

LAKESHORE AND STREAMS CORRIDOR GUIDELINES

Note: These guidelines are more restrictive than those normally found in area plans. They are based on guidelines in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan and have been adapted for this plan because the option to develop the unit as a capital site is retained for the interim life of the plan. Therefore, the option to develop an open space system with undisturbed vegetation is also important. This unit has many more lakes than Hatcher Pass; and, in the long run, parts of it are likely to be used for more intensive development. These guidelines should be reevaluated when the plan is revised and longer term uses are determined.

1. RIPARIAN ZONES

Any activity altering the habitat/vegetation within the riparian zone of anadromous fish streams shall require concurrence by the Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, subject to existing laws. The following activities require review and concurrence.

- a. Road and trail construction
- b. Habitat enhancement projects
- c. Timber cutting
- d. Material removal
- e. Grazing

Where such activities occur within the Hatcher Pass Road right-of-way, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) should consult with DNR and ADF&G prior to removal of vegetation except when such removal is done for purposes of routine road maintenance.

2. STREAM BUFFERS

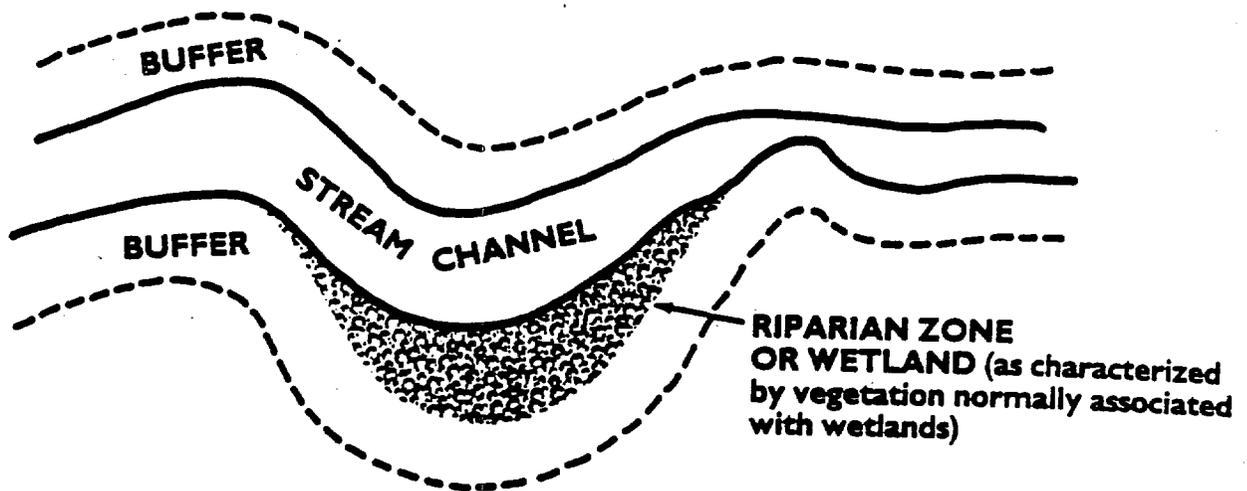
In order to protect water quality, riparian habitat, and recreation values, a buffer of essentially undisturbed land and vegetation shall be protected along the following streams (except as noted below within the Hatcher Pass Road right-of-way).

- a. **Group I - Deception Creek, Lilly Creek, the outlet of Bench Lake, and the eastern creek in Section 16, T18N, R2W, S.M.** The buffer area shall be normally 200 feet on either side of the high water mark and shall include all streamside riparian vegetation zones

- b. **Group II** - Other perennial streams identified on a U.S. Geological Survey 1: 63,360 topographic map or field verified by ADF&G and DNR; the buffer shall be 100-feet wide on either side of the high water mark and shall encompass the adjacent riparian vegetation zones. (See illustration in Figure 1.) However, where the Hatcher Pass Road right-of-way and the buffer along Willow Creek overlap, routine road maintenance may occur. For road realignment and reconstruction, DOT/PF should consult with DNR and ADF&G before removal of vegetation.

FIGURE 1

STREAM BUFFER ILLUSTRATION



c. **Buffer Adjustments**

- (1) **Riparian Zone Less Than 100 Feet** The buffer width on Group II streams may be reduced to the width of the riparian zone or 50 feet, whichever is greater, if field verification by ADF&G and DNR concludes the riparian zone is less than 100-feet wide.

- (2) **Slope Effects** Buffer widths on Group I and II streams should be adjusted to reduce potentially adverse impacts of development within sloping buffer areas. Buffer widths should follow the following table:

<u>Average Side Slope</u>	<u>Buffer Width</u>
0 - 20 %	SB
20 - 40%	SB + 25%
40% or greater	SB + 50%

SB = Standard buffer (Group 1 = 200' and Group II = 100')

- (3) **Wind Effect** In forest harvest areas, riparian buffer widths should be widened as necessary to increase resistance to windthrow of the residual buffer trees in areas subject to strong winds.

d. **Activities Allowed in Group I and II Stream Buffers**

The following activities are allowed in stream buffers unless otherwise prohibited by this plan. Before these activities may occur in the buffers for Group 1 streams, they must be approved by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

- (1) Selective-tree cutting as approved by the Division of Land and Water Management.
- (2) Disease and insect control and prevention with pesticides and/or tree removal as approved by the Division of Land and Water Management and Division of Environmental Conservation.
- (3) Grazing as approved by the Division of Land and Water Management, in consultation with the ADF&G and consistent with the grazing guidelines in this chapter.
- (4) Picnic facilities, foot paths, parking, and other recreational developments for which no feasible alternative exists due to the location of access routes in stream valley floors. Such allowable recreational developments will be designed to prevent bank erosion, increased run off of water, and other negative impacts to anadromous fisheries.
- (5) Road and trail access to and/or across streams for recreation, habitat enhancement, or forest operations as approved by DLWM.
- (6) Access to and/or across streams for utility lines such as powerlines and waterlines, etc. Utility systems should not be located so that they parallel stream systems; rather they should cross streams in a perpendicular fashion to the extent feasible and prudent.

3. LAKE BUFFERS

- a. **Lakes Less Than 5 Acres** Buffer widths for lakes 3 acres to 5 acres in size are set at 200 feet landward of the lake's high water mark.
- b. **Lakes Between 6 and 100 Acres** Buffer widths for lakes 6 acres to 100 acres in size are set at 300 feet landward of the lake's high water mark.
- c. **Lakes Over 100 Acres** Buffer widths for lakes exceeding 100 acres in size are set at 400 feet landward of the lake's high water mark.
- d. **Side Slope Adjustment** Buffer widths for lakes should be adjusted to reduce potentially adverse impacts on wetlands from development on adjacent side slopes. Buffers should be the standard buffer width for side slopes of 0 - 20 percent, 25 percent additional buffer should be added to the normal buffer width for side slopes of 20 - 40 percent and 50 percent additional buffer should be added to the normal buffer width for side slopes of 40 percent or greater.
- e. **Hatcher Pass Road** If a lake buffer overlaps with the Hatcher Pass Road right-of-way, routine road maintenance may occur. For road realignment and reconstruction, DOT/PF should consult with DNR and ADF&G before removal of vegetation.
- f. **Allowable Activities** Activities allowed within lake buffers include items (1) through (5) under stream buffers. In addition, the activities listed below are allowed. If the lakes contain anadromous fish, ADF&G must approve these activities before they are allowed in the buffers around those lakes.
 - (1) Access for development and utilization for sport fishing shall be an allowable activity within these buffers.
 - (2) Access to lakes for utility lines such as powerlines and waterlines, etc. Utility systems should not be located so that they parallel lakeshores.