## **Department of Fish and Game**





HABITAT SECTION Matanuska-Susitna Area Office

1801 South Margaret Drive, Suite 6 Palmer, Alaska 99645-6736 Main: 907.861.3200 Fax: 907.861.323

## SPECIAL AREA PERMIT FH23-IV-GP12-SA

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

General Public:

## Re: Susitna Flats State Game Refuge - Camping

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 limited camping activities within the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge (SFSGR). Pursuant to 5 AAC 95.770, the Habitat Section hereby authorizes camping on state lands in the SFSGR for a period of up to 14 consecutive days as established herein.

This permit authorizes camping activities within the SFSGR outside the Little Susitna Public Use Facility (LSPUF). Camping activities within the LSPUF must be conducted is accordance with 5 AAC 95.515(4) and all posted campground rules.

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.

In accordance with 5 AAC 95, the Habitat Section hereby approves camping activities within the SFSGR subject to the following stipulations:

## 1. This permit must be in your possession during camping activities.

- 2. Prior to the end of the 14th day after arriving at a camp site, all persons shall exit and all personal property shall be removed from the refuge for at least three days (72 hours) or the camp must be moved a minimum of two (2) miles from the previous camp site.
- 3. Campsites may not be left unattended for longer than 72 hours.
- 4. Camping on the Little Susitna River (within 100-feet of the river) is limited to marked established campsites (See attached map) or may take place on exposed unvegetated sand or gravel bars. Use of developed campsites along the Little Susitna River is on a first-come first-serve basis. If tent platforms are available, all tents or other shelters are allowed only on existing tent platforms at these campsites.
- 5. Damage to streambank vegetation is prohibited. Walking on, standing on, tying boats to, or other disturbance of marked riverbank restoration sites is not allowed.
- 6. Human and domestic animal excrement shall either be contained in provided outhouse facilities, buried at least 6 inches in the ground at least 100 feet from any surface water or wetland, or removed from the SFSGR for disposal.
- 7. Camps shall be maintained in a manner that avoids attracting bears and other wildlife. All garbage and litter shall be burned to ash on a daily basis or removed to an approved disposal site as soon as practical. All litter must be removed at the completion of camping activities.
- 8. Campfires shall not be left unattended.
- 9. There shall be no cutting of any standing woody vegetation. Dead and down trees may be used for firewood.
- 10. There shall be no interference with public use of state lands and waters in the SFSGR.

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

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

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cc:

Attachment: SFSGR - Little Susitna River Designated Camp Sites Map

D. Dahl, AWT Pagemaster, COE T. Peltier, WC M. Carter, WC S. Ivey, SF A. Dubour, WC R. Lysdahl, AWT Permits, SF A. Ott, Habitat J. Meehan, WC C. Larson, DNR C. Shook, SF

D. Hill, WC T. Massie, Habitat

