



FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH18-IV-0011-GP

ISSUED: January 1, 2018
EXPIRES: December 31, 2022

General Public:

Re: Vehicle and Equipment Ford—Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Muddy Creek Trail

Matanuska River – Water Body - 247-50-10220
Sections 33 and 34, T. 20 N., R. 8 E., S.M.

Lake Creek – Water Body - 247-50-10220-2260
Sections 33 and 34, T. 20 N., R. 8 E., S.M.
Ford Location – 61.7772 N., -147.9982 W

Alaska law (AS 16.05.871) requires that a permit from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat be obtained prior to operating wheeled or tracked vehicles in or on the bed, bank, or waters of specified anadromous fish-bearing streams and lakes. The Muddy Creek Trail is accessed off the Glenn Highway near the intersection with Victory Road. This trail crosses the Matanuska River and Lake Creek at the locations referenced above and shown on the attached map. Pursuant to AS 16.05.871(d), the Division of Habitat 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 these existing stream ford locations.

This GP authorizes stream crossings and the operation of ground contact vehicles on the bed of the Matanuska River and Lake Creek with a dry 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. Ground contact vehicles with a curb weight of more than 10,000 pounds are required to obtain an individual Fish Habitat Permit before crossing any anadromous fish bearing waterway.

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

The above-referenced waterbodies are specified as important for spawning and rearing of sockeye and coho salmon. They also support 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 at the stream fords (listed above) is authorized subject to 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 Division of Habitat 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 stream.**
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 Division of Habitat.

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

You are responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who perform work to accomplish the approved activity. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved plan, you shall notify the Division of Habitat 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 Division of Habitat. Therefore, it is recommended you consult the Division of Habitat 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 Division of Habitat; 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 General 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 Division of Habitat at (907) 861-3200.

Sincerely,

Sam Cotten, Commissioner



By: Ron Benkert, Regional Manager
Division of Habitat
(907) 861-3200

Enclosure: Muddy Creek Trail Crossing Map

-jmk

cc: D. Dahl, AWT S. Ivey, SF C. Larson, DMLW A. Ott, Habitat
D. Massie, AWT Pagemaster, COE T. Hansen, SF T. Long, SF



Matanuska River Crossing FH18-IV-0011-GP Muddy Creek Trail



Lake Creek Crossing



Muddy Creek Trail



Roads



Anadromous Streams

