

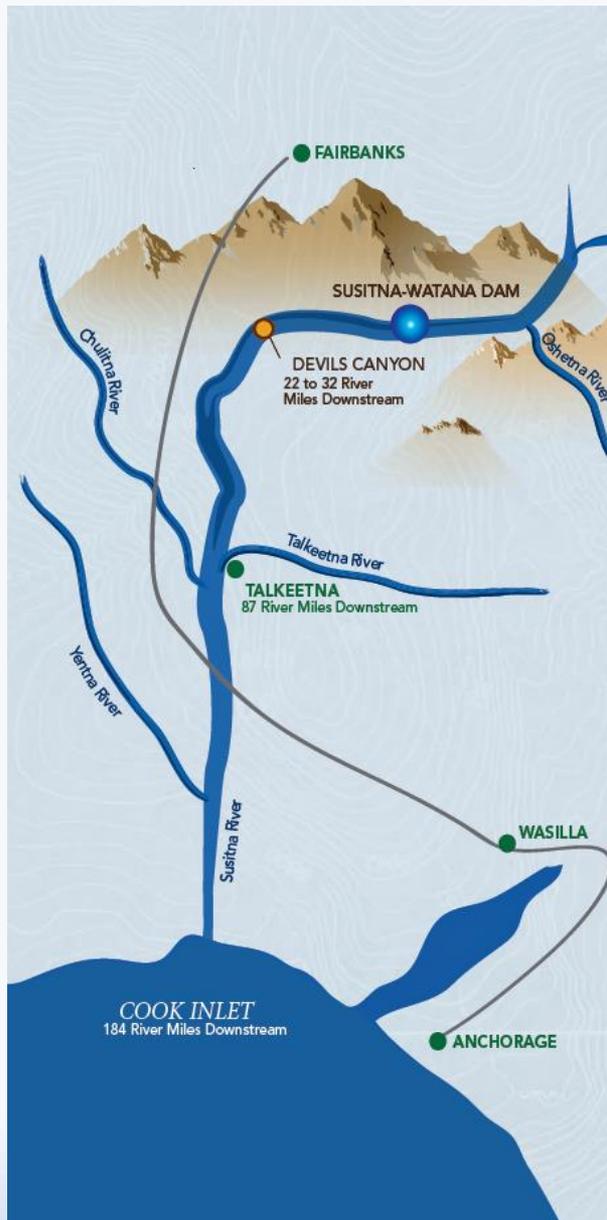
Initial Study Report Meeting

Study 10.12 Small Mammal Species Composition and Habitat Use

March 29, 2016

Prepared by

ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research
& Services



Study 10.12 Status

- **ISR Documents (ISR Part D Overview)**
 - Initial Study Report Parts A, B and C (June 14, 2014)
- **This desktop study has not yet been initiated; the study will be completed in a future year and the findings will be reported in the USR.**

Study 10.12 Objectives

- Describe the **species composition and relative abundance** of small mammals in the Project area.
- Describe the **habitat associations** of small mammals within the Project area.

Study 10.12 Components

- Existing data on the occurrence, relative abundance, and habitat use of small mammal species recorded during surveys for the APA Project in the 1980s will be reviewed and summarized (RSP Section 10.12.4).
- Current Project-specific data on voles and snowshoe hares collected for Study 10.10 (Terrestrial Furbearer Abundance and Habitat Use) will be incorporated, and additional data from other recent small mammal studies in southcentral and interior Alaska also will be reviewed and synthesized with the above data (RSP Section 10.12.4).
- As noted in RSP Section 10.12.4, the information for small mammals derived from the data synthesis will be aligned with the wildlife habitat types being mapped for Study 11.5 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat Mapping Study in the Upper and Middle Susitna Basin).
- Data then will be used to rank wildlife habitat values for small mammal species for each mapped habitat type in Study 10.19 (Evaluation of Wildlife Habitat Use).

Study 10.12 Variances

(ISR Part D, Section 6)

- Rather than being implemented primarily in 2013, as was proposed in the Study Plan (RSP Sections 10.12.6 and 10.12.10), this study has been deferred to a future year. The study involves the use of existing data and can be completed in one study year.
- As described in RSP Section 10.12.4, the study will be informed by the final mapping data produced for Study 11.5 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat Mapping Study in the Upper and Middle Susitna Basin), as well as by data collected for Study 10.10 (Terrestrial Furbearer Abundance and Habitat Use).

Study 10.12: Summary of Results

(ISR Part D)

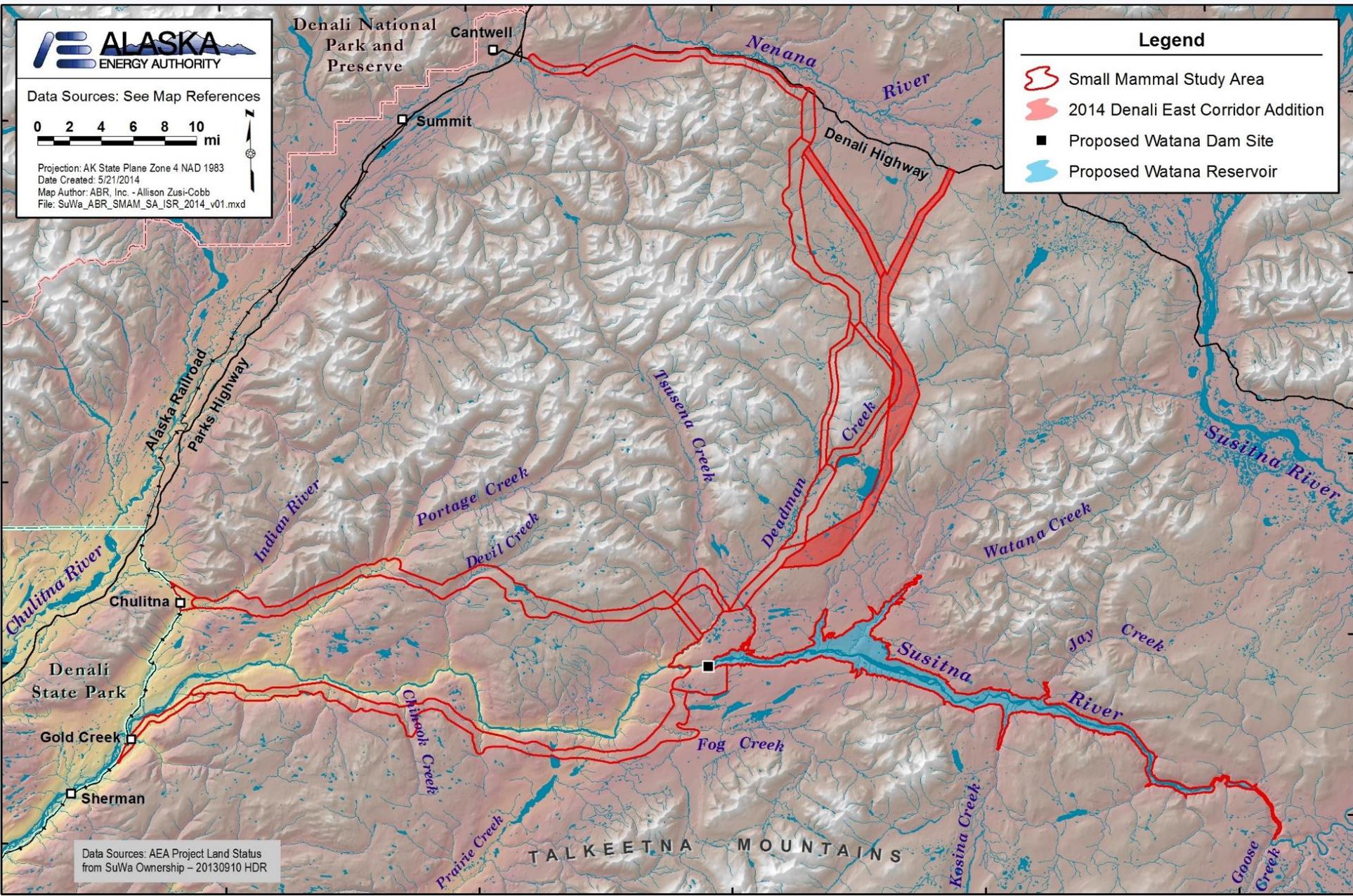
This study has not yet been initiated; the study will be completed in a future year and the findings will be reported in the USR.

AEA's Proposed Modifications to Study

(ISR Part D, Section 8)

- No modifications to the Study Plan methods are proposed to complete this study and meet the Study Plan objectives.
- However, the study area has changed from that described in the Study Plan (RSP Section 10.12.3), with the elimination of the Chulitna Corridor and the addition of the Denali East Option (access road and transmission-line corridor alternative).

AEA Proposed Revision to Study Area (ISR Part D, Section 7.1)



Steps to Complete Study 10.12

(ISR Part D, Section 8)

- Review, analysis, and synthesis of existing data on the occurrence, relative abundance, and habitat use of small mammal species.
- Incorporation of additional information on abundance and habitat use by voles and snowshoe hares from Study 10.10 (Terrestrial Furbearer Abundance and Habitat Use).
- Results of the data synthesis will be applied to the wildlife habitat types mapped for Study 11.5 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat Mapping Study in the Upper and Middle Susitna Basin), and categorical habitat values for small mammal species will be assigned for Study 10.19 (Evaluation of Wildlife Habitat Use).

Licensing Participants' Comments and Proposed Modifications to Study 10.12?

- Agencies
- CIRWG members and Ahtna
- Public