

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Employee Housing and Maintenance Facility Construction Katmai National Park and Preserve

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that evaluates the proposed construction of employee housing and a maintenance facility on the NPS administrative site located in King Salmon, Alaska. The existing employee housing facilities are inadequate for the needs of NPS personnel located at King Salmon. NPS personnel now reside in unsafe and insufficient facilities. The existing maintenance building is incapable of wholly serving the maintenance and storage needs of Katmai National Park & Preserve. The housing and the maintenance facility are essential for the safe and efficient execution of park and visitor needs.

The employee housing to be constructed would consist of ten housing units. The housing units would be a mixture of one, two, and three bedroom units approximately 900 to 1,300 square feet each. The housing units would have attached garages for storage as well as protection of vehicles. The new maintenance facility would have 7,200 square feet for indoor workshops, space for storage, and 32,400 square feet of outdoor storage, vehicle parking, and circulation space. The housing and maintenance structures would be hooked up to existing utility and sewage lines located on the NPS administrative site.

The following alternatives were considered in the EA.

1. (Proposed Action/Preferred Alternative) Build Employee Housing/Maintenance Facility on the NPS Administrative Site.
2. Locate the NPS Employee Housing to the Future Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Site and Construct the Maintenance facility the NPS Site.
3. Combination Sites (Non-Wetland NPS Site and FAA Site).
4. No Action, (Constructing the Employee Housing and the Maintenance Facility as Presented in the Approved 1983 Katmai/Aniachak, King Salmon Headquarters Development Concept Plan & Environmental Assessment).

A complete description of the proposal (preferred alternative) and the other alternatives is included in the Environmental Assessment for the *King Salmon Administrative Site Employee Housing and Maintenance Facility Construction, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alaska, January 1994*.

The alternative of purchasing a non-wetland site in the immediate vicinity of the NPS administrative site was considered impractical for the following reasons: 1) The purchase of land is not possible with the funds available for the project; and 2) the time required to purchase land was considered prohibitively long. NPS use of the FAA site was determined to be impractical for the following reasons: 1) There is presently no infrastructure (sewage,

water, power, access roads) on the FAA site, which would further delay NPS construction; and 2) Additional time and cost would be required to redesign the NPS facilities for construction at the FAA site.

The key issues are: 1) The clearing of two acres of delineated wetland vegetation for construction of employee housing; 2) The need for employee housing that would remove NPS personnel from unsafe and sub-standard quarters in the shortest amount of time possible; 3) Park management objectives that include a need for more maintenance and storage space to achieve an efficient park management program; 4) The impact to soil, air, and water quality caused by housing and maintenance facility construction; and 5) A concern about the project's close proximity to the National Weather Service balloon inflation/launch facility.

Project mitigative measures include: 1) The NPS would compensate for the two acres of wetland impacted at King Salmon by restoring wetland habitat at Denali National Park and Preserve. Remediation will take place at Eureka Creek, located in the Kantishna Hills region of Denali National Park and Preserve. Eureka Creek has been mined by heavy equipment in the past and has been cleared of vegetation in some areas. A four acre section of Eureka Creek will be restored as compensation for the two acres impacted at the NPS administrative site. This mitigation action fulfills National Park Service guideline requirements for compensation of impacted wetlands. The environmental assessment and statement of findings for this project give a more detailed description of the wetland mitigation action; 2) Silt fences will be used during construction to avoid soil erosion and protect water quality; 3) The natural sod removed from the north of the access driveway will be returned after construction is complete; 4) Gravel fill material for the project will be obtained from existing sources outside of the park and the NPS administrative site.

Katmai National Park and Preserve visitors will not be affected by the proposed action since the project is located outside of the park.

The draft EA and wetlands protection statement of findings for this project was circulated to the public for review and comment on January 19, 1994. There was only one comment received by the end of the public review period March 14, 1994. The comment was from the National Weather Service stating that they operate a balloon launching facility that utilizes hydrogen gas near our proposed employee housing site. Hydrogen gas is highly flammable and even explosive under some circumstances. After review of the comment the judgment of NPS safety personnel concluded that the construction of employee housing as proposed will not jeopardize the safety of NPS or National Weather Service personnel.

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' section 404 permit is required and will be obtained before any action impacting wetlands on the NPS site is allowed. An application for a permit has been submitted and the public review period required to obtain the permit will end on March 17, 1994. It is expected that the permit allowing construction on the wetland area of the NPS site will be issued shortly after the public review period has ended.

This project is located within the coastal zone and is being reviewed for consistency with the standards and policies of the Alaska Coastal Management Program and the Bristol Bay

Borough Coastal Management Program. The state of Alaska's coastal project questionnaire has been completed and state approvals and permits for project should be obtained in early April.


There are no cultural resources known to exist at the NPS administrative site. If unknown cultural resources are found, work will cease and the NPS will consult according to 36 CFR 800.11 and, as appropriate, the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990. There will be no significant restriction of subsistence activities as documented by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII, Section 810(a) Summary Evaluation and Findings included in the environmental assessment.

Soil erosion will be controlled during construction with silt fences. The NPS administrative site is located in a heavily disturbed area (the town of King Salmon), and with the exception of the wetland area on the site, contains no other known unique natural or cultural features.

There are no threatened or endangered species inhabiting the NPS administrative site. The proposed action complies with the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, and the Clean Water Act.

I find that the proposed action does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9), an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for the project.

Recommended:



Superintendent, Katmai National Park and Preserve

3-16-94
Date

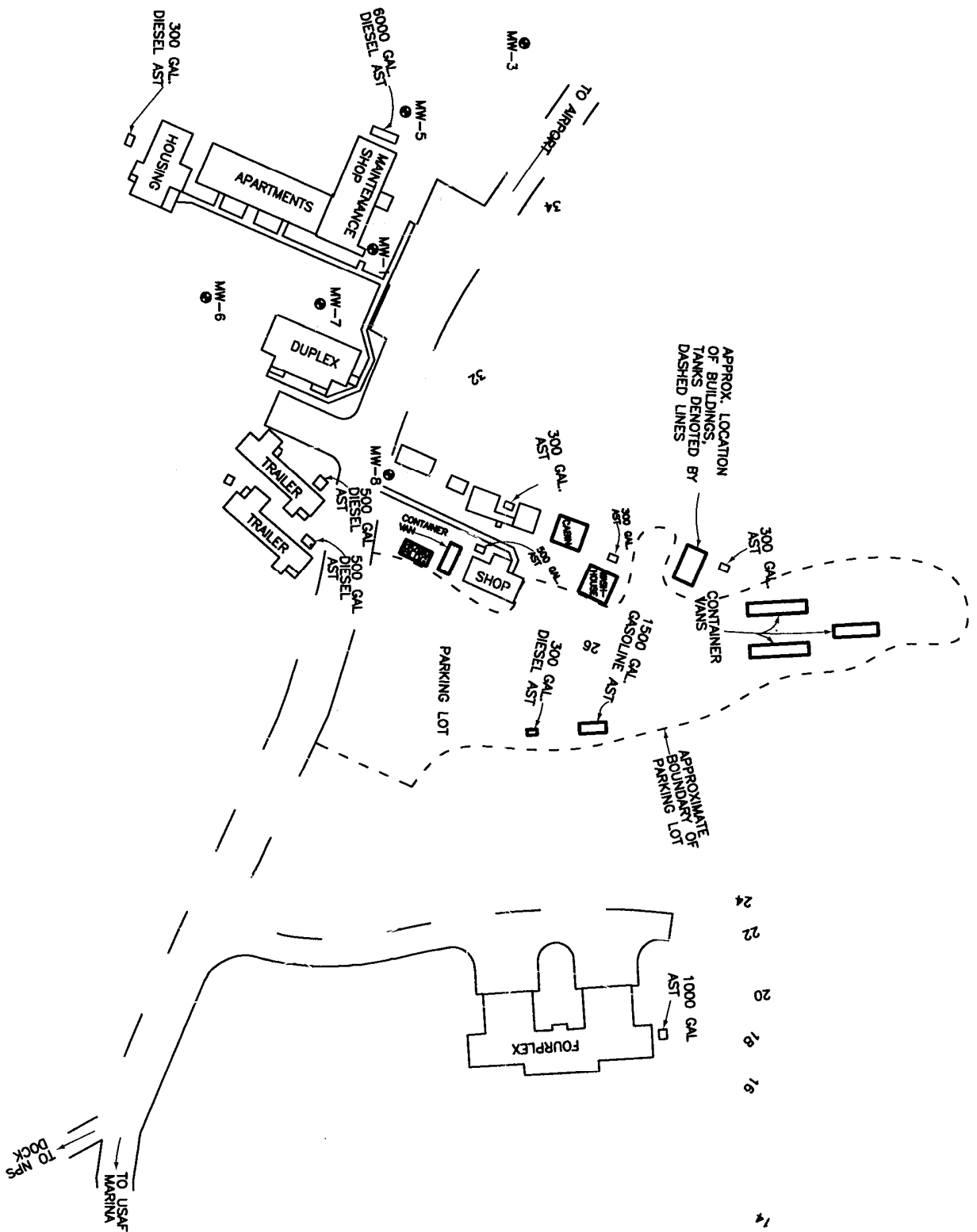
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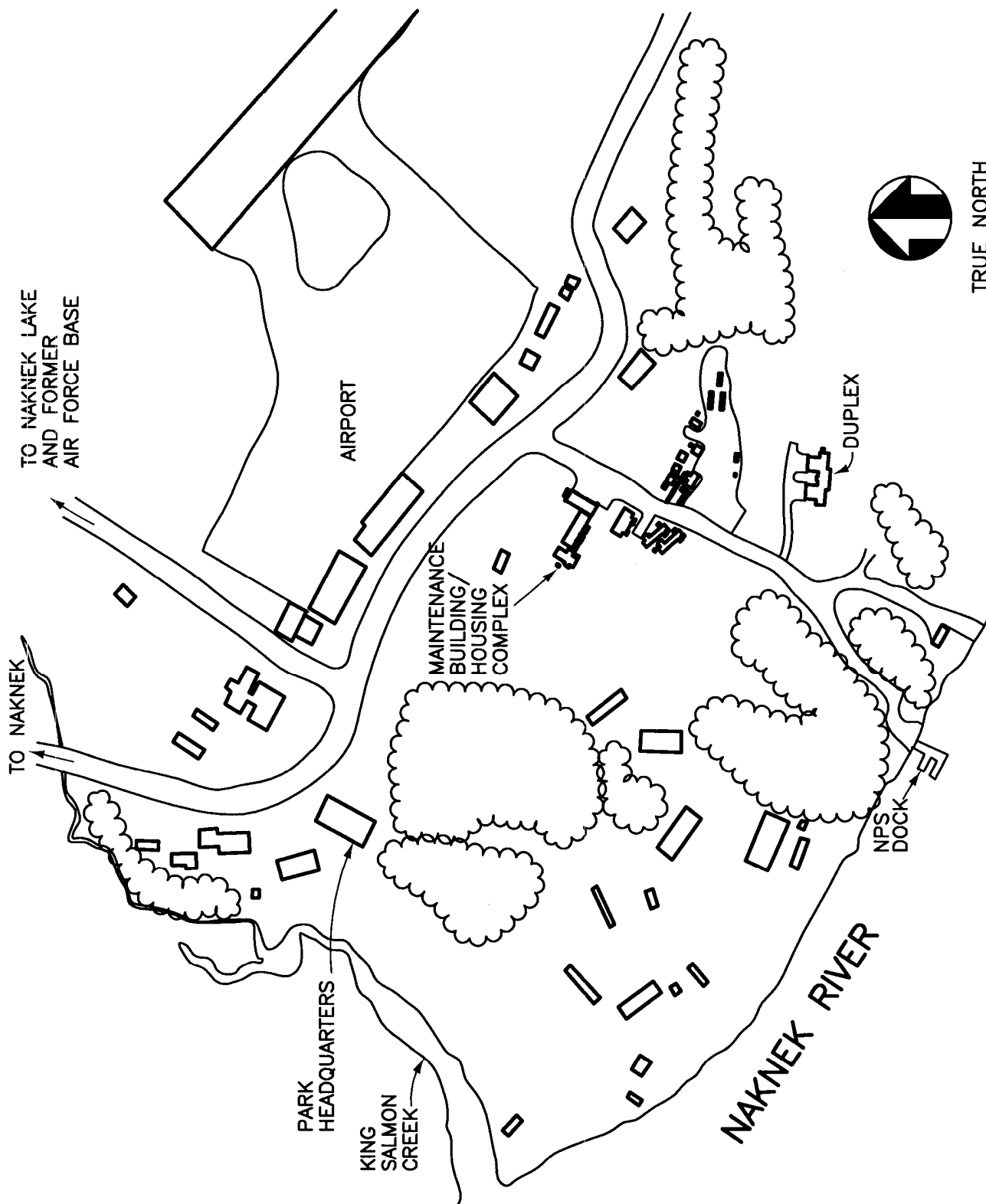
Regional Director, Alaska Region

MAR 16 1994

Date



KING SALMON SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1"=100'



KING SALMON AREA
NO SCALE

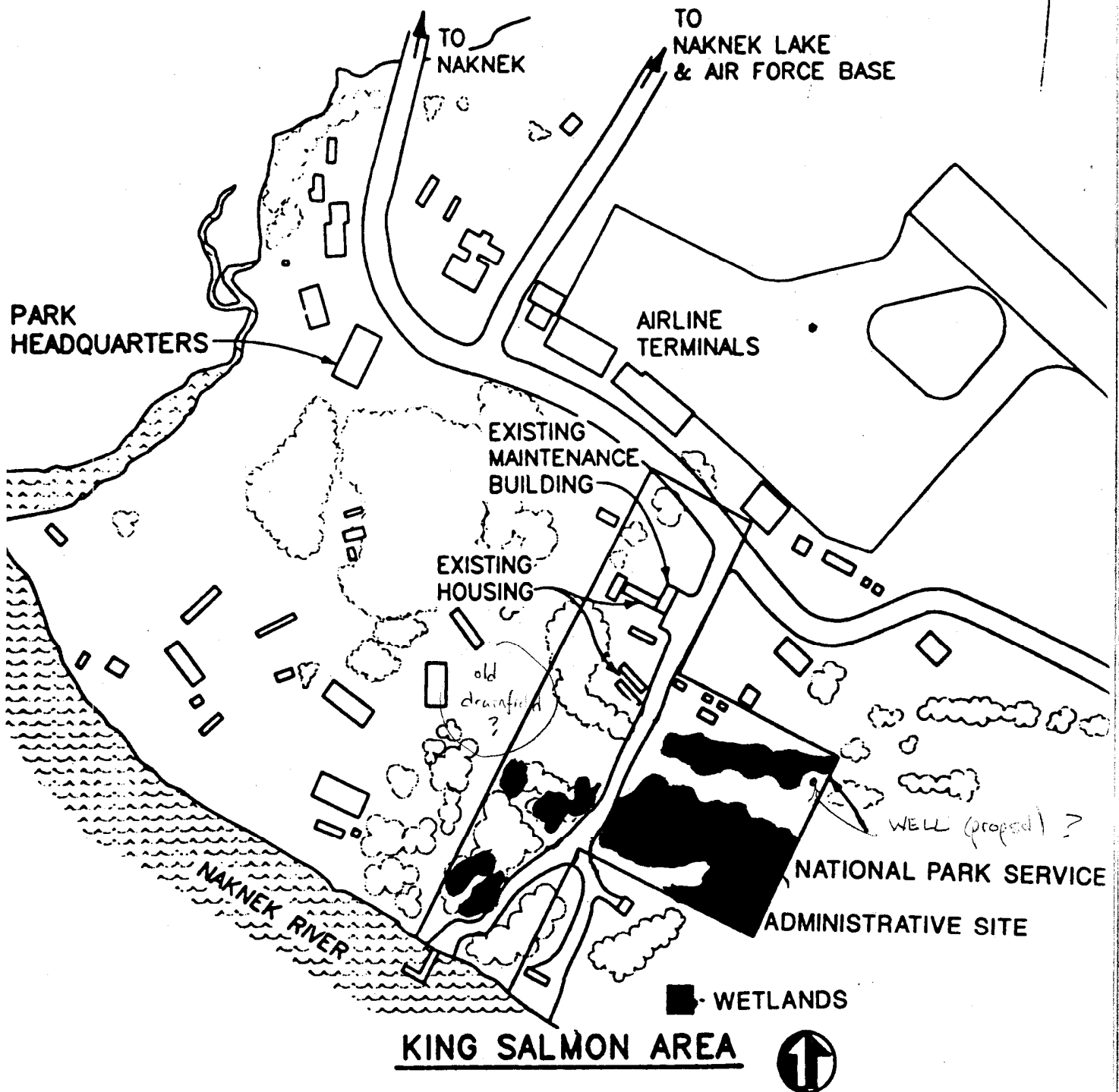


FIGURE - 3