



FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH23-IV-0001-GP

ISSUED: January 1, 2023
EXPIRES: December 31, 2027

General Public:

Re: Vehicle and Equipment Fords - Knik River Public Use Area

Knik River (Water Body No. 247-50-10200)

Bodenburg Creek (Water Body No. 247-50-10200-2071)
Section 2, T 16 N, R 2 E, SM

Jim Creek (Water Body No. 247-50-10200-2081)
Section 32, T 17 N, R 3 E, SM

Friday Creek (Water Body No. 247-50-10200-2131)
Sections 7, 8 & 17, T 16 N, R 4 E, SM

Noisy Rabbit Creek (Water Body No. 247-50-10200-2151)
Sections 14 & 15, T 16 N, R 4 E, SM

Unnamed Water Body #1 (Water Body No. 247-50-10200-2145)
Section 10, T 16 N, R 4 E, SM

Unnamed Water Body #2 (Water Body No. 247-50-10200-2155)
Sections 14, 15, 23 & 24, T 16 N, R 4 E, SM

Unnamed Water Body #3 (Water Body No. 247-50-10200-2155-3004)
Sections 14, 15 & 23, T 16 N, R 4 E, SM

Unnamed Water Body #4 (Water Body No. 247-50-10200-2081-3025-4030-5031)
Section 16, T 17 N, R 3 E, SM

Alaska law (AS 16.05.871) requires that a permit from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Section be obtained prior to operating wheeled or tracked vehicles in or on the bed, banks, or waters of specified anadromous fish-bearing streams and lakes. Pursuant to AS 16.05.871(b), the Habitat Section has determined that both the public interest and the proper protection of fish and game would be served by issuing a general permit (GP) authorizing vehicle stream crossings at specific stream ford sites on the floodplain of the Knik River. This GP also allows the operation of ground contact vehicles on portions of the dry riverbed of the Knik River. It does not authorize establishment of new stream crossing locations.

AUTHORIZED STREAM CROSSING LOCATIONS

Knik River: Unless otherwise posted or noted herein, ground contact vehicles may cross all side channels and sloughs below the OHW mark of the Knik River from the face of the Knik Glacier downstream to the westernmost boundary of the Knik River Public Use Area (see attached map).

Bodenburg Creek: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of Bodenburg Creek only in the section of the creek extending upstream from its confluence with the Knik River to 100-feet downstream from where the flowing waters emerge from the shoreline vegetation. No other stream crossings of Bodenburg Creek are authorized.

Jim Creek: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of Jim Creek only downstream from where the creek emerges from the shoreline vegetation near the OHW mark of the Knik River. No other stream crossings of Jim Creek are authorized.

Friday Creek: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of Friday Creek only within the boundaries of Sections 7, 8 & 17, T 16 N, R 4 E, SM, as part of the RS2477 RST 17 trail.

Noisy Rabbit Creek: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of Noisy Rabbit Creek only within the boundaries of Sections 14 & 15, T 16 N, R 4 E, SM, as part of the RS2477 RST 17 trail.

Unnamed Water Body #1: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of this unnamed water body only within the boundaries of Section 10, T 16 N, R 4 E, SM, as part of the RS2477 RST 17 trail.

Unnamed Water Body #2: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of this unnamed water body only within the boundaries of Sections 14, 15, 23 & 24, T 16 N, R 4 E, SM, as part of the RS2477 RST 17 trail.

Unnamed Water Body #3: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of this unnamed water body only within the boundaries of Sections 14, 15 & 23, T 16 N, R 4 E, SM, as part of the RS2477 RST 17 trail.

Unnamed Water Body #4: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of this unnamed stream at the hardened crossing on the Rippy Trail within the boundaries of Section 16, T 17 N, R 3 E, SM.

This GP authorizes stream crossings and the operation of ground contact vehicles on portions of the dry riverbed of the Knik River with a dry vehicle weight of up to 10,000 pounds. For purposes of this permit, the dry weight of a vehicle is the weight of the vehicle without passengers and cargo, as specified by the manufacturer. The off-road use of any vehicle in excess of 10,000 pounds dry weight is not authorized under this General Permit. Ground contact vehicles with a dry weight of more than 10,000 pounds are required to obtain an individual Fish Habitat Permit before crossing any anadromous fish bearing waterway. Per the Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan, the crossing of Unnamed Water Body #4 on the Rippy Trail is designated for vehicles with a curb weight of 1,500 pounds or less.

The Knik River, Jim Creek, Bodenburg Creek, Friday Creek, Noisy Rabbit Creek and unnamed water bodies are specified as important for spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). They support sockeye, coho, and chum salmon, and a variety of resident fish species.

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), the movement of wheeled or tracked vehicles on the bed and banks of the Knik River and equipment crossings of the above referenced anadromous streams is hereby authorized subject to the provisions contained herein and the following stipulations:

1. **This permit must be in your possession during stream crossings.**
2. **Stream crossings shall be made as directly as possible.** This is usually perpendicular to the flow of the water. However, the Habitat Section is aware that the safest route across a stream may not be perpendicular to the flow. Because of this, non-perpendicular crossings may be necessary for safety and are allowed when appropriate.
3. **Vehicle operations within streams shall be limited to that necessary to safely cross the water body.** Driving a vehicle up and downstream for any other purpose, including general recreation, is strictly prohibited.
4. **Vehicles may not linger or delay while crossing streams.** Washing mud from vehicles while the vehicle is in the flowing waters of a stream is prohibited.
5. **Ground contact vehicles shall not be parked below the ordinary high water line of any anadromous streams, except** vehicles may be temporarily parked on the dry, exposed bed of the Knik River provided they are under the direct supervision of the owner of the vehicle or an authorized agent.
6. **The bed or banks of these specified water bodies shall not be altered or disturbed in any way to facilitate stream crossings.** Existing fords shall not be modified, expanded, repaired, or otherwise changed without the prior written approval of the Habitat Section.

Please be reminded that harassing fish while crossing any stream is prohibited by state law (5 AAC 75.060).

This permit does not apply to commercial operators. Commercial operators who need to conduct equipment or vehicle crossings of anadromous streams or need to operate equipment or vehicles on the dry riverbed of the Knik River must obtain an individual Fish Habitat Permit prior to commencement of operations. Please contact the Palmer Habitat Section for permit application materials and/or additional information at (907) 861-3200.

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 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 stipulation 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 Habitat Section. Therefore, it is recommended you consult the Habitat Section immediately when a deviation from the approved plan is being considered.

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

This letter constitutes a permit issued under the authority of AS 16.05.871. Please be advised that this determination applies only to activities regulated by the Habitat Section; 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.

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. The department reserves the right to require mitigation measures to correct disruption to fish and game created by the project and which was a direct result of the 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.

This permit decision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330-630.

If you have any questions, please call the Palmer Habitat Section at (907) 861-3200.

Sincerely,

Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner



By: Sarah Myers
Matanuska-Susitna Area Manager
Habitat Section
(907) 861-3200




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Enclosure: Knik River Public Use Area Map

cc:	D. Dahl, AWT	S. Ivey, SF	A. Ott, Habitat	Permits, SF
	Pagemaster, COE	C. Larson, DNR	T. Jensen, DNR	R. Lysdahl, AWT
	T. Peltier, WC	C. Shook, SF		



Knik River Public Use Area
FH23-IV-0001-GP
Stream Crossings allowed only
on the Knik River bed within
the yellow KRPUA boundary

-  KRPUA Boundary
-  KRPUA Trails
-  Anadromous Streams



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Miles