

# Recreational and Visual Resources

**Grant Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 13212)  
Natural Resource Studies Meeting**


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In Association with



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# Recreational and Visual Resources

- Resource Area Being Discussed
  - Affected areas include Grant Lake, Grant Creek, and the Trail Lakes area
  - Project areas visible from road system, air, or by recreation users
  - All areas subject to recreation use and areas where use could be facilitated by project

# Recreational and Visual Resources Associated Area Studies

- Grant Lake Detailed Feasibility Analysis (EBASCO). 1984
- USDA Forest Service (USFS). 2007a. Kenai Winter Access
- USDA Forest Service (USFS). 2007b. Trail River Landscape Assessment
- USDA Forest Service (USFS). 2002. Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest
- Iditarod National Historic Trail (2004)
- FERC Scoping Meetings (J. Wolfe June 2010- stakeholders, local residents, local business owners, and summer/winter recreational users).
- Recreational Feature Map (J. Wolfe - June 2010)
- Foot and boat surveys (J. Wolfe – Summer 2010) – Current use of trails and boat access

# Recreational and Visual Resources

- Work Completed
  - Initial field work
  - Data collection
  - Consultation
- Remaining Tasks
  - Refine collected data and determine what further data is needed
  - Further field work- document winter use, collect photos winter & summer
  - Prepare mapping and simulations, evaluate possible project impacts to resources
  - Prepare evaluation of possible project effects

# Recreational and Visual Resources

- Study Plan
  - Recreational and Visual Resource Studies are composed of 2 main tasks
    - 1 – Recreation Use Studies
      - » To assess recreation use within the study area to evaluate potential Project impacts on recreational resources.
    - 2 – Visual Resource Studies
      - » To analyze possible Project effects on visual resources.

# Recreational and Visual Resources

## 1) Recreation Use Studies

- Recreation Resources – Continuation of Work
- Recreation Resources – Kenai Narrows Access/Powerline

### – Tasks

- Further define winter and summer uses
- Map recreational feature, use patterns
- Coordinate location of INHT
- Determine potential effects of proposed Project
- Outline potential mitigation if necessary

# Recreational and Visual Resources

## 2) Visual Resources Studies

- Visual Resources – Continuation of Work
  - Visual Resources – Kenai Narrows Access/Powerline
- Tasks
- Key viewpoints of Project impacts with simulations
  - Use existing criteria and processes for scenery management (i.e., USFS – “*scenic attractiveness*”, “*scenic integrity*”, “*concern levels*”).
  - Mapping of visual environment and assessment



# Schedule for Remaining Tasks

- Winter 2013 – Winter Use Assessment
- Winter/Spring 2013 – Update contacts & background
- Summer 2013 – Summer collection of visual conditions & additional recreation information
- Summer/Fall 2013 – Prepare all reports, maps, and renderings.

# Recreational and Visual Resources

- Discussion of comments from stakeholders and how they've been incorporated into study plans

## Comments

- Include INHT for access & routing for effects on users.

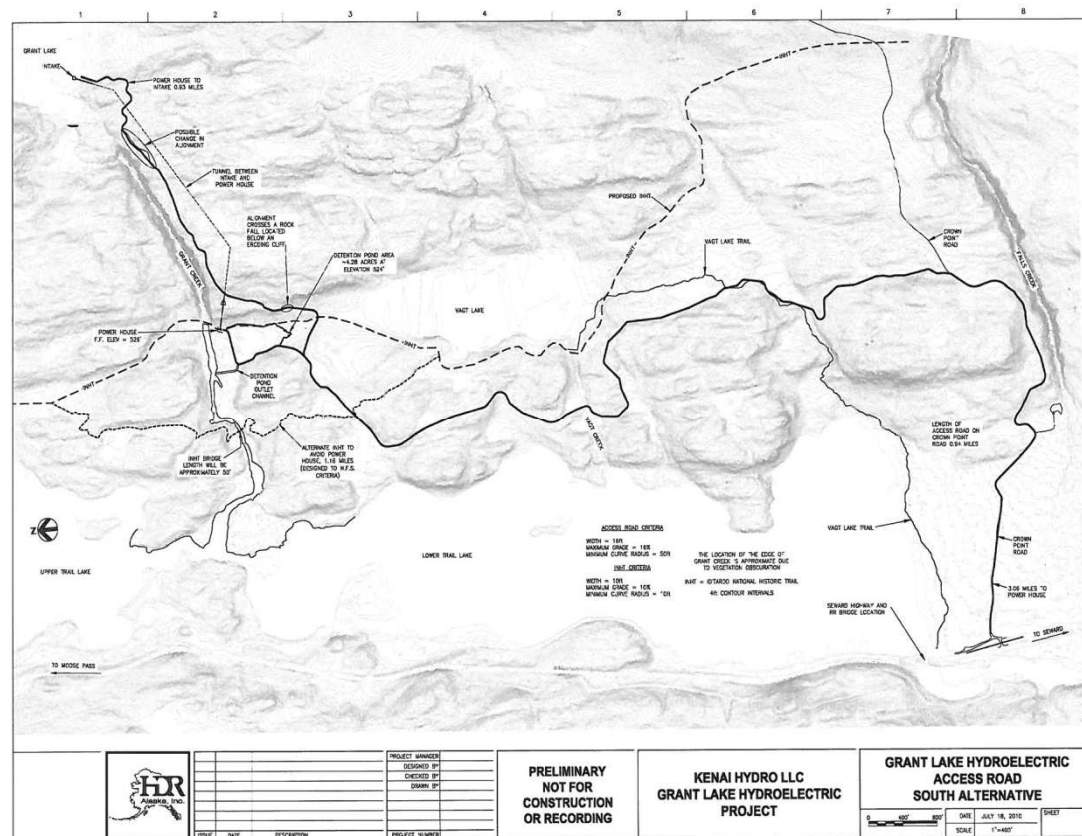
## Responses

- INHT will be studied for access & routing as a separate effort.

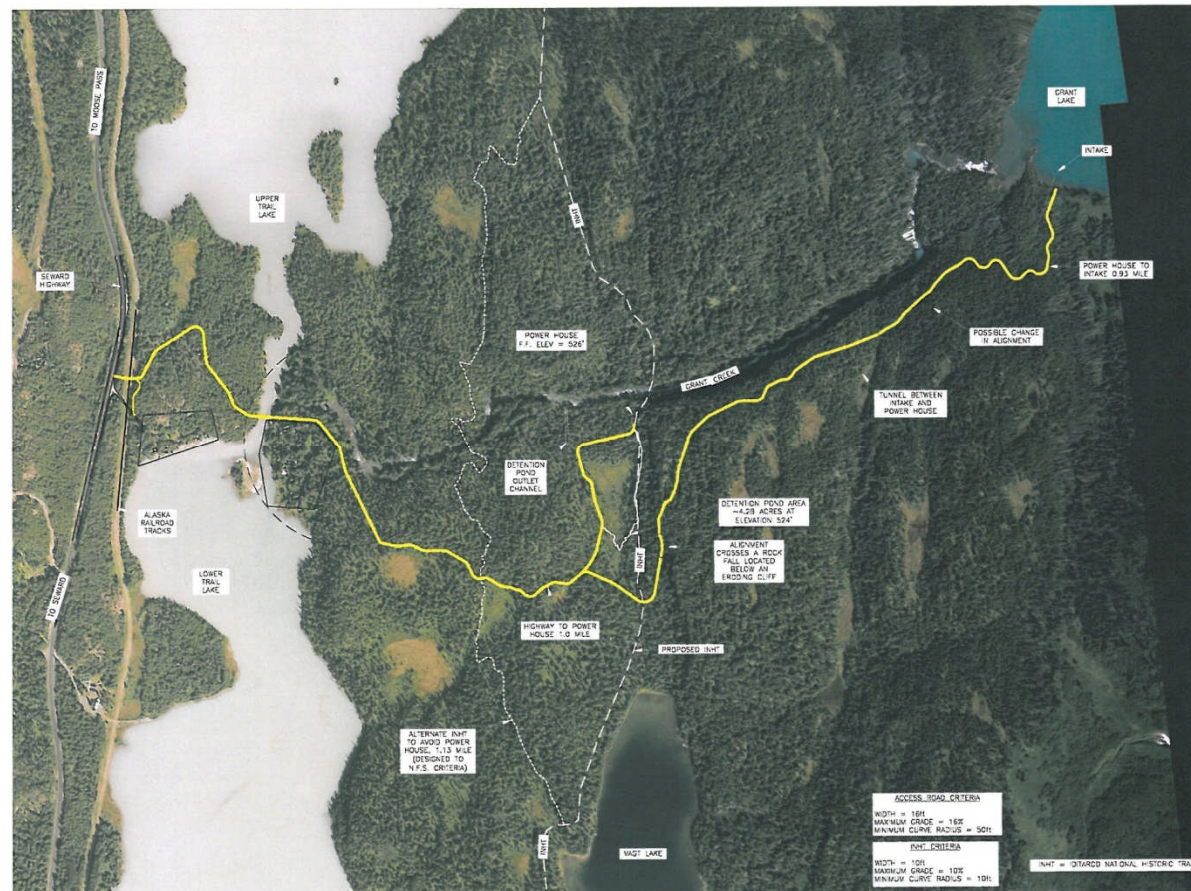
# Access Road & INHT Alignment Issues

- Road and Trail share a need for the same natural terrain
- Provided separation with re-alignment of trail
- Current INHT alignment co-located with the Power House
- Will work with agencies to provide separation of trail from Power House

# Project Alignments/INHT



# Access Road and INHT Alignment



# INHT Alignment Resolution Next Steps

- Agreement of proposed INHT re-route
- Initiate the formal process to implement the solution.



- Stakeholder comments continued:

### Comments

- Include winter use evaluation.
- Recognize effects of lake level changes & stream flow changes
- Include consideration of views from air
- Need for more than 4 viewpoint simulations to address summer & winter use
- Not clear how recreation users will be counted

### Responses

- Will conduct field evaluation at high use period in late Feb. or early March.
- Effects will be considered
- Air views will be considered & simulation from air will be generated.
- 1 air, 2 summer, & 1 winter simulations to be provided of primary facilities, and 1 of transmission line & access road.
- Evaluation based for on-ground review as well as past survey info from HDR

# Recreational and Visual Resources

- Discussion of permits that may be necessary for each task.
  - Special Use Permit from USFS to address possible interviews of users/viewers



# Recreational and Visual Resources

- Questions/Comments?