

SUSITNA-WATANA HYDRO Clean, reliable energy for the next 100 years.

Riparian IFS Technical Meeting Day Two

Riparian & Riverine Modeling

April 30, 2014

Prepared by R2 Resource Consultants

4/29-30/2014

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Welcome back to the Riparian IFS Meeting

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RIPARIAN IFS MEETING DAY TWO

8:30 – 9:00 (AKST)	Recap of day 1 activities, planned day 2 activities
9:00 - 10:30	Ice Processes: study objectives and riparian evaluation metrics (HDR)
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:30	Riparian ice studies modeling and metrics
11:30-12:30	Lunch
12:30-2:00	Riparian IFS Output: fluvial geomorphology, hydrology, and ice processes studies study modeling and metrics
2:00-3:00	Riparian IFS Output: wildlife habitat modeling & metrics overview (ABR)
3:00-4:00	Open discussion
4:00	Adjourn

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Riparian Ice Processes Study Questions/Baseline Studies

Key Questions (RSP 8.6.3.4):

- 1. What are the types of ice floodplain vegetation disturbance?
- 2. Does floodplain ice scouring/shearing control floodplain vegetation pattern? If so, how and where?

Baseline Studies:

- 1. Real time field observations of river ice break-up ice / floodplain interactions, 2013.
- 2. Post ice break-up field observations of ice floodplain vegetation disturbance.
- 3. Vegetation sampling of observed areas of ice rafting / ice sediment deposition vegetation disturbances.

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Riparian Ice Processes Study Questions/Baseline Studies

Key Questions (RSP 8.6.3.4):

- 1. Is ice dam backwater flood sediment deposition a significant floodplain aggradational process? If so, what is the spatial distribution of ice dam backwater flooding effects?
- 2. Do ice dam backwater flood sediment deposits create sites for tree seedling establishment?
- 3. Do ice dam effects control spatial distribution of riparian tree and plant community establishment pattern? If so, at what scale?

Baseline Studies:

- 1. Modeling of ice dams at select locations using both ice process and open water hydraulic (1-D, 2-D Ice Processes Models; 1-D and 2-D modeling of floodplain flooding recurrence intervals).
- 2. Assessment of ice dam backwater flooding and extent of ice effects.
- 3. Sediment geochronology isotope studies of sediment deposition rates and dates.

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Riparian Ice Processes Study Questions/Baseline Studies

Key Questions (RSP 8.6.3.4):

- 1. Throughout the Project area, where is ice effecting floodplain vegetation (spatial distribution of effects)?
- 2. At what frequency are ice dams effecting floodplain vegetation (temporal distribution of effects)?
- 3. Do ice scouring and depositional processes control salicaceae reproduction type (sexual/asexual)? If so, how and where?

Baseline Studies:

- 1. Ice break up field observations.
- 2. Tree ice scar mapping.
- 3. Tree ice scar dendrochronology.
- 4. Sediment isotope geochronology analysis of sediment deposition rates.
- 5. Riparian plant community mapping and characterization.

Metric:

1. Comparison of pre and post-Project flow regime and plant community type flood regimes.

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Riparian Ice Processes Study Questions/Baseline Studies/Proposed Metrics

Key Questions (RSP 8.6.3.4):

- 1. Will river ice formation change with Project operations?
- 2. If river ice formation changes with Project operations, where will this occur and to what extent?
- 3. Will elevations of ice formation change relative to floodplain surfaces?
- 4. Will ice dam formation pattern change with Project operations? Baseline Studies:
- 1. Ice break up field observations.
- 2. 1-D, 2-D Ice Processes Models

Proposed Metrics:

1. Ice process modeling maps of Project Area locations of ice formation change.

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Floodplain Vegetation Ice Effects (RSP 8.6.3.4)





Tree Ice Scar Survey Mapping and Ice break up dendrochronological documentation

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Tree Ice Scar Mapping

Ice scar mapping September 2013





FA-104 (Whiskers Slough) 2013 Ice Break-up

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RIFS 2013 Ice Scar Survey Points and Historic Ice Jam locations FA-104 (Whiskers Slough)



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RIFS Ice Scar Survey and Geomorphic Surfaces; FA-104 (Whiskers Slough)



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Geomorphic Surface Heights Mean and Standard Deviation



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Preliminary Analysis – Return Period of Overtopping Flows on Geomorphic Surfaces

	Return Period (yr)					
Focus Area	VB	YFP	MFP	OFP	TCE	
FA-104	23	117	82	>1000	>1000	
Whiskers Slough						
FA-113	9	38	38	61	>500	
Oxbow I						
FA-115	6	n/a	75	125	>500	
Slough 6A						
FA-128	6	4	35	59	n/a	
Slough 8A						
FA-138	6	73	97	134	329	
Gold Creek						
FA-141	3	14	10	n/a	37	
Indian River						
FA-144	13	82	153	>1000	n/a	
Slough 21						

KEY VB = vegetated bar YFP = young floodplain MFP = mature floodplain OFP = old floodplain TCE = Terrace

Return Period determined with mean elevation for each geomorphic surface Relative surface heights gathered in field. Respective elevations derived from Flow-Routing Model Rating Curves

No return period calculated if geomorphic surface was not observed/measured in field.

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RIFS Ice Scar Survey and Vegetation: FA-104 (Whiskers Slough)



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Ice Scar Observations Along PRM 105.3



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Above FA-104 (Whiskers Slough): May 2013 ice dam



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2013 Susitna River Ice Break-up

Prepared by R2 Resource Consultants & GW Scientific

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FA-104 (Whiskers Slough) 2013 Breakup



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FA-104 (Whiskers Slough) 2013 Breakup Upstream of Whiskers Slough



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FA-104 (Whiskers Slough) 2013 Breakup



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FA-104 (Whiskers Slough) Ice Shearing



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FA-104 (Whiskers Slough)



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FA-104 (Whiskers Slough) Backwater Ice at Whiskers Creek



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FA-104 (Whiskers Slough) Ice



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FA-104 (Whiskers Slough) Floodplain Ice Deposits



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"Big Cut" Slough between Susitna and Chulitna Rivers



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Main Channel Floodplain Ice Shearing



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Mid-channel Island Ice sheet shearing



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Mid-Channel Island Ice Shearing



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Mid-Channel Island Ice Shearing



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Mid-channel Island Ice Shearing & Ice Sheet Deposits



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Mid-channel Island Ice Dam Backwater Flooding



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Spruce / Birch Floodplain Ice Dam Backwater Flooding



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Spruce / Birch Ice Dam Backwater Flooding and Sediment Deposition



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FA-113 (Oxbow I) 2013 Breakup



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FA-113 (Oxbow I) 2013 Breakup



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FA-138 (Gold Creek) 2013 Breakup River Right



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FA-138 (Gold Creek) 2013 Breakup River Right



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2013 Breakup Below FA-138 (Gold Creek), looking upriver



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Other FAs 2013 Breakup



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Mid channel island Other FAs 2013 Breakup



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Below FA-173 (Stephan Lake Complex)



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Floodplain Ice Effects Susitna River break up, May 25-26, 2013



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FA-104 (Whiskers Slough) Tree Ice Scarification



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Downstream of FA-104 (Whiskers Slough) Main Channel Floodplain & Vegetation Ice Shearing



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Ice Jam Impacts on Riparian Conditions, June 12, 2013

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Ice Jam Impacts on Riparian Conditions, June 12, 2013

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