

February 20, 2017

Members of the Alaska Board of Game

I would like the board to consider options or a proposal to somehow allow my continued access to the Koyukuk River at Coldfoot.

This access point would fall into the boundaries and rules of 5AAC 92.530 #7 C (6) on page 1075 of the Book, or the abbreviated version on page 113 of the 2016 Alaska Hunting Regulations.

My access for the past thirty years to the Koyukuk river has been at the southern end of the Coldfoot runway. This is where I would launch a boat, my method of transportation to a homestead on the John River where I have lived, trapped, mined for gold, and guide. Although I no longer live there, I still currently guide hunts and continue to maintain the buildings.

In order to haul in supplies, be it for house maintenance and/or for guiding, my access has now been denied because of a new road constructed by Alyeska Pipeline Oil Response Management. In former years, upon leaving the trail beside the runway with my truck, I would pull a trailer through willows, mud, and tundra to the rivers edge. With the advance of the modern gravel trail built by Alyeska, it seems that I now fall under the rules previously described, and can no longer use this 'road' as it is more than 1/4 mile from the Dalton Highway. (.34 mile, according to State Trooper gps)

With all due respect to the people of the villages downriver, Bettles, Alatna, Allakaket, villages that I never disturb, I would like to find a way around this rule in order to continue my long standing method of operation without making a public attraction out of what could potentially become an active launch site.

Thank You,

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