

Core Operating Area Public Access Control Plan

Donlin Gold Project

September 2022

(Revision 5)



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Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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Acronyms

AAAQS	Alaska Ambient Air Quality Standards
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
Calista	Calista Corporation
COA	Core Operating Area
Donlin Gold	Donlin Gold LLC
EIN	Easement Identification Number
FAS	Federal-Aid Secondary
MSHA	Mine Safety Health Administration
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
ROW(s)	Right-of-Way/Rights-of-Way
RS	Revised Statute
RST	Revised Statute Trail
TKC	The Kuskokwim Corporation

UNITS OF MEASURE

ft	foot/feet
km	kilometer(s)
m	meter(s)
mi	mile(s)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Donlin Gold LLC (Donlin Gold) is proposing the development of an open pit, hardrock gold mine, 277 miles (mi) (446 kilometers [km]) west of Anchorage, 145 mi (233 km) northeast of Bethel, and 10 mi (16 km) north of the village of Crooked Creek, Alaska.

The proposed mine would be an active industrial site where hazardous activities would occur such as explosives handling, blasting, drilling, and heavy equipment operation. To mitigate hazards from these activities most areas at the mine will require strict safety protocols and controlled access. Donlin Gold has established a Core Operating Area (COA) boundary to identify the area where public access would be excluded. Donlin Gold has legal authority under lease/surface use agreements with the owners of the lands in this area to restrict the public from access to these facilities.

This Public Access Control Plan describes measures to be employed at the boundaries of the Project site facilities to protect the general public from possible health and safety hazards from mining and related support activities and maintaining required security at transportation facilities. This plan also describes the means to delineate the area within the COA in which air quality is protected by occupational health and safety regulations from the area outside this boundary that is open to public access and in which Alaska Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) and Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increments are applicable.

The plan covers the following relevant regulatory requirements:

1. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation - Division of Air Quality, requires that an ambient air boundary be established and a public access control plan be implemented in order to protect members of the public.
2. The Mine Safety Health Administration (MSHA) has authority for the mine site under 30 Code of Federal Regulation Chapter I. MSHA regulations describe training requirements for all personnel at the mine site and escort requirements for visitors.

The intent and scope of the plan are consistent with private and public land management policies and practices of the entities holding surface or subsurface land ownership upon which the project intends to operate. These include:

- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) lands, including lands owned by:
 - The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) (surface use agreement, surface land ownership)
 - Calista Corporation (Calista) (land lease agreement, partial surface and subsurface land ownership)
- Lyman Resources in Alaska, Inc. (land lease agreement)

In addition, public access would be controlled at the Jungjuk Port and Airstrip. Public access control plans for these areas will be under separate cover.

2.0 DONLIN GOLD MINE AREA

The past and present land use in the mine area and the proposed Donlin Gold facilities are described below.

2.1 Past and Present Land Use

Subsistence and commercial land use has taken place within the COA. A permanent settlement was established in 1909 as a way station at what is now the Village of Crooked Creek. The settlement was the southern end of a portage trail extended from the Kuskokwim up Crooked Creek to the Iditarod mining district (Alaska Department of Fish and Game [ADF&G] 2012). In 1922 the Alaska Road Commission cut a trail from the Kuskokwim River at Crooked Creek to the Flat mining area, following Crooked Creek to its headwaters. This trail, designated Route 32D, remained active in supplying the Flat area until approximately 1956 (ADF&G 2012). The community of Flat is now accessed only by air, and the segment of Route 32D in the area of the COA is now part of the Federal-Aid Secondary (FAS) 231 easement. FAS 231 is the most direct route from the Village of Crooked Creek to the mine area, and follows the Crooked Creek valley. The most recent known commercial use of FAS 231 is for transportation of equipment and supplies to the Lyman placer mining operation, which was on lands now leased by Donlin Gold, and for conveyance of heavy equipment to the Donlin Gold exploration camp. FAS 231 is not used as a transportation route for the community of Flat or any other community north of the COA. There are no current seasonal or year-around settlements within, or accessed through, the COA.

Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering has taken place within the COA, as indicated by a survey of harvest use areas from 1964 to 1986 (Brelsford et al 1987). However in recent years these activities have taken place south of the COA in the areas adjacent to the Crooked Creek and Bev Creek valleys, as indicated by an ADF&G survey of areas used for resource harvesting in 2009 (ADF&G 2012).

2.2 Donlin Gold Facilities

The proposed mine operations include the open pit, tailings storage facility, waste rock facility, mill, personnel camp, and associated support facilities, and roadways connecting the port, mine site, camp and airport facilities. The location of the mine facilities, ownership of the mine site lands, extent of Donlin Gold's land lease, and the COE boundary are shown on Figure 1.

The proposed mine would be an active industrial site where hazardous activities would occur such as explosives handling, blasting, drilling, and heavy equipment operation. To mitigate hazards from these activities most areas at the mine will require strict safety protocols and controlled access as established by the COA. The COA also serves as the ambient air boundary and is located entirely on private lands leased to Donlin Gold.

3.0 POTENTIAL ACCESS

Donlin Gold is in the process of securing complete control over public access to the Core Operating Area. Once this process is complete, public access within the COA will be under the full legal control of Donlin Gold LLC and any person within the COA will be a trespasser unless authorized by Donlin Gold. The discussion below describes the general avenues for members of the public to gain access to the COA. Section 4 describes the measures that Donlin Gold will employ to restrict access, and Section 5 describes implementation of these measures around the COA perimeter.

3.1 Recognized Easements

There are currently 13 publicly recognized access easements and/or rights-of-way (ROWS) (together referred to in this Public Access Control Plan as “public easements” or “easements”) that intersect or exist within the COA, as shown on Figure 2. Some of these easements have trails associated with them.

3.2 Overland Travel

Overland travel to mine facilities outside of the recognized easements is difficult, but possible. Overland access would likely begin at points where existing trails meet mine facilities such as access roads. Air photography of the COA showing overland conditions is included on Figure 3.

3.3 Air

Donlin Gold will have an airstrip facility associated with the mine operation, located as shown on Figure 1, but it is outside of the COA and will be closed to the public. Several smaller former airstrips exist within the COA, and these former airstrips will be reclaimed in a manner that will make them unusable for fixed wing aircraft.

3.4 Roadways

Donlin Gold will establish roadways for mine facility access and cargo transportation, as described in Section 2.2. Access to the COA will be limited to persons approved by Donlin Gold. No other roadways will exist within the project footprint.

3.5 Waterways

Creeks in the COA are not navigable waters (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2005), and consequently are not recognized routes for public access routes. Moreover, there is no history of public use of the creeks in the COA vicinity.

4.0 ACCESS CONTROL AUTHORITY AND MEASURES

4.1 Legal Authority for Restricting Access

Land ownership in the project area is shown on Figure 1. Lands within the COA are private lands predominantly owned by Calista and TKC through conveyances under ANCSA. A small parcel of surface land within the COA is owned by Lyman Resources in Alaska, Inc. et al. ("Lymans"). Donlin Gold has lease agreements with Calista and the Lymans and a surface use agreement with TKC that provide Donlin Gold with legal control and authority to exclude the general public from the lands within the COA on lands owned by these entities for regulatory, safety, or other Project operational needs. As further described in Section 5.1 and Table 1, Donlin Gold in cooperation with the private landowners is in the process of eliminating and re-routing some existing public easements within the COA that are not needed in their current alignments for access to public lands.

In addition, TKC, who owns surface rights to lands along Crooked Creek to the south of the COA, has the authority to restrict all public access to their lands. TKC allows public access only by permit (TKC 2015).

4.2 Measures to Exclude Access

4.2.1 Fencing

Fencing is one of the measures that will be used at selected locations. For locations where fencing is used, chain link fence will extend along the property boundary for a minimum of 100-feet (ft) (30.3 m) in each direction from the edge of a roadway, trail or easement that crosses a controlled boundary.

4.2.2 Signage

Signage is another measure that will be used to control access. Warning signs will be posted on the fenced controlled boundaries of all roadways, trails, easements, and other identified access points to the COA where necessary to provide barriers or impediments to access. The immediate area around each sign will be cleared of vegetation to provide unrestricted public visibility. Additional strategically located signs will also be posted along facility boundaries, with special attention to potential overland routes or observed newly established trails. Each sign will be inspected semi-annually and will be repaired or replaced, as necessary. The sign specifications and text are included in Appendix B.

4.2.3 Natural Barriers

Streams and creeks, wetlands, steep slopes, and areas of thick vegetation and undergrowth around the proposed COA will, in certain instances, serve as natural barriers or impediments to access. These features make cross country travel in many areas very difficult, especially in the summer months when the ground is thawed, streams are flowing and the vegetation is in full bloom.

4.2.4 Surveillance

Mine security will routinely patrol the mine facilities and roadways. Mine security will also periodically observe the perimeter of the COA in areas where patrols are necessary to control access, as summarized in Table 2. Monitoring of areas that can be observed from mine roadways with binoculars will be conducted daily. Overflights with rotary and fixed wing aircraft would be combined with other site tasks including environmental monitoring and personnel transport. Periodic patrols off of roadways would generally be in response to observed or reported activity in the core operating area.

If signs of trespass are found, security will follow up as appropriate to determine if trespassers were currently in the core operating area, including notifying other Donlin Gold employees in the area to be aware there may be trespassers present and conducting additional patrols in these areas. The situation of each incident would be assessed to determine if additional measures were necessary, which may include, but would not be limited to, additional public outreach and signage.

In addition to patrols by dedicated security personnel, all on-site personnel will be briefed on the necessity of restricting public access to areas within the COA. Personnel will be asked to watch for suspected trespass as they conduct their regular duties, and will be trained in procedures to respond to suspected trespassers. Any suspected trespass by unauthorized individual(s) will also be immediately reported to security and mine management.

If a mine employee, including Security, observes a suspected unauthorized individual(s) within restricted project areas, appropriate measures will be taken by the employee to address potential health and safety concerns. If it is safe to approach the individual(s), mine employees will be instructed to use the following protocol when dealing with unauthorized entry.

- Approach the person (or persons), and request that they leave the restricted area immediately.
- In the case of the COA, if the unauthorized individual(s) refuse to leave the area after the above request, the individual(s) will be informed that they are in a restricted area and that applicable laws require Donlin Gold to restrict entry to the posted area to authorized personnel only. The unauthorized person or persons will again be asked to leave the restricted area.
- If the unauthorized individual(s) still refuse to leave, the individual(s) will be informed that Donlin Gold will not be liable or responsible for any harm they may encounter by being in a restricted entry area.
- In the event the Donlin Gold employee (other than Security) believes the individual(s) health and safety may be at risk by being within the restricted area, or that the person is a risk to safety or security in the area, the employee will call security. Security will then take charge of the trespass incident and may call law enforcement authorities to have the individual(s) removed from the area. The mine personnel will also request the name or names of the unauthorized individual(s) at that time. Calista and/or TKC will be notified if the individual is believed to be a shareholder or trespassing on their respective lands.

- The mine employee will log the encounter with the unauthorized individual(s) on a surveillance monitoring form (Appendix C).

4.2.5 External Communications

Donlin Gold will, at least annually, conduct outreach with TKC and Calista to inform and update shareholders on access restrictions for the COA. Donlin Gold will also provide briefings to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the BLM to inform them of these restrictions to allow these agencies to convey this information in their resources to the public.

5.0 ACCESS CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION

The measures to control access by easements and trails and overland travel are described below.

5.1 Rerouting of Easements

The rights to public access provided by easements would conflict with Donlin Gold's need to protect the public from the potential hazards of developing and operating a mine and associated facilities. Additionally, in many cases the proposed land improvements would either block or overlay the footprint of an easement. Consequently, Donlin Gold has submitted a Public Easement Plan (Donlin Gold 2022) describing the affected public easements and the proposed plan to both protect public safety and ensure that public access to lands outside the COA is supported by alternate means. The Public Easement Plan details the basis of each easement and the rerouting of the easements around the COA. The easements, the characteristics of the easement (presence of absence of evidence of current or past use), and measures proposed to prevent public access by means of these easements and re-direct the public to rerouted easements, are summarized in Table 1.

The COA has traditionally been accessed from the south from communities on the Kuskokwim River. Access is concentrated around the existing winter trail (FAS 231) connecting the village of Crooked Creek to Iditarod. The land that FAS 231 passes through immediately to the south of the COA is owned by TKC, and a permit is required from TKC for access to TKC lands from persons who are not TKC shareholders or immediate family members (TKC 2015).

5.2 Overland Travel

Overland travel to the COA will be excluded by a number of measures. Former easements and existing trails will be fenced as described in Section 4.2.1 and signed as described in Section 4.2.2. In many areas travel is restricted by natural features including topographic relief, vegetative cover, and terrain. In other areas, including but not limited to ridgetop areas without vegetation and creek valleys, other measures such as signage and visual surveillance from land or air will be implemented. Finally, if new or previously unrecognized trails are identified, additional fencing may be required.

The conditions along the perimeter are described by segment in Table 2. The locations of the segments, air photography, and topography are shown on Figure 4.

Table 1 – Public Easements Affected by the Project

Re-directed Easement	Description	Access Control Measures
FAS 231	Winter trail connecting Village of Crooked Creek with Iditarod. Trail is used seasonally and is the primary land access to the area.	Re-routed easement/trail will be marked with signs. Chain link fence will be erected across the former easement and any associated trail outside of the easement at the north and south COA boundary and signs will be posted. Patrols, primarily during winter, will monitor for public access.
Revised Statute Trail (RST) 545	Former trail from Return Creek to Crooked Creek, public use is not known and the trail is not visible in the area it is mapped.	Chain link fence will be erected across the former easement at the COA boundary and signs will be posted.
RST 546	Tractor trail from the junction of Crooked Creek and Grouse Creek to Return Creek. Trail is present but does not appear to have been used in recent years.	Re-routed easement will be marked with signs. Chain link fence will be erected across the trail/former easement and any associated trail outside of the easement at the COA boundary and signs will be posted.
RST 547	Easement from the junction of Dome Creek, Donlin Creek, and the Willow Creek – Flat Creek Trail, and extending to the junction of Omega Gulch and the Flat – Crooked Creek Trail.	This easement is entirely within the COA and does not cross the boundary. The easement will be extinguished. No additional access control measures are required for this easement.
RST 548	Dome Creek – Anaconda – Bell Creek Trail. There is no known purpose for, or recent public use of, this trail.	Chain link fence will be erected across the former easement at the COA boundary and signs will be posted.
RST 549	Snow Gulch – Anaconda Creek Trail. There is no known recent public use of this trail.	This easement is entirely within the COA and does not cross the boundary. The easement will be extinguished. No additional access control measures are required for this easement.
RST 550	Crooked Creek Cabin – American Creek Trail. There is no evidence of current use of this trail.	This easement is entirely within the COA and does not cross the boundary. The easement will be extinguished. No additional access control measures are required for this easement.
RST 1475	Willow Creek-Flat Creek Trail. A trail is visible but based on aerial inspection does not appear to have been used in recent years.	Re-routed easement will be marked with signs. Chain link fence will be erected across the former easement and any associated trail outside of the easement at the COA boundary and signs will be posted.

Table 1 – Public Easements Affected by the Project (continued)

Re-directed Easement	Description	Access Control Measures
Easement Identification Number (EIN) 8 C3 L	Easement to allow access to federal public lands from FAS 231 through ANCSA lands. Trail is present but does not appear to have been used in recent years. This easement overlaps the segment of RST 546 (above) on ANSCA lands and the point at which it crosses the COA boundary.	Re-routed easement will be marked with signs. Chain link fence will be erected across the trail/former easement and any associated trail outside of the easement at the COA boundary and signs will be posted.
EIN 9 D1 L	Easement to allow access to federal public lands from FAS 231 through ANCSA lands. This easement follows various segments of RST 1475, RST 547, and RST 548. Trail is not visible in air photo at the point it crosses the COA (co-located with RST 548 at this location).	Re-routed easement will be marked with signs. Chain link fence will be erected across the former easement at the COA boundary and signs will be posted.
EIN 10 D1	Easement for an existing access trail from FAS 231 eastward to public land. A trail is visible.	Chain link fence will be erected across the trail/former easement and any associated trail outside of the easement at the COA boundary and signs will be posted.
EIN 11 D1	Easement to provide public access through ANCSA land, co-located with RST 76.	Re-routed easement will be marked with signs. Chain link fence will be erected across the former easement crossings of the COA boundary and signs will be posted.
EIN 15 D1	Easement for a proposed access trail from FAS 231 to former federal (now state) public lands to the west. No trail visible.	Chain link fence will be erected across the former easement at the COA boundary and signs will be posted.

Table 2 – Access Control Measures on the COA Boundary

Segment	Physical Description	Access Control
1	Area of ridgetops and narrow valleys on southeastern perimeter of the COA. No known easements or trails are located in this area.	Terrain, vegetation, and posted signs are the primary physical barriers or impediments to access. Verification will be done by periodic patrols, overflights and routine monitoring with binoculars for areas relatively close to mine facilities and roadways.
2	Area of generally east-to-west valleys, potential routes to Crooked Creek drainage. Former Dome Creek – Anaconda – Bell Creek trail (RST 548) crosses this segment.	Potential travel in this area is in valleys and on hilltops with sparse vegetation. Chain link fencing of historical easement RST 548 (see Table 1) and posted signs will be the primary physical barriers or impediments to access. Verification will be done by periodic patrols and overflights.
3	Area of ridgetops on northeast perimeter of the COA. No known easements or trails are located in this area.	Posted signs, terrain and vegetation will be the primary physical barriers or impediments to access. Verification will be done by periodic patrols and overflights.
4	Donlin Creek valley area, formerly crossed by the Willow Creek – Flat Creek trail (RST 1475).	Potential travel would be in valleys and on hilltops with sparse vegetation. Posted signs and fencing of easement RST 1475 location will be the primary physical barriers or impediments to access. Verification will be done by periodic patrols and overflights.
5	Area of ridgetops on northwest perimeter of the COA. No known easements or trails are located in this area.	Posted signs, terrain and vegetation are the primary physical barriers or impediments to access. Verification will be done by periodic patrols and overflights.
6	Flat Creek valley area, formerly crossed by the Crooked Creek – Iditarod winter trail (FAS 231).	Potential travel would be on the former winter road. Posted signs and chain link fencing across the former FAS 231 easement will be the physical barriers or impediments to access. Verification will be done by periodic patrols and overflights.
7	Area of ridgetops on northwest perimeter of the COA. No known easements or trails are located in this area.	Terrain and vegetation are the primary physical barriers or impediments to access. Verification will be done by periodic patrols and overflights.

Table 2 – Access Control Measures on the COA Boundary (continued)

Segment	Physical Description	Access Control
8	Grouse Creek valley area, formerly the location of a tractor trail from Crooked Creek to Return Creek (RST 546).	Potential travel would be on the former tractor trail. Posted signs and chain link fencing of the RST 546 easement location will be the primary physical barriers or impediments to access. Verification will be done by periodic patrols, overflights, and routine monitoring with binoculars for areas relatively close to mine facilities and roadways.
9	Area of ridgetops on southwestern perimeter of the COA. No known easements or trails are located in this area.	Posted signs, terrain, and vegetation are the primary physical barriers or impediments to access. Verification will be done by periodic patrols, overflights, and routine monitoring with binoculars for areas relatively close to mine facilities and roadways.
10	Crooked Creek/Eagle Creek valley area, formerly crossed by the Crooked Creek – Iditarod winter trail (FAS 231) and an easement to public lands to the west (EIN 15 D1).	Potential travel would be on the former winter road. Fencing of across the former easements and verification will be done by periodic patrols, overflights, and routine monitoring with binoculars for areas relatively close to mine facilities and roadways.

5.3 Roadways

The roadways are not open to public use, except at crossing point(s) where required to maintain public easement connectivity. The section of the roadway from the intersection of the spur road south to the port would be used seasonally during the barging season, but would be unmaintained during winter months. A gate and fencing will be installed at the point the port road crosses the COA boundary.

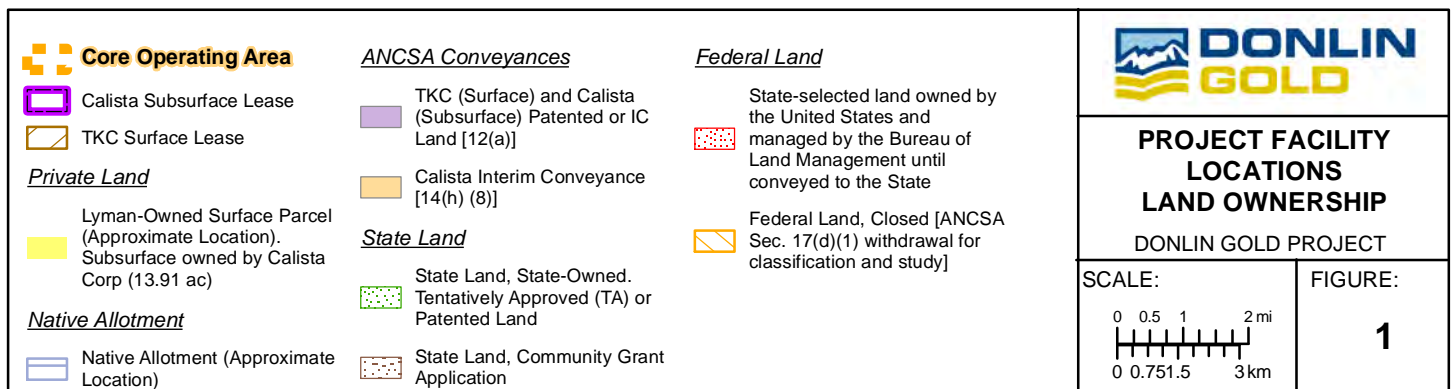
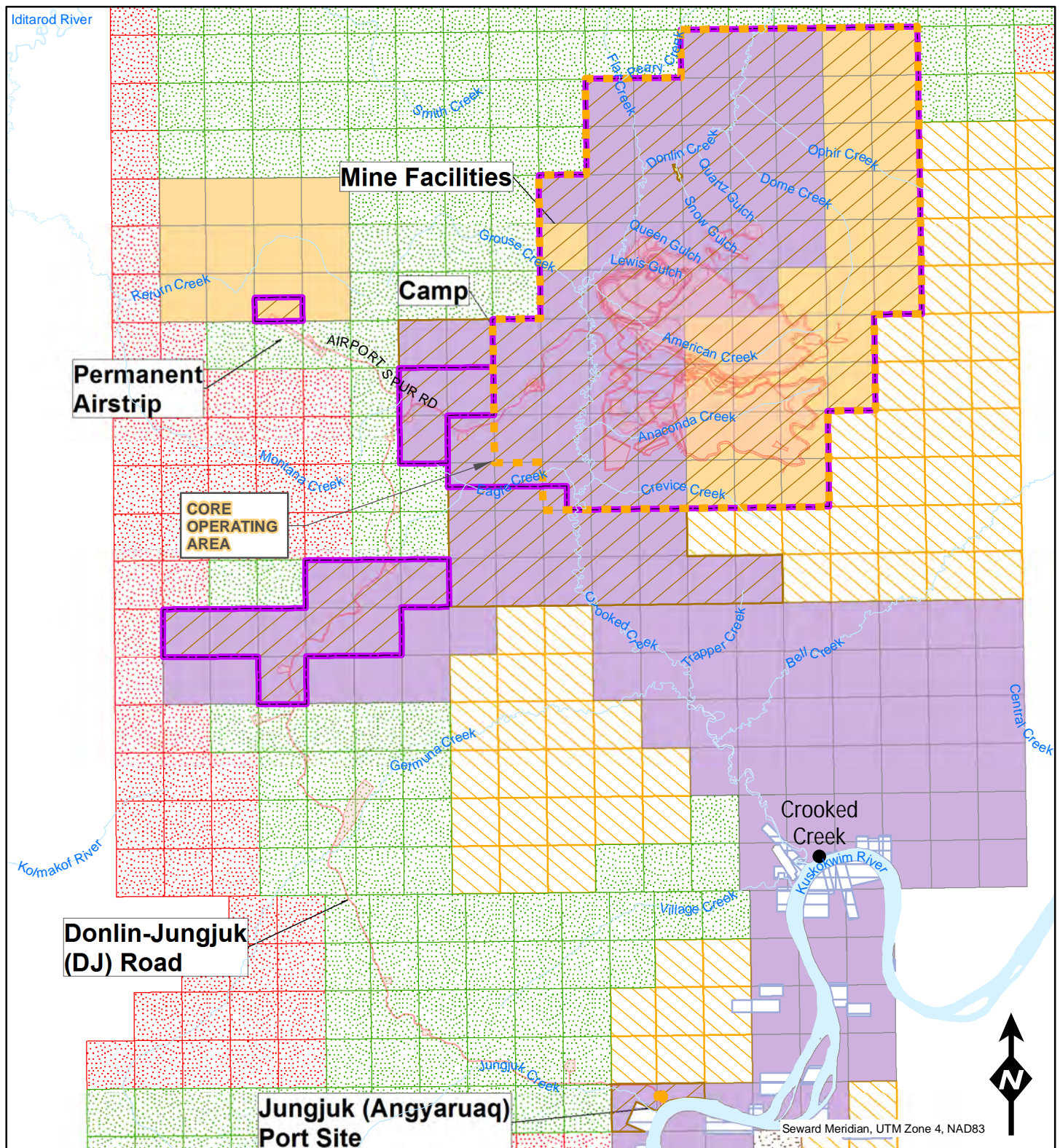
Access to the roadways will be controlled by signage and patrols. In addition, employees or contractors using the roads will be instructed to report unauthorized persons on roadways to security. An example roadway warning sign is included in Appendix B.

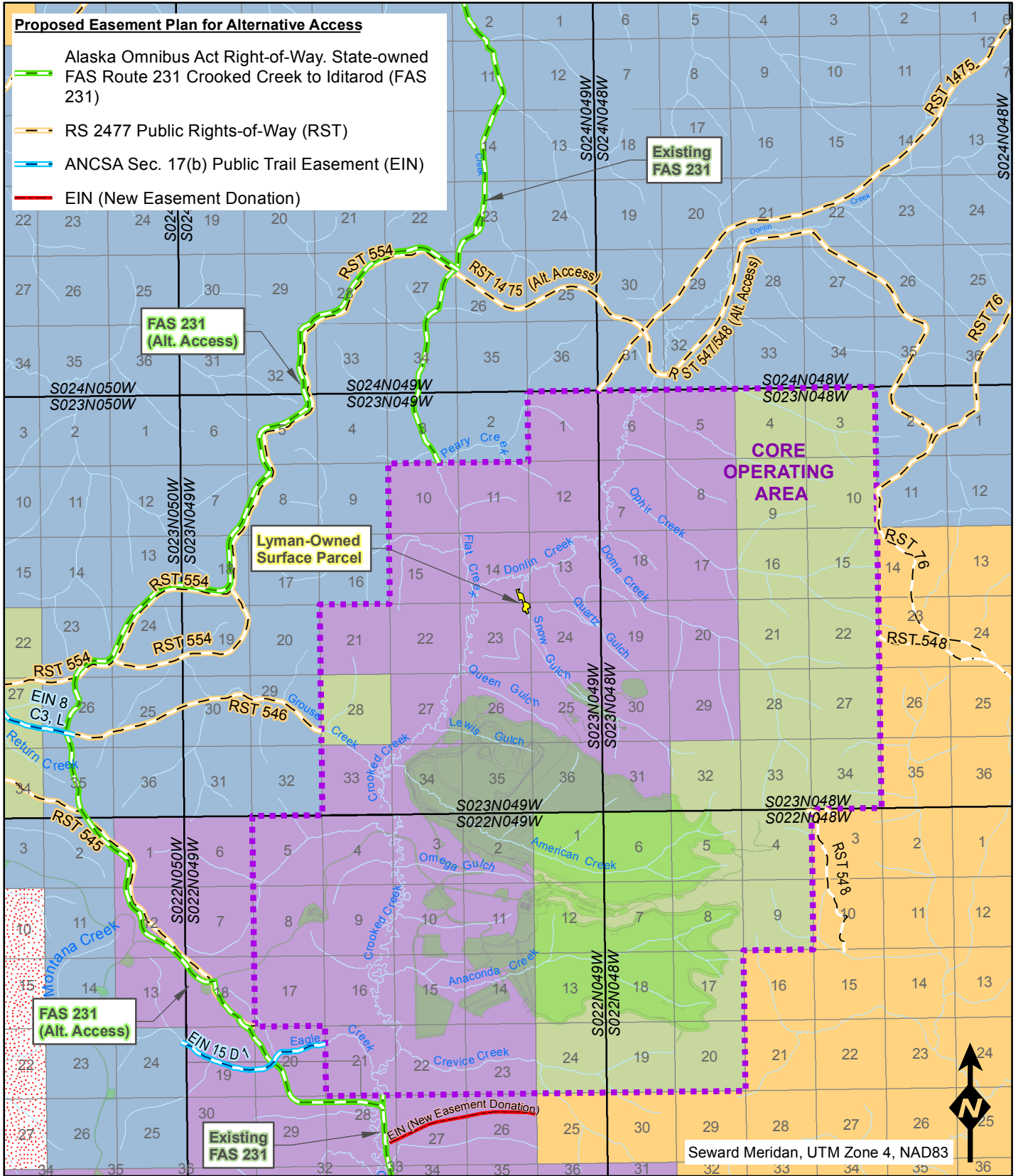
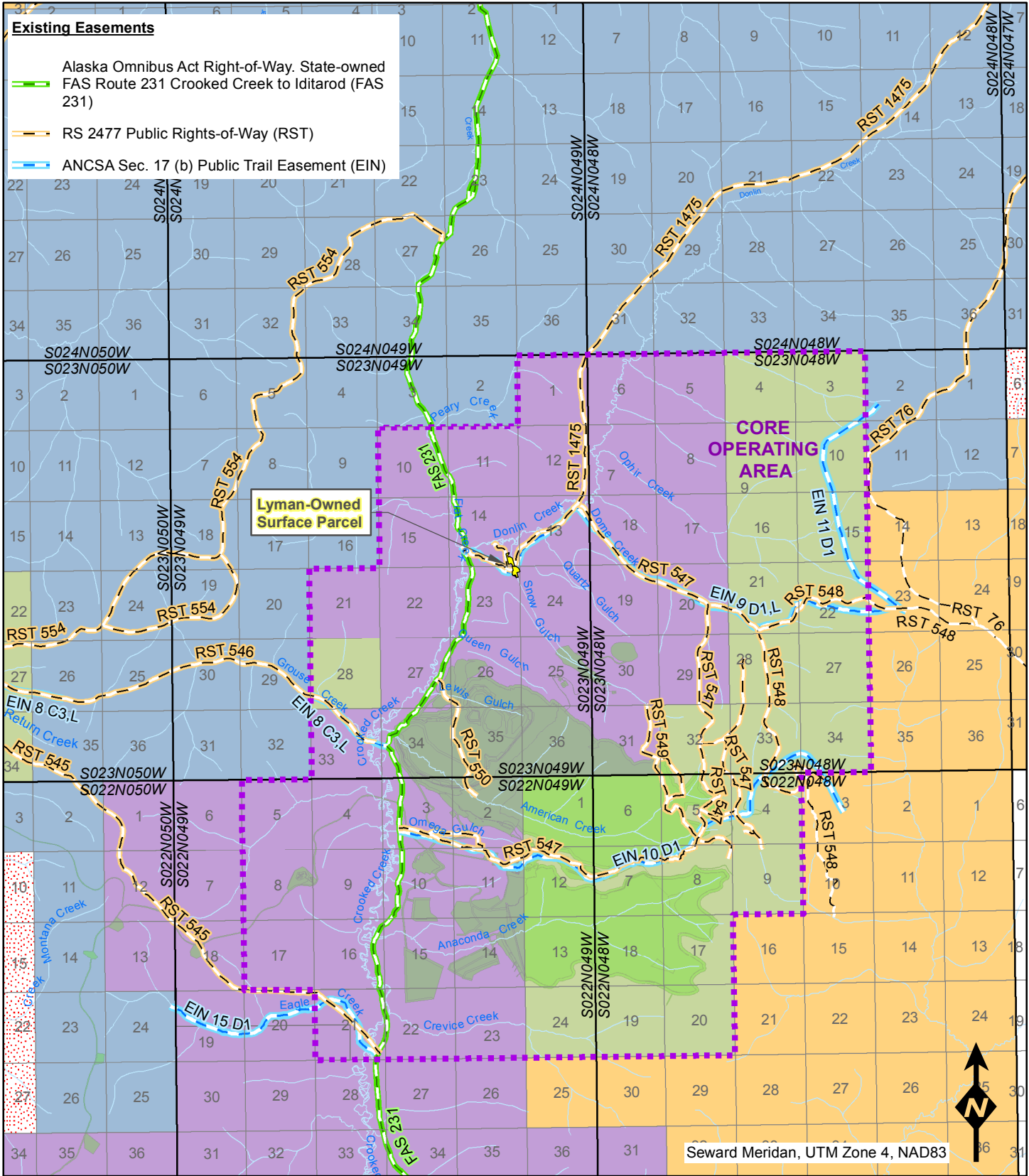
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Appendix A

Figures





Donlin Gold Project

- Core Operating Area
- Proposed Facilities

Land Status Details (2015)

- Lyman-Owned private parcel approximate location (13.9 ac); surface leased from Lyman to Donlin Gold, LLC. Subsurface owned by Calista
- Calista Corp. Patented Lands [14 (h)(8)]
- The Kuskokwim Corp (surface) and The Calista Corp (subsurface). Patented Lands

- General Grant State Selected. Owned by the US and managed by the BLM
- Federal Land (BLM Managed)
- State Land. Tentatively Approved or Patented



COA PUBLIC EASEMENTS

DONLIN GOLD PROJECT

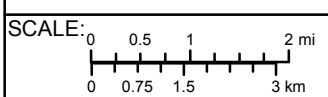
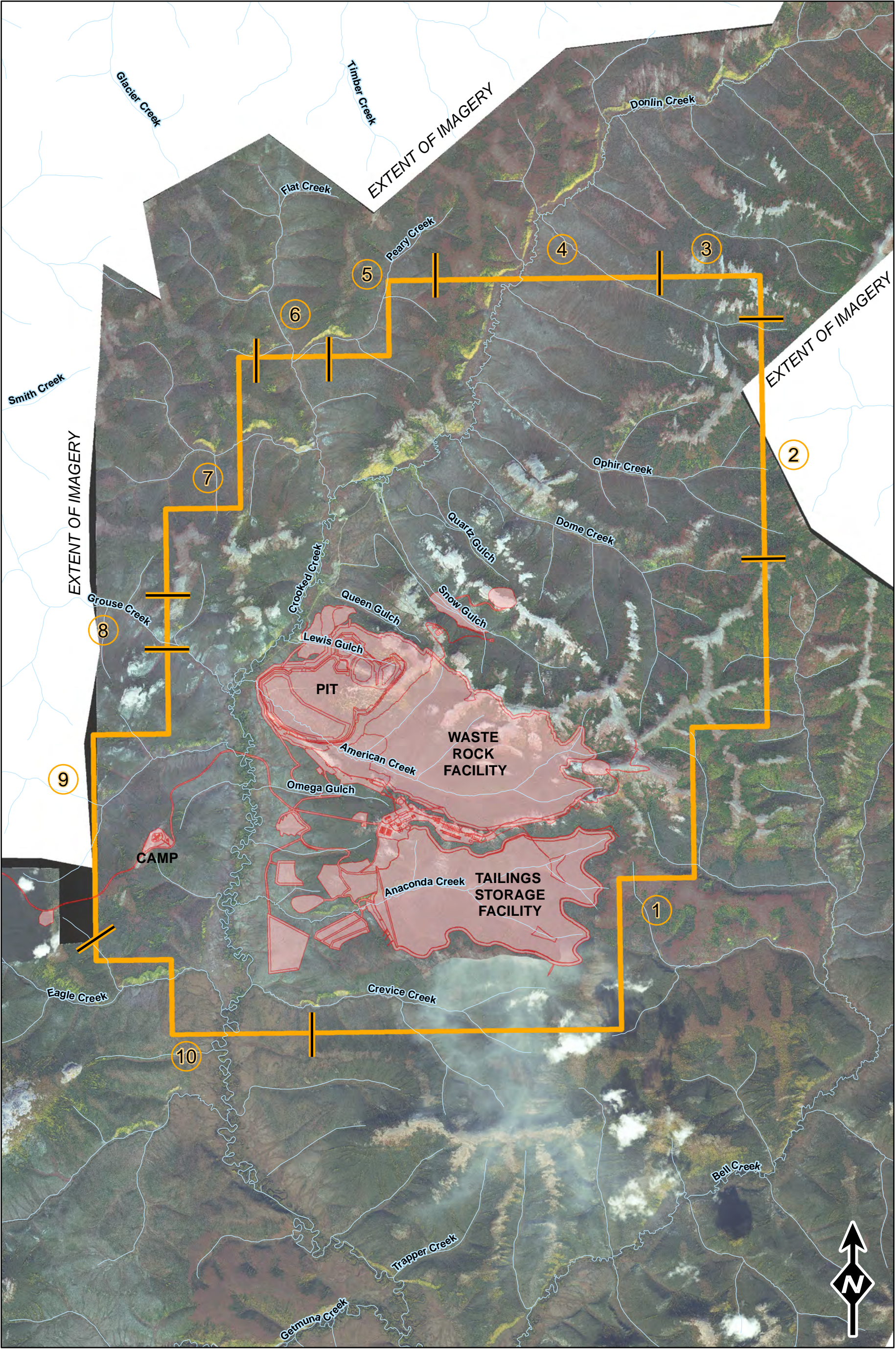



FIGURE:
2



<p>Proposed Infrastructure Layout</p> <p>Core Operating Area (COA)</p> <p>Perimeter Segment</p> <p>Orthophotography 2012 Seward Meridian, UTM Zone 4, NAD83</p>		<p>COA AIR PHOTO AND ACCESS CONTROL AREAS</p> <p>DONLIN GOLD PROJECT</p> <table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="1334 2921 1701 3027">SCALE: 0 0.25 0.5 1 mi 0 0.375 0.75 1.5 km</td><td data-bbox="1701 2921 1891 3027">FIGURE: 3</td></tr></table>		SCALE: 0 0.25 0.5 1 mi 0 0.375 0.75 1.5 km	FIGURE: 3
SCALE: 0 0.25 0.5 1 mi 0 0.375 0.75 1.5 km	FIGURE: 3				

Appendix B

Example Warning Signs

The warning sign specifications will be as follows:

- Each sign will be 2 ft by 4 ft and will be mounted on posts
- The base of each sign will be a minimum of 3 ft and a maximum of 6 ft above the surrounding ground surface

The warning signs for the different operational areas will read as follows:

Core Operating Area Warning Sign

**DANGER
DONLIN GOLD LLC MINE OPERATIONS
AMBIENT AIR QUALITY BOUNDARY
NO UNAUTHORIZED VISITORS BEYOND THIS POINT**

**For information please contact:
Donlin Gold Project Security, (907) XXX-XXXX
Donlin Gold Environmental, (907) XXX-XXXX**

Roadway Warning Sign

**PRIVATE ROADWAY
DONLIN GOLD LLC

DANGER
FREQUENT TRUCK TRAFFIC AND MACHINERY USE
NO UNAUTHORIZED VISITORS BEYOND THIS POINT**

**For information please contact:
Donlin Gold Project Security, (907) XXX-XXXX
Donlin Gold Environmental, (907) XXX-XXXX**

Appendix C

Surveillance Monitoring Form

Surveillance Monitoring Form

Date and Time	Surveillance Conducted by	Surveillance Comments

Instructions:

Information to be gathered, to the extent possible, includes:

- 1) Day and time;
- 2) The name of the individual(s) (if known or otherwise provided);
- 3) The method of entry into the property (e.g. by foot, snow machine, etc.);
- 4) Duration of unauthorized presence within the restricted area; and
- 5) Other pertinent information as appropriate.