



APPLICATION FOR MCNEIL BEAR VIEWING PERMITS

for the 2026 bear viewing dates of:

June 15-18, 2026 (C Block)

July 13-16, 2026 (J Block)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025, AT 5:00 P.M.

Organization Information

Full Legal Organization Name						
Chapter						
Mailing Address						
City		State		Zip Code		
Organization Website URL						
Nonprofit in IRS Good Standing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Nonprofit Entity Number	

Contact Information

Chapter Contact Person		Title	
Primary Phone Number		Alt. Phone Number	
Email Address		Alt. Email Address	
<i>*If you are not authorized to legally sign documents on behalf of your organization, please list below, the individual who is authorized*</i>			
Organization Representative		Title	
Primary Phone Number		Alt. Phone Number	
Email Address		Alt. Email Address	

Proposed Raffle Dates and Information

The department must receive report form and revenue by June 6, 2026, to ensure permit winner receives their permits on time.

Estimated Raffle Dates	
Website URL	
Raffle package details	

Estimated Ticket Cost		Number of Tickets Available	

Fundraising Experience

During the past five years only, what is the most money you have raised (net revenue) for any single fundraising event?			
Event Name			
Dollar Amount		Year	
Comments (optional)			

During the past five years only, what is the most money you have raised (net revenue) for any single fundraising item?			
Item Description			
Dollar Amount		Year	
Comments (optional)			

Retained Funds

Per AS 16.05.343(c), a nonprofit organization may retain up to 30% of net proceeds from the McNeil Raffle to spend on department-approved projects. If your organization is selected, please list how you would spend retained funds.

Marketing and Promotion Plan

Provide a detailed description for each method you will use to market and promote the McNeil permit including, but not limited to mailing invitations, follow-up or additional mailings, fliers, posters, telephone calls, email notifications, social media, Google ads, radio, television, YouTube, newspaper or magazine ads. List each effort individually. See Appendix A for information about the permit block period.	
Method and Cost	Description
Example: Google Smart Ads Campaign: \$500/month for 4 months:	Bring awareness to the raffle using key word searches for specific hunter demographics. Reach 15,000 people/month.
Additional Comments:	

Eligibility Questionnaire

Per 16.05.343, a nonprofit organization must fit specific eligibility criteria to participate in the program.

<p>The mission of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is to protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle. We aim to provide long-term opportunities for all people to use and enjoy Alaska’s wildlife. Below, please list the mission statement of your organization.</p>
<p>Please explain how your organization’s mission and values align or differ from the department’s.</p>

<p>By statute, your organization must promote education in outdoor traditions and conduct or support conservation and wildlife protection programs to be eligible for a permit. Below, please give specific examples of how your organization not only educates in outdoor traditions but also supports conservation and/or wildlife protection programs in Alaska.</p>
<p>Promotes education in outdoor traditions</p>
<p>Conducts/supports conservation and wildlife protection programs</p>

Required Forms and Qualifying Conditions Checklist


Instructions: Please read through this form carefully and initial each of the requirements in the “Initials” column. Section 1 consists of forms that must be included as part of your application package to be considered. Section 2 contains qualifying conditions that must be acknowledged and agreed to for your application to be considered. If there is a reason you cannot initial, you are likely not eligible to receive a permit.

By initialing this form, the applicant acknowledges completion of all required forms and acceptance of all terms and conditions described in the Call for Applications. Failure to initial may result in rejection of the application.

Initials	SECTION 1- REQUIRED FORMS
	APPLICATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Application must be filled out completely and returned in its entirety ➤ Application must be signed below and initialed in all boxes
Initials	SECTION 2- TERMS AND CONDITIONS
	Applicants are a nonprofit organization or chapter thereof, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code.
	Applicant agrees that the raffle will be conducted under terms and conditions that comply with all Alaska State laws. If the event is held outside of Alaska, the parties agree that Alaska law will control in the event of any dispute.
	The applicant will conduct the raffle event prior to May 5 of the year in which the permit is valid. This allows our staff to prepare the McNeil bear viewing permits for the winner and the winner to plan their trip.
	The applicant agrees to offer a raffle package including transportation to McNeil River State Game Sanctuary to the permit winner. The expenses can be deducted from the total raffle revenue.
	The applicant agrees that the raffle will be conducted under standards of good faith and commercial reasonableness, and the applicant will use its best effort to obtain maximum return. The organization may opt to raffle the permit at an in-person event, a live-streamed event, or another method in a manner accommodating similar public participation as in-person or live-streamed events.
	Revenue generated by the McNeil bear viewing permit must be transferred to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game within 30 calendar days of the raffle end date or by June 6th, whichever comes first. Failure to submit payment to the department within 30 calendar days of the event may result in disqualification from next year’s permit process and may result in your raffle winner not receiving their permit on time, which will not be at fault of the department.
	I acknowledge that the department cannot issue McNeil permits to the raffle winner until department staff receive a signed report form and remittance payment from the nonprofit.
	When auctioning or raffling McNeil permits, the nonprofit shall clearly indicate in all advertisements and to potential permit recipients that such permits are subject to all existing conditions required for visiting the sanctuary under 5 AAC 92.065. If unsure, the nonprofit shall reach out to department staff for guidance before advertising.
	By statute, to receive a Governor’s permit, your organization must support a state-based model (for game management) through a user-pays system based on sustained yield and use principles. By initialing, you agree that your organization supports this model and has taken no actions to exhibit otherwise against the department.
	A nonprofit organization is unlikely to receive a Governor’s permit if the nonprofit, or any of its Board members, are involved in an active lawsuit against the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, the Commissioner of the department, or the Alaska Board of Game. By signing this, you agree that you are aware of these stipulations.

CERTIFICATION-IMPORTANT-PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING- If this page is not signed and initialed, your application will be rejected.

I hereby certify that all the information I have entered on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that any false, incomplete, or incorrect statements may result in my application’s disqualification from the evaluation process.

Signature	Printed Name	Date
		

Send your application via email to ryan.scott@alaska.gov or via mail to: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, ATTN: Ryan Scott-DWC, P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811. Must be received by October 10, 2025, at 5:00 P.M.

Appendix A- McNeil River State Game Sanctuary C & J Block Information and Regulations

Visiting the sanctuary for bear viewing during any time in the summer may involve hiking up to 4 miles over various terrain, including slick mud, crossing knee-deep water, walking on small platforms, through meadows and up hills. Weather is variable, and visitors should be prepared for relatively hot and sunny conditions with temperatures in the high 60's to cold, rainy, and windy conditions with temperatures in the low 50's.

C Block Dates: June 15–18, 2026

Visiting the sanctuary during C Block in mid-June offers opportunities to see a variety of different bear behaviors including foraging on vegetation, clamming, mating, and fishing for salmon in Mikfik Creek. The location of daily bear viewing trips will vary depending on seasonal activities of bears but will likely involve viewing bears in the open meadows near camp and along the upper and lower stretches of Mikfik Creek. Bears are often observed from camp as well. On average, 17 bears per day are seen during this period.

J Block Dates: July 13–16, 2026

Visiting the sanctuary during J Block in mid-July will most likely involve experiencing the congregation of bears at McNeil Falls. During this time block, pending year, bears can still be seen foraging for vegetation and mating, but they will most commonly be observed fishing. On average, visitors see around 50 different bears per day at McNeil during this period, most of which will be viewed during daily bear viewing excursions, but some of which will be viewed right from camp.