



Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for Bear Creek Camp, Haines, Alaska PWSID #110902

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT NO. 708

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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The Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) is producing Source Water Assessments in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. Each assessment includes a delineation of the source water area, an inventory of potential and existing contaminant sources that may impact the water, a risk ranking for each of these contaminants, and an evaluation of the potential vulnerability of these drinking water sources.

These assessments are intended to provide public water systems owners/operators, communities, and local governments with the best available information that may be used to protect the quality of their drinking water. The assessments combine information obtained from various sources, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), public water system owners/operators, and other public information sources. The results of this assessment are subject to change if additional data becomes available. It is anticipated this assessment will be updated every five years to reflect any changes in the vulnerability and/or susceptibility of public drinking water source. If you have any additional information that may affect the results of this assessment, please contact the Program Coordinator of DWPP, (907) 269-7521.

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Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public water system for Bear Creek Camp is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system consisting of one well. The Bear Creek Camp is located at Mile 1 Small Tracts Road, Haines, Alaska. The wellhead received a susceptibility rating of Very High and the aquifer a susceptibility rating of Very High. Combining these two ratings produces a Very High rating for the natural susceptibility of the well. Identified potential and current sources of contaminants for Bear Creek Camp public drinking water source includes: laundromats (without drycleaning); large capacity septic systems; single-family septic systems; water supply wells; and dirt/gravel highways and roads. These identified potential and existing sources of contamination are considered sources of bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals. Overall, the public water sources for Bear Creek Camp received a vulnerability rating of Verv High for bacteria and viruses; Very High for nitrates and nitrites, and High for volatile organic chemicals.

BEAR CREEK CAMP PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

Bear Creek Camp public water system is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system. The system consists of one 6-inch diameter well located beneath the office area at Mile 1 Small Tracts Road, Haines, Alaska (See Map 1 of Appendix A). Haines is located on Portage Cove, between the Chilkoot and Chilkat Inlets, on the upper arm of Lynn Canal, approximately 80 air miles northwest of Juneau (please see the inset of Map 1 in Appendix A for location). The population of Haines is approximately 2,300.

Haines averages about 60 inches of precipitation per year; and approximately 133 inches of snow. The groundwater aquifers underlying the area are recharged through the infiltration of precipitation and surface water. Groundwater aquifers in the region generally occur in the fractured bedrock and unconsolidated sediments deposited by glaciers and/or rivers. The elevation for Haines is at sea level. According to a Sanitary Survey dated October 10, 1998, there is one well that was installed to a depth of approximately 280 feet below the ground surface. It is assumed that the length of the well screens for this well is 10 feet.

The Survey for the water system indicates that the land surface is not appropriately sloped away from the well, providing insufficient surface water drainage, and it is not grouted. Proper grouting provides added protection against contaminants traveling along the well casing and into source waters.

This system operates from April 15 to November 15 and serves approximately 3 residents and 30 nonresidents through the service connection.

BEAR CREEK CAMP DRINKING WATER PROTECTION AREA

In order to evaluate whether a drinking water source is at risk, we must first evaluate what are the most likely pathways for surface contamination to reach the groundwater. These areas are determined by looking at the characteristics of the soil, groundwater, aquifer, and well.

The most probable area for contamination to reach the drinking water well is the area that contributes water to the well, the groundwater recharge area. This area is designated as the Drinking Water Protection Area (DWPA). Because releases of contaminants within the DWPA are most likely to impact the drinking water well, this area will serve as the focus for voluntary protection efforts.

An analytical calculation was used to determine the size and shape of the DWPA. The input parameters describing the attribute of the aquifer in this calculation were adopted from the U.S. Geological Survey (Patrick, Brabets, and Glass, 1989), and State of Alaska Department of Water Resources (Jokela, et. al., 1991). Additional methods were also used to take into account any uncertainties in groundwater flow and aquifer characteristics to arrive at a meaningful DPWA (Please refer to the Guidance Manual for Class B Public Water Systems for additional information). The DWPAs established for wells by the ADEC are usually separated into four zones. These zones correspond to differences in the time-of-travel (TOT) of the water moving through the aquifer to the well.

The TOT for contaminants within the water varies and is dependent on the physical and chemical characteristics of each contaminant. The following is a summary of the four protection area zones for wells and the calculated time-of-travel for each:

Table 1. Definition of Zones

Zone	Definition
А	¹ / ₄ the distance for the 2-yr. time-of-travel
В	Less than the 2 year time-of-travel
С	Less Than the 5 year time-of-travel
D	Less than the 10 year time-of-travel

The DWPA for Bear Creek Camp extends approximately 1.2 miles east of the well. Development in the vicinity of the well is basically limited to only Zones A and B (see Map 1 of Appendix A).

INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL AND EXISTING CONTAMINANT SOURCES

The Drinking Water Protection Program has completed an inventory of potential and existing sources of contamination within the Bear Creek Camp DWPA. This inventory was completed through a search of agency records and other publicly-available information. Potential sources of contamination to the drinking water aquifer include a wide range of categories and types. Potential drinking water contaminants are found within agricultural, residential. commercial, and industrial areas, but can also occur within areas that have little or no development.

For the basis of all Class B public water system assessments, three categories of drinking water contaminants were inventoried. They include:

- Bacteria and viruses;
- Nitrates and/or nitrites;
- Volatile organic chemicals

The sources are displayed on Map 2 of Appendix C and summarized in Table 1 of Appendix B.

RANKING OF CONTAMINANT RISKS

Once the potential and existing sources of contamination have been identified, they are assigned a ranking according to what type and level of risk they represent. Ranking of contaminant risks for a "potential" or "existing" source of contamination is a function of toxicity and volumes of specific contaminants associated with that source. Rankings include:

- Low;
- Medium;
- High; and
- Very High.

The TOT for contaminants within the water varies and is dependent on the physical and chemical characteristics of each contaminant. Bacteria and Viruses are only inventoried in Zones A and B because of their short life span. Only "Very High" and "High" rankings are inventoried within the outer Zone D due to the probability of contaminant dilution by the time the contaminants get to the well.

Tables 2 through 4 in Appendix B contain the ranking of potential and existing sources of contamination with respect to bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals.

VULNERABILITY OF BEAR CREEK CAMP DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

Vulnerability of a drinking water source to contamination is a combination of two factors:

- Natural susceptibility; and
- Contaminant risks.

Appendix D contains eight charts, which together form the 'Vulnerability Analysis' for a source water assessment for a public drinking water source. Chart 1 analyzes the 'Susceptibility of the Wellhead' to contamination by looking at the construction of the well and its surrounding area. Chart 2 analyzes the 'Susceptibility of the Aquifer' to contamination by looking at the naturally occurring attributes of the water source and influences on the groundwater system that Chart 3 analyzes might lead to contamination. 'Contaminant Risks' for the drinking water source with respect to bacteria and viruses. The 'Contaminant Risks' portion of the analysis considers potential sources of contaminants as well as a review of contamination that has or may have occurred, but has not arrived or been detected at the well. Lastly, Chart 4 contains the 'Vulnerability Analysis for Bacteria and Viruses'. Charts 5 through 8 contain the Contaminant Risks and Vulnerability Analyses for nitrates and nitrites and volatile organic chemicals, respectively.

A score for the Natural Susceptibility is reached by considering the properties of the well and the aquifer.

Susceptibility of the Wellhead (0 – 25 Points) (Chart 1 of Appendix D)

Susceptibility of the Aquifer (0 – 25 Points) (Chart 2 of Appendix D)

+

Natural Susceptibility (Susceptibility of the Well) (0 - 50 Points)

A ranking is assigned for the Natural Susceptibility according to the point score:

Natural Susceptibility Ratings

40 to 50 pts	Very High
30 to < 40 pts	High
20 to $< 30 \text{ pts}$	Medium
< 20 pts	Low

The well for the Bear Creek Camp is assumed to be completed in an unconfined aquifer. Because unconfined aquifers are recharged by surface water and precipitation that migrates downward from the surface, contaminants at the surface have the potential to adversely impact this aquifer. Table 2 shows the Susceptibility scores and ratings for Bear Creek Camp

Table 2. Susceptibility

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the		
Wellhead	25	Very High
Susceptibility of the		
Aquifer	25	Very High
Natural Susceptibility	50	Very High

Contaminant risks to a drinking water source depend on the type, number or density, and distribution of contaminant sources. This score has been derived from an examination of existing and historical contamination that has been detected at the drinking water source through routine sampling. It also evaluates potential sources of contamination. Flow charts are used to assign a point score, and ratings are assigned in the same way as for the natural susceptibility:

Contaminant Risk Ratings

40 to 50 pts	Very High
30 to < 40 pts	High
20 to < 30 pts	Medium
< 20 pts	Low

Table 3 summarizes the Contaminant Risks for each category of drinking water contaminants.

Table 3. Contaminant Risks

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	45	Very High
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	45	Very High
Volatile Organic Chemicals	17	Low

Finally, an overall vulnerability score is assigned for each water system by combining each of the contaminant risk scores with the natural susceptibility score:

Natural Susceptibility (0 - 50 points)

+

Contaminant Risks (0 – 50 points) =

Vulnerability of the Drinking Water Source to Contamination (0 - 100).

Again, rankings are assigned according to a point score:

Overall Vulnerability Ratings

80 to 100 pts	Very High
60 to < 80 pts	High
40 to < 60 pts	Medium
< 40 pts	Low

Table 4 contains the overall vulnerability scores (0 - 100) and ratings for each of the three categories of drinking water contaminants. Note: scores are rounded off to the nearest five.

Table 4. Overall Vulnerability

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	95	Very High
Nitrates and Nitrites	95	Very High
Volatile Organic Chemicals	65	High

Bacteria and Viruses

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses is **Very High** with laundromats (without drycleaning); large capacity septic systems; single-family septic systems; water supply wells; dirt/gravel highways and roads; and municipal/city park located within Zone A representing the risk to the drinking water well (See Chart 3 – Contaminant Risks for Bacteria and Viruses in Appendix D).

Only a small amount of bacteria and viruses are required to endanger public health. Bacteria and viruses sampling data between 1999 and 2002 did not detect bacteria or viruses. After combining the contaminant risks from the laundromat; large-capacity and single-family septic systems; and dirt/gravel roads with the overall natural susceptibility of the well, the vulnerability of the well to contamination by bacteria and viruses is **Very High**.

Nitrates and Nitrites

The contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites is **Very High** with the laundromats; large-capacity and singlefamily septic systems; water supply wells; dirt/gravel highways and roads; and municipal/city park representing the risk to this source of public drinking water (See Chart 5 - Contaminant Risks for Nitrates and/or Nitrites in Appendix D).

The current sampling history available for nitrates/nitrites at the Bear Creek Camp did not indicate any detectable concentrations. Due to the high solubility and weak retention by soil, nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water.

After combining the contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination by nitrates and nitrites is **Very High**.

Volatile Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is **Low** with the Laundromats; large-capacity and single-family septic systems; water supply wells; and dirt/gravel highways and roads creating the only known risk for volatile organic chemicals (See Chart 7 – Contaminant Risks for Volatile Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

There are no recent sample data available for the drinking water at Bear Creek Camp for volatile organic chemicals. However, after combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination by volatile organic chemicals is **High**.

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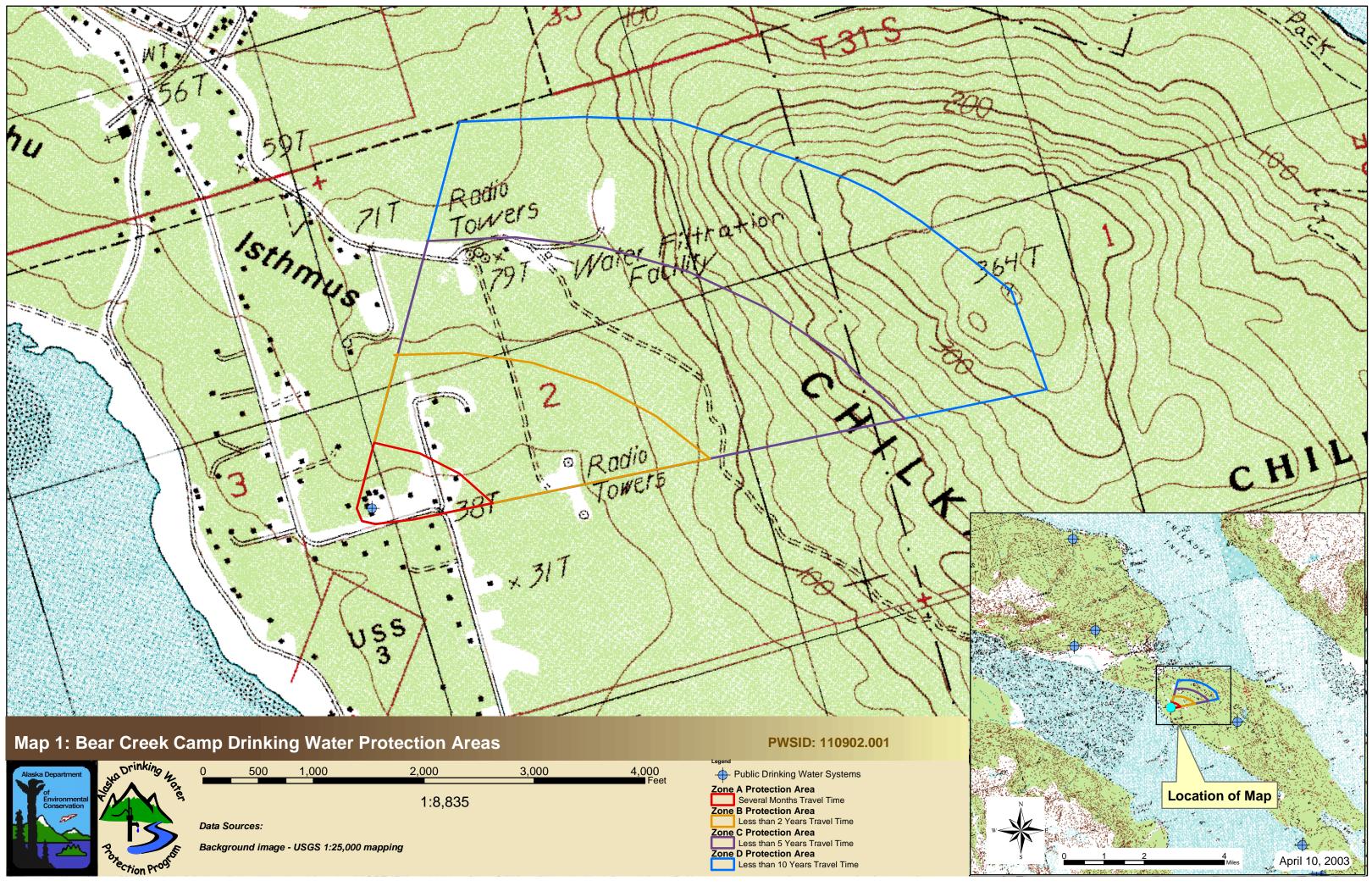
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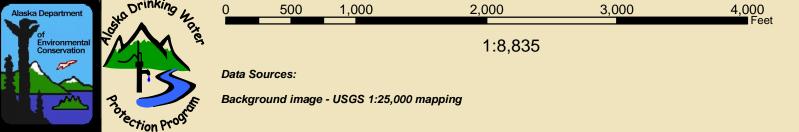
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APPENDIX A

Bear Creek Camp Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)







APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Bear Creek Camp (Tables 1-4)

Contaminant Source Inventory for Bear Creek Camp

PWSID 110902.001

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag		Zone	Map Number Comments
Laundromats without dry cleaning	C22	C22-1	А	2	Bear Creek Laundromat
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	А	2	Bear Creek Septic System
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1	А	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-2	А	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-3	А	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-4	А	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Water supply wells	W09	W09-1	А	2	Residence East of Bear Creek
Water supply wells	W09	W09-2	А	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Water supply wells	W09	W09-3	А	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Water supply wells	W09	W09-4	А	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-1	А	2	Road South of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-2	А	2	Road East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-5	В	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-6	В	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-7	В	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-8	В	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Water supply wells	W09	W09-5	В	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Water supply wells	W09	W09-6	В	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Water supply wells	W09	W09-7	В	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Water supply wells	W09	W09-8	В	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-3	В	2	Road to Radio Towers
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-4	С	2	Road East of Radio Towers

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 110902.001

Bear Creek Camp Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Laundromats without dry cleaning	C22	C22-1	А	Low	2	Bear Creek Laundromat
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	А	High	2	Bear Creek Septic System
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-2	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-3	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-4	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-1	А	Low	2	Road South of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-2	А	Low	2	Road East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-5	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-6	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-7	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-8	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-3	В	Low	2	Road to Radio Towers

Table 2

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 110902.001

Bear Creek Camp

Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Laundromats without dry cleaning	C22	C22-1	А	Low	2	Bear Creek Laundromat
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	А	High	2	Bear Creek Septic System
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-2	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-3	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-4	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-1	А	Low	2	Road South of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-2	А	Low	2	Road East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-5	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-6	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-7	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-8	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-3	В	Low	2	Road to Radio Towers
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-4	С	Low	2	Road East of Radio Towers

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 110902.001

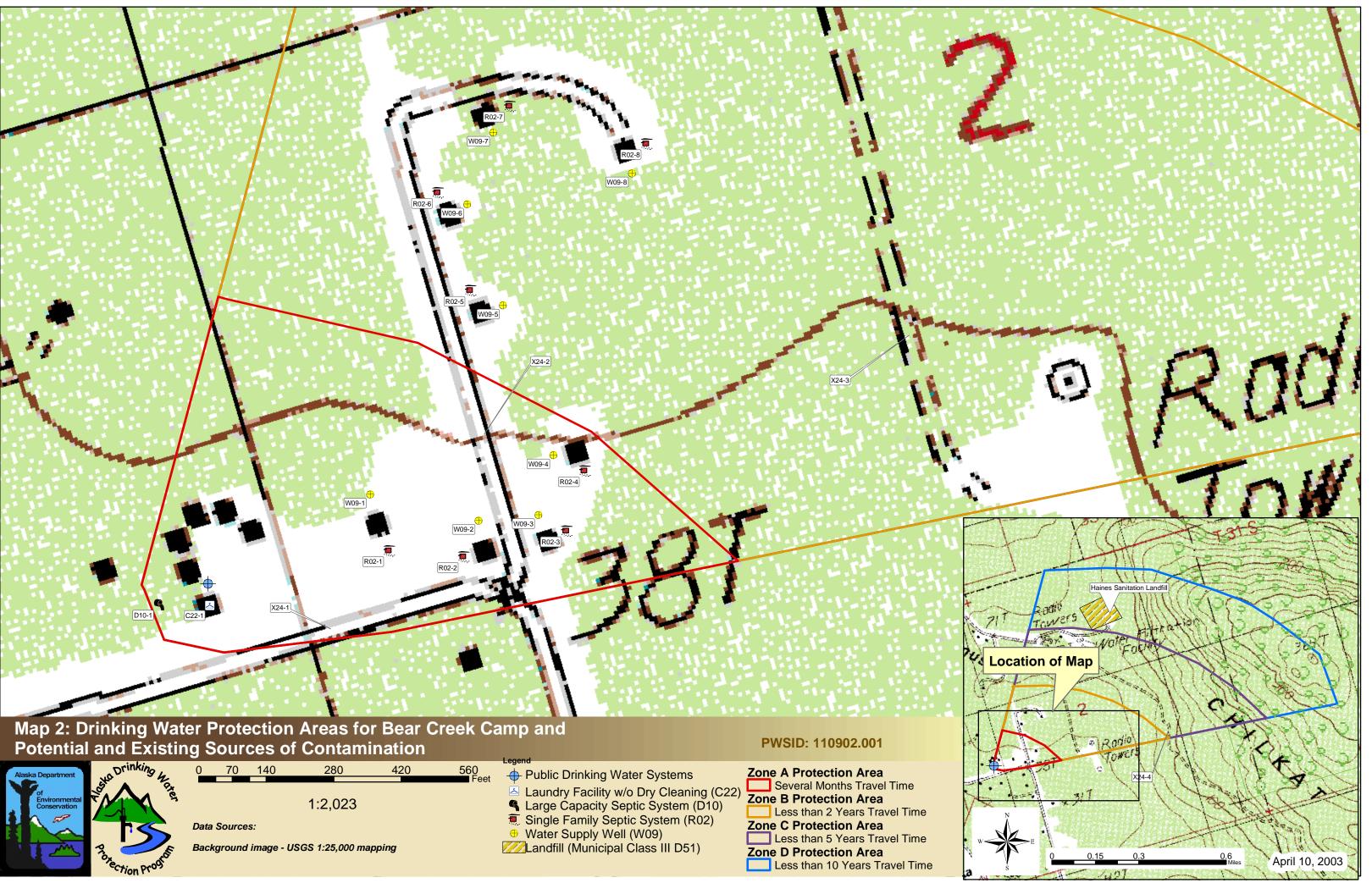
Bear Creek Camp Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Laundromats without dry cleaning	C22	C22-1	А	Low	2	Bear Creek Laundromat
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-1	А	Low	2	Bear Creek Septic System
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-1	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-2	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-3	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-4	А	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-1	А	Low	2	Road South of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-2	А	Low	2	Road East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-5	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-6	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-7	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02-8	В	Low	2	Residence East of Bear Creek Camp
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-3	В	Low	2	Road to Radio Towers
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-4	С	Low	2	Road East of Radio Towers

Table 4

APPENDIX C

Bear Creek Camp Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)





APPENDIX D

Vulnerability Analysis for Bear Creek Camp Public Drinking Water Source (Charts 1-8)

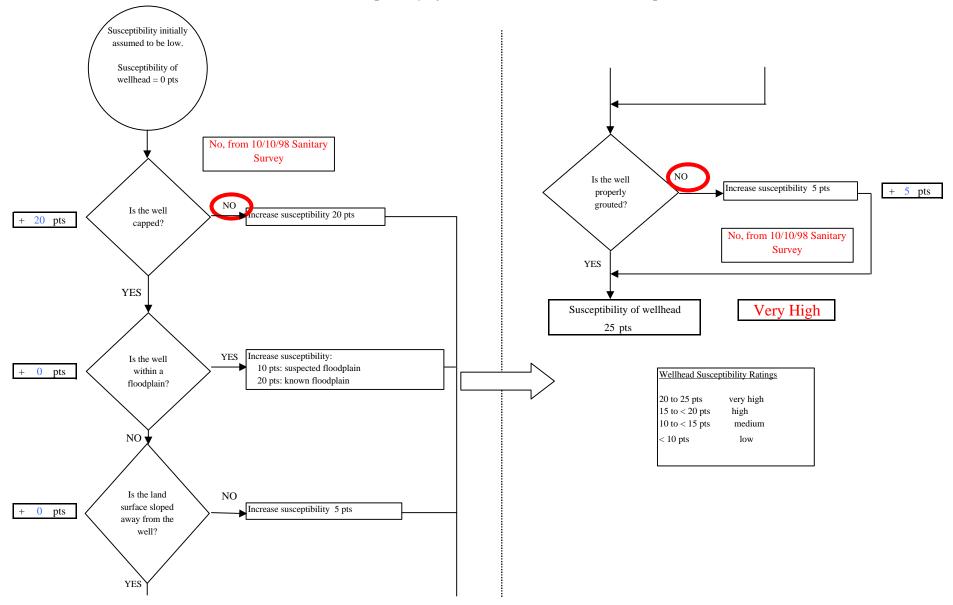
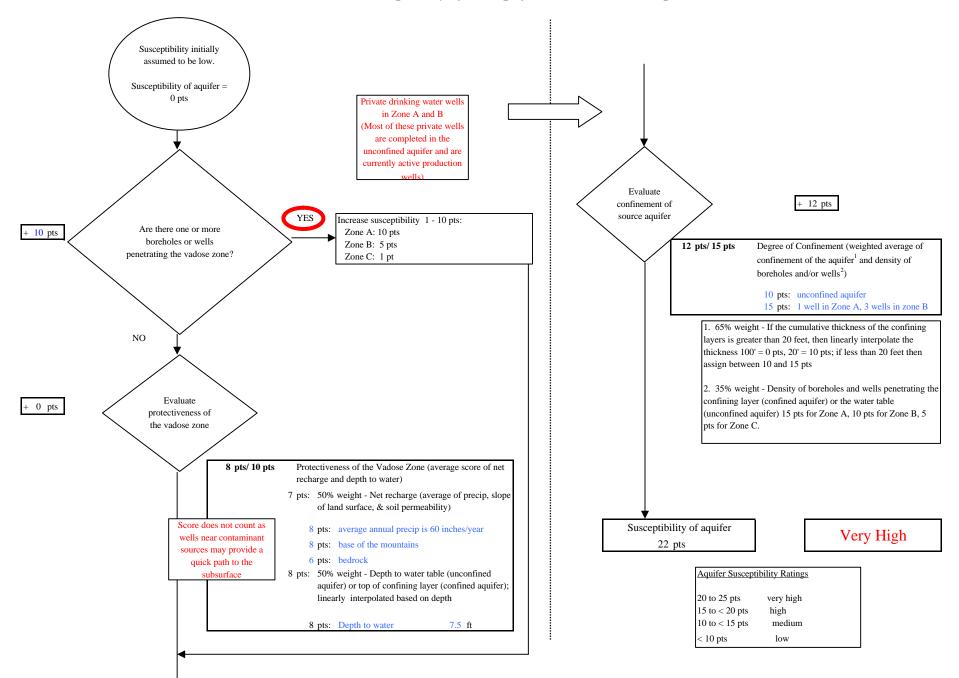
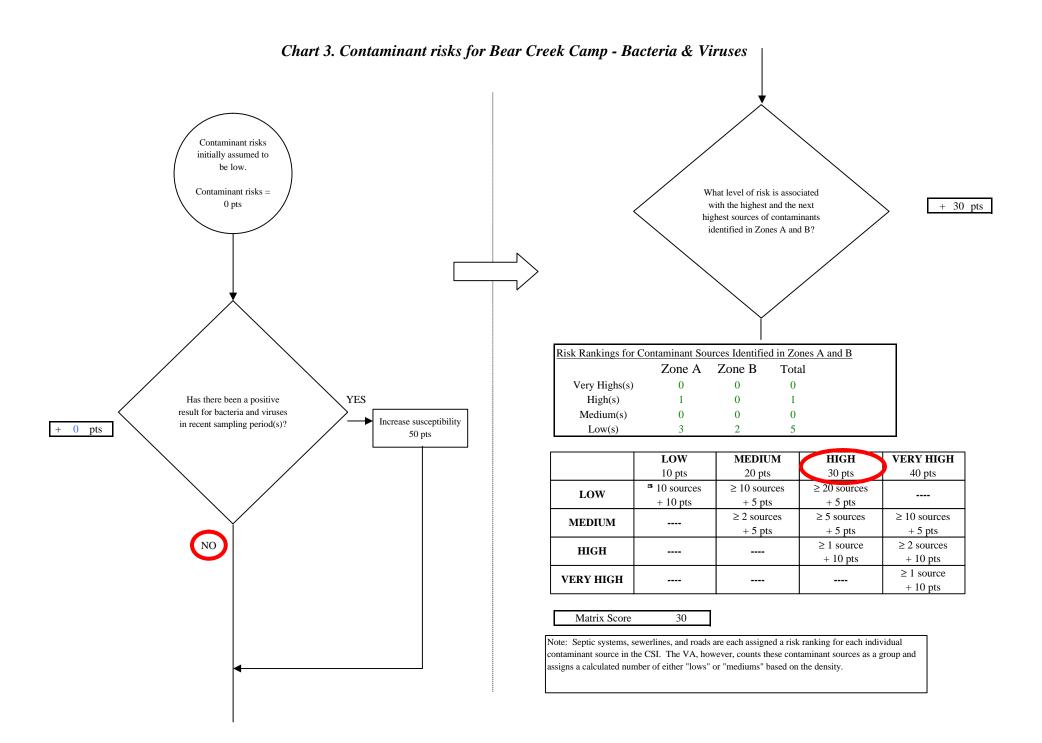
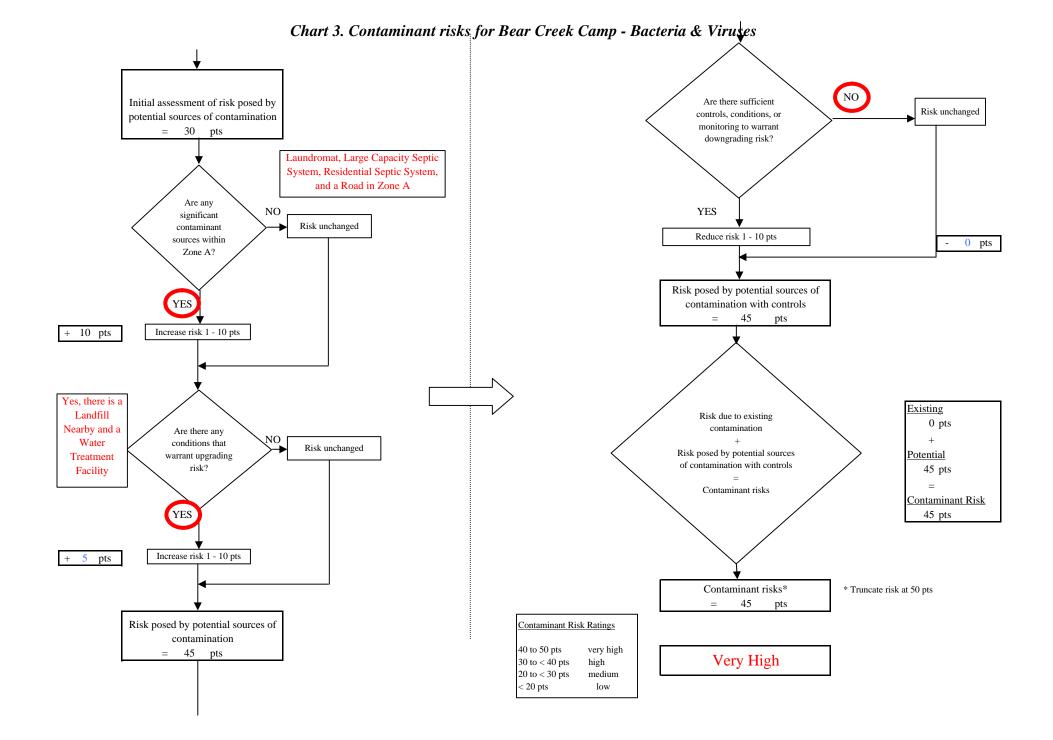


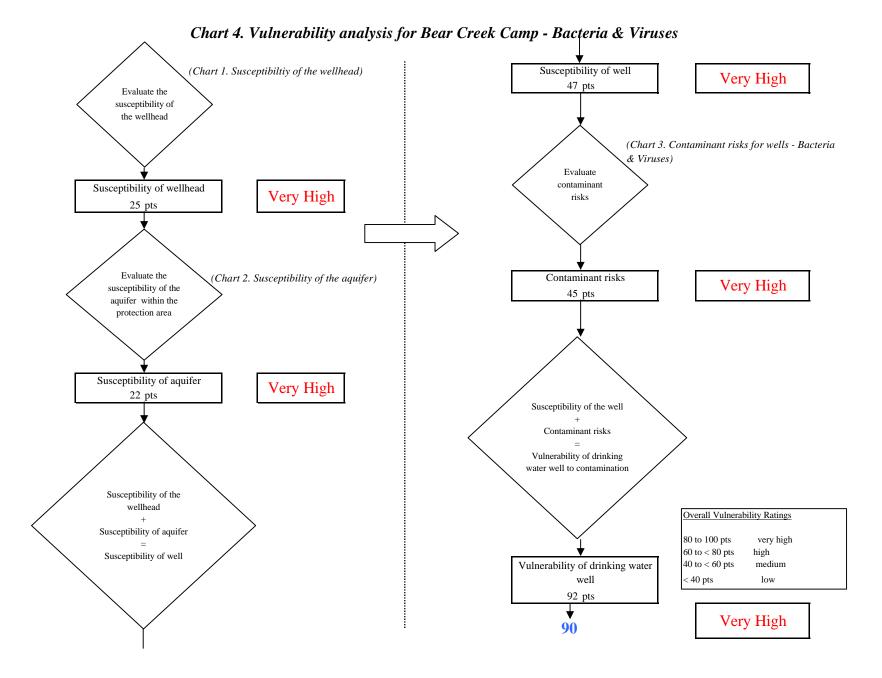
Chart 1. Susceptibility of the wellhead - Bear Creek Camp

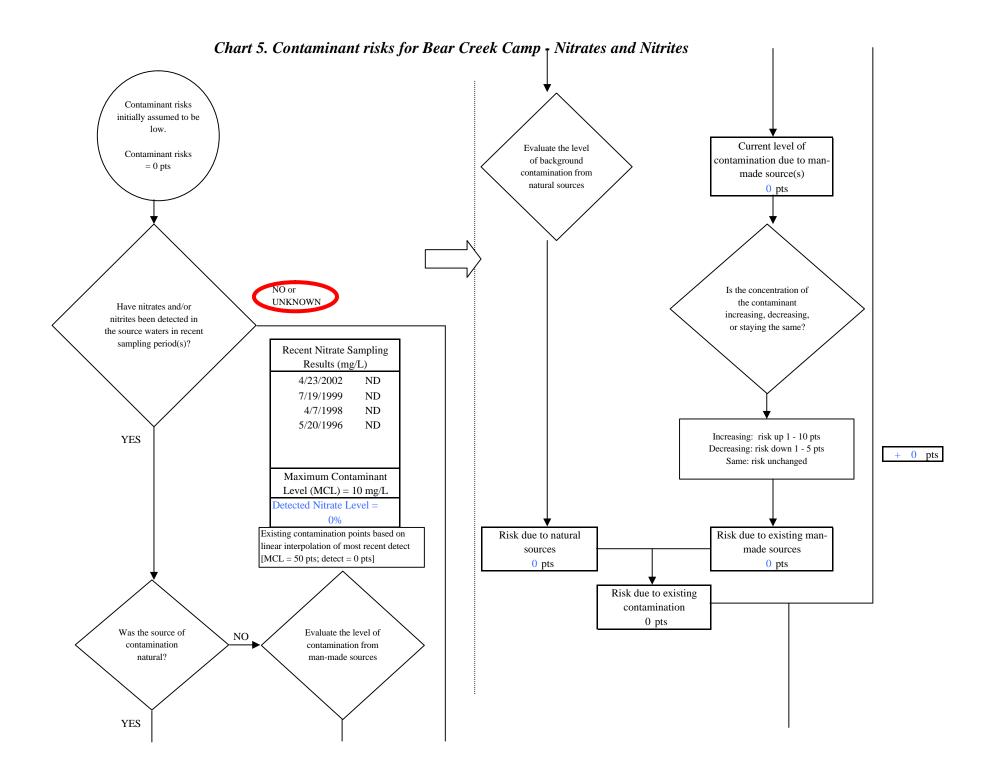
Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer - Bear Creek Camp

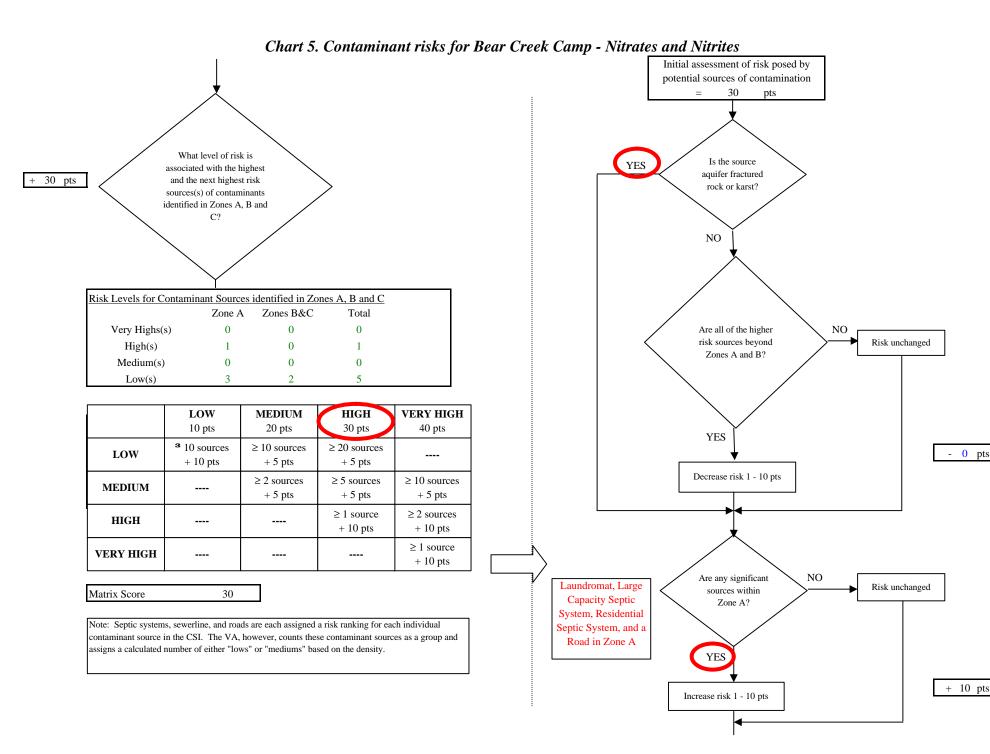


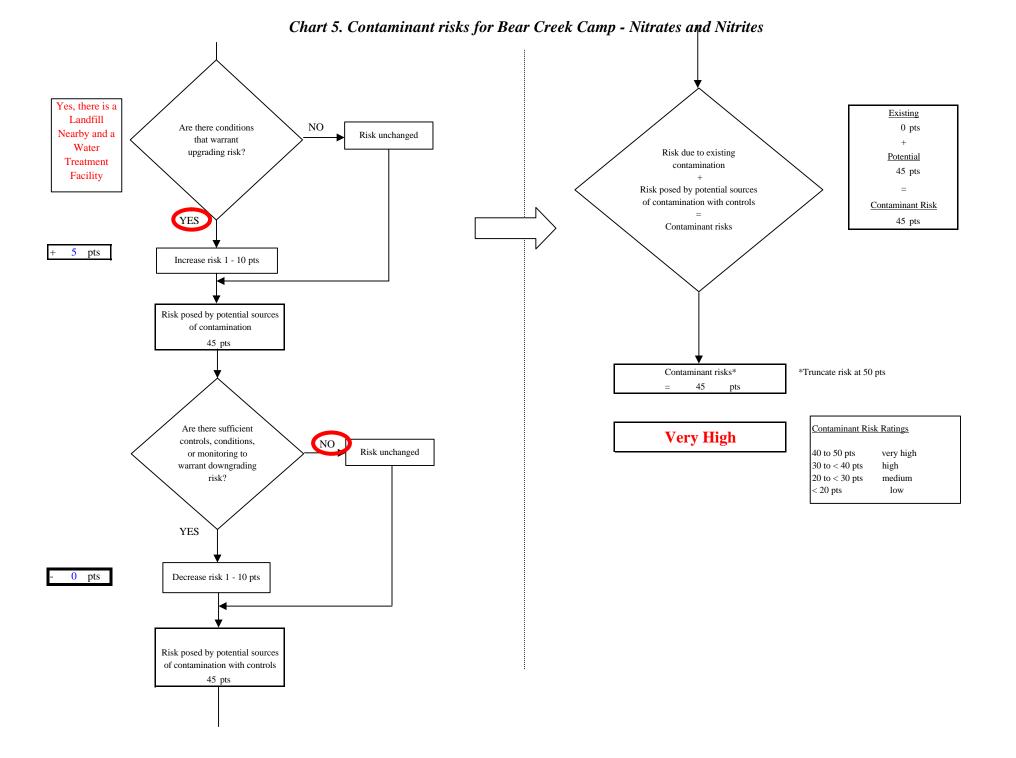


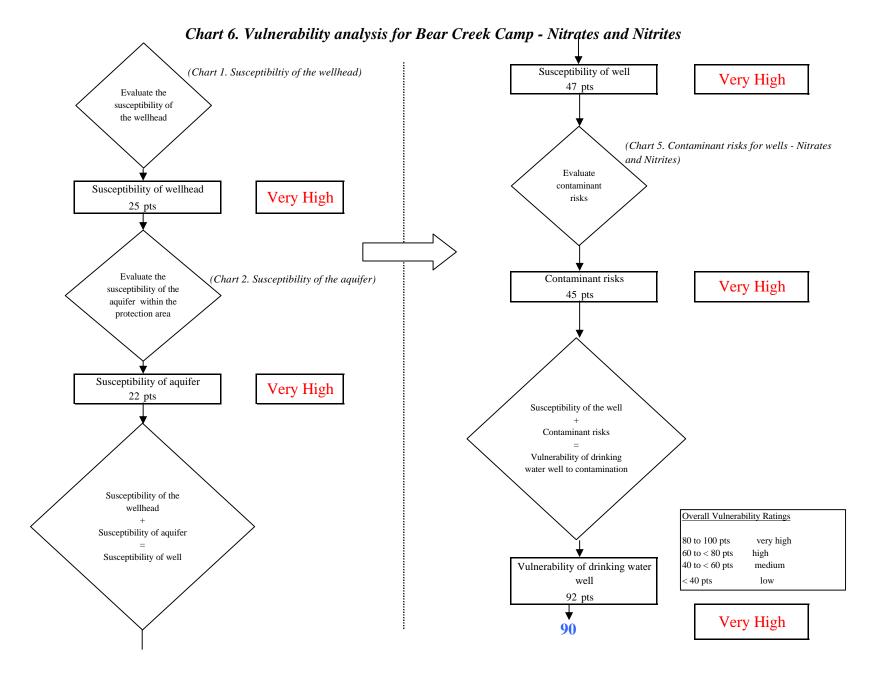


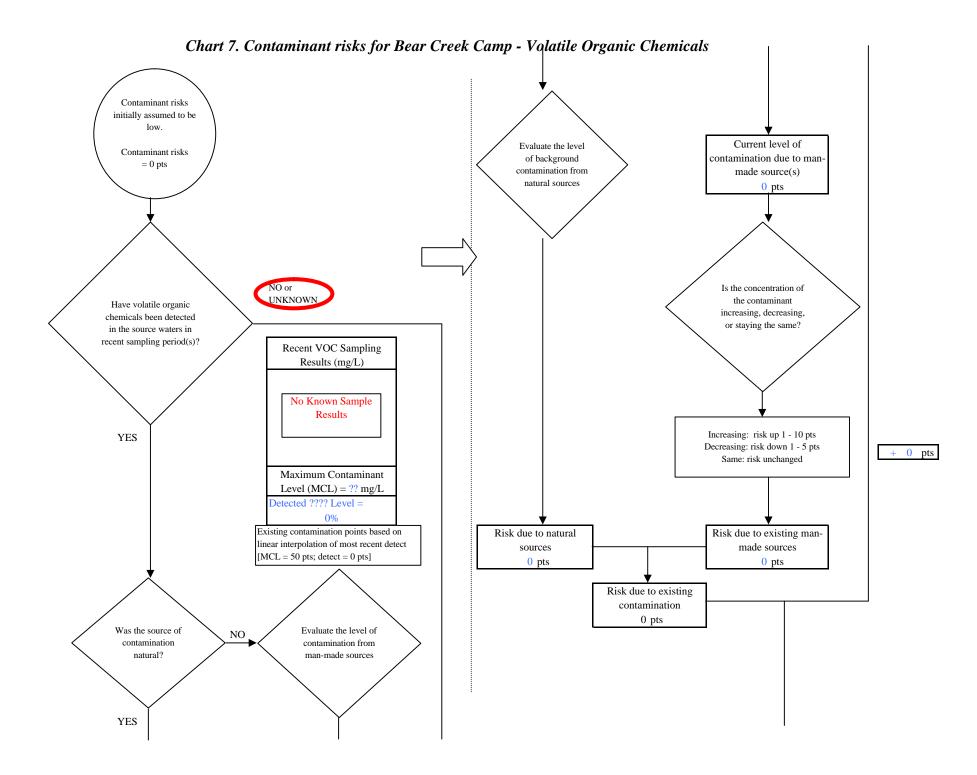


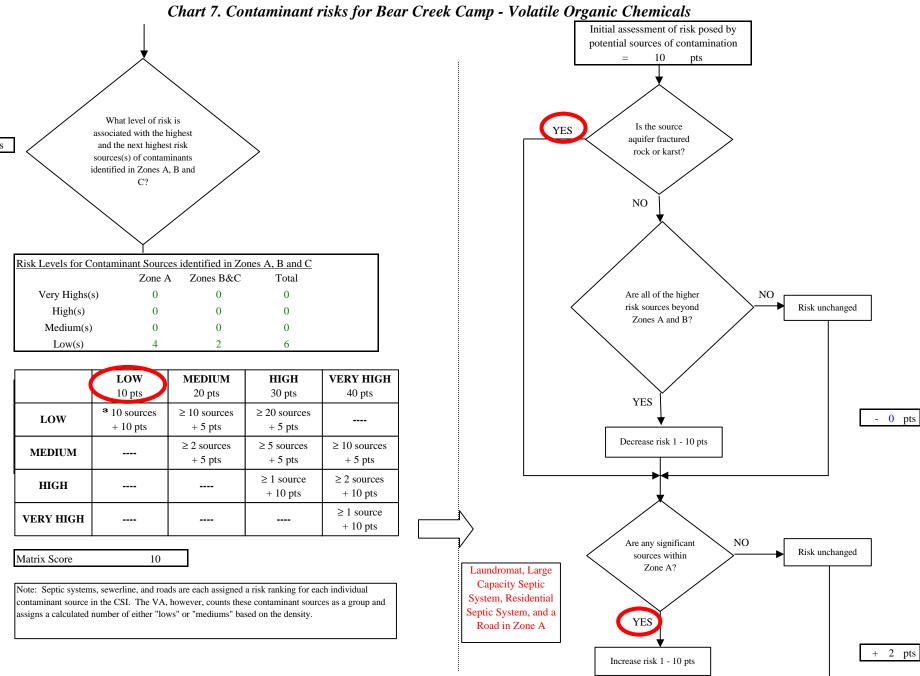












+ 10 pts

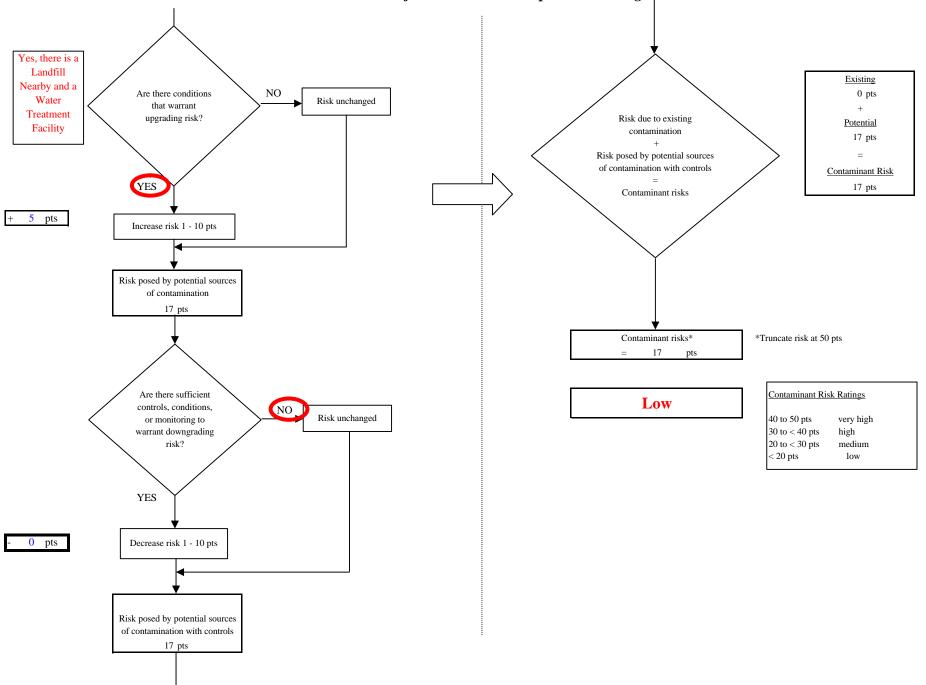


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Bear Creek Camp - Volatile Organic Chemicals

