

Fact Sheet

Title: Generally Allowed Uses Within Recreation River System



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Division of Mining, Land & Water
January 2000

The following uses and activities are **generally allowed** on state land **within the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan area** that is not in any special management category or status. Uses listed as generally allowed do not require any permit from the Department of Natural Resources. Note that this list does not apply to private land or land owned or managed by the Matanuska Susitna Borough. Before beginning an activity within the Recreation Rivers plan area, the user should check to be sure it is **generally allowed** in that particular area.

TRAVEL:

Hiking, backpacking, skiing, climbing, bicycling, or the use of dog sleds, horses, or other pack animals.

Operating an **off-road vehicle** with a gross weight of 1,000 pounds or less on existing trails only, except during periods when the area is closed to motorized use by Table 2.1 of the management plan. When the department gives public notice that there is sufficient snow cover and ground frost to prevent damage to the vegetation, off-road vehicles weighing 1,000 pounds or less are not restricted to existing trails, and the non-motorized-use closures of Table 2.1 do not apply.

Operating a **highway vehicle** on a road or trail built and maintained for use by highway vehicles.

Operating a **boat, canoe, raft, or kayak**, subject to restrictions for non-motorized and powerboat-only areas listed in Table 2.1 of the management plan.

Operating **personal watercraft** only on the Susitna, Yentna and Skwentna Rivers.

Landing a **fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter**, except during periods when Table 2.1 of the management plan closes the area to motorized use.

Livestock drives of up to 100 animals.

REMOVING OR USING RESOURCES:

Hunting, fishing, and trapping in accordance with applicable state regulations.

Harvesting wild plants, mushrooms, berries, and other plant material for personal use.

Using **dead and down timber as firewood** for cooking or warming fire, except in an area closed to all fires because of the danger of wildfires.

Recreational gold panning; mineral prospecting or mining using light portable field equipment such as a hand-operated pick, shovel, pan, earth auger, or a backpack power drill or auger, or **suction dredging** using a dredge with a nozzle intake of six inches or less, powered by an engine of 16 horsepower or less, pumping no more than 30,000 gallons of water per day, for prospecting and mining.

ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS:

Constructing, placing, and using a **floating dock for the upland owner's or lessee's personal, non-commercial use**, provided that:

- The total surface area of the dock is not more than 100 square feet, the dock does not extend more than 15 feet from the waterbody's edge at any water level, and the walkway, ladder, or ramp connecting the dock to the shore is no more than four feet wide;
- No surface-treated or creosote-treated construction materials are in contact with the water;
- Barrels used in the structure are cleaned and sealed sufficiently to prevent the escape of hazardous materials into the waterbody;
- The dock is designed and boats are tied to it so as not to create a safety hazard or impede navigation or the lawful use of aircraft; and
- The dock is removed before ice forms on the water body.

Placing an **anchor buoy on a lake**, when marked with the owner's name; or a **temporary anchor buoy or marker at the mouth of Lake Creek**, so long as it does not block the primary navigation channel, is marked with the owner's name, is not left unattended for more than 30 minutes, is pulled within six hours, and is not reset for an additional hour.

OTHER USES:

Setting up and using a primitive tent camp for personal, noncommercial recreational purposes, or for any non-recreational purpose (such as a support camp during mineral exploration), for a maximum of four days in any one location between May 15 and August 31, and for no more than 14 days at one site during the rest of the year, without causing lasting damage to vegetation, drainage, or soil stability; interfering with public access or other public purposes; or harassing or unlawfully disturbing fish or wildlife.

Storing or parking vehicles, equipment, and boats, for a maximum of four days in any one location between May 15 and August 31, and for a maximum of 14 days in any one location during the rest of the year, except that vehicles used to drop off or pick up persons using a recreation river for authorized non-commercial recreational activities may remain parked as long as the recreational activity continues.

Lawful use of **weapons, including firearms**, except within one-quarter mile of the Deshka River between its mouth and the camp maintained by the Department of Fish & Game at approximately river mile 2 between May 15 and August 21, or within any other area of high public use where a weapons closure is in effect, because of threats to public safety.

Organized assemblies (other than those for recreation-related commercial purposes) as follows:

- Any private, non-commercial assembly of up to 15 people if held between May 15 and August 31, or any number of people if held during the rest of the year, in an area designated by the management plan as Class I.
- Any private, non-commercial assembly of up to 50 people if held between May 15 and August 31, or any number of people if held during the rest of the year, outside areas designated by the management plan as Class I.
- A race, derby, spectator event, or other promotional or entertainment event organized on a non-commercial basis if held between September 1 or May 15.

For additional information, contact Department of Natural Resources:

Public Information Center 550 W 7 th Ave Suite 1260 Anchorage, AK 99501 907-269-8400	Public Information Center 3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, AK 99709 907-451-2705	Division of Mining, Land & Water 550 W 7 th Ave Suite 1070 Anchorage, AK 99501 907-269-8552	Public Information Office Division of Land 400 Willoughby Ave., 4 th Floor Juneau, AK 99801 907-465-3400
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