



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Special Public Notice

Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
1046 Marks Road
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: September 18, 2026

EXPIRATION DATE: November 2, 2026

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2019-00081

WATERWAY: Subarctic Creek

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUBJECT: This notice is to inform interested parties that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District-Regulatory Division (USACE) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Arctic Mine Development Project (the Project). In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 4321 et seq., USACE is preparing an EIS before making a permit decision for the Project. USACE may ultimately determine whether to permit or deny the Project or a modified version of the Project. As required by NEPA and USACE's implementing regulations at 33 Code of Federal Regulations § 333.18, USACE is publishing this special public notice to announce our Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS to inform the public and solicit comments.

LOCATION: The proposed mine site is at Latitude 67.174° N., Longitude 156.384° W., with associated access roads located in 46 sections within the Kateel River Meridian in the foothills of the Brooks Range. The mine site and access roads are located generally northeast of Shungnak and Kobuk, in the Northwest Arctic Borough of Alaska.

APPLICANT: Ambler Metals LLC
2550 Denali Street, Unit 1605
Anchorage, AK 99503
info@amblermetals.com

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Ambler Metals LLC proposes to develop the Project, an open-pit hard rock mining operation, at the Arctic Deposit in the Ambler Mining District of northwestern Alaska. The Project is designed to process approximately 11,000 short tons per day (t/d; 10,000 tonnes per day [tonnes/d]) of ore and produce copper, zinc, and lead concentrates, with commercial quantities of gold and silver also expected to be recovered. Major Project facilities would include the open-pit mine, ore processing

facilities, tailings and waste rock management facilities, water management infrastructure, access roads, airstrip improvements, and associated support facilities. Construction is expected to require approximately 3 years followed by an anticipated operating life of approximately 13 years.

The Project would have a total disturbance footprint of approximately 1,727.2 acres (699 hectares [ha]) including the mine site and new construction or improvement of two access roads (see attached plan drawings dated April 17, 2026). Fill placement would result in permanent impacts to approximately 120.7 acres (48.9 ha) of wetlands and other waters including approximately 110.6 acres (44.8 ha) of wetlands and 10.1 acres (4.1 ha) in other waters (i.e., ponds and streams).

Ore would be recovered using a conventional truck-shovel mining operation. The final pit would contain approximately 51 million short tons (46.7 million tonnes) of ore and approximately 375 million short tons (340 million tonnes). Ore would be processed on site to produce copper, zinc, and lead concentrates for shipment to off-site markets.

Tailings would be stored within an engineered tailings management facility at the headwaters of Subarctic Creek and would be supported by an engineered dam, an adjacent waste rock facility, and the natural topography of the surrounding steep valley walls. The tailing management facility would have sufficient storage to accommodate tailings, mine production water, and flood volume 1.5 times the probable 100-year maximum flood event. A water treatment plant would treat contact water (i.e., water coming into contact with mine waste rock, tailings, facilities, or collected in the open mine pit) to State of Alaska standards before discharge to Subarctic Creek. Diversion channels and other water management features would be constructed along the edges of the mine site to reduce the volume of contact water.

The Project would include two primary gravel access roads. The South Route would connect the existing Dahl Creek Airstrip to the Ambler Access Project (AAP), while the North Route would connect the AAP to the Arctic Mine site. Development of these access roads would include upgrades to existing roads and trails between the Dahl Creek Airstrip and Bornite Camp and construction of new road segments between Bornite Camp and the AAP and between the AAP and the Arctic Mine site.

Mined ore would be processed into concentrate and stored in intermodal bulk shipping containers before transportation by truck from the mine site to Fairbanks via the project access roads, the recently permitted AAP, and the existing public road system. In Fairbanks concentrate would be transferred to rail for transport to Anchorage, where it would be loaded onto marine vessels for shipment to smelters or refineries outside of Alaska.

RECLAMATION AND MINE CLOSURE: Following mining, disturbed areas would be regraded, stabilized, and revegetated, and unnecessary infrastructure would be removed. Long-term monitoring, water management, and water treatment systems would continue after active mining and reclamation activities have ended. Roads necessary to support these activities would be retained whereas all other roads would be stripped of gravel and revegetated. The EIS will evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed reclamation and closure

measures in achieving long-term environmental protection, water quality objectives, habitat restoration, slope stability, and post-closure land-use goals.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: Ambler Metals LLC submitted a complete application for a Section 404 permit to USACE on May 19, 2026 to authorize discharge of fill material into waters of the United States required to construct the Project. The Project is covered under the Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41) and was added to the Federal Permitting Dashboard as a FAST-41 Transparency Project under Executive Order 14241, *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production*.

On June 1, 2026, USACE determined that preparation of an EIS is required pursuant to USACE's implementing regulations for NEPA (33 Code of Federal Regulations § 333). USACE has determined that the Project has the potential to result in significant impacts to aquatic resources, water quality, fish and wildlife resources, subsistence uses, and regional socioeconomic conditions. The proposed mine would be only the second large-scale operating mine in the Northwest Arctic Borough.

SCOPING: The scoping process is intended to identify the issues, concerns, alternatives, and information needs that should be addressed in the NEPA document and to establish the appropriate scope and level of analysis for each resource area. Scoping provides agencies, Tribes, stakeholders, and the public with an opportunity to review the proposed Project, understand the federal decision-making process, and provide input on the environmental issues that should be considered during preparation of the NEPA document.

Federal, Tribal, state, and local government agencies; organizations; members of the scientific and academic communities; industry representatives; and other interested parties will be invited to participate in the scoping process. Scoping comments will be used to identify reasonable alternatives, potential avoidance and minimization measures, significant environmental issues, data gaps, study needs, consultation requirements, and other factors relevant to the federal action under consideration.

Commenters are encouraged to provide comments that are as specific as possible and supported by relevant information, data, studies, or other available documentation. Comments should explain why the issues raised are important to the analysis of potential environmental, cultural, social, economic, subsistence, or other impacts associated with the Project. Detailed and substantive comments will assist the USACE in identifying issues requiring further analysis and in defining the appropriate scope of the EIS.

All mailed submissions should be postmarked, and all electronic submissions received no later than the expiration date of this notice to be considered during preparation of the EIS and included in the administrative record.

Scoping comments may be submitted through the Project website, email, mail, or verbally or in writing at a scoping meeting. Written comments may be submitted through the Project website at: www.ArcticMineEIS.com, by email: ArcticMineEIS_scoping@arcadis.com, or by mail:

Arctic Mine Development Project EIS Comments
USACE – Alaska District, Regulatory Division
1046 Marks Road
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703

All written comments should include “Arctic Mine Development Project” in the subject line or correspondence.

USACE intends to conduct five public scoping meetings to provide opportunities for agencies, Tribes, stakeholders, and members of the public to learn about the proposed Project and provide input on the scope of the environmental review. Meetings are currently anticipated to be held at the following locations:

- Shungnak, Alaska: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 | 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
- Ambler, Alaska: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 | 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
- Kobuk, Alaska: Thursday, October 8, 2026 | 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Note that the locations, dates and times of these scoping meetings listed above are tentative and in the process of being finalized. When these arrangements are finalized, USACE will post the times and locations on the Project website and will work with local resources to inform the public in each community.

- A public scoping meeting is also anticipated to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. The meeting location and final time are currently being finalized and will be posted on the Project website once confirmed.
- A virtual meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Access link will be posted on the Project website: www.ArcticMineEIS.com.

Given the remote nature of the Project area and the potential for weather-related travel disruptions in rural Alaska, meeting dates, times, locations, and virtual participation details remain subject to change. Any schedule modifications, venue changes, meeting cancellations, or alternative participation opportunities will be announced through the Project website. The public scoping period extends 45 days from the publication of this NOI.

PURPOSE AND NEED: The applicant’s purpose is to profitably extract commercial quantities of copper, zinc, lead, and other valuable minerals from the Arctic Deposit ore reserves using proven and economical mining and milling methods. The primary need for the Project is to bring domestic supplies of critical minerals to market and maximize value to Ambler Metals LLC.

ALTERNATIVES: A number of alternatives will be evaluated in the EIS, including the applicant's Proposed Action and a No Action alternative, which may entail permit denial, withdrawal, or alternatives that do not require a USACE permit. Additional alternatives to be considered include alternatives that would avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to the environment within the proposed project footprint; alternatives that would

avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to the environment outside the footprint; alternatives using alternative practices. Reasonable alternatives that are technically, legally, and economically feasible and also meet the identified Project purpose and need will be developed through the scoping process.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The EIS will analyze the potential social, economic, physical, and biological impacts to the affected areas. Multiple issues will be analyzed in depth in the EIS. These issues include, but are not limited to, the construction and operation of the facilities and their effect on subsistence; cultural resources; socioeconomics; fish and wildlife; hydrology and wetlands; and the communities of Kobuk, Shungnak, and Ambler. Alternatives and secondary impacts will also be considered.

LEAD, COOPERATING, AND PARTICIPATING ENTITIES: USACE will serve as the lead federal agency in the preparation of the EIS. Other entities that are invited to act as cooperating and participating entities include:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Native Village of Ambler and City of Ambler
- Native Village of Buckland and City of Buckland
- Native Village of Deering and City of Deering
- Native Village of Kiana and City of Kiana
- Native Village of Kivalina and City of Kivalina
- Native Village of Kobuk and City of Kobuk
- Native Village of Kotzebue and City of Kotzebue
- Native Village of Noorvik and City of Noorvik
- Native Village of Selawik and City of Selawik
- Native Village of Shungnak and City of Shungnak
- Northwest Arctic Borough

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS: Other environmental review and consultation requirements that will be incorporated into the EIS include Executive Order 13175 *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, dated November 6, 2000; Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation; and Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat consultation.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: USACE has not made an effect determination at this time regarding potential impacts to historic properties. This application is being coordinated with the SHPO, federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Any comments that consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS: The EIS will analyze impacts of the proposed Project and alternatives on aquatic resources, water quality, fish and wildlife resources, subsistence uses, cultural resources, transportation systems, socioeconomic conditions, and other components of the human environment. Reasonably foreseeable environmental and socioeconomic impacts for the Project at hand will be considered, and significant issues identified through agency coordination, consultation, and public scoping will be analyzed in detail.

SCHEDULE OF DECISION-MAKING PROCESS: The District Engineer of USACE will complete the EIS no later than the date that is two years after the date on which the District Engineer publishes this NOI to prepare the EIS. During preparation of the EIS, the District Engineer may publish a draft statement or other materials that, in their judgment, may assist in fulfilling their NEPA responsibilities. If the District Engineer determines they are not able to meet the deadline prescribed by NEPA Section 107(g)(1)(A), 42 U.S.C. 4336a(g)(1)(A), they must consult with the applicant pursuant to NEPA Section 107(g)(2), 42 U.S.C. 4336a(g)(2). After such consultation, if needed, and for cause stated, the District Engineer may establish a new deadline and must notify the Division Engineer and Headquarters, USACE, of the deadline extension.

As mentioned above, the Project is covered under FAST-41, which established a process for improving the timeliness, predictability, and transparency of environmental review and permitting of covered projects for project proponents and the public. The Project's FAST-41 Permitting Dashboard and timetable are available at: <https://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-project/fast-41-covered-projects/arctic-project>. In accordance with the timetable, USACE plans to issue a Record of Decision concluding the EIS by September 15, 2028 and render a final decision whether to issue a Section 404 permit for the Project's impacts to aquatic resources by September 22, 2028.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information regarding the proposed Project plans and construction, please contact the applicant at the address or email address above.

AUTHORITY: The permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

For further information and/or questions about this notice or the NEPA process, please contact Greg Mazer at the Alaska District, by telephone: 907-347-9059, by email Gregory.j.mazer@usace.army.mil, or by mail:

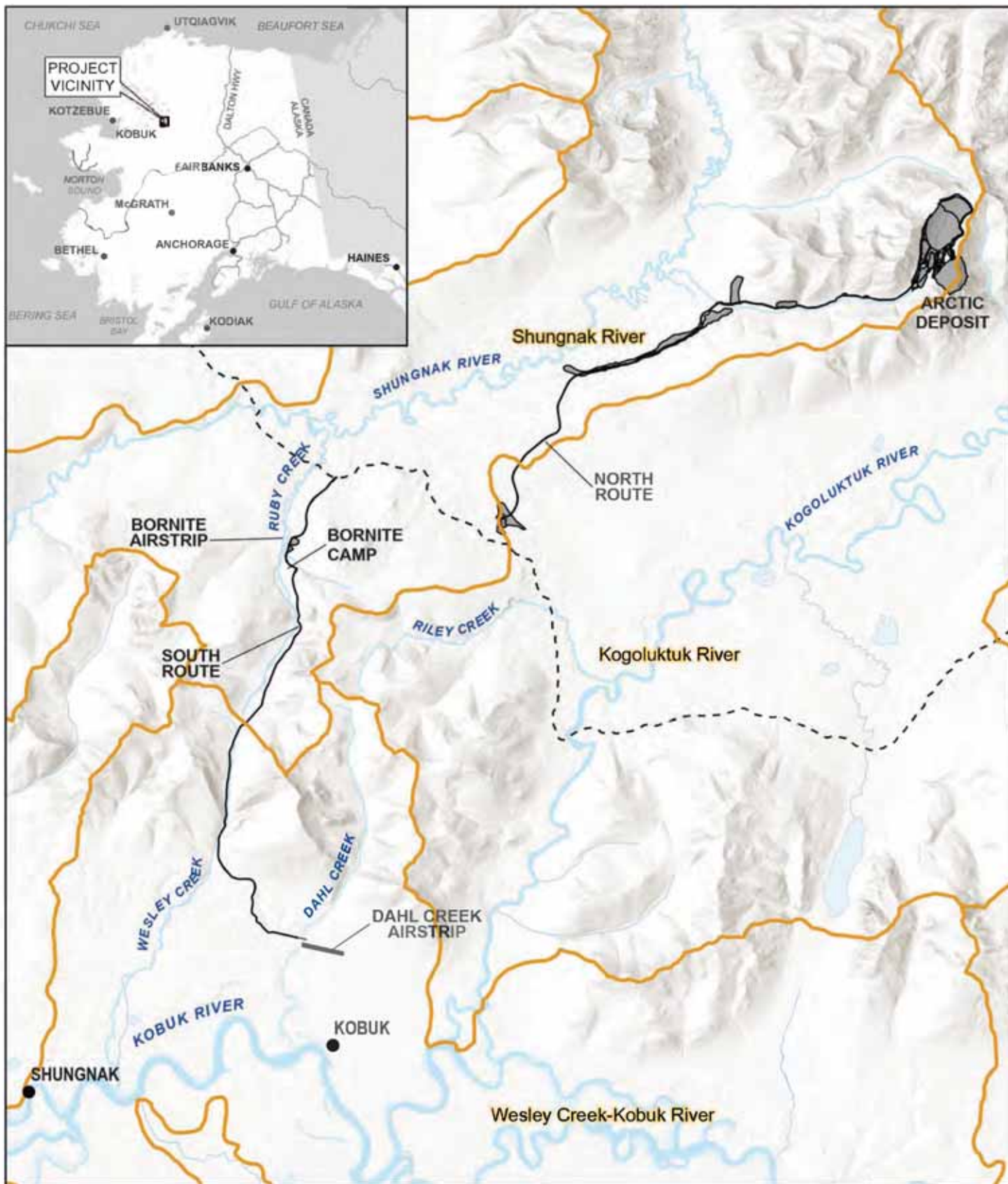
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division
P.O. Box 6898
Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, AK 99506-0898.

For inquiries from the media, please contact John Budnik by telephone: 907-753-2615.

To be added to the Project mailing list and for additional information, please visit the following website: www.ArcticMineEIS.com.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

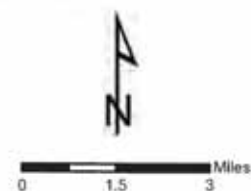
Enclosures

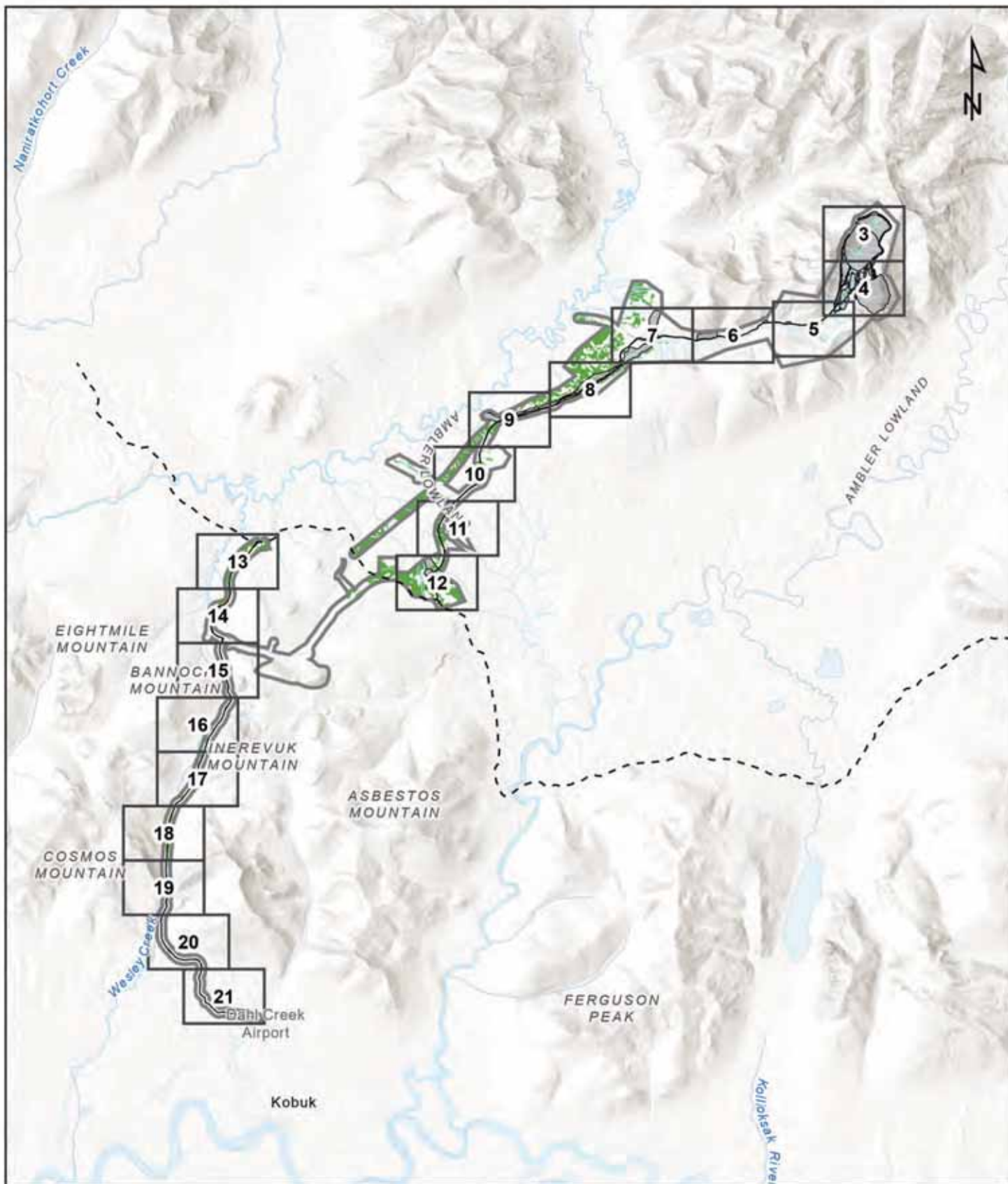


Applicant: Ambler Metals LLC
 File No.: POA-2019-00081
 Waterway: Upper Kobuk River
 Proposed Activity: Mining Project
 T18N-R9E, T19N-R9E-10E, T20N-R9E-11E, T21N-R10E-11E, Kateel River
 Meridian
 Lat.: 67°10'25.92" N Long.: -156°23'14.82" W
 Sheet: 1 of 25

Date: 4/17/2026

- Project Footprint
- Ambler Access Road
- Watershed Boundary (HUC 10)





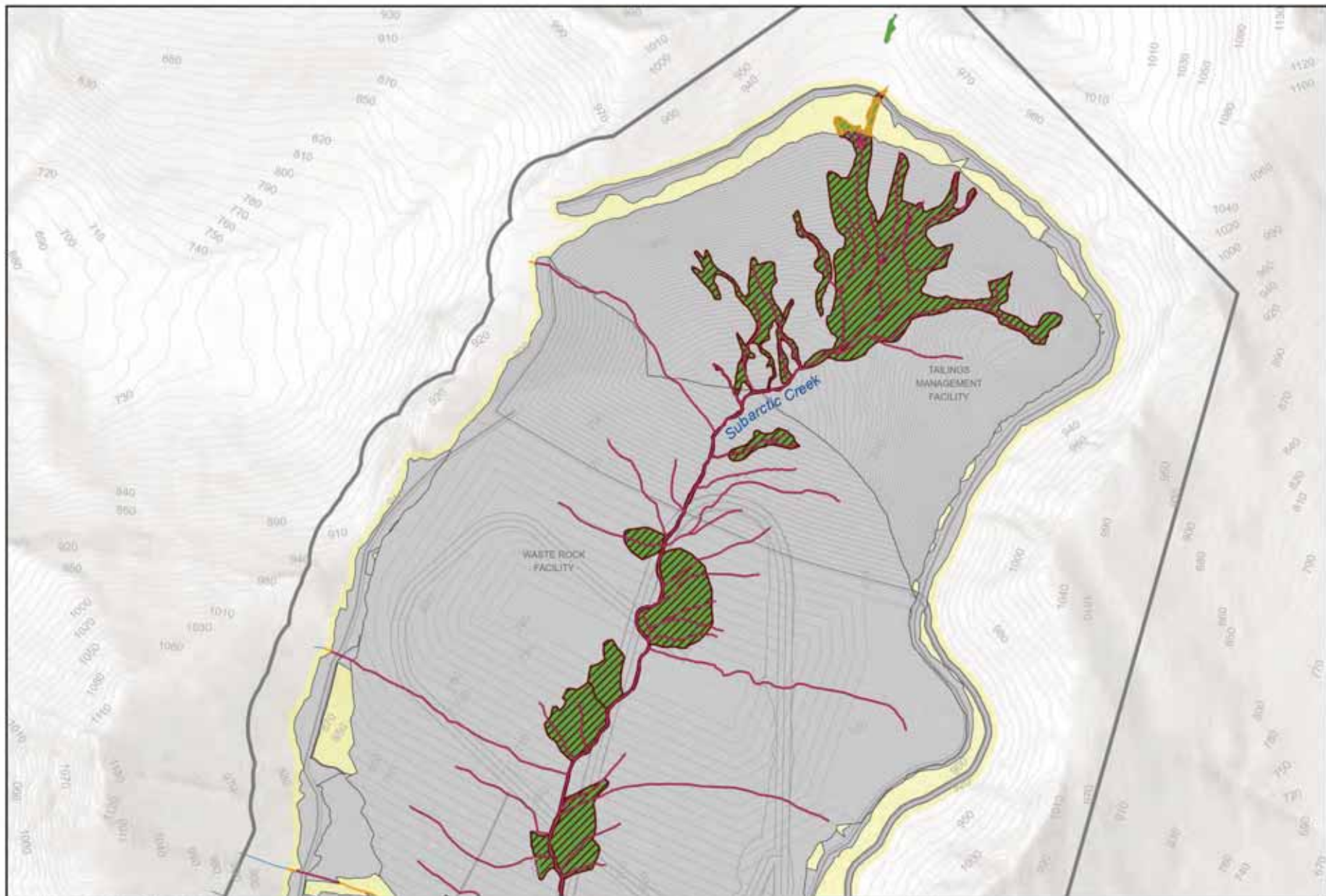
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- - - Ambler Access Road
 Sheet Number
 Project Footprint
 Cut/ Fill Limits

Streams
 Wetlands
 Wetland Study Area

Date: 4/17/2026

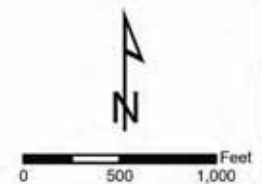
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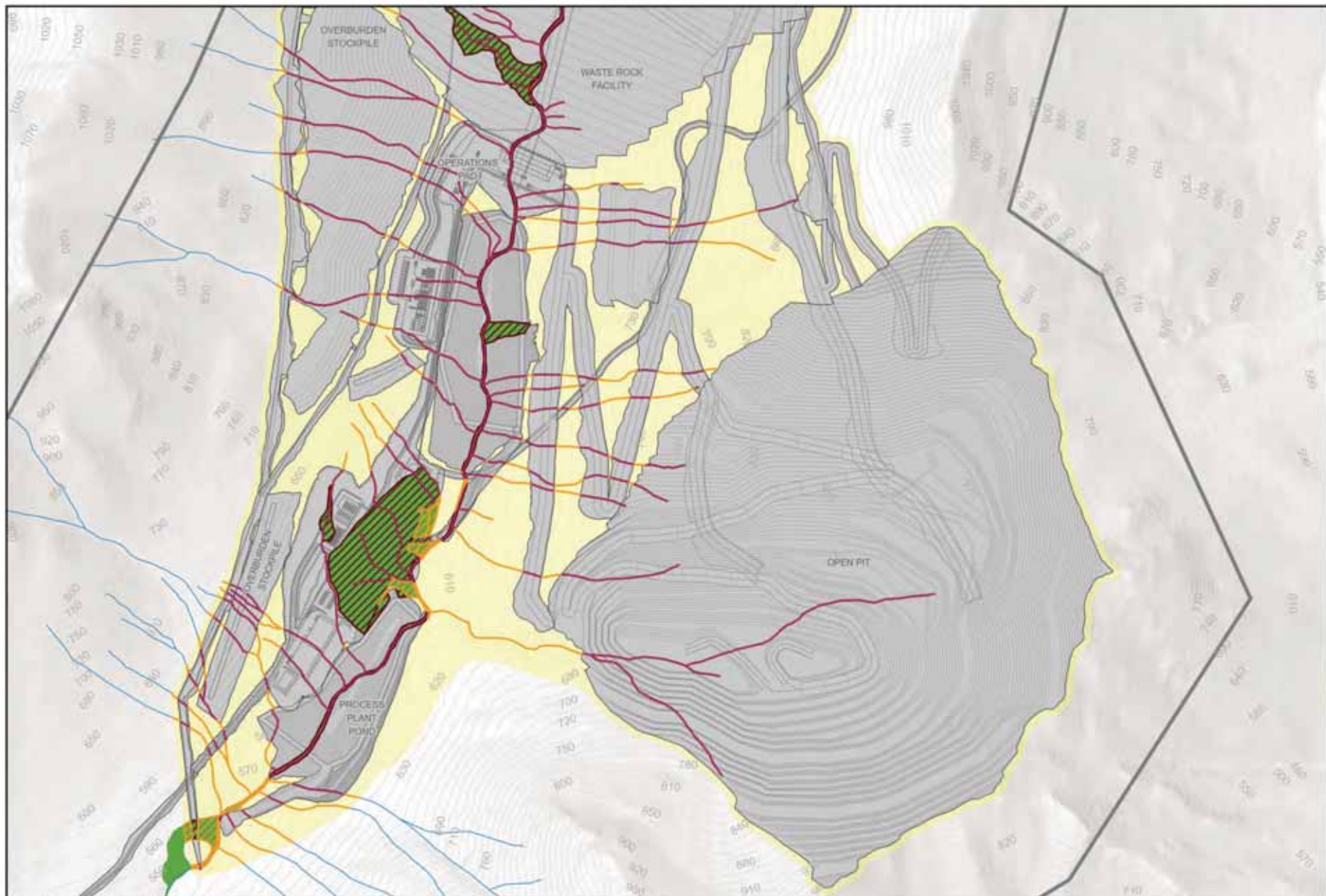


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 Sheet: 3 of 25

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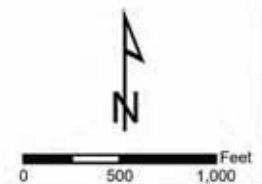
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| — Stream Footprint Impact | — Mine Area Impact Zone |
| — Stream Interstitial Impact | — Stream |
| ▨ Wetland Footprint Impact | ▨ Wetland |
| ▨ Wetland Interstitial Impact | ▨ Wetland Study Area |
| — Project Footprint | — Topographic Contour (10 m) |
| — Cut/Fill Limits | |

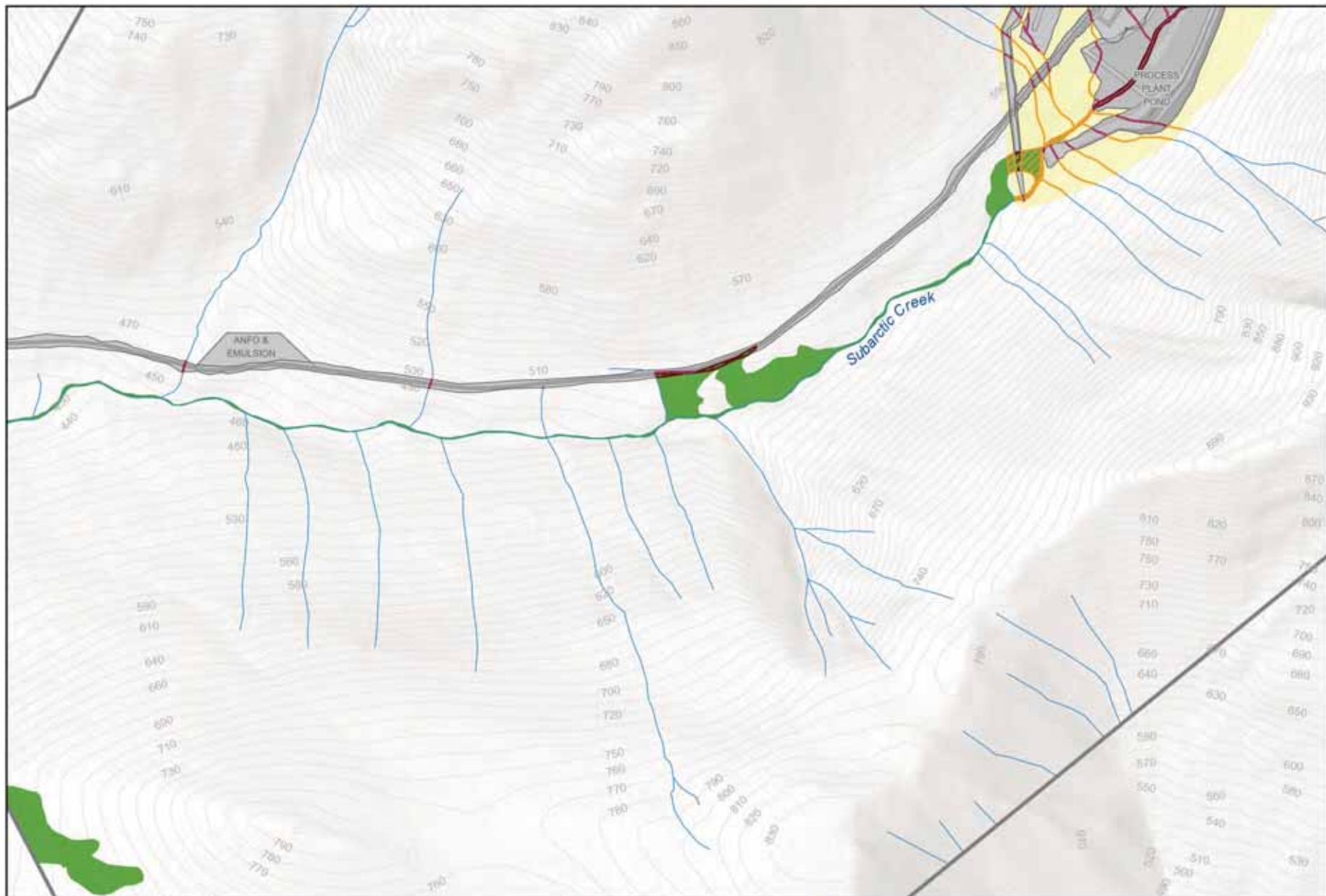




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 Sheet: 4 of 25

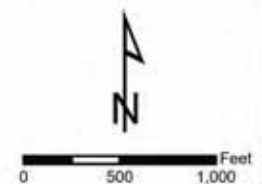
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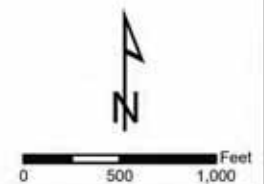
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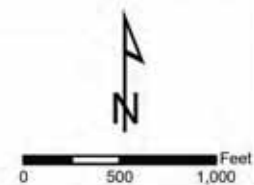


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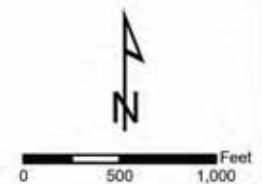
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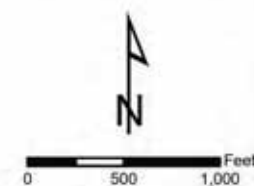
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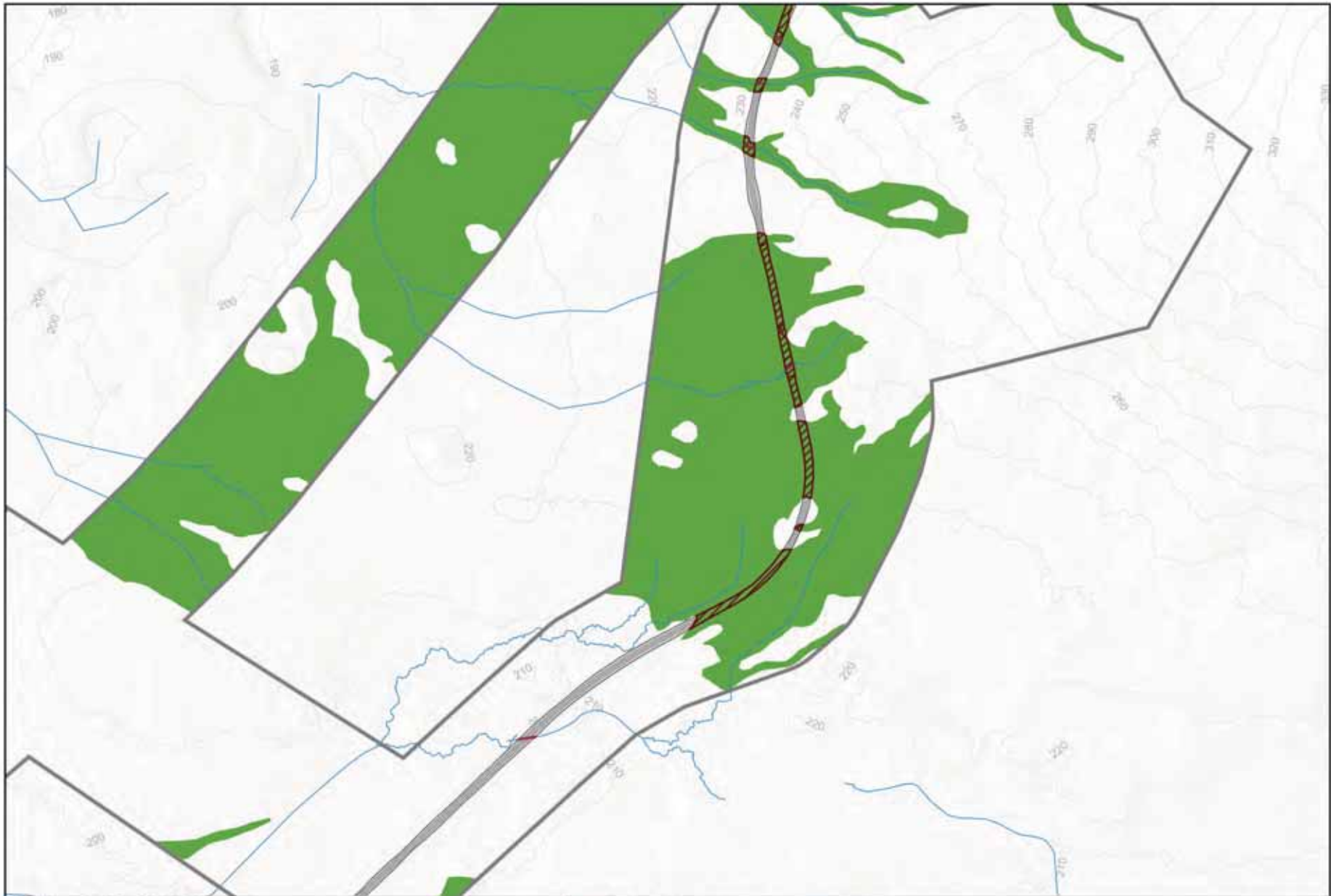


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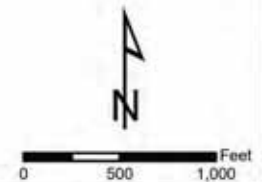


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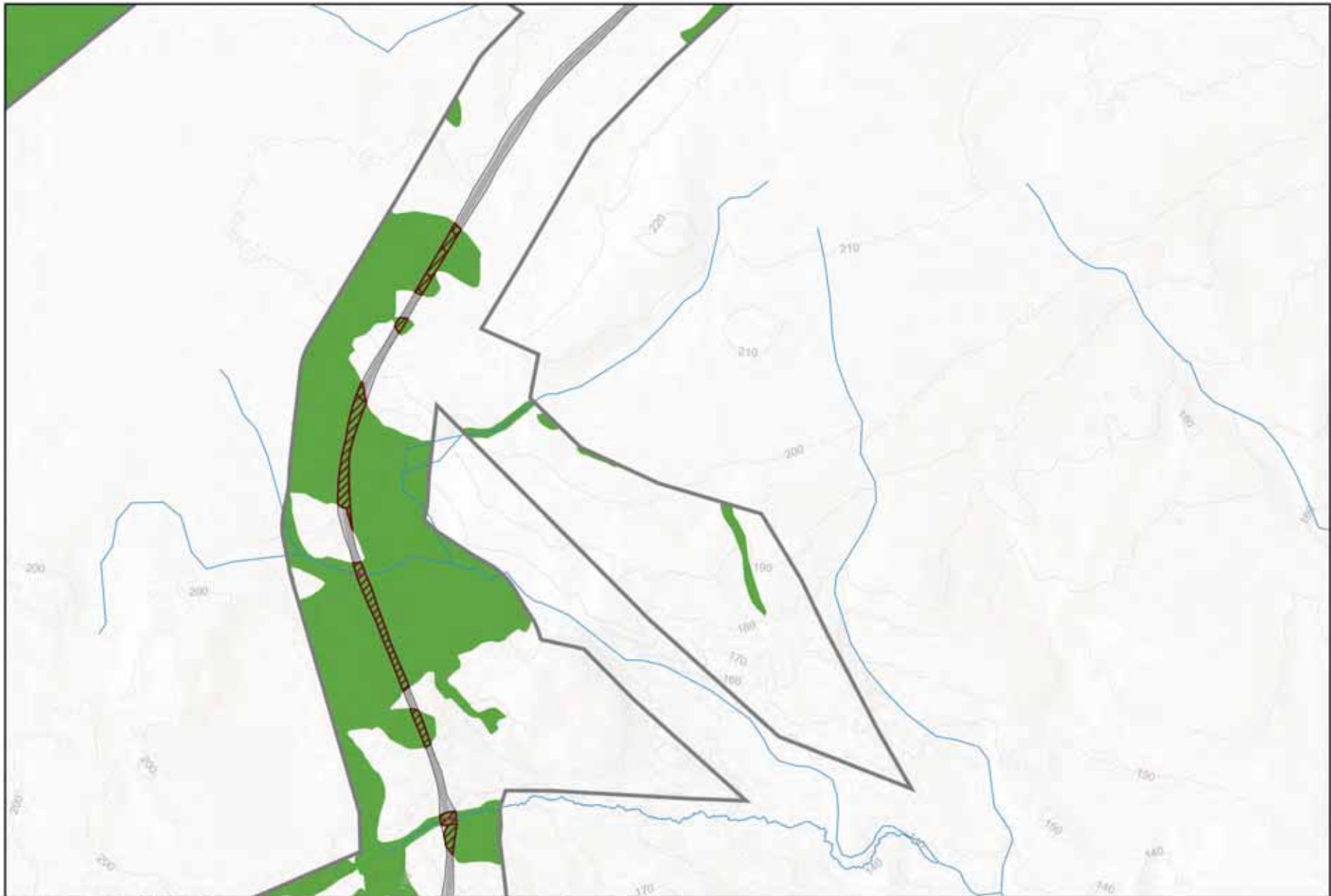


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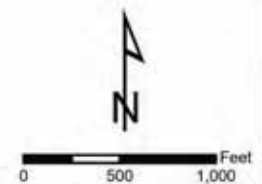


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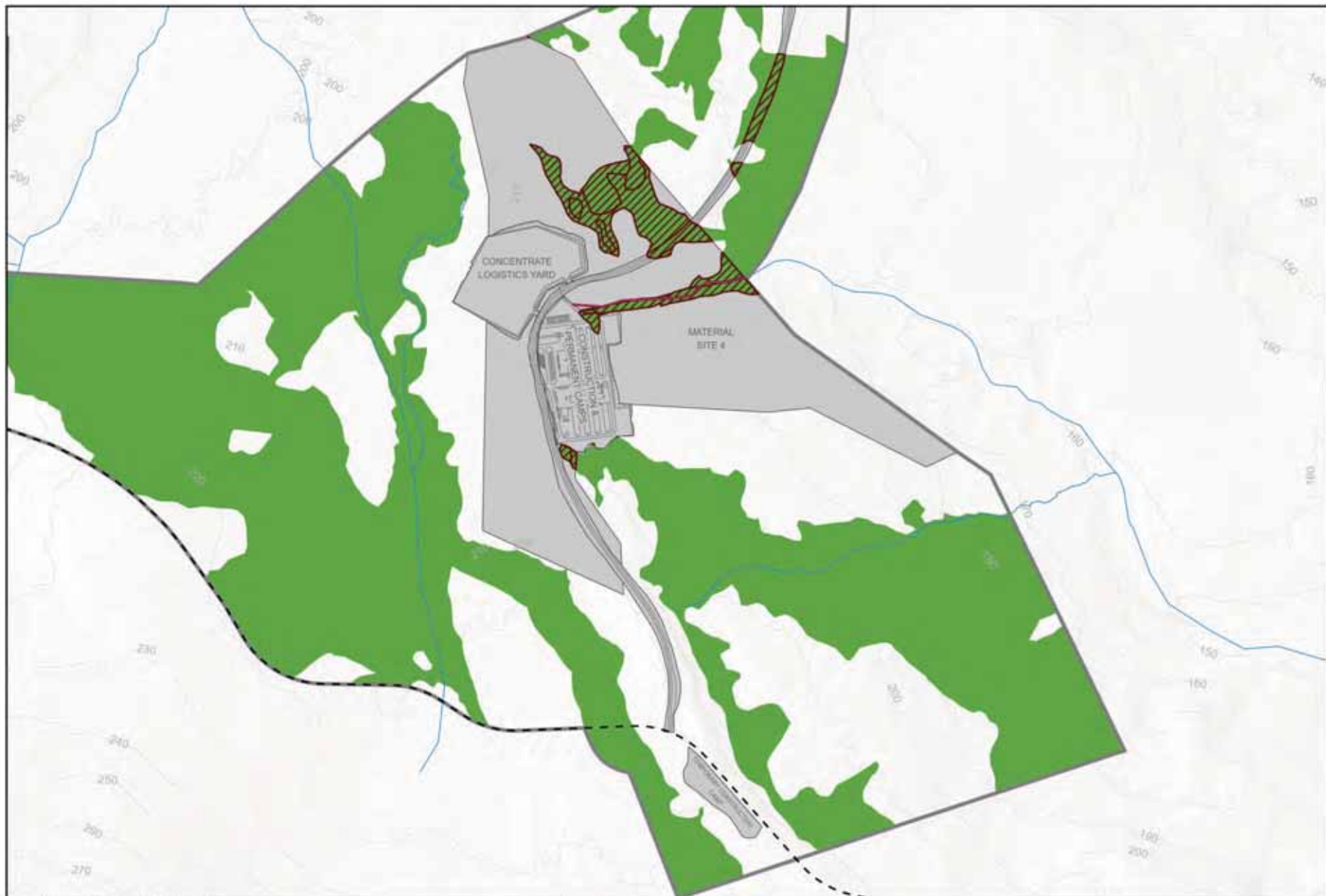


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 Sheet: 11 of 25

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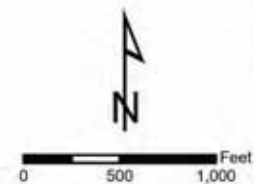
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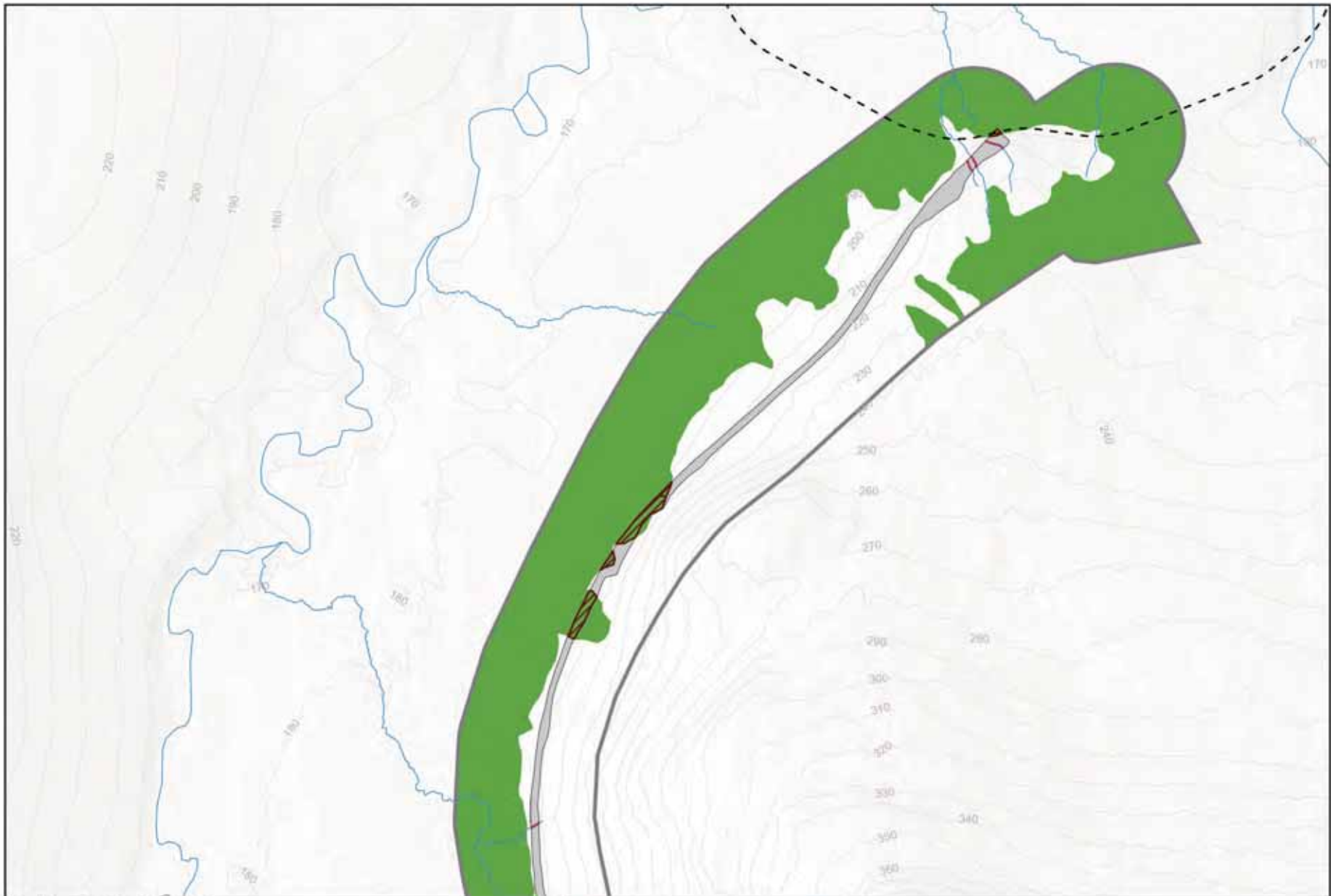


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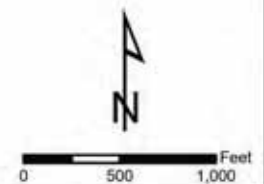
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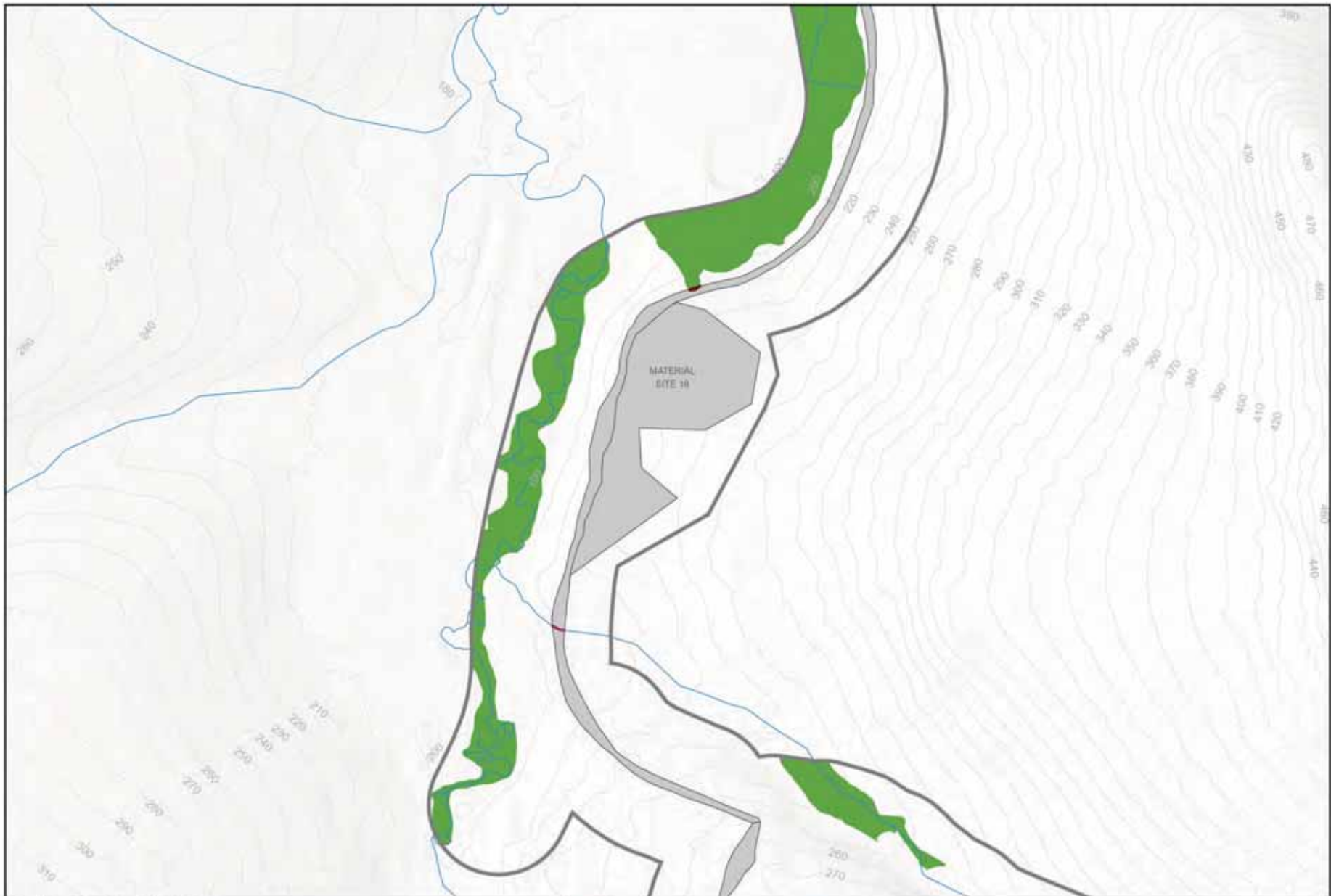


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 T18N-R9E, T19N-R9E-10E, T20N-R9E-11E, T21N-R10E-11E, Kateel River
 Meridian
 Lat.: 67°10'25.92" N Long.: -156°23'14.82" W
 Sheet: 13 of 25

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| — Stream Footprint Impact | — Stream |
| ▨ Wetland Footprint Impact | ■ Wetland |
| □ Project Footprint | ▭ Wetland Study Area |
| ■ Cut/Fill Limits | - - - Ambler Access Road |
| | — Topographic Contour (10 m) |



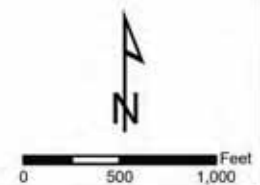
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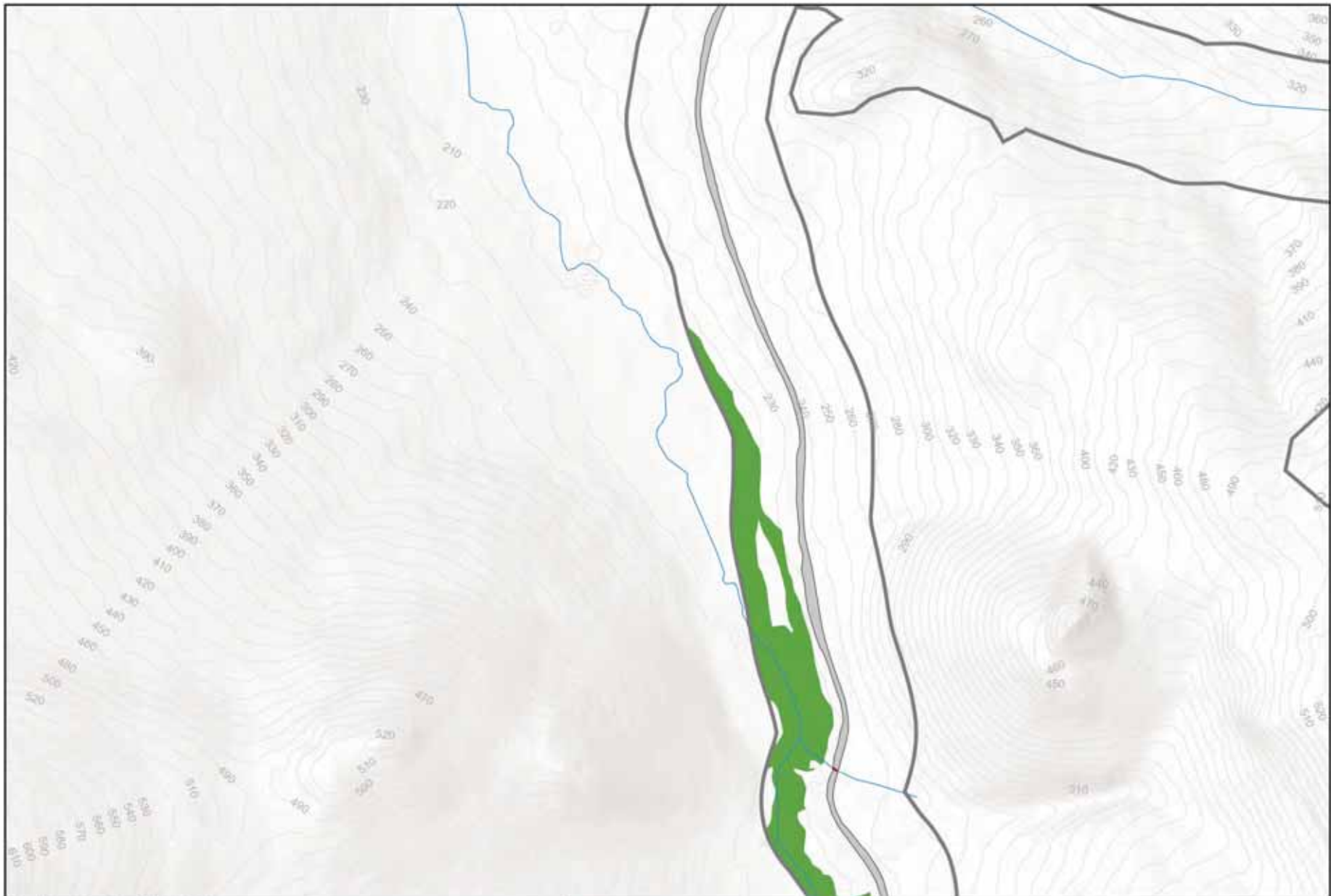


Applicant: Ambler Metals LLC
 File No.: POA-2019-00081
 Waterway: Upper Kobuk River
 Proposed Activity: Mining Project
 T18N-R9E, T19N-R9E-10E, T20N-R9E-11E, T21N-R10E-11E, Kateel River
 Meridian
 Lat.: 67°10'25.92" N Long.: -156°23'14.82" W
 Sheet: 14 of 25

Date: 5/14/2026

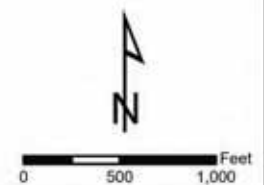
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|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| — Stream Footprint Impact | — Stream |
| ▨ Wetland Footprint Impact | ■ Wetland |
| □ Project Footprint | ▭ Wetland Study Area |
| ■ Cut/Fill Limits | — Topographic Contour (10 m) |





Applicant: Ambler Metals LLC
 File No.: POA-2019-00081
 Waterway: Upper Kobuk River
 Proposed Activity: Mining Project
 T18N-R9E, T19N-R9E-10E, T20N-R9E-11E, T21N-R10E-11E, Kateel River
 Meridian
 Lat.: 67°10'25.92" N Long.: -156°23'14.82" W
 Sheet: 15 of 25

Date: 5/14/2026

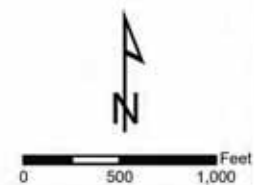


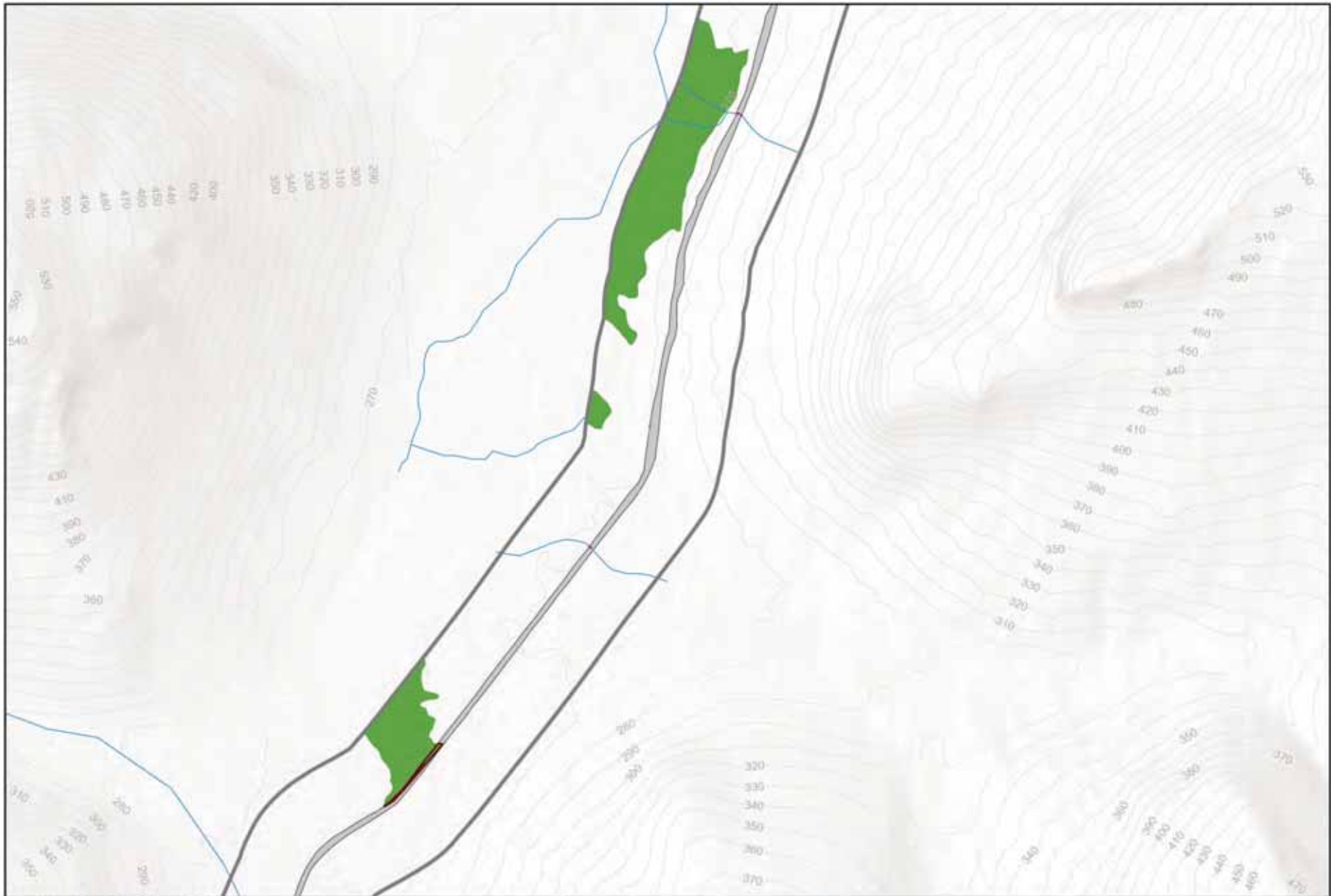


Applicant: Ambler Metals LLC
 File No.: POA-2019-00081
 Waterway: Upper Kobuk River
 Proposed Activity: Mining Project
 T18N-R9E, T19N-R9E-10E, T20N-R9E-11E, T21N-R10E-11E, Kateel River
 Meridian
 Lat.: 67°10'25.92" N Long.: -156°23'14.82" W
 Sheet: 16 of 25

Date: 5/14/2026

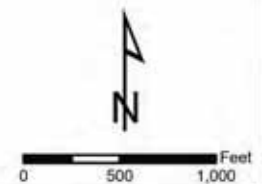
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|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| — Stream Footprint Impact | — Stream |
| ▨ Wetland Footprint Impact | ■ Wetland |
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 Lat.: 67°10'25.92" N Long.: -156°23'14.82" W
 Sheet: 17 of 25

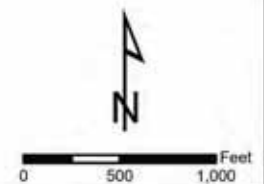
- Stream Footprint Impact
- ▨ Wetland Footprint Impact
- ▭ Project Footprint
- ▬ Cut/Fill Limits
- Stream
- Wetland
- ▭ Wetland Study Area
- Topographic Contour (10 m)





Applicant: Ambler Metals LLC
 File No.: POA-2019-00081
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 Sheet: 18 of 25

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| ▨ Wetland Footprint Impact | ■ Wetland |
| □ Project Footprint | ▭ Wetland Study Area |
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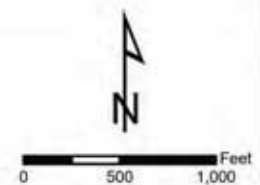




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 Sheet: 19 of 25

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- | | |
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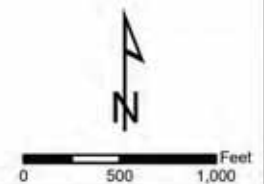


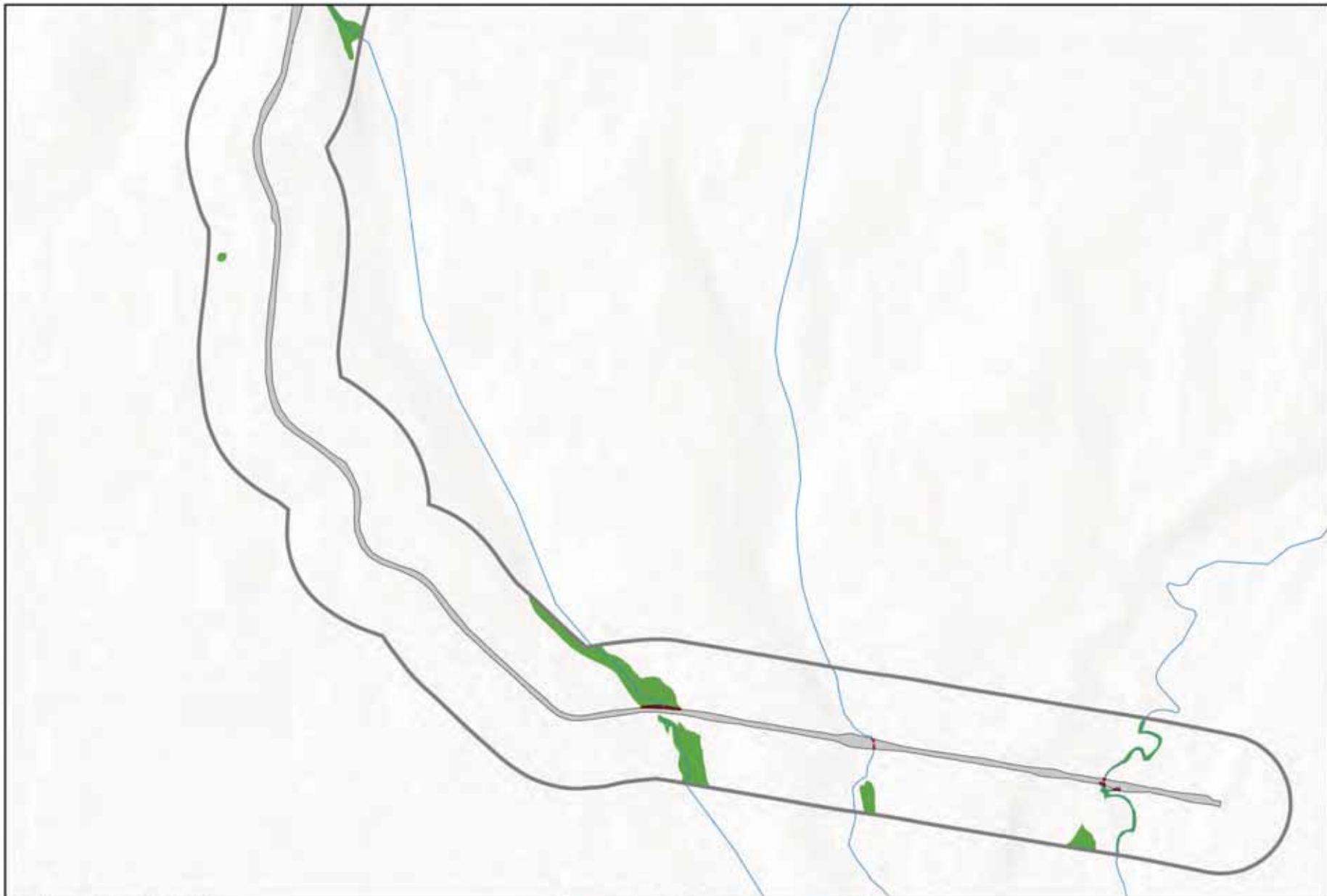


Applicant: Ambler Metals LLC
 File No.: POA-2019-00081
 Waterway: Upper Kobuk River
 Proposed Activity: Mining Project
 T18N-R9E, T19N-R9E-10E, T20N-R9E-11E, T21N-R10E-11E, Kateel River
 Meridian
 Lat.: 67°10'25.92" N Long.: -156°23'14.82" W
 Sheet: 20 of 25

Date: 5/14/2026

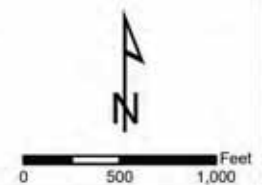
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|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| — Stream Footprint Impact | — Stream |
| ▨ Wetland Footprint Impact | ■ Wetland |
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| ■ Cut/Fill Limits | — Topographic Contour (10 m) |

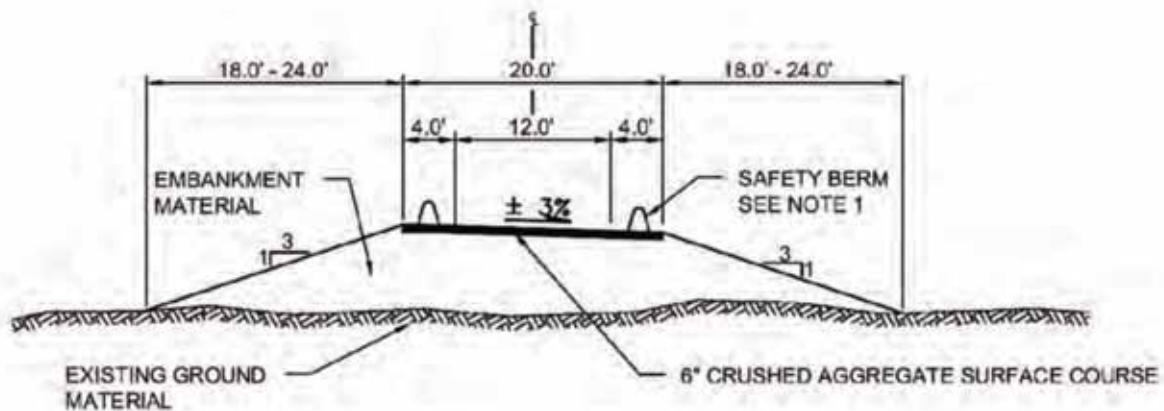




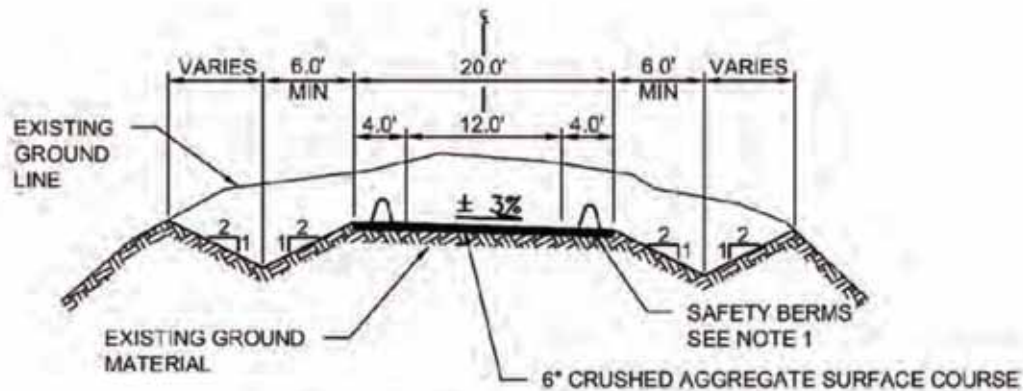
Applicant: Ambler Metals LLC
File No.: POA-2019-00081
Waterway: Upper Kobuk River
Proposed Activity: Mining Project
T18N-R9E, T19N-R9E-10E, T20N-R9E-11E, T21N-R10E-11E, Kateel River
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Sheet: 21 of 25

Stream Footprint Impact
Wetland Footprint Impact
Project Footprint
Cut/Fill Limits
Stream
Wetland
Wetland Study Area





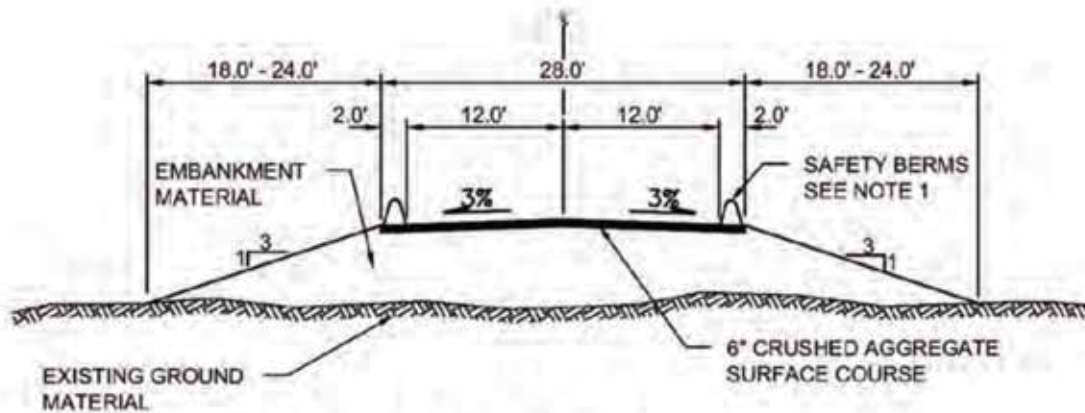
FILL SECTION TYPICAL ONE-LANE ROAD (NTS)



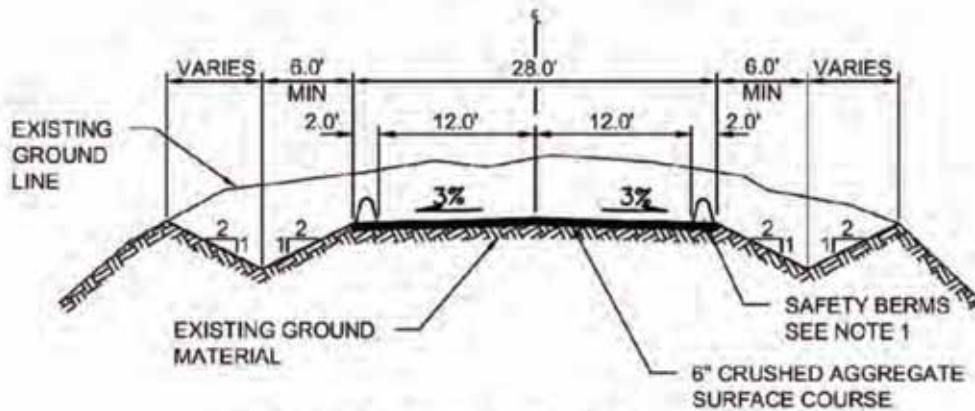
CUT SECTION TYPICAL ONE-LANE ROAD (NTS)

NOTES.

- 1) EARTHEN SAFETY BERMS ON ONE OR BOTH SIDES AS REQUIRED FOR MSHA COMPLIANCE.
 - 2) ROAD CROSS SLOPE WILL DRAIN TO LOW SIDE.
- CL = CENTERLINE
NTS: NOT TO SCALE



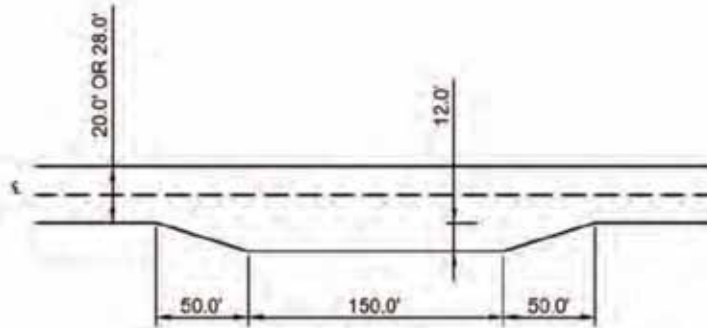
FILL SECTION TYPICAL TWO-LANE ROAD (NTS)



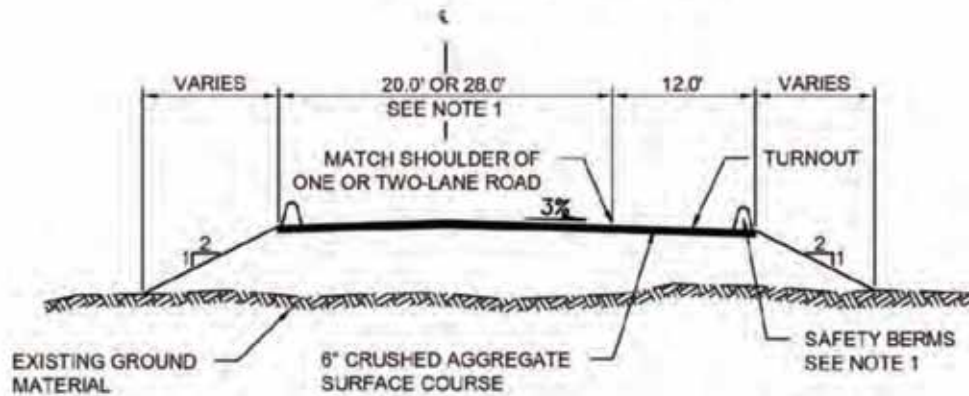
CUT SECTION TYPICAL TWO-LANE ROAD (NTS)

NOTES:

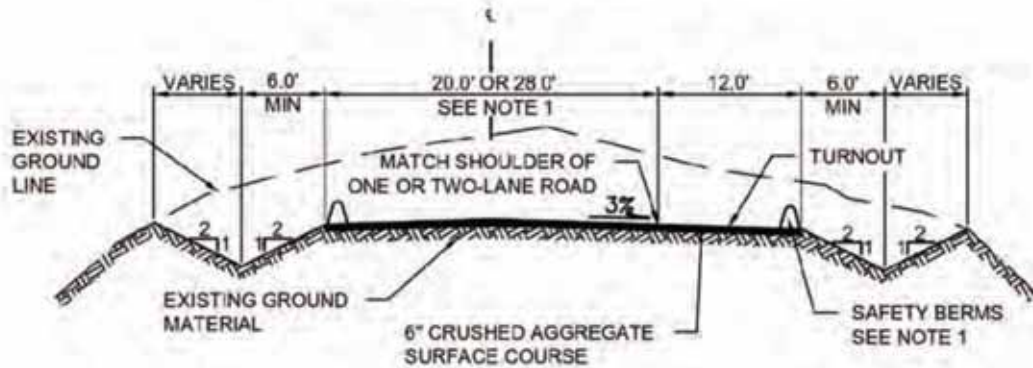
- 1) EARTHEN SAFETY BERMS ON ONE OR BOTH SIDES AS REQUIRED FOR MSHA COMPLIANCE.
- CL : CENTERLINE
- NTS: NOT TO SCALE



TURNOUT PLAN VIEW (NTS)



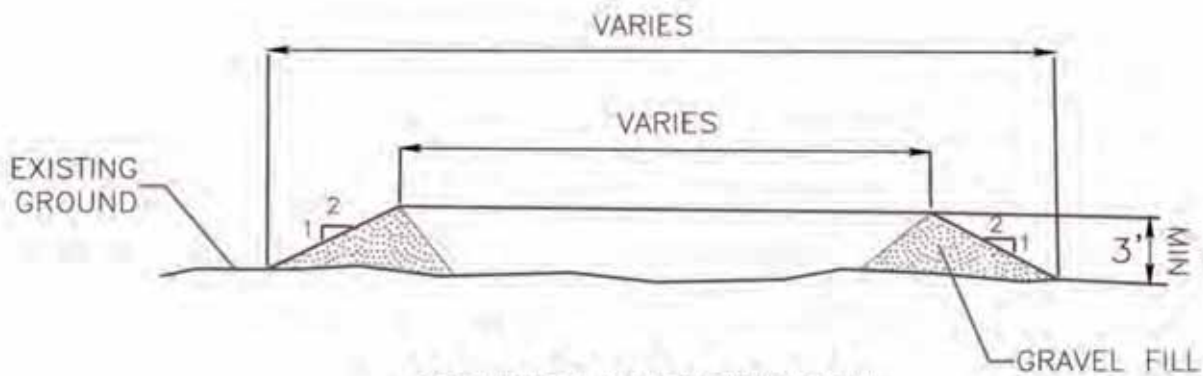
FILL SECTION TYPICAL WITH TURNOUT (NTS)



CUT SECTION TYPICAL WITH TURNOUT (NTS)

NOTES:

- 1) TURNOUTS CAN BE USED ON BOTH ONE OR TWO-LANE ROADS. REFER TO FIGURES 4 AND 5 FOR LANE AND SHOULDER DIMENSIONS AND CROSS SLOPES.
 - 2) EARTHEN SAFETY BERMS ON ONE OR BOTH SIDES AS REQUIRED FOR MSHA COMPLIANCE.
- CL : CENTERLINE
NTS: NOT TO SCALE



GRAVEL PAD TYPICAL

NOTE: FILL FOOTPRINT WILL VARY BASED UPON TOPOGRAPHY