



# Ambler Access Project

## Stakeholder Engagement Update

June 23rd, 2023

Greetings-

The Ambler Access Project leadership is committed to open communication, transparency, and partnering with the local communities. We are providing these regular project updates in an effort to share more information about the activities of the project. I hope you are excited to learn more.

This email summary is the second regular project update for the Ambler Access Project (AAP) since we started this new communication process. The first email was sent on June 1st and these will be soon linked to the AAP website.

The past two weeks have been particularly busy for the project. Below is a summary of the efforts.

Please pass along this email to others who may be interested and encourage them to subscribe to our distribution list by sending a note to [info@ambleraccess.org](mailto:info@ambleraccess.org). We also encourage you to share your ideas and feedback for the project by emailing [info@ambleraccess.org](mailto:info@ambleraccess.org).

Thanks!  
Jeff San Juan  
AAP Program Manager

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- The AAP summer field season is underway, with numerous field and scientific/engineering personnel mobilizing to begin various activities, based out of both Coldfoot and Bornite camps. Three helicopters are supporting the field personnel from Bornite and two helicopters are supporting the personnel from Coldfoot.
- Bornite Camp opened last week to support the hydrology and hydraulic (H&H) teams, bird nest survey and landing zone cutting teams, cultural/archaeological survey teams, and engineering reconnaissance teams. The camp is being operated by Ambler Metals with support from NANA Management Services (NMS). NMS is employing numerous local area residents for camp operations. As of 6/21/23, 64 individuals are in the field in support of project activities.
- The archaeology and cultural resource survey teams met in Fairbanks to conduct team training and cultural awareness activities ahead of mobilizing to the field. Nearly twenty team members participated in the training, including eight tribal liaisons from the region. Overall, the project anticipates up to three teams operating through the summer, with each team consisting of two archaeology trained professionals, a tribal liaison, and a bear guard. The first team mobilized to Bornite Camp at the end of last week. Two additional teams mobilized this week.
- Landing zone (LZ) clearing personnel are now operating out of Bornite Camp to continue preparing locations for safe helicopter access to support study sites along the project corridor. This work is a continuation of the LZs prepared last summer. A trained biologist is working with the LZ team to survey potential LZ sites, ensuring that no nests are present. If nests are found, the teams adjust the locations.
- H&H measurement and survey teams, including engineers and surveyors, continued collecting data on the rivers and creeks in the corridor. Teams are now operating from both Bornite and Coldfoot camps.
- The project's Subsistence Advisory Committee (SAC) and Workforce Development Working Group (WDWG) met in Kotzebue on June 14 and 15. Meeting agendas and minutes will be available on the AAP website. Members of both committees toured Red Dog Road and Mine on June 13 to see first-hand how infrastructure can coexist with the environment. The next SAC and WDWG meetings are tentatively scheduled to occur in Allakaket in August.

- AAP Deputy Program Manager, Craig Jones, visited Alatna on June 5th, meeting with Chief Harding Sam to discuss the project and on-going activities.
- The BLM Director and other BLM staff visited the region during the week of June 5, overflying the corridor and conducting meetings in several communities.
- The BLM issued approvals for the 2022 Programmatic Agreement (PA) Report and is holding off approval of the 2023 Annual Work Plan (AWP) until the development of the Survey Strategy Methodology and Data Management Plan are completed. AIDEA is appreciative of the cooperation from BLM and PA signatories in addressing a path forward for the comments on the AWP.
- The AAP outreach team is working on the next newsletter, with distribution planned before mid-July.



*SAC and WDWG members participating in a meeting at RedDog Mine*

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# Working Together to Find Opportunity

The Ambler Access Project is being developed collaboratively, in close consultation with the tribes and communities throughout the NANA and Doyon Regions.

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## Want to learn more?

Visit [ambleraccess.org](https://ambleraccess.org) to learn how the AAP is unlocking opportunity for Alaska's rural communities. [Contact us](#) anytime with questions!

Visit our website

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