



4.11 Impact on Sacred Sites

By ClearWater Environmental, Inc. staff

No known Alaska Native sacred sites (Executive Order 13007, 1996) in the study area have been directly impacted by TAPS construction and operation. Some adjacent localities, such as an area near Stevens Village, may be considered sacred by local residents because of the birth of ancestral tribal chiefs and other important tribal leaders. One example of an area that may be claimed as sacred is the mouth of the Dall River, called Ch'edohno' ("the river that sustains life," or "the river that saves people from starvation") in the Koyukon Athabaskan language. Village

land-use planning documents state that sites in this area (4.5 miles downstream from Stevens Village) have been vandalized through recreational hunting and fishing activities (Stevens Village Council, 1999).

Mitigation of any impacts from TAPS could be accomplished through the Section 106 process already in place for identification, evaluation, and mitigation of historic and traditional cultural properties. Consultation with affected Alaska Native groups would be an integral part of the process (36 CFR 800).