



**FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH24-V-0008-GP**

**ISSUED:** July 9, 2024  
**EXPIRES:** December 31, 2028

**RE: Vehicle Ford**  
Mystery Creek – Stream No. 247-60-10110-2080-3019  
Section 36, T 7N, R 6W, S.M.  
Location: 60.6598°N, 150.2544°W

General Public:

Pursuant to the Anadromous Fish Act at AS 16.05.871(b), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Habitat Section, has determined that both the public interest and the proper protection of fish and wildlife resources would be served through the issuance of a General Permit for light vehicle (less than 10,000 pounds dry vehicle weight) stream crossings of Mystery Creek (Anadromous Waterbody No. 247-60-10110-2080-3019) at the established crossing referenced above. For the 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.

Alaska law (AS 16.05.871) requires that a permit from Habitat Section be obtained prior to operating wheeled or tracked vehicles in or on the bed, bank, or waters of specified anadromous fish bearing waters. The use of any ground-effect motorized vehicle for stream crossings, other than described in this General Permit, is not allowed except by an individual Fish Habitat Permit. Ground contact vehicles with a dry weight of more than 10,000 pounds are required to obtain an individual Fish Habitat Permit. Please contact the Soldotna Habitat Section office for permit application materials and/or additional information (907-714-2475).

Mystery Creek has been specified as being important for the migration, spawning and rearing of anadromous fish pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). Mystery Creek provides migration, spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon and other species of resident fish.

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), the movement of wheeled or tracked vehicles, less than 10,000 pounds dry vehicle weight, on the bed and banks at the referenced stream ford is hereby authorized subject to the description above, the following stipulations, and permit terms:

1. Stream crossings shall be made directly from bank to bank perpendicular to the stream flow. Crossings are authorized only at the existing ford at the location referenced above and indicated on the attached map (Map 1).
2. Streambanks and streambeds shall not be altered or disturbed in any way to facilitate crossings.
3. There shall be no removal or disturbance of vegetation or vegetated streambanks; no vehicles shall be operated on the vegetated streambanks or in a manner or location that induces erosion or sedimentation of Mystery Creek.
4. No vehicles leaking fuels, oils, hydraulic fluid, or coolant shall be operated below the ordinary high-water (OHW) line of Mystery Creek.

### **Permit Terms**

The vehicle owner and operator (permittee), or the legal guardian of minor dependents, is responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who participate in the approved activity. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved plan, you shall notify Habitat Section and obtain written approval in the form of a permit amendment before beginning the activity. Any action taken by the permittee or agent of the permittee which 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 Habitat Section. Therefore, it is recommended you consult Habitat Section immediately when a deviation from the approved plan is being considered.

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 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 from state, federal, or local agencies. 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. 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 Wayne Haines at (907) 714-2478 or e-mail at [wayne.haines@alaska.gov](mailto:wayne.haines@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

Doug Vincent-Lang,  
Commissioner



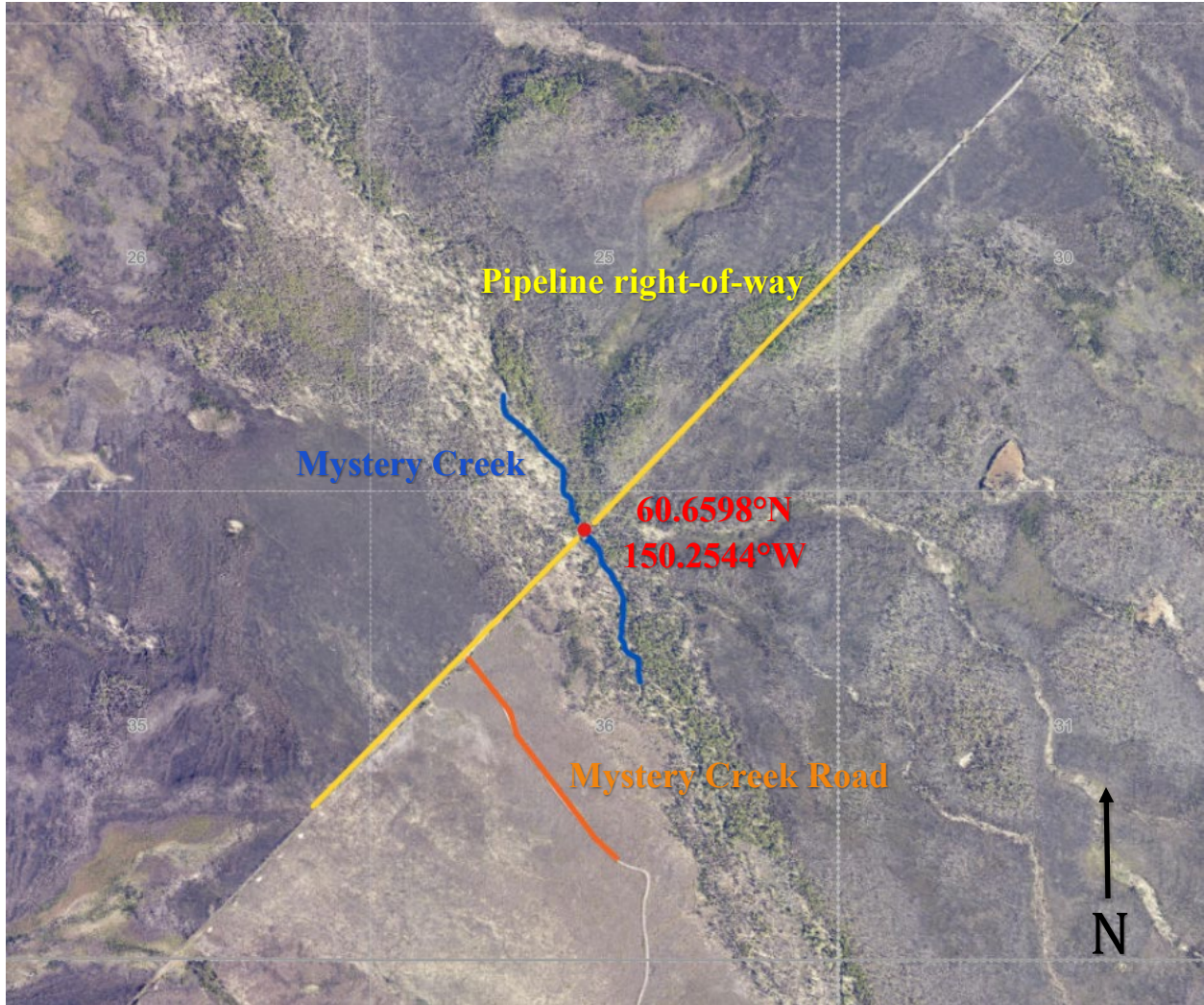
By: Kaitlynn Cafferty; Kenai Peninsula Area Manager

ecc:

KRC File  
C. Jaime, AWT  
USACE, Kenai

P. Stacey, ADF&G SF  
Al Ott, ADF&G Hab

K. Graham, USFWS  
S. Miller, USFWS-KNWF



<https://geo.kpb.us/vertigisstudio/web/?app=ee8eef8b5c55417a8d2635a13658a76f>

Map 1. Mystery Creek Ford in red.