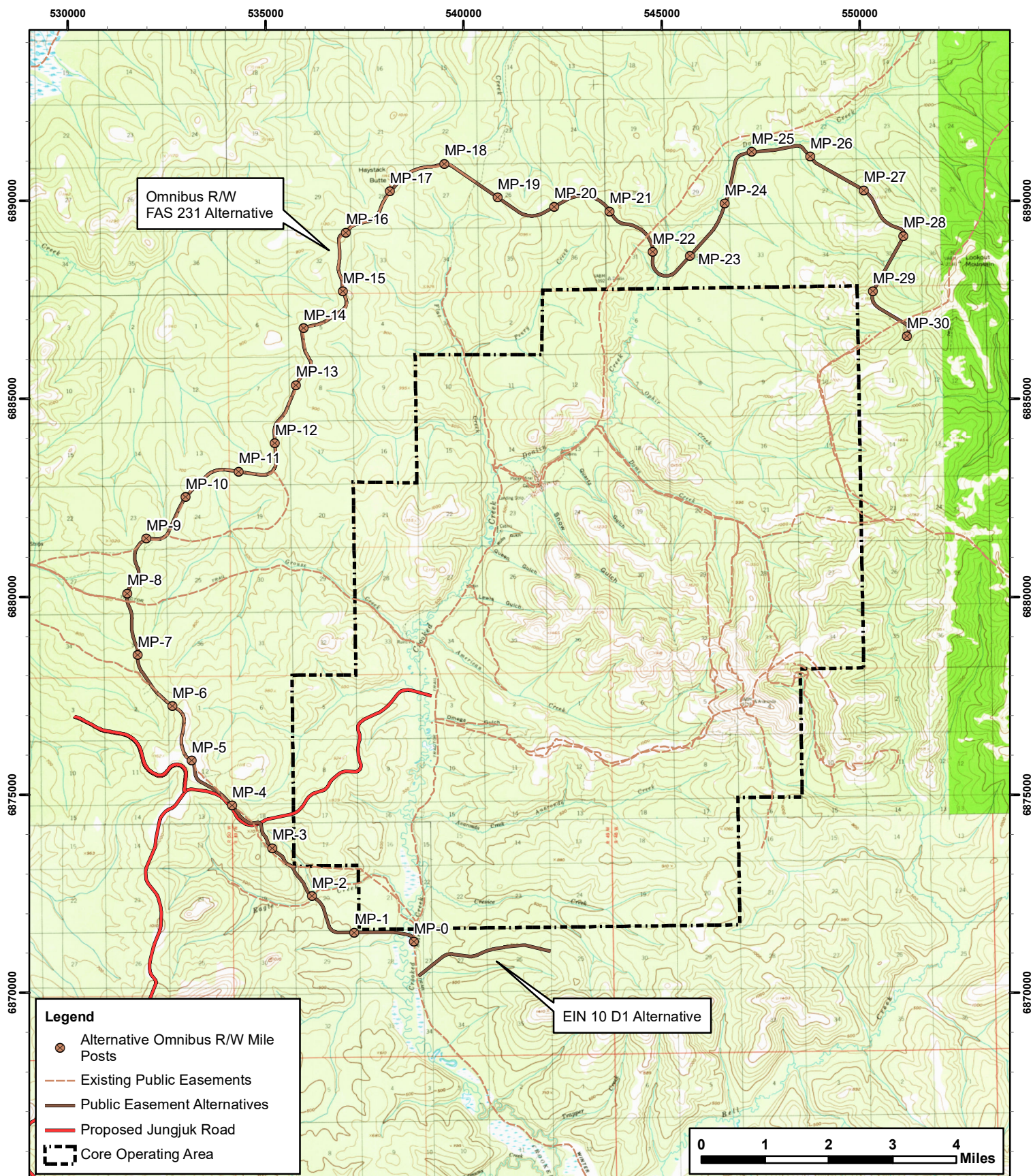
*Figure 2: New Route MP 5*



Figure 3: View of Omnibus R/W FAS 231 along Crooked Creek just upstream of Eagle Creek

Document Revision History			
Rev #	Date	Revision Notes	Initials
[blank]	17 Oct 2016	Original	MJR
01	17 Oct 2016	Removed references to EIN 21, RST 76, and the port easement.	MJR





## DONLIN GOLD Public Easement Alternatives

Map and Engineering by RECON LLC  
481 W. RECON Cir, Palmer AK 99645  
NAD1983 UTM Zone 4N (Meters)  
Basemap by CalTopo

## OVERVIEW MAP



1:130,000

10/17/2016



1:80,000,000

## Appendix C - Memorandum of Surface Lease and Assignment of Mining Lease

NS, CC

A  
L  
A  
S  
K  
A

**2012-000129-0**

Recording Dist: 403 - Kuskokwim

5/14/2012 10:12 AM Pages: 1 of 9



**THIS COVER SHEET HAS BEEN ADDED TO  
THIS DOCUMENT TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR  
THE RECORDING DATA. THIS COVER  
SHEET APPEARS AS THE FIRST PAGE OF  
THE DOCUMENT IN THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC  
RECORD.**

**DO NOT DETACH**



For Recording in the Kuskokwim Recording District

Return To:  
Donlin Gold LLC  
Attn: General Manager  
4720 Business Park Blvd.  
Suite G-25  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Memorandum of Surface Lease and Assignment of Mining Lease

Notice is hereby given by this Memorandum of Surface Lease and Assignment of Mining Lease (this "*Memorandum*") of that certain Surface Lease and Assignment of Mining Lease, an unrecorded lease (the "*Lease*"), made and entered into effective as of May 9, 2012 (the "*Effective Date*") by and among Spencer W. Lyman and Carolyn Motherway Lyman, each acting in his or her individual capacity and, where any property subject to the Lease is held by them as tenants by the entirety, acting in their capacity as husband and wife, Lyman Resources in Alaska, Inc., an Alaska corporation (Spencer W. Lyman, Carolyn Motherway Lyman, and Lyman Resources in Alaska, Inc. are collectively referred to herein as the "*Lyman's*"), and Donlin Gold LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("*Donlin*"). All terms used herein but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Lease.

Spencer W. Lyman, Carolyn Motherway Lyman and Lyman Resources in Alaska, Inc.'s addresses are:  
PO Box 79 Crooked Creek, Alaska 99575.

Donlin Gold LLC's address is:  
4720 Business Park Blvd., Suite G-25 Anchorage, AK 99503

The Lyman's own (1) the lands described in Exhibit A, attached hereto (the "*Lyman Lands*"), and (2) the lessee interest in the Lyman Placer Lease described in Exhibit B, attached hereto (the "*Lyman Leasehold*").

Pursuant to the Lease, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the Lyman's (1) leased exclusively to Donlin the Lyman Lands for the purposes stated in the Lease, and (2) assigned exclusively to Donlin, and



Donlin assumed exclusively from the Lymans, the Lyman Leasehold for the purposes stated in the Lease.

1. **Term.** The term of the Lease is as follows:

The commencement date of the Lease is the Effective Date, May 9, 2012.

**Primary Term.** The primary term of the Lease shall begin on the Effective Date and continue and be for twenty (20) years following Donlin's receipt of notice that the Lymans have terminated their occupancy of the Lyman Lands pursuant to the Lease, which shall be no later than July 15, 2016 ("Rent Commencement Date").

**Secondary Term.** The secondary term of the Lease shall be for so long following the Primary Term as Donlin Operations, as fully defined in the Lease, but which include mining exploration, development, production, and reclamation activities, are being conducted in the Area of Interest, as that area is defined in Exhibit A to the Lease.



The Primary Term, together with the Secondary Term, are the Lease Term.

2. **Assignment of the Lyman Leasehold and Suspension of the Lyman Placer Lease.** A memorandum of the Lyman Placer Lease was recorded on May 11, 1982 at Book 15, Page 420, Kuskokwim Recording District, State of Alaska. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Lease, the Lyman Leasehold has been assigned to Donlin and the Lyman Placer Lease shall be suspended in its entirety for the duration of the Lease Term and completion of Donlin's reclamation activities, until reassignment of the Lyman Leasehold from Donlin to the Lymans as described in the Lease.

3. **Purpose of this Memorandum.** The Lymans and Donlin desire to execute and record this Memorandum to provide notice to third parties of the Lease and of Donlin's and the Lymans' interests and rights thereunder. This Memorandum does not supersede, modify, amend or otherwise change the terms, conditions or covenants of the Lease.

4. **Counterparts.** This Memorandum of Lease may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which when taken together shall constitute but one and the same Memorandum.

[Signature page follows]





IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed, delivered, and accepted this Memorandum as of the date written below.

Dated this 9 day of May, 2012.

The Lymans:

Spencer W. Lyman  
SPENCER W. LYMAN

Carolyn Motherway Lyman  
CAROLYN MOTHERWAY LYMAN

LYMAN RESOURCES IN ALASKA, INC.,  
an Alaska corporation

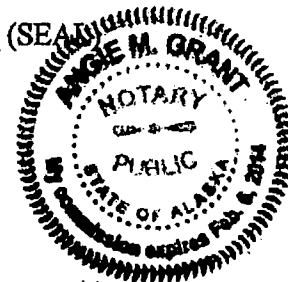
By: Spencer W. Lyman  
Name: Spencer W. Lyman  
Title: President

STATE OF ALASKA )  
)ss.  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT )

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012, before me, the undersigned Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared SPENCER W. LYMAN, who executed the within and foregoing Memorandum of Surface Lease and Assignment of Mining Lease, and he acknowledged before me that he signed said instrument as his free and voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein stated.

WITNESS my hand and official seal on the day, month and year in this certificate first above written.

Angie M. Grant  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 02/06/14 (SEAL)



5 of 9

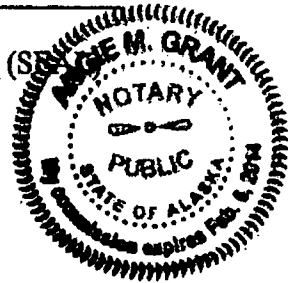
2012-000129-0

STATE OF ALASKA )  
 )ss.  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT )

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012, before me, the undersigned Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared CAROLYN MOTHERWAY LYMAN, who executed the within and foregoing Memorandum of Surface Lease and Assignment of Mining Lease, and she acknowledged before me that she signed said instrument as her free and voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein stated.

WITNESS my hand and official seal on the day, month and year in this certificate first above written.

Angie M. Grant  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 02/06/14 (SEAL)



STATE OF ALASKA )  
 )ss.  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT )

The foregoing Memorandum of Surface Lease and Assignment of Mining Lease instrument was acknowledged before me this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012 by (name) Spencer W. Lyman (title) President of LYMAN RESOURCES IN ALASKA, INC., an Alaska corporation, on behalf of the corporation.

WITNESS my hand and official seal on the day, month and year in this certificate first above written.

Angie M. Grant  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 02/06/14 (SEAL)



Donlin:

DONLIN GOLD LLC,  
a Delaware limited liability company

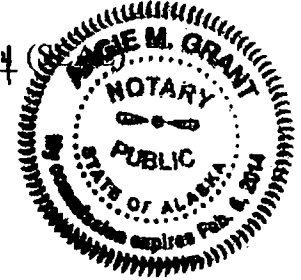
By: Stanley T. Foo  
Name: Stanley T. Foo  
Title: General Manager

STATE OF ALASKA )  
FOURTH ~~and~~ )ss.  
~~THIRD~~ JUDICIAL DISTRICT )

The foregoing Memorandum of Surface Lease and Assignment of Mining Lease was acknowledged before me this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012, by (name) Stanley T. Foo, (title) General Manager of DONLIN GOLD LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, on behalf of the limited liability company.

WITNESS my hand and official seal on the day, month and year in this certificate first above written.

Anne M. Grant  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 02/02/14



**Exhibit A**  
**Lyman Lands**

The surface estate in, to, and respecting those lands included within the Record of Survey recorded on January 17, 1996, as Plat No. 96-1, Kuskokwim Recording District, State of Alaska, and as described in the Grant Deed of Surface Estate dated June 7, 1994, and recorded on August 17, 1994, at Book 26, Pages 44-48, Kuskokwim Recording District, State of Alaska, and the Corrective Grant Deed of Surface Estate dated June 8, 2000, and recorded on July 21, 2000 at Book 31, Pages 180-182, Kuskokwim Recording District, State of Alaska.



**Exhibit B**  
**Lyman Leasehold**

The rights, titles, and interests granted to Lyman Resources in Alaska, Inc. pursuant to that certain Mining Lease Agreement dated April 28, 1982, as amended on April 25, 1988, and further amended April 25, 2012 between Calista Corporation, an Alaska corporation, and Lyman Resources in Alaska, Inc. (Memorandum of Lease Agreement dated April 30, 1982 and recorded on May 11, 1982 at Book 15, Page 420, Kuskokwim Recording District, State of Alaska) (the "**Lyman Placer Lease**"), respecting and affecting the real property in the locations described below:

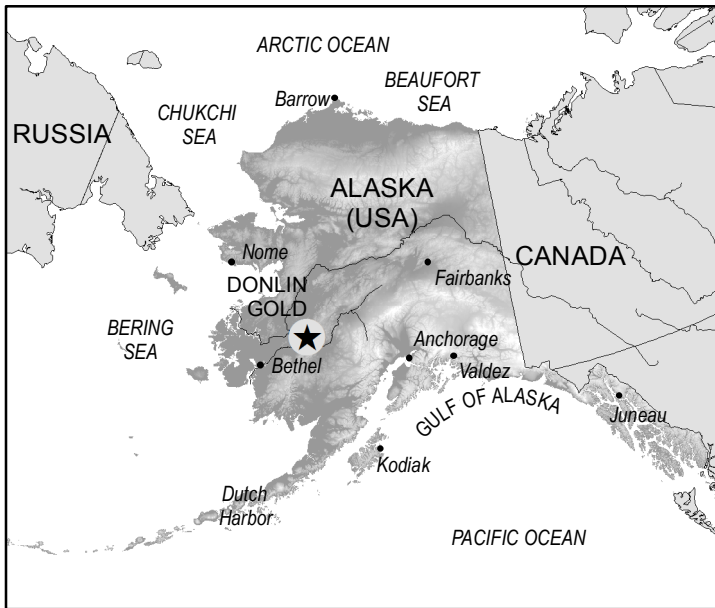
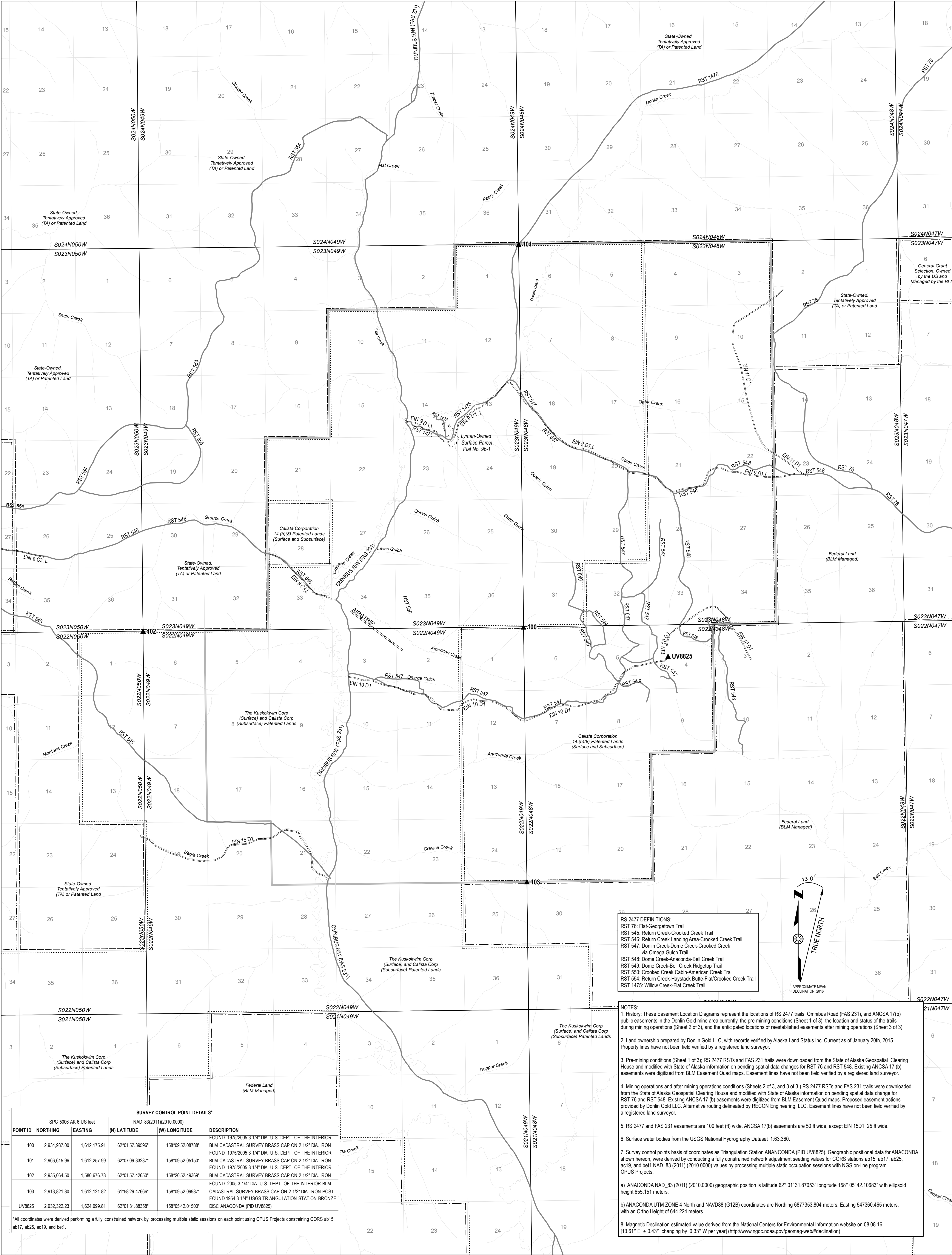
**Seward Meridian**

Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 13, SW 1/4  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 14, S 1/2  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 23, N 1/2  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 23, SW 1/4  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 24, NW 1/4  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 26, NW 1/4  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 27, E 1/2  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 13, SE 1/4  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 23, SE 1/4  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 24, NE 1/4  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 26, SW 1/4  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 24, SW 1/4  
Township 23N, Range 49W, Section 26, NE 1/4



## Appendix D – Easement Location Diagrams





**Donlin Gold Project**

- Existing Airstrip
- Core Operating
- Survey Control Points
- Current Trail Easements
- RS 2477 and FAS 231 Easements
- 17b Trail Easements

**Land Ownership Details\***

- Federal Land (BLM Managed)
- General Grant Selection, Owned by the US and Managed by the BLM
- State-Owned, Tentatively Approved (TA) or Patented Land

**Calista Corporation 14 (h) (8) Patented Lands (Surface and Subsurface)**

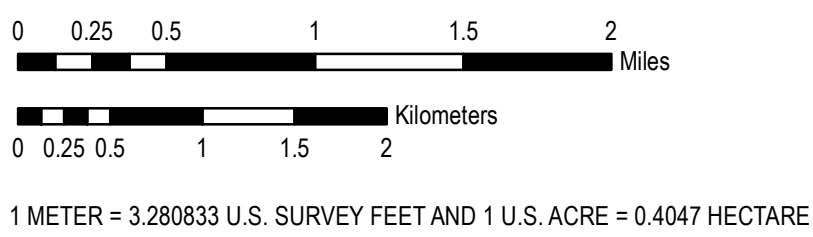
**The Kuskokwim Corp (Surface) and Calista Corp (Subsurface) Patented Lands**

**Basemap Details**

- Township/Range
- Section Boundary
- Streams

**NOTES**

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 4N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
False Easting: 500,000.0000  
False Northing: 0.0000  
Central Meridian: -159.0000  
Scale Factor: 0.9996  
Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000  
Units: Meter



STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF MINING, LANDS, AND WATER  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

SURVEYOR: N/A

**EASEMENT LOCATION DIAGRAMS  
DONLIN MINE AREA  
RS 2477 TRAILS, OMNIBUS ROAD, AND ANCSA 17 (b)  
PRE-MINING OPERATIONS**

LOCATED WITHIN: T21N R47W, T21N R48W, T21N R49W, T21N R50W, T22N R47W, T22N R48W, T22N R49W, T22N R50W, T23N R47 W, T23N R48W, T23N R49W, T23N R50W, T24N R47W, T24N R48W, T24N R49W, and T24N R50W OF SEWARD MERIDIAN IN KUSKOKWIM RECORDING DISTRICT

SHEET 1 of 3  
DATES OF SURVEY:  
BEGIN: N/A  
END: N/A

DNR APPROVAL

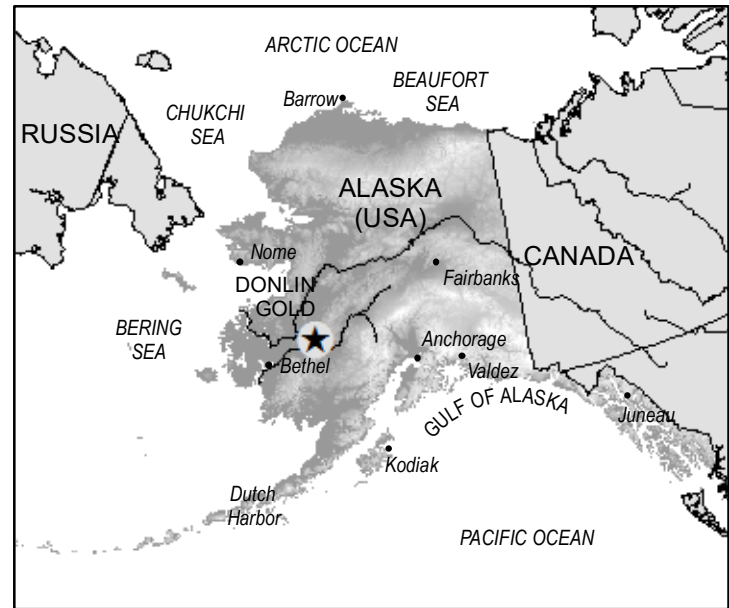
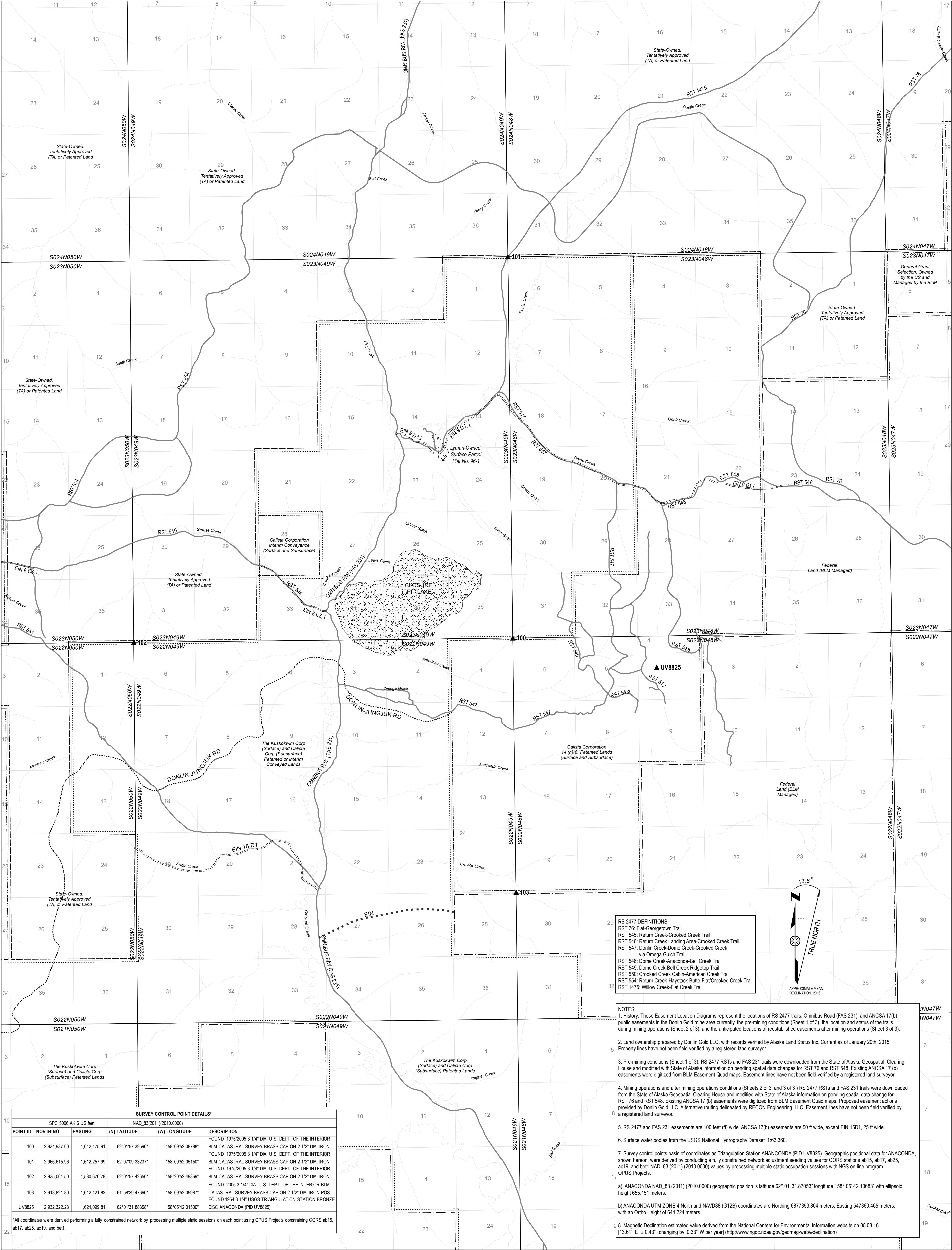
STATEWIDE PLATING SUPERVISOR DATE

DRAWN DATE: 10/11/2016 DRAWN BY: D. BERUBE SCALE: 1" = 3416.67' DNR FILE: EPF 20160050









**Donlin Gold Project**

- Estimated Edge of Closure Pit Lake
- Donlin-Jungluk Rd (Centerline)
- Survey Control Points
- RS 2477, FAS 231, & Other State Public Easements
- 17b Trail Easements

**ANCSA 17 (b) Public Easement Proposed Actions**

- New Easement Donation
- Federal Land (BLM Managed)
- General Grant Selection, Owned by the US and Managed by the BLM

- State-Owned, Tentatively Approved (TA) or Patented Land
- Calista Corporation Patented Lands (Surface and Subsurface)
- The Kuskokwim Corp (Surface) and Calista Corp (Subsurface) Patented Lands

**Basemap Details**

- Township/Range
- Section Boundary
- Streams

**NOTES**

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 4N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
False Easting: 500,000.0000  
False Northing: 0.0000  
Central Meridian: -159.0000  
Scale Factor: 0.9996  
Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000  
Units: Meter

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometers

1 METER = 3.280833 U.S. SURVEY FEET AND 1 U.S. ACRE = 0.4047 HECTARE

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINING, LANDS, AND WATER ANCHORAGE, ALASKA	SURVEYOR: N/A
<b>EASEMENT LOCATION DIAGRAMS</b> <b>DONLIN MINE AREA</b> <b>RS 2477 TRAILS, OMNIBUS ROAD, AND ANCSA 17 (b)</b> <b>AFTER MINING OPERATIONS</b>	
LOCATED WITHIN: T21N R47W, T21N R48W, T21N R49W, T21N R50W, T22N R47W, T22N R48W, T22N R49W, T22N R50W, T23N R47W, T23N R48W, T23N R49W, T23N R50W, T24N R47W, T24N R48W, T24N R49W, and T24N R50W OF SEWARD MERIDIAN IN KUSKOKWIM RECORDING DISTRICT	
SHEET 3 of 3 DATES OF SURVEY: BEGIN: N/A END: N/A	DNR APPROVAL DATE: _____ STATEWIDE PLATING SUPERVISOR: _____ DATE: _____ DRAWN DATE: 10/11/2016 DRAWN BY: D. BERUBE SCALE: 1" = 3416.67' DNR FILE: EPF 20160050



## Appendix E TKC Request to BLM regarding EIN 21 C4 and 21a C4

Alan Bittner

Field Manager

Anchorage Field Office

4700 BLM Road

Anchorage, AK 99507

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**RE: Request to more precisely define the location of EIN 21 C4 and 21a C4**

Dear Mr. Bittner

The purpose of this letter is to request that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) more precisely display the location of EIN<sup>1</sup> 21 C4 and 21a C4, both located on surface lands owned by The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC). We are proposing a suitable location (Figure 1) that is consistent with the description of the easement in the issued patent document. These easements were reserved pursuant to Sec. 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, in patent number 50-2007-0683<sup>2</sup> (patent) issued by the United States, Department of the Interior, BLM, to TKC. The location of these easements is described in the patent as follows:

- *"(EIN 21 C4) A one (1) acre site easement upland of the ordinary high water mark in Sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 49W., Seward Meridian, on the right bank of the Kuskokwim River near the mouth of an unnamed creek."*
- *"(EIN 21a C4) An easement twenty-five (25) in width for a proposed access trail from site EIN 21 C4 located in Sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 49 W., Seward Meridian, northwesterly to public lands."*

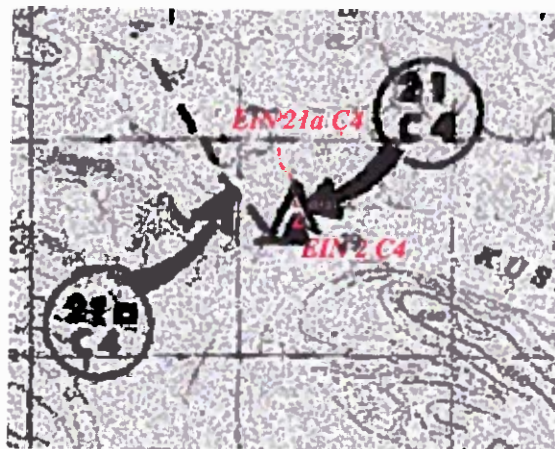


Figure 1 – Depiction of EIN 21 C4 and 21a C4 as shown on the BLM Easement Quad (black), along with TKC's proposed changes (red).

<sup>1</sup> Easement Identification Number

<sup>2</sup> BLM File #F-14990-A

The location of the EIN 21 C4 site easement as shown on the BLM Easement Quad<sup>3</sup> in Figure 1 is not very specific. Inspection of the area as shown in recent high resolution aerial photography (Figure 2) and aerial site visits shows no trail, landing site, or other signs of repeated use by the public. TKC would like to enter into a recordable agreement with the BLM to more precisely define the location of EIN 21 C4 as centered at Lat: 61° 47' 46.628" N, Long: 158° 12' 36.369" W (NAD83). We are also requesting that the "proposed" location of easement EIN 21a C4 shown on the BLM Easement Quad be corrected to the one shown on Figures 2 and 3 to provide for a clear, direct, and easily traversable path from the precisely defined campsite location to public lands to the north. These changes would remain consistent with the patent documentation, and will allow TKC to better manage third party access to and across our lands, provide for increased public confidence in the location of the easements when they are used, and will in no way impede public access. Please note that TKC is asking that this request be addressed regardless of the status of the future development of the potential Donlin Gold port project.

We ask that BLM expedite this request and keep us apprised of the progress and any additional information needs or other requirements. We look forward to working with the BLM to resolve this matter.

Respectfully



Maver Carey

President/CEO

The Kuskokwim Corporation

Attachments:

Figure 2- EIN 21 C4 and EIN 21a C4 Aerial View

Figure 3

---

<sup>3</sup> Sleetmute D6



