



Klein, Kimberly <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>

revised mitigation plan and possible future monitoring

4 messages

Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>

Wed, Dec 14, 2016 at 10:50 AM

To: "Putnam, Christopher" <christopher_putnam@fws.gov>, "Klein, Kimberly" <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>

Hi again – I wanted to send you a revised version of our mitigation plan. I highlighted the additions in yellow.

Also wanted to let you know I've made initial contact with Geoff York of PBI. Their preliminary plans are to come up in February. I asked him to give me call so we can discuss the particulars of the Endicott den location (might be challenging to get a clear shot from a distance) and what might be feasible for monitoring while minimizing disturbance. I'll let you know how that goes.

Todd Brinkman (UAF guy with drone) and I just talked and he will be sending me their protocols for operation of the UAV for den detection. We discussed risks and the sensitivity of the situation. They will be up next week and said if we give them permission to view the Endicott den that the activity would likely last only part of one day, including 6 passes of about 5 minutes each. We discussed UAV noise but they don't have data on how the noise potentially transfers into the den. Any input you have on this is appreciated.


Thanks,

Beth Sharp

Wildlife and Habitat Specialist | Hilcorp Alaska, LLC

3800 Centerpoint Drive, Ste 1400 | Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Office: 907-777-8436 | Cell: 907-242-5700

 **Hilcorp Den Disturbance Mitigation Plan_V2.docx**
18K

Putnam, Christopher <christopher_putnam@fws.gov>

Thu, Dec 15, 2016 at 9:35 AM

To: Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>

Cc: "Klein, Kimberly" <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>

Beth, the revised mitigation plan looks good. As far as the UAS issue is concerned, we are interested in the evaluation of the technology for locating and monitoring dens. Craig Perham from our office has been working with the UAF group on this issue. So, we support allowing access for the purpose of deploying the UAS. There isn't much information regarding how small UAS noise affects denning bears. That's part of our interest, not only to evaluate the technology, but also to evaluate how it does or doesn't affect the bear. The UAS that would be used in this instance is called the Ptarmigan. It's a small hexacopter based on a DJI S800 airframe. It doesn't produce much noise. Todd Brinkman is much better suited to explain their system than I am. Ultimately, we are okay with allowing this if you all are comfortable with it. I hope this was helpful. Let me know if you have other questions.

Christopher Putnam
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"All that is gold does not glitter, not all those who wander are lost; the old that is strong does not wither, deep roots are not reached by the frost."

-- J.R.R. Tolkien

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Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>
To: "Putnam, Christopher" <christopher_putnam@fws.gov>
Cc: "Klein, Kimberly" <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>

Thu, Dec 15, 2016 at 9:49 AM

Thanks Christopher. This is very helpful. I am all for supporting the research so I'll get with Todd and let him know it's a go. They will be up next week so it will happen soon!

Beth Sharp

Wildlife and Habitat Specialist | Hilcorp Alaska, LLC

3800 Centerpoint Drive, Ste 1400 | Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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From: Putnam, Christopher [mailto:christopher_putnam@fws.gov]

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2016 9:36 AM

To: Beth Sharp

Cc: Klein, Kimberly

Subject: Re: revised mitigation plan and possible future monitoring

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Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>
To: "Putnam, Christopher" <christopher_putnam@fws.gov>, "Klein, Kimberly" <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>

Thu, Dec 15, 2016 at 10:26 AM

Forgot to attach the maps. Looks like on the southwest side we have the first 5mph sign at about 400m from the den. On the northeast side the 5 mph signs start much further out. Our environmental advisors are changing out today and I haven't had a chance to ask why the difference in distance of 5mph signs on either side of the den. Might be a visibility thing. Anyway, please let me know if you think we need to make any adjustments.

-Beth

From: Beth Sharp

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2016 9:49 AM

To: 'Putnam, Christopher'

Cc: Klein, Kimberly

Subject: RE: revised mitigation plan and possible future monitoring

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2 attachments



NorthSlope_Environmental_DIU_Endicott_Road_Polar_Bear_Den_Location_Figure2_11x17L_v01.pdf
247K



NorthSlope_Environmental_DIU_Endicott_Road_Polar_Bear_Den_Vicinity_Figure1_11x17L_v01.pdf
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