



**FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH23-IV-0020-GP**

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

General Public:

***Re: Small-Scale Recreational Mining***

***Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area***

**Caribou Creek** (Water Body No. 247-50-10220-2341)  
Sections 28, 29, 32 & 33, T 20 N, R 10 E, SM

**Matanuska River** (Water Body No. 247-50-10220)  
Sections 32 & 33, T 20 N, R 10 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 conducting small-scale recreational mining below the ordinary high water (OHW) line of streams within the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area (CCRMA). 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 small-scale mining activities within the CCRMA. This GP does not authorize motorized vehicle use in anadromous (salmon bearing) streams. A separate Fish Habitat Permit is required to cross anadromous waters within the CCRMA.

Small-scale mining equipment authorized within the CCRMA is restricted to the use of pumps up to 18 horsepower and intake hoses of 6-inches in diameter or less.

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), approval is hereby given to mine with the specified authorized equipment at the CCRMA subject to the following stipulations:

**PERMIT STIPULATIONS – CCRMA**

These stipulations apply to anadromous water bodies specified under AS 16.05.871(a) (Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fish). Mining activities below the OHW line are seasonally restricted to protect incubating fish eggs, alevins, and fry within the streambed gravels.

**Permit stipulations that apply to the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area**

1. **This permit must be retained onsite during small-scale recreational mining activities.**

2. Mining activities below the OHW line are restricted to between May 15 and July 15 for Caribou Creek as well as the Matanuska River upstream to 61.7840 N, 147.6550 W. Small-scale mining is authorized year-round upstream of this latitude and longitude on the Matanuska River.
3. Construction or maintenance of dams, diversions, fills, deflectors, and any other structures below the OHW line is prohibited.
4. Natural stream banks and vegetated gravel bars or vegetated islands shall not be mined, under cut, or disturbed.
5. Motorized equipment shall not be used to move boulders, logs, or other objects too large to be moved by hand.
6. Wheeled or tracked vehicles or equipment shall not be operated in the stream or disturb the stream bank.
7. No equipment leaking fuel, hydraulic fluid, or other pollutants shall be operated below the OHW line.
8. Water withdrawal is restricted to processing material through the sluice box and shall not be used for hydraulic mining or any other purpose.

#### **Additional Stipulation for Power Sluicing in Anadromous Fish Streams**

9. Water intakes must be screened with 1/8-inch mesh to prevent the impingement and entrainment of fish.
10. Adequate flow must remain to maintain fish passage during mining activities.

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**This determination applies only to activities regulated by the Habitat Section.** This determination does not relieve you of the responsibility for securing other state, federal, or local permits.

**On state land, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water (ADNR\DMLW) also classifies suction dredges with an intake 6-inches or less and a pump less than 18 hp as recreational.**

**The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) considers dredges with an intake 6 inches or smaller and a pump less than 18 hp as small scale and will issue a General Permit (GP) for small scale mining in Alaska.** Larger dredges are considered commercial operations and require prior notice or approval from the federal land manager and ADEC. For more information, please contact the ADEC at (907) 451-2142.

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

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 Habitat Section regulated activities; 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 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 a Habitat Section responsibility. Therefore, we recommend 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.

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

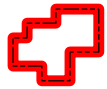
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Enclosure: Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area Map

cc:	D. Dahl, AWT	R. Lysdahl, AWT	S. Ivey, SF	A. Ott, Habitat
	Pagemaster, COE	C. Larson, DNR	S. Church, DNR	N. Dallman, DEC
	Permits, SF	C. Shook, SF	Permits, DEC	



# Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area FH23-IV-0020-GP



Caribou Creek RMA



Roads



Anadromous Streams  
In-Water Mechanized Mining Activities  
May 15 - July 15 Only

