



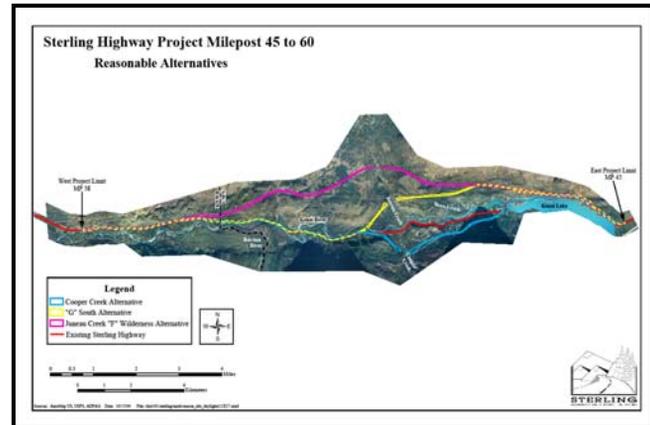
Kenai Fish & Wildlife Field Office

Conservation Planning Assistance

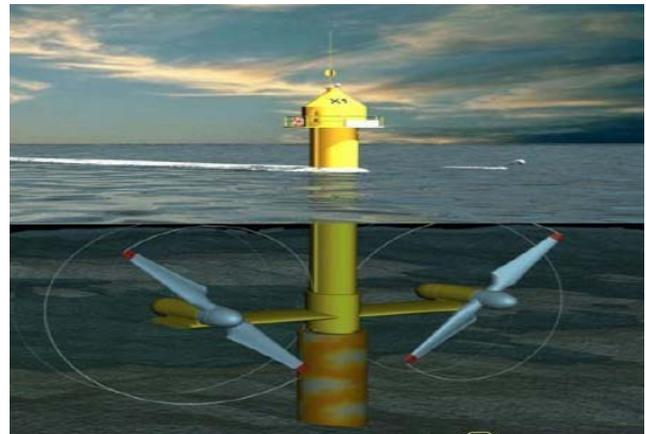
The Conservation Planning Assistance program uses the best available science and practical land management techniques to ensure that major land use/development projects proceed in a manner consistent with the Service's mission. We strive to become involved in the earliest stages of major projects, taking a landscape level approach to resource problem solving, and work closely with partners to maximize our effectiveness and seek solutions. We provide biological guidance to other federal and state agencies, industry, and members of the public concerning the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats that may be affected by development activities, such as road construction, mineral exploration, mining, utility line installation, and dredge and fill activities. Recommendations are made regarding ways to avoid, minimize, or compensate for harmful effects to fish, wildlife and their habitats.

The Kenai FWFO is currently involved in the planning stages on the following major projects located on the Kenai Peninsula:

- ***Sterling Highway MP 58 to 79*** - An ADOT&PF project to improve 19 miles of the Sterling Highway between the east entrance to Skilak Lake Road and Kenai Keys Road. All but three miles of the project are within the boundaries of the Kenai NWR.
- ***Sterling Highway MP 45 to 58 (Cooper Landing By-pass)*** - An ADOT&PF project to replace a 13 mile stretch of the Sterling Highway through Cooper Landing in order to resolve long-standing transportation issues dealing with safety and traffic congestion along the Kenai River.
- ***Oil and Gas Development*** - Exploration and production of oil and natural gas is continuing on the Kenai Peninsula with expansion of the Swanson River Oil field and natural gas development in the Anchor Point / Ninilchik area.
- ***Tidal and Wind Energy Development*** - Tidal and wind energy are two emerging segments of the renewable energy market vying for locations in Alaska. These projects have the potential to significantly affect our trust resources. Proper oversight and detailed studies will be necessary to ensure the least environmentally damaging alternatives are utilized for these projects.



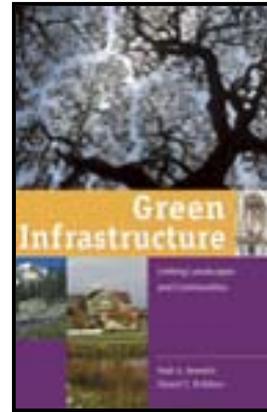
Cooper Landing By-pass Project Area



Example of renewable energy project (tidal energy)

• ***Sustainable / Green Infrastructure Planning*** -

The Kenai Peninsula is growing steadily and while growth is good for the economy, increasing development puts pressure on the natural resources that support that very same economy. A Kenai FWFO sponsored workshop (Sept. '08) has been designed for policy makers, land managers, business and development professionals having an interest in creating a vision for sustainable development. The workshop will introduce the steps necessary to effectively plan for the successful design and implementation of a green infrastructure network. Our final goal will be to actively engage partners, stakeholders and citizens to identify strategies that can be used to capitalize on government and community planning processes already in place, and show how green infrastructure can be integrated into comprehensive planning.



*Kenai FWFO sponsored workshop –
“Planning a Sustainable Future: Linking Economic and
Environmental Benefits on the Kenai Peninsula”*

Updated August 2008

**Photo of tidal energy equipment taken from
Verdant Power Renewable Energy Workshop
materials*