



SPECIAL AREA PERMIT FH-15-IV-GP09-SA

ISSUED: January 1, 2015
EXPIRES: December 31, 2015

General Public:

**Re: *Susitna Flats State Game Refuge - Organized Group Assembly
Little Susitna Public Use Facility***

Pursuant to 5 AAC 95, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat has determined that both the public interest and the proper protection of fish and game would be served through the issuance of a General Permit for group assemblages of more than 20 persons within the Little Susitna Public Use Facility (LSPUF). The LSPUF was developed to provide improved public recreational opportunity and access to the Little Susitna River and the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge. The LSPUF is located within the boundaries of the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge. Per state regulations a permit is required for organized group activities of more than 20 persons within the refuge.

Assemblages authorized under this permit will be short-term in nature and will not entail the selling of a product or service. Users will remove all their personal property at the completion of their activity or risk impoundment by the state. Groups wishing to gather under the authorization of this General Permit must submit a completed registration form (attached) to an Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) representative at the LSPUF prior to the planned event. Assemblages will be allowed within LSPUF when space and appropriate staff is available.

The Susitna Flats State Game Refuge was established pursuant to AS 16.20.036 in 1976 to protect the following:

- (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 public recreation in a high quality environment.

This activity is not expected to have significant adverse impacts to important habitat values, fish and wildlife populations, or public recreation within the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge.

In accordance with 5 AAC 95.515 (4)(E) and 5 AAC 95.770, group assemblages of more than 20 persons at the LSPUF are authorized subject to the following stipulations:

1. Responsible Party – The responsible party listed on the Group Registration Form assumes responsibility for their group with respect to abiding by the terms of this permit.
2. Litter – All activity areas and campsites shall be kept clean and maintained in a safe and sanitary manner. Users shall remove all litter generated by their activities.
3. Non-obstruction of Public Use – Users shall not interfere with free public use of roads and trails in the area of their activities.
4. Signs – No signs or advertising devices shall be erected or otherwise displayed on state land.

As an advisory, please be aware that natural hazards may exist within the LSPUF. Users shall take all reasonable precautions to be aware of these hazards and to avoid injury to persons or property. State law explains that no person may start or maintain a fire in the public use facility except in a portable camp stove or confined to a structure provided

by the department for fires (5 AAC 95.515(4)(F)). All reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent, make a diligent effort to suppress, and to promptly report all fires on or endangering state lands.

The responsible party is responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who participate in the approved activity. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved activity, the responsible party shall notify the Division of Habitat at the above letterhead address or telephone number, and obtain written approval in the form of an individual Special Area Permit before beginning the activity. Any action taken by the responsible party or an agent of the responsible party that increases the project's overall scope or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any stipulation contained in this general 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 that the Division of Habitat be consulted immediately when a deviation from the approved plan is being considered.

This letter constitutes a General Permit issued under the authority of 5 AAC 95. A copy of this General Permit (including a properly executed Group Assembly Registration Form) must be retained on site during the permitted activity. Please be advised that this approval does not relieve you of the responsibility for securing other permits: state, federal, or local.

The responsible party shall mitigate any adverse effect upon fish or wildlife, their habitat, or any restriction or interference with public use, which the commissioner determines may be expected to result from, or which actually results from, the permittee's activity, or which was a direct result of the responsible party's failure to: 1) comply with a permit condition or a provision of 5 AAC 95; or 2) correct a condition or change a method foreseeably detrimental to fish and wildlife, or their habitat.

The responsible party shall indemnify, save harmless, and defend the Division of Habitat, 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 the responsible party's performance under this general permit. However, this provision has no effect if, and only if, the sole proximate cause of the injury is the Division of Habitat's negligence.

Pursuant to 5 AAC 95.920, an interested person may initiate an appeal of a decision made under this chapter in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330 - 44.62.630 by requesting a hearing under AS 44.62.370.

Sincerely,

Sam Cotten, Acting Commissioner



By: Michael L. Bethe, Habitat Biologist
Division of Habitat
(907) 861-3200

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Enclosure: Group Registration Form

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|-----|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| cc: | D. Hill, WC | C. Larson, MLW | W. Biessel, Parks | J. Meehan, WC |
| | E. Weiss, WC | S. Ivey, SF | R. Price, SF | A. Ott, Habitat |
| | T. Massie, Habitat | A. Oels, WC | D. Massie, AWT | B. Johnson, AWT |
| | T. Rinaldi, WC | T. Taranto, MSB | D. Amyot, Parks | |



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF HABITAT
Matanuska-Susitna Regional Office

1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 6
Palmer, Alaska 99645-6736
Main: 907.861.3200
Fax: 907.861.3232

Little Susitna Public Use Facility Group Assembly Registration

Name of Responsible Party: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work/Cell) _____

Organization: _____

Dates of Assembly: _____ through _____

Location: _____

Approximate Number in Group: _____

I certify I have read and understand FH-15-IV-GP09-SA and agree to abide by the conditions and stipulations contained therein.

Applicant

Date

Issued by

Date

Special Instructions: _____
