

EO - 1685



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

January 19, 2011

Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Esq.
Dorsey & Whitney LLP.
1801 K Street NW, Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: STB Docket No. 35095, Alaska Railroad Corporation - Construction and Operation of a Rail Line Extension to Port MacKenzie, Alaska; Trail Concurrence Request

Dear Ms. Floyd:

Consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(a), we are requesting additional information needed for the Office of Environmental Analysis' (OEA) on-going environmental review in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The requested information will assist OEA in finalizing the trail information in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Four trails identified in the Big Lake Community Council Area Comprehensive Plan Update have been adopted into the MSB Recreational Trails Plan. OEA was not aware of these actions prior to issuance of the Draft EIS. These trails have been included in the attached figures, bearing the names BLT #1, BLT #2, BLT #5, and BLT #14.

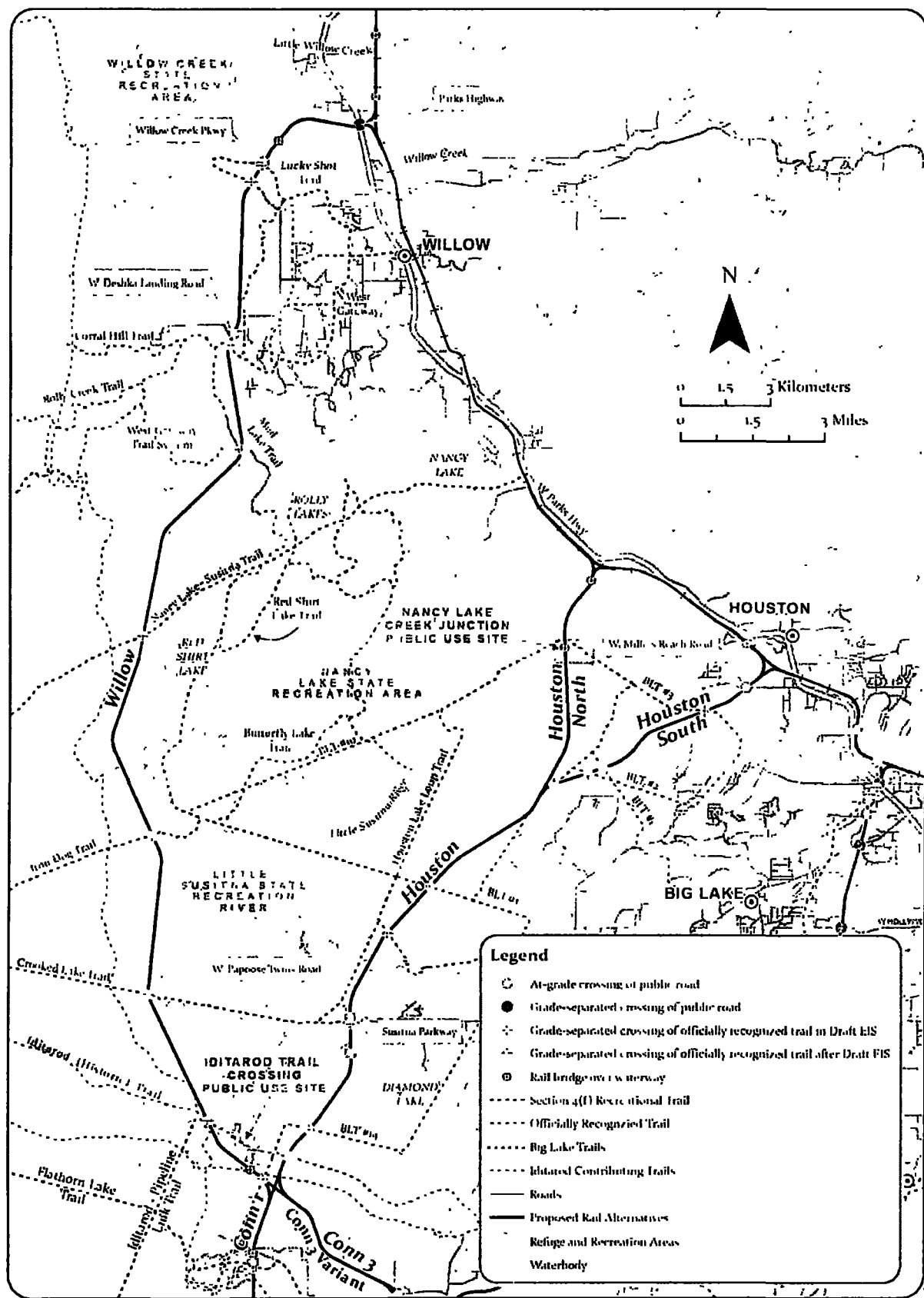
These four trails would be considered officially recognized trails based on the definition used in ARRC's Preliminary Environmental Alternatives Report and OEA's Draft EIS. Because these four trails had not been identified as officially recognized trails in the Draft EIS, OEA is requesting confirmation that ARRC concurs with the officially recognized status of these trails; and therefore, as officially recognized trails, ARRC would provide grade-separated crossings where a rail line alternative would cross one or more of these four trails or relocate the trail(s) to eliminate the need for a rail line crossing(s). ARRC's response is requested by February 2, 2011.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Navecky, OEA's Project Manager, at 202-245-0294, or Alan Summerville, ICF's Project Manager, at 703-934-3616.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures



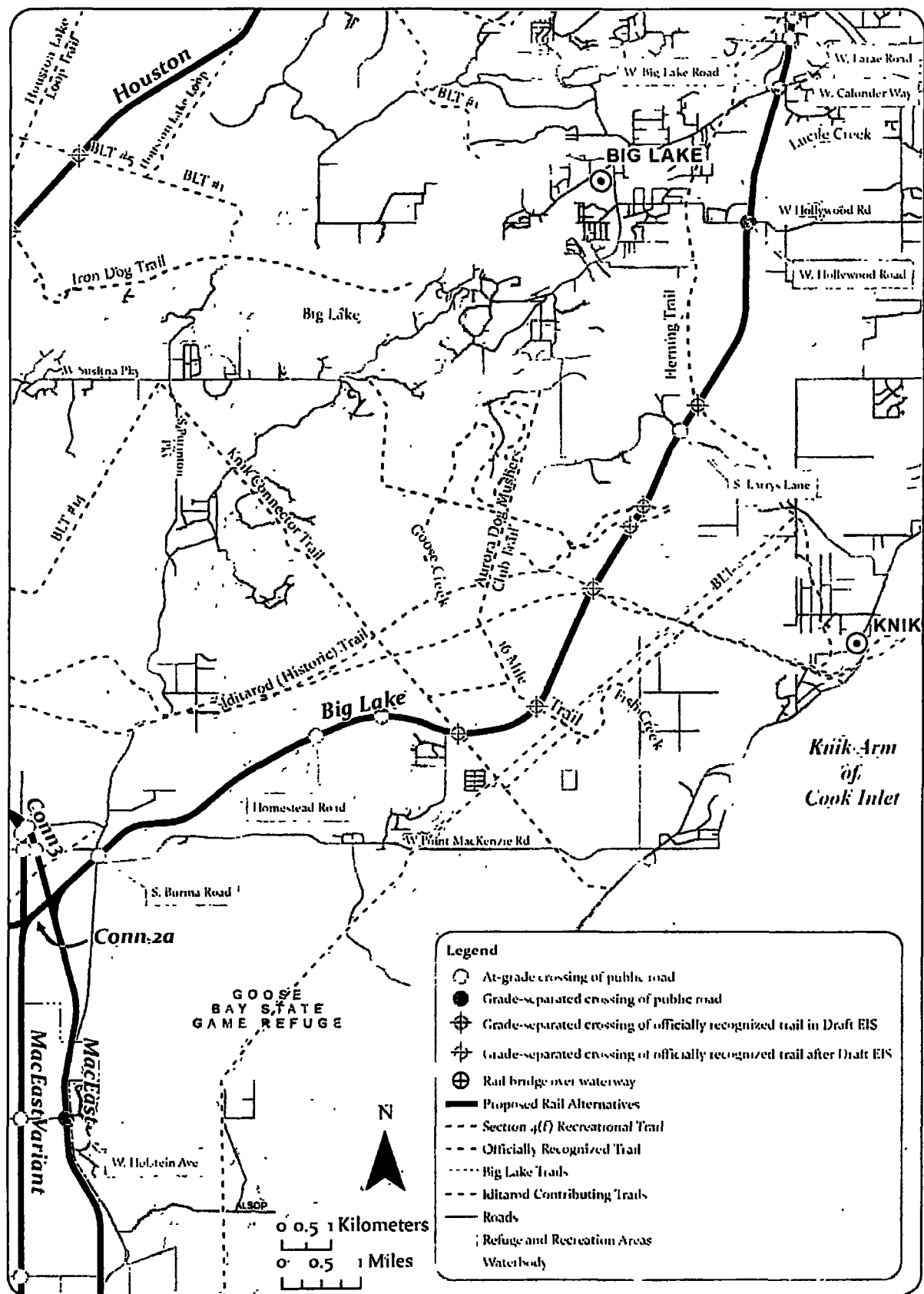


FIGURE 2