

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF HABITAT

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

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FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH-12-IV-0001-GP

ISSUED: January 1, 2012
EXPIRES: December 31, 2012

General Public:

Re: Vehicle and Equipment Fords- Knik River Public Use Area

Knik River- Water body - 247-50-10200
Anadromous fish: sockeye, coho and chum salmon

Bodenburg Creek - Water body - 247-50-10200-2071
Anadromous fish: sockeye and chum salmon

Jim Creek - Water body - 247-50-10200-2081
Anadromous Fish: sockeye and coho salmon

Friday Creek - Water body - 247-50-10200-2131
Sections 7, 8 & 17, T. 16 N., R. 4 E., S.M.
Anadromous Fish: coho salmon

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, banks, or waters of specified anadromous fish-bearing streams and lakes. Pursuant to AS 16.05.871(b), 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 specific stream ford sites on the floodplain of the Knik River. This GP also allows the operation of ground contact vehicles on portions of the dry riverbed of the Knik River. It does not authorize establishment of new stream fords or stream crossings at locations where there is not clear evidence of previous use.

AUTHORIZED STREAM CROSSING LOCATIONS

Knik River: Unless otherwise posted or noted herein, ground contact vehicles may cross the main stem and all side channels and sloughs below the OHW mark of the Knik River from the face of the Knik Glacier downstream to the westernmost boundary of the KRPUA (See attached map).

Bodenburg Creek: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of Bodenburg Creek only in the section of the creek extending upstream from its confluence with the Knik River to point 100-feet downstream from where the flowing waters emerge from the shoreline vegetation. No other stream crossings of Bodenburg Creek are authorized.

Jim Creek: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of Jim Creek only downstream from where the creek emerges from the shoreline vegetation near the OHW mark of the Knik River. No other stream crossings of Jim Creek are authorized.

Friday Creek: Ground contact vehicles may cross the flowing waters of Friday Creek only within the boundaries of Sections 7, 8 & 17 of Township 16 N., Range 4 E., Seward Meridian (See attached map). No other stream crossings of Friday Creek are authorized.

This GP authorizes stream crossings and the operation of ground contact vehicles on portions of the dry riverbed of the Knik River with a curb weight of up to 10,000 pounds. For purposes of this permit, "curb weight" is defined as "the weight of the vehicle with a full tank of fuel and all liquids topped off, but with no one in the vehicle and no cargo loaded". 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 or need to operate equipment or vehicles on the dry riverbed of the Knik River 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 Knik River, Jim Creek, Bodenbug Creek, and Friday Creek are specified as important for spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). They support sockeye, coho, and chum salmon, and 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 of the Knik River and equipment crossings of the above referenced anadromous streams is hereby authorized subject to the provisions contained herein and the following stipulations:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **Ground contact vehicles shall not be parked below the ordinary high water line of any anadromous streams, except** vehicles may be temporarily parked on the dry, exposed bed of the Knik River provided they are under the direct supervision of the owner of the vehicle or his authorized agent.
5. **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 project. 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 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,

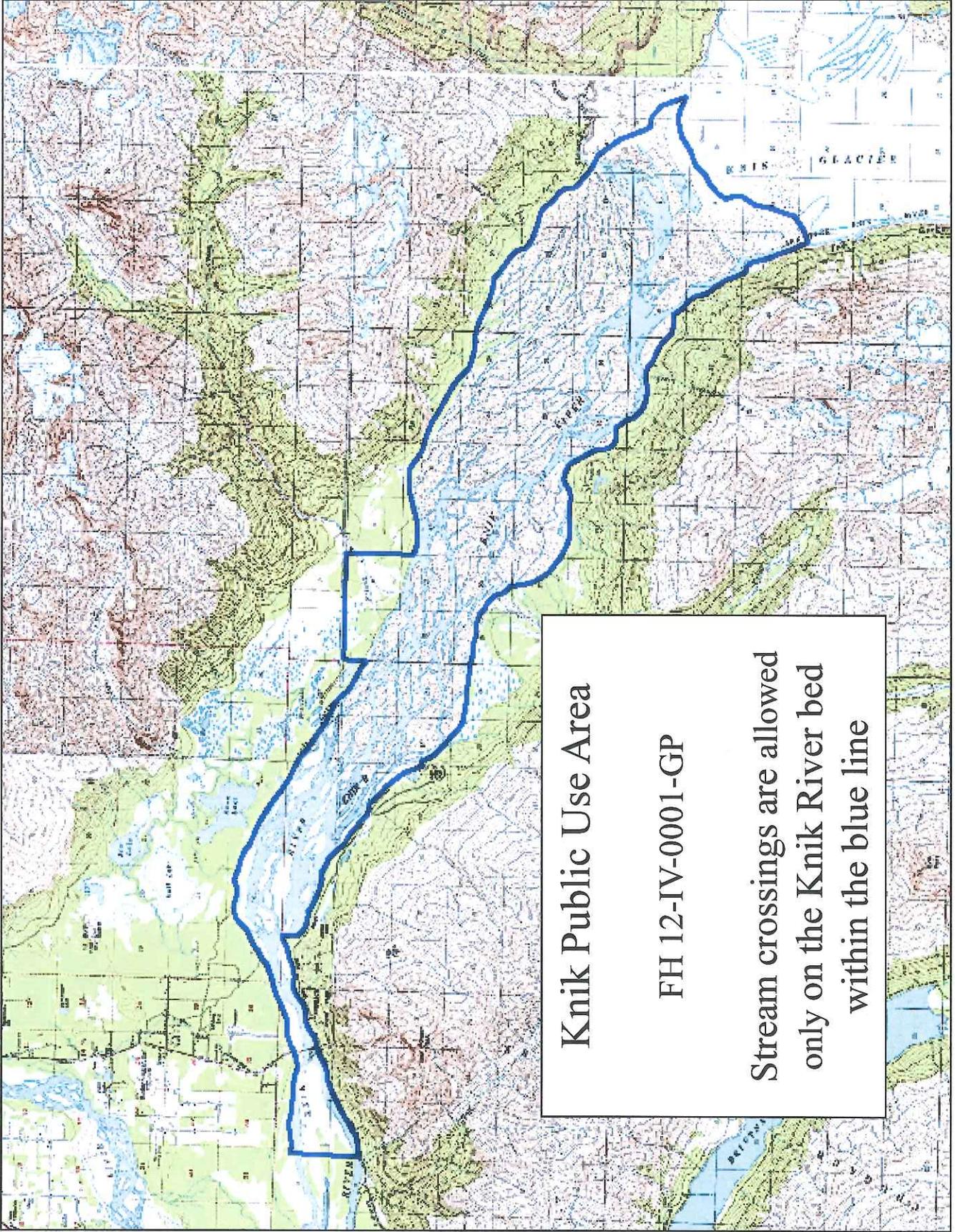
Cora Campbell, Commissioner

By: Michael L. Bethe, Habitat Biologist
Division of Habitat
(907) 861-3202

-kab

Enclosure: Map

cc: M. Agnew, AWT	P. Shields, CF	S. Ivey, SF	T. Peltier, WC
L. Books, MLW	A. Ott, Habitat	D. Massie, AWT	Pagemaster, COE
R. Jobson, COE	C. Cox, DMLW	C. Larson, DMLW	G. O' Doherty, SF
W. Biessel, DPOR	T. Taranto, MSB	R. Piorkowski, SF	J. Meehan, WC
A. Oels, WC	M. Daigneault, Habitat	K. May, DMLW	



Knik Public Use Area

FH 12-IV-0001-GP

Stream crossings are allowed
only on the Knik River bed
within the blue line