



SPECIAL AREA PERMIT FH23-IV-GP24-SA

ISSUED: January 1, 2023
EXPIRES: December 31, 2027

General Public:

Re: Susitna Flats State Game Refuge – Blind and Tree Stand Installation

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Section has determined that both the public interest and the proper protection of fish and wildlife and their habitat would be served by the authorization of a blind and tree stand installation General Permit (GP) within the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge (SFSGR). Pursuant to 5 AAC 95.770, the Habitat Section hereby authorizes the installation of portable blinds and tree stands on state lands in the SFSGR for a period of up to 14 consecutive days as established herein.

The Susitna Flats State Game Refuge was created in 1976 pursuant to AS 16.20.036 to protect:

1. Fish and wildlife habitat and populations, particularly waterfowl nesting, feeding, and migration areas; moose calving areas; spring and fall bear feeding areas; salmon spawning and rearing habitats; and,
2. Public uses of fish and wildlife and their habitat, particularly waterfowl, moose, and bear hunting; viewing; photography; and general recreation in a high quality environment.

Alaska State statutes and the SFSGR Management Plan authorize multiple land use activities on the refuge if the activity provides proper protection of fish and game. The installation of temporary, portable blinds and tree stands is not expected to adversely impact important habitat values, fish and wildlife populations, or public recreation, provided all activities are conducted in strict accordance with the conditions and stipulations contained herein. This permit authorizes the above activities within the SFSGR outside the Little Susitna Public Use Facility (LSPUF). Activities within the LSPUF must be conducted in accordance with 5 AAC 95.515(4) and all posted campground rules.

In accordance with 5 AAC 95, the Habitat Section hereby approves the installation of portable blinds and tree stands within the SFSGR subject to the following stipulations:

1. **This permit must be in your possession during use of the blind and tree stand.**
2. Prior to the end of the 14th day after set-up, blinds, tree stands, and all associated materials and personal property shall be removed from the refuge for at least three days (72 hours), or the blind or tree stand and all associated materials must be moved a minimum of two (2) miles from the previous site.
3. Blinds, tree stands, and access ladders must be portable and shall not be affixed to trees using nails, spikes, screws, bolts, or otherwise attached in such a way as to cause damage to trees. Tree spikes shall not be used for access to tree stands.
4. Blinds and/or tree stands left unattended must be clearly labeled with the owner's hunting license number and date of installation. If the blind or tree stand is for non-hunting purposes, it should be clearly labeled with the owner's name, phone number, and date of installation.
5. There shall be no cutting of any standing woody vegetation to facilitate installation or to improve the view from the tree stand and/or blind.
6. Styrofoam shall not be used in blind or tree stand construction.
7. There shall be no interference with public use of state lands and waters in the SFSGR.

Advisory: Temporary natural blinds made from onsite materials such as logs, branches, and grass do not require a permit provided no commercially produced construction materials (e.g., lumber, plywood, fencing, nails, screws, or netting) are used. Temporary natural blinds must be dismantled by the end of hunting season annually and are open to public use. No live or standing woody vegetation may be cut to facilitate the construction of temporary natural blinds. Blind and tree stand installation other than specifically described herein requires an individual Special Area Permit from the Habitat Section.

This letter constitutes a permit issued under the authority of AS 16.20.060 and must be retained on site during project activities. Please be advised that this determination applies only to activities regulated by the Habitat Section; 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.

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 Habitat Section and obtain written approval in the form of a permit amendment in accordance with 5 AAC 95.740 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 provision 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 Habitat Section. Therefore, we recommend you consult the Habitat Section immediately before considering any deviation from the approved plan.

You shall give an authorized representative of the state free and unobstructed access to the permit site, at safe and reasonable times, for the purpose of inspecting or monitoring compliance with any provision of this permit. You shall furnish whatever assistance and information the authorized representative reasonably requires for monitoring and inspection purposes.

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. You shall mitigate any adverse effect upon fish or wildlife, their habitats, or any restriction or interference with public use that the commissioner determines was a direct result of your 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.

Any questions or concerns about this permit please call the Habitat Section at (907) 861-3200.

Sincerely,
Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By: Sarah Myers
Matanuska-Susitna Area Manager
Habitat Section
(907) 861-3200

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