



## FISH HABITAT PERMIT

**FH21-III-0048-GP**

ISSUED: February 23, 2021  
EXPIRES: December 31, 2025

### GENERAL PUBLIC

RE: Motorized Vehicle Stream Crossings at Traditional Ford Locations  
**Teklanika River** (Stream No. 334-40-11000-2490-3200-4028)  
Sec 23-26, T8S, R11W, FM, Fairbanks A-6  
Coordinate (WGS84): 64.1977 N, -149.6618 W

**Sushana River** (Stream No. 334-40-11000-2490-3140-4065-5079)  
Sec 7, T9S, R12W, FM, Fairbanks A-6  
Coordinate (WGS84): 64.1505 N, -149.9866 W

**Toklat River** (Stream No. 334-40-11000-2490-3140-4065)  
Sec 12-13, T9S, R13W, FM, Kantishna River A-1  
Coordinate (WGS84): 64.1466 N, -150.0036 W

**Bearpaw River** (Stream No. 334-40-11000-2490-3140-4115)  
Sec 3-4, T10S, R16W, FM, Kantishna River A-2  
Coordinate (WGS84): 64.0822 N, -150.6832 W

Pursuant to AS 16.05.871(b), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Habitat Section, has determined that both the public interest and protection of fish and game would be served with the issuance of a General Public Fish Habitat Permit authorizing the use of motorized vehicles to cross the described waterbodies along the traditional RS 2477 Trail: Kobe – McGrath (RST 345). Wheeled or tracked vehicles with a **gross vehicle weight (GVWR) of 10,000 pounds or less** are authorized to cross within a 500-foot centerline of the referenced traditional ford crossing sites.

Note: Any other use of vehicles within the described waterbodies or any use within other natural waterbodies catalogued as anadromous requires an individual Fish Habitat Permit.

### **Route Description**

The Kobe-McGrath Trail is accessed from the road/trail system around the Kobe agricultural project area west of the Parks Highway Nenana River bridge crossing. Westward from the highway to the Teklanika River crossing is approximately 12 miles. Approximately 14 miles west/southwest is the Sushana/Toklat River crossings. Southwest to Alma Lakes then northwest to Bearpaw River near its confluence with the Kantishna River is approximately 30 trail miles.

### **Anadromous Fish Act**

The Teklanika, Sushana, Toklat, and Bearpaw Rivers have been specified as being important for the migration, spawning, or rearing of anadromous fishes pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). At the crossing sites Chinook and coho salmon use the Teklanika River for rearing; coho and chum salmon use the Sushana and Toklat Rivers for spawning, and coho salmon use the Sushana for rearing; and Chinook, chum, and coho salmon migrate through this extent of the Bearpaw River. All systems support resident fish species such as Arctic grayling. Crossing activity should not obstruct the free passage of fish.

Note: The Toklat and Sushana Rivers in this area is designated in the Tanana Basin Area Plan (p. 3-111) as **Toklat Critical Salmon Habitat** (Management Units 3O). Stream bed gravels that appear to be dry on the surface in winter can provide incubation habitat for salmon eggs buried in the gravels and supplied with subsurface water flow (see Stipulation 2 below).

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), crossings are authorized subject to the permit terms with the following stipulations:

- 1) Summer stream crossings with equipment and ATVs shall be made from bank to bank in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of stream flow to the extent practicable. Equipment crossings shall be made in a manner that precludes creation of barriers to efficient fish passage (ridging and/or rutting of streambed, etc.). No modifications to the banks of the stream are authorized via this permit.
- 2) **No open water crossing of the Sushana and Toklat rivers within the Kobe-McGrath Trail corridor are authorized from August 15 through May 15. Additionally, during this same period exposed riverbed gravel of the Toklat River shall not be crossed from one mile upstream (WGS84: 64.1408 N, 149.9948 W) to two miles (WGS84: 64.1802 N, 150.0172 W) downstream of the Sushana River confluence, due to the potential presence of incubating salmon eggs.**

**Note: If crossings are required during the closed period (August 15 – May 15) an individual Fish Habitat Permit will be required from the Fairbanks Habitat office.**

- 3) Winter stream crossings shall occur in shallow areas where the ice is naturally frozen to the streambed or in areas where ice thickness is adequate to support equipment. Equipment shall not enter open water during winter. Any ice/snow bridges and approach ramps constructed at stream crossings of any definable stream must be substantially free of extraneous material (i.e., soil, rock, wood, or vegetation). Any ice/snow bridge shall be breached or any fill used for ramps shall be removed upon completion of use to facilitate breakup such that fish passage is maintained.

### **Permit Terms**

This letter constitutes a permit issued under the authority of AS 16.05.871 and must be retained on site during project activities. Please be advised that this determination applies only to activities regulated by the Habitat Section of ADF&G; other agencies also may have jurisdiction under their respective authorities. This determination does not relieve you of your responsibility to secure other permits; state, federal, or local. You are still required to comply with all other applicable laws.

You are responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who perform work to accomplish the approved project. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved plan, you shall notify the ADF&G Habitat Section and obtain written approval in the form of a permit amendment before beginning the activity. Any action that increases the project's overall scope or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any provision contained in this permit will be deemed a significant deviation from the approved plan. The final determination as to the significance of any deviation and the need for a permit amendment is the responsibility of the ADF&G Habitat Section. Therefore, it is recommended that you consult the Habitat Section before considering any deviation from the approved plan.

You shall give an authorized representative of the state free and unobstructed access to the permit site, at safe and reasonable times, for the purpose of inspecting or monitoring compliance with any provision of this permit. You shall furnish whatever assistance and information the authorized representative reasonably requires for monitoring and inspection purposes.

In addition to the penalties provided by law, this permit may be terminated or revoked for failure to comply with its provisions or failure to comply with applicable statutes and regulations. You shall mitigate any adverse effect upon fish or wildlife, their habitats, or any restriction or interference with public use that the commissioner determines was a direct result of your failure to comply with this permit or any applicable law.

You shall indemnify, save harmless, and defend the department, its agents, and its employees from any and all claims, actions, or liabilities for injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from permitted activities or your performance under this permit. However, this provision has no effect if, and only if, the sole proximate cause of the injury is the department's negligence.

You may appeal this permit decision relating to AS 16.05.871 in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330-630.

Please direct questions about this permit to Habitat Biologist Todd Nichols at 907-459-7363 or [todd.nichols@alaska.gov](mailto:todd.nichols@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,  
Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner



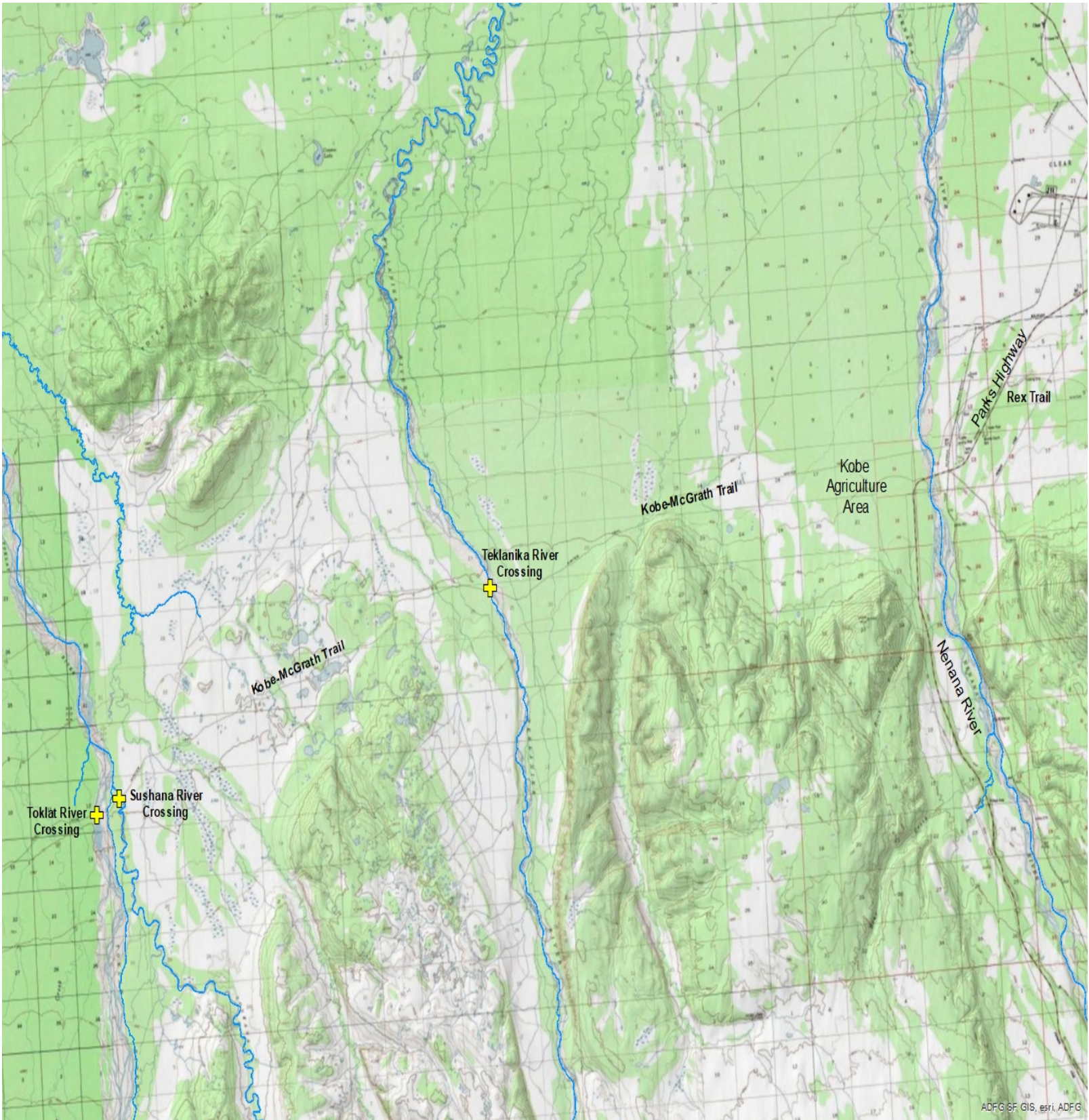
By: Audra L. J. Brase  
Fairbanks Regional Supervisor

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Permit Coordinator, ADF&G SF  
Al Ott, ADF&G HAB, Fairbanks

tn/AB



### Map 1 of 2





### Map 2 of 2

