

January 14, 2009

STB Finance Docket No. 34658
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 204-0001

EI-16417
Rec'd 2/24/09

Attention: David Navecky

Subject: **Northern Rail Extension Draft Comments**
Proposed Rail Line – Oppose Salcha 2 Route & Favor Salcha 1 Route

Dear Mr. Navecky:

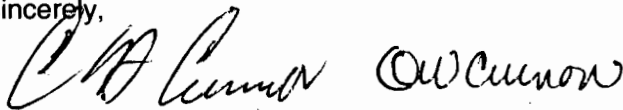
We are property owners in the Salcha area with six (6) parcels of land and a recreational cabin which would be directly and negatively impacted by the implementation of the proposed rail line route "Salcha 2" for the Northern Rail Extension. We strongly oppose the proposed Salcha 2 route because this route runs through and/or adjacent to our prime recreational property and would severely and adversely affect our intended use and value for this property. The alternate route "Salcha 1" is much more favorable to property owners in the area including us. Additionally Salcha 2 would create hazards and safety issues for property owners and trail users in the area.

We originally purchased this property because of the remote character and ability to recreate on the Salcha River, Tanana slough and trails in the area such as the old Valdez trail. The wilderness nature along with use of the land in the area would be inhibited by the construction, operation and noise of the rail line. The Salcha River and Tanana slough are prime recreational parcels for the Fairbanks community and outlying areas. We purchased the property and cabin for both personal use and as an investment. The intrinsic value would be severely diminished by the railroad transected this property via the Salcha 2 route, while the impacts of the Salcha 1 route would be minimal.

Additionally, our 30 acre parcel next to the Tanana slough (Property #1 – see list attached) appears to either be transected by the proposed Salcha 2 rail line or in very close proximity to this route. In either case this property would no longer hold any value to us and our investment would also likely become a complete loss.

We respectfully request that Salcha 1 Route be the adopted route for the Northern Rail Extension in the Salcha Area. If you have any questions regarding our comments and concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



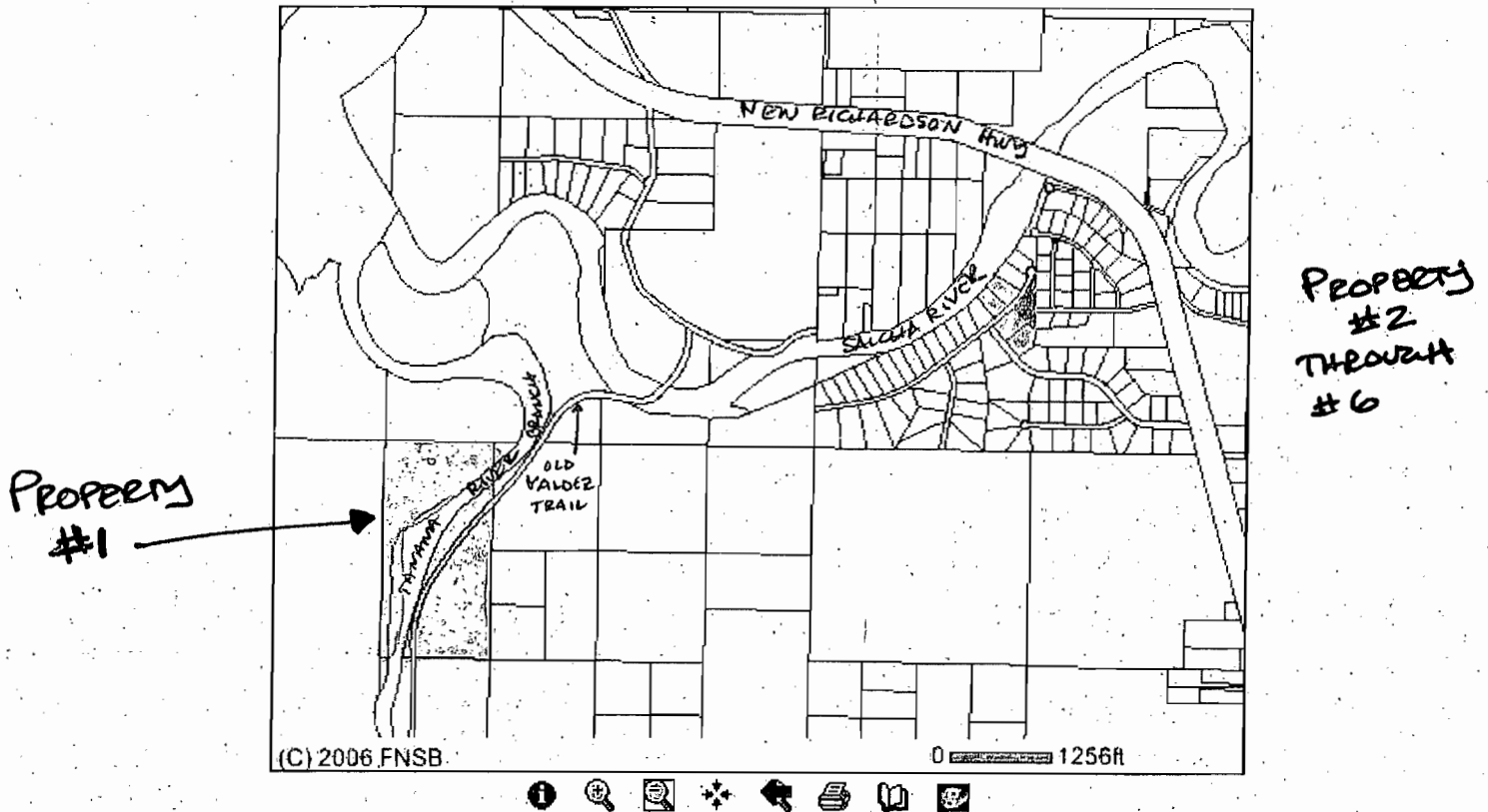
Christopher & Debra Curnow
P.O. Box 73911,
Fairbanks, AK 99707
(907) 456-4056

Attachments

Cc: Chris Milles, Regional Manager, Northern Region, DNR
Jeanne Proulx, Natural Resource Manager, Northern Region, DNR

Christopher & Debra Curnow Property List Impacted by Proposed Rail Line – Salcha 2

PROPERTY	PAN	SITUS ADDRESS	ACRES	ABBREVIATED DESCRIPTION
#1	<u>0193712</u>		30.2	TL-2802 SEC 28 T5S-R4E AKA GL 2 & 3 SEC 28 5S 4E
#2	<u>0452581</u>	6972 HARRY LUCKE TRL	1.8	LOT 12 BLOCK 1 BIG SALCHAKET OUT OF TL-2200 SEC 22 T5S-R4E
#3	<u>0452599</u>	6985 BESSIE BARNABAS TRL	2.0	LOT 13 BLOCK 1 BIG SALCHAKET OUT OF TL-2200 SEC 22 T5S-R4E
#4	<u>0452602</u>	7001 BESSIE BARNABAS TRL	1.9	LOT 14 BLOCK 1 BIG SALCHAKET OUT OF TL-2200 SEC 22 T5S-R4E
#5	<u>0453099</u>	6996 BESSIE BARNABAS TRL	1.8	LOT 17 BLOCK 3 BIG SALCHAKET OUT OF TL-2200 SEC 22 T5S-R4E
#6	<u>0453102</u>	7010 BESSIE BARNABAS TRL	1.5	LOT 18 BLOCK 3 BIG SALCHAKET OUT OF TL-2200 SEC 22 T5S-R4E



= CURNOW PROPERTIES

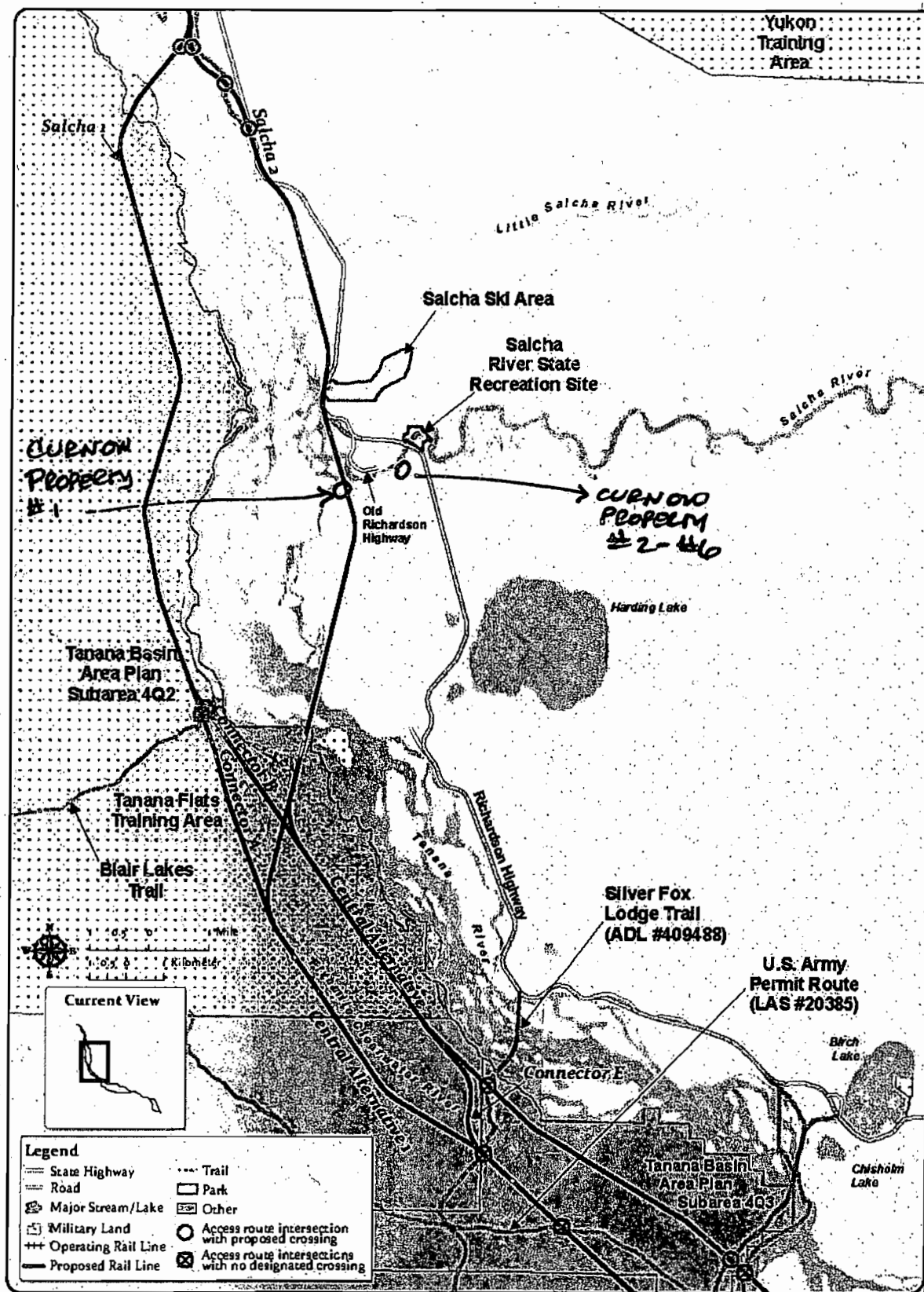


Figure 13-4 – Map of Recreational Facilities along the Salcha, Connector, and Central Alternative Segments